



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a MEETING of BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL to be held in the Council Chamber at The Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 17th November 2010, when the business referred to below will be brought under consideration:-

The meeting will be opened with a prayer.

1. To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15th September 2010 (Pages 1 - 8)

2. To receive apologies for absence

3. Declarations of Interest

(Members are reminded that they need to keep their register of interest forms up to date)

4. To receive any announcements from the Chairman and/or Head of Paid Service

5. To receive any announcements from the Leader

6. Recommendations from the Cabinet (Pages 9 - 12)

To consider the recommendations from the meetings of the Cabinet held on 6th October and 3rd November 2010 on the following items *(the full Cabinet reports are enclosed for information at the back of the Council agenda book)*

- Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee – Fees and Charges in respect of Private Water Supplies
- Council Plan 2011-2014 Part 1
- Improvements to Charford Recreation Ground – Skate Park
- Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration
- Local Enterprise Partnerships *(this item was raised as an urgent verbal report at the Cabinet meeting on 3rd November 2010)*

7. **To receive the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 8th September, 6th October and 3rd November 2010** (Pages 13 - 32)

8. **Questions on Notice**

To deal with any questions on notice from Members of the Council, in the order in which they have been received.

9. **Motion - Car Park Charges**

To consider the following motion submitted by Councillor Mrs. C. M. McDonald which stands deferred from the last meeting of the Council:-

“That this Council alters its parking charging regime on the ASDA car park so that you are only charged for time used.”

10. **Motion - Portfolio Holders**

To consider the following motion submitted by Councillor P. M. McDonald which stands deferred from the last meeting of the Council:

“That the Leader reduces the number of Portfolio Holders by at least one so reflecting the cutbacks in services and financial restraints.”

11. **Motion - Number of Councillors**

To consider the following motion submitted by Councillor R. Hollingworth:-

“This Council asks the CEO to contact the Boundary Commission to establish the process to review the number of Councillors with a view to reducing them.”

12. **Motion - Hot Food Takeaway SPD**

To consider the following motion submitted by Councillor P. M. McDonald:-

"That this Council recommends its own officers Draft Hot Food Takeaway SPD which would control the proliferation and location of Hot Food Takeaways that are destroying the character of our High Streets: once the Core Strategy is approved".

13. **Changes to Governance Arrangements** (Pages 33 - 52)

To consider the report of the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services

14. **Report on Urgent Action - Energy Efficient Measures - Interest Free Loans** (Pages 53 - 60)

To consider the report of the Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships

- **Background information report on recommendations from the Cabinet - Fees & Charges for Private Water Supplies** (Pages 61 - 62)
- **Background information report on recommendations from the Cabinet - Council Plan 2011-14 Part 1** (Pages 63 - 84)
- **Background information report on recommendations from the Cabinet - Improvements to Charford Recreation Ground - Skate Park** (Pages 85 - 90)
- **Background information report on recommendations from the Cabinet - Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration** (Pages 91 - 102)

K. DICKS
Chief Executive

The Council House
Burcot Lane
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Agenda Item 1

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER 2010, AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths (Chairman), Councillor Miss D. H. Campbell JP (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Mrs. J. M. Boswell, Councillor Mrs. M. Bunker, Councillor R. J. Deeming, Councillor Mrs. R. L. Dent, Councillor Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., Councillor R. Hollingworth, Councillor Ms. H. J. Jones, Councillor B. Lewis F.CMI, Councillor Mrs. C. M. McDonald, Councillor P. M. McDonald, Councillor D. McGrath (present during Minute No. 52/10 to 63/10), Councillor E. J. Murray, Councillor W. R. Newnes, Councillor D. L. Pardoe, Councillor S. R. Peters, Councillor C. R. Scurrall, Councillor S. P. Shannon, Councillor Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP, Councillor R. D. Smith (present during Minute No. 62/10 to 67/10), Councillor Mrs. C. J. Spencer, Councillor C. B. Taylor, Councillor E. C. Tibby, Councillor C. J. Tidmarsh, Councillor L. J. Turner, Councillor M. J. A. Webb, Councillor P. J. Whittaker and Councillor C. J. K. Wilson

52/10 **PRAYER**

At the request of the Chairman, the Reverend Andy Lyons opened the meeting with a prayer.

53/10 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. N. Blagg, Dr. D. W. P. Booth JP, S. R. Colella, G. N. Denaro, J. T. Duddy, D. Hancox, Mrs. J. D. Luck, Dr. G. H. Lord and Ms. J. A. Marshall.

The Chairman referred to the illness of Councillor D. Hancox and stated that his health was now improving. It was requested that the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery be sent to Councillor Hancox.

54/10 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29th July 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

55/10 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor C. B. Taylor indicated that he intended to declare a personal interest in agenda item 15 (Performance Management Board).

At this point the Leader stated that he wished to withdraw item 15 relating to the Performance Management Board at the present time as he was working with officers to undertake a more fundamental review of the Authority's Governance arrangements. This would include looking at the extent to which the roles of Boards, Committees and the Cabinet needed to be adjusted to reflect the current operation of the Council.

The Leader stated he hoped to present more details at the next meeting of the Council.

56/10 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman referred to her recent attendance at the Rubery Tattoo and expressed her thanks to the organisers of the event for their invitation.

57/10 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader made the following announcements:

- (a) The Leader referred to the recent national survey commissioned by the BBC which measured how resilient Council's were in respect of the economic situation. The survey had placed Bromsgrove 6th in the West Midlands and 109th in the country. he felt this reflected the good work undertaken by Members and officers;
- (b) Progress was being made on a local level in relation to the reduction and rationalisation of a number of "Quangos".
- (c) He had requested officers to begin the process of consulting with the Boundary Commission regarding the case for a reduction in the number of Members of the District Council by way of the introduction of "One Member Wards". This would form part of a more general review of Governance arrangements including roles of Committees and Boards and Cabinet Portfolios referred to in minute no. 55/10 above and was intended to make financial savings as well as increasing efficiency;
- (d) Bromsgrove Sporting had now signed the lease in respect of the Victoria Ground;
- (e) The Leader referred to a letter sent to all Members by representatives of the Friends of Bromsgrove Museum. The Leader confirmed that discussions were still ongoing and that he would report further as soon as possible;
- (f) The Leader reported that the Recreation Road Car Park had been granted a safe parking award and congratulated officers on this.

58/10 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET**

There were no recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8th September 2010.

59/10 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 4TH AUGUST 2010**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th August 2010 were received for information.

60/10 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LICENSING COMMITTEE**

REGULATION OF SEXUAL ENCOUNTER VENUES

RESOLVED

- (a) that the adoption of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 be re-affirmed and that Section 27, paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 3 to the Policing and Crime Act 2009 be adopted with effect from 16th September 2010;
- (b) that the fee for a sex shop and / or Sexual Encounter Venue Licence be set as below and that these be included within the Council's Fees and Charges register as follows:-
- | | |
|------------|---------|
| ▪ Grant | £920.00 |
| ▪ Renewal | £890.00 |
| ▪ Transfer | £135.00 |
- (c) that the powers under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and Section 27, paragraph 2(2) to the Policing and Crime Act 2009 be delegated to the Head of Regulatory Services.

61/10 **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Two questions on notice had been received within the two day time limit and one urgent question had been received which the Chairman had agreed could be included. The questions were taken in the order they had been received.

1. **Question submitted by Councillor Mrs. R. L. Dent to the Leader**

"The pay on foot parking scheme has now been operational for 5 months, can the Leader please advise the Council if the revenue generated is as expected and the scheme working as intended?"

The Leader referred this question to Councillor M. J. A. Webb as the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Councillor Webb replied that the pay on foot scheme was a new initiative and as such the scheme was being reviewed and altered as required. The number of vehicles using the car park had increased year on year and the average cost had reduced in comparison with last year with fewer Excess Charge Notices being issued.

Following consultations and feedback from customers It had been recognised that further improvements could be made, for instance at present customers were waiting too long to pay at some peak times and it was intended to install an additional payment machine to relieve

this issue. In addition, in response to concerns raised, it was intended to amend the payment structure so that charges were in increments of 10 minutes.

The average cost of parking was better value than previously and the introduction of the 10 minute increment would reduce the average cost further. The cost of parking would be cheaper than ever in these car parks. The changes would however have an impact on the Council's revenue and officers would need to identify how this reduction could be mitigated. This would inevitably lead to difficult decisions on other services during the Budget discussions.

Councillor Mrs. Dent did not ask a supplementary question.

2. Question submitted by Councillor C. R. Scurrall to the Portfolio Holder for Planning

"Is it true that the free drop-in service for planning queries at the Customer Service Centre has been scrapped?"

Councillor Mrs. J. Dyer M. B. E. Portfolio Holder for Planning replied that the drop-in sessions had not ceased and it was unfortunate that inaccurate information had been publicised as this was a disservice to the public who may wish to use the service. The free service continued on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons at the Customer Service Centre.

In line with other Planning Authorities in Worcestershire, Bromsgrove was making a charge to developers for detailed pre-application advice in respect of larger applications.

Councillor Scurrall did not ask a supplementary question.

3. Urgent Question submitted by Councillor P. M. McDonald to the Chairman

"What action is the Council taking to ensure that we have no further incidents such as occurred in St. Chad's Park on 19th August 2010 in relation to fairground rides?"

The Chairman referred this question to Councillor M. J. A. Webb as the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Councillor Webb replied that the incident on 19th August was indeed unfortunate and that the Authority would always take all steps to avoid any potential incidents and to ensure that third parties complied fully with their responsibilities. In the case referred to the fair owner had correctly contacted the Health and Safety Executive.

The Council was undertaking its own review to discover whether any lessons could be learned from the incident which could further improve

current procedures regarding third party use of Council land. Whilst no errors had been made in terms of the current procedures it was important to ensure that these were further reviewed and amended where appropriate. Officers would be making any necessary recommendations in this regard.

62/10 **MOTION - HUB PARKING**

Members considered the following motion submitted by Councillor E. J. Murray which stood deferred from the last meeting of the Council:

“The HUB was set up to improve customer relations and improve services in general for the residents of Bromsgrove. To ensure customer relations were not undermined residents having to visit the HUB were not penalised by being charged for parking their cars. Therefore, we call upon the Council to remove the charges immediately.”

The motion was moved by Councillor E. J. Murray and seconded by Councillor P. M. McDonald.

On a requisition under Council Procedure Rules 17.5 the following details of voting were recorded.

For the motion: Councillors Mrs. C. M. McDonald, P. M. McDonald, D. McGrath, E. J. Murray, W. R. Newnes, S. P. Shannon and C. J. K. Wilson (7);

Against the motion: Councillors Mrs. J. M. Boswell, Mrs. M. Bunker, Miss D. H. Campbell, R. J. Deeming, Mrs. R. L. Dent, Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., R. Hollingworth, Ms. H. Jones, B. Lewis, D. L. Pardoe, S. R. Peters, C. R. Scurrill, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP, R. D. Smith, Mrs. C. J. Spencer, C. B. Taylor, E. C. Tibby, C. J. Tidmarsh, M. J. A. Webb and P. J. Whittaker (20);

Abstentions: Councillor L.J. Turner (1);

Accordingly the Chairman declared the motion to be LOST.

63/10 **MOTION - CO2 EMISSIONS**

Members considered the following motion submitted by Councillor S. P. Shannon which stood deferred from the previous meeting of the Council:

“I call on this Council to reduce the CO2 emissions of the authority as a matter of urgency. This Council must honour its pledge to the 10:10 campaign signed earlier this year to reduce the carbon emissions of the Council by 10% during 2010.”

The motion was moved by Councillor S. P. Shannon and seconded by Councillor P. M. McDonald.

On a requisition under Council Procedure Rule 17.5 the following details of voting were recorded:

For the motion: Councillors Mrs. C. M. McDonald, P. M. McDonald, E. J. Murray, S. P. Shannon and C. J. K. Wilson (5);

Against the motion: Councillors Mrs. J. M. Boswell, Mrs. M. Bunker, Miss D. H. Campbell, R. J. Deeming, Mrs. R. L. Dent, Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., R. Hollingworth, Ms. H. J. Jones, B. Lewis, D. L. Pardoe, C. R. Scurrall, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP, R. D. Smith, Mrs. C. J. Spencer, C. B. Taylor, E. C. Tibby, C. J. Tidmarsh, M. J. A. Webb and P. J. Whittaker (19);

Abstentions: Councillors W. R. Newnes, S. R. Peters and L. Turner (3);

Accordingly the Chairman declared the motion to be LOST.

64/10 **MOTION - HANGING BASKETS, RUBERY**

Members considered the following motion submitted by Councillor C. J. K. Wilson which stood deferred from the previous meeting of the Council:

“Rubery has a vibrant high street which attracts many visitors and shoppers contributing to the local economy. The removal of hanging baskets devalues it as an attractive shopping area and gives the impression that it has been downgraded.”

The motion was moved by Councillor C. J. K. Wilson and seconded by Councillor P. M. McDonald.

On a requisition under Council Procedure Rules 17.5, the following details of voting were recorded:

For the motion: Councillors Mrs. C. M. McDonald, P. M. McDonald, E. J. Murray, S. P. Shannon and C. J. K. Wilson (5);

Against the motion: Councillors Mrs. J. M. Boswell, Mrs. M. Bunker, Miss D. H. Campbell, R. J. Deeming, Mrs. R. L. Dent, Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., R. Hollingworth, Ms. H. J. Jones, B. Lewis, W. R. Newnes, D. L. Pardoe, S. R. Peters, C. R. Scurrall, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP, R. D. Smith, Mrs. C. J. Spencer, C. B. Taylor, E. C. Tibby, C. J. Tidmarsh, L. Turner, M. J. A. Webb and P. J. Whittaker (22);

Accordingly the Chairman declared the motion to be LOST.

At this stage, with two Notices of Motion outstanding, the Chairman announced that the one hour time limit for the consideration of such motions had expired. The motions would be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council if this was the wish of the Members concerned.

65/10 **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

This item was withdrawn.

66/10 **OUTSIDE BODIES - LGA RURAL COMMISSION**

Members considered a report of the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services on the removal of the Local Government Association Rural Commission from the list of non ex-officio bodies to which Council representatives were appointed.

Having been moved by Councillor R. Hollingworth and seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the LGA Rural Commission be removed from the list of non ex-officio bodies to which representatives are appointed by the Council;
- (b) that the outside body appointments made to the LGA Rural Commission on 23rd June 2010 be rescinded.

67/10 **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2009/2010**

Members considered a report of the Head of Resources relating to the revised Statement of Accounts 2009/2010 and the proposed delegation to the Audit Board of approval of the revised Statement of Accounts following immaterial amendments. It was noted that very positive comments had been received from the Audit Commission and the amendments to be made were minor in nature.

Having been moved by Councillor R. Hollingworth and seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP, it was

RESOLVED that the authority to consider and formally approve by resolution the Council's Statement of Accounts 2009/2010 in accordance with Regulation 10 (3) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 be delegated to the Audit Board.

The meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

Chairman

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CABINET

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

6TH OCTOBER 2010

1. WORCESTERSHIRE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE (FEES AND CHARGES IN RESPECT OF PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES)

The Cabinet has considered the minutes of the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee held on 9th September 2010. The Joint Committee had recommended that each Member Authority adopt the fees and charges in respect of private water supplies.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

That the following fees and charges in respect of private water supplies be adopted:

Risk Assessment	£40 per hour (up to £500 maximum)
Investigation (each investigation)	£40 per hour (up to £100 maximum)
Granting an Authorisation	£100 maximum
Sampling (each visit)	£100 maximum
Analysing a sample	
- taken under regulation 10 (small supplies)	£ 25 maximum
- taken during check monitoring	£100 maximum
- taken during audit monitoring	£500 maximum

2. COUNCIL PLAN 2011-2014 PART1

The Cabinet has considered the a report on the Council Plan 2011-2014 Part 1 which reconfirmed the Council's vision and priorities together with areas of focus for the forthcoming service planning process and budget round.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the Council's vision and priorities as set out in 6.1 to 6.4 of the appendix to the report be reconfirmed;
- (b) that the analysis of the Council's national, regional and local context be noted; and

- (c) that based on this context the areas of focus for the forthcoming budget round as set out in 6.5 of the appendix to the report be approved.

3RD NOVEMBER 2010

1. IMPROVEMENTS TO CHARFORD RECREATION GROUND – SKATE PARK

The Cabinet has considered a report on the proposed enhancement of facilities at Charford Recreation Ground to be funded by way of section 106 monies arising from the development of land at Villiers Road, Charford.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the scheme to enhance play facilities at Charford Recreation Ground, by way of improvement to the existing skate park, be included in the Capital Programme for 2010/2011 and that the scheme be funded from available Section 106 monies; and
- (b) that the work be undertaken prior to the “claw back” point being reached.

2. BROMSGROVE TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

The Cabinet has considered a report on the proposed resurfacing of Bromsgrove High Street and the upgrading of the Public Realm in the Primary shopping Area.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that an additional £1,000,000 be included within the 2010/2011 Capital Programme to fund the majority of the upgrading of the Public Realm and resurfacing work in the High Street, with this being financed from the balance of capital receipts arising from the sale of industrial units (£500,000) together with a contribution from Worcestershire County Council from the sale of capital assets within the Town Centre (£500,000);
- (b) that a further sum of £500,000 be included within the 2011/2012 Capital Programme once a final assessment can be made of the monies available from the Section 106 Agreement with Sainsburys;
- (c) that the sum of £5,000 be allocated to the revenue budget from balances in order to extend the Regeneration Programme into 2010/2011;
- (d) that it be noted that a further report will be submitted in due course seeking approval for the final contribution of £500,000 arising from future asset disposals in the Town Centre.

3. LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS

The Leader reported on the latest position regarding Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP).

The Worcestershire bid had not been accepted by the Government and it was proposed that Bromsgrove now seek to join the Birmingham and Solihull LEP. It was stated that if in the future it became clear that Authorities could be part of more than one LEP and the Worcestershire bid was eventually approved, then Bromsgrove would also look to join this partnership.

It was felt to be important to seek to join the Birmingham and Solihull LEP at an early stage in order to be able to participate fully in its development.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that in the light of the Government's decision not to accept the Worcestershire LEP proposal, Bromsgrove District forms part of the Birmingham and Solihull LEP in order to ensure that the business and economic interests of the businesses and residents within the District can be properly and adequately represented in the important early stages of the LEP's development; and
- (b) that it be recognised that the Government's position on membership of LEP's continues to change, particularly in relation to whether a Council can be represented on more than one LEP and in that regard, if at any future date the Worcestershire is accepted then Bromsgrove be similarly represented on the Worcestershire LEP.

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2010, AT 4.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hollingworth (Chairman), G. N. Denaro (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E. and Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP

Officers: Mr. K. Dicks, Ms. J. Pickering, Mrs. C. Felton, Mr. J. Godwin, Mrs. A. Scarce and Ms. R. Cole.

46/09 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dr. D. W. P. Booth JP.

47/09 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs. M. A. Sherrey declared a personal interest in agenda item 11 (Artrix Right of Way) as a Member of the Arts Centre Operating Trust.

Councillors G. N. Denaro, Mrs J. Dyer M. B. E. and R. Hollingworth declared a personal interest in agenda item 11 (Artrix Right of Way) as Members of the Arts Centre Holding Trust.

48/09 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th August 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

49/09 **JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 22nd July 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

50/09 **OVERVIEW BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview Board held on 27th July 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED:

(a) that the minutes be noted;

- (b) that the recommendations contained at Minute Nos. 16/10 and 17/10 relating to officer representation on the countywide groups shaping development of the new Older Persons Strategy and the Planning Peer Review respectively be approved; and
- (c) that the recommendation contained at Minute No 19/10 relating to a member of the Community Involvement in Local Democracy Task Group being invited to become involved in the Steering Group be not approved, but that it be noted that the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services would be updating the Board on the work of the Steering Group on a regular basis.

51/09 **SHARED SERVICES BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Shared Services Board held on 19th August 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

52/09 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FORUM**

The minutes of the meeting of the Equality and Diversity Forum held on 10th June 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

53/09 **VERBAL UPDATES FROM THE LEADER AND/OR OTHER CABINET MEMBERS ON ANY RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED IN AN EX-OFFICIO CAPACITY**

Councillor Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E. reported on her recent attendance at the Planning Summer School in York which had proved to be very worthwhile as many of the issues covered were very relevant to the Bromsgrove District.

The Leader reported on discussions which had taken place regarding a potential Local Enterprise Partnership at regional level.

54/09 **JOINT MEETING OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY AND THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Joint meeting of the Local Development Framework Working Party and the Planning Committee held on 24th August 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the minutes be noted; and
- (b) that the recommendation contained at Minute No 4/09 relating to the Spatial Planning Services Peer Review and Action Plan be approved.

55/09 **SPATIAL PLANNING SERVICES - PEER REVIEW ACTION PLAN**

Further to discussion on the previous item, the Cabinet considered a report on the Spatial Planning Peer Review and the Action Plan which had been produced to address the issues referred to in the Review.

Members were pleased to note that the Action Plan was assisting the Head of Planning and Regeneration together with other officers and Members to further improve the Service.

RESOLVED that the Spatial Planning Peer Review be noted and that the Action Plan be endorsed.

56/09 **ARTRIX - RIGHT OF WAY**

The Cabinet considered a report relating to a request made by the West Mercia Police and the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service to the Bromsgrove Arts Development Trust (known as the Holding Trust) for permission for emergency service vehicles to have passage over land forming part of the car park to the Artrix. This would form part of an additional access route.

It was reported that the land in question was under the control of the Bromsgrove Arts Development Holding Trust with the title ownership registered at the Land Registry in the name of Bromsgrove District Council (who act as the Bare Trustees).

It was noted that as Bare Trustees Members were being asked to consider the request by the Holding Trust to grant a right of way by way of a legal easement to the Police and Fire and Rescue Service.

In their capacity as Bare Trustees it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the request from Bromsgrove Arts Development Trust (known as the Holding Trust) to grant a right of way by Deed of Easement to West Mercia Constabulary and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service in perpetuity be approved subject to the following conditions:
1. the receipt of a formal letter from the Operating Trust confirming that they have no objection to the proposed access;
 2. that the access be restricted to the extent that vehicles will only be able to obtain egress onto School Drive and that the easement will ensure a complete prohibition of the use of the Artrix Car Park as a form of access to the site (the Car Park is demarcated in blue on the drawing attached at appendix 1 to this report);
 3. that the easement be subject to a condition that all appropriate drainage provisions required by the works, or in order to facilitate the works or resulting from the works are enabled across the

- Artrix Car Park to the satisfaction of the Council and that the cost of this work is met by the Police and Fire and rescue service;
4. that the Police and Fire and Rescue Service agree to maintain and repair the access way over the Artrix Car Park to the satisfaction of the Council;
 5. that the Police and Fire and Rescue Service agree to the production and display of appropriate signage restricting the use of the access way in accordance with the above and that they ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place to ensure that the restrictions are adhered to and that a suitable mechanism is introduced to ensure that all vehicular traffic can only egress from the Artrix car park and there is a complete prohibition of any access from School Drive;
 6. that the Police and Fire and Rescue Service agree to engage civil/structural engineers to detail the design and specification of the access route in consultation with the Holding Trust to ensure that the route is constructed in a way that will mitigate any vibration that may be caused by the use of fire engines;
 7. that the Police and Fire and Rescue Service agree to enter into and complete a separate legal agreement between the West Mercia Police and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (jointly) and with the Holding Trust to ensure the upgrade to the pedestrian access in School Drive as proposed and outlined in section 4.12 of this report) takes place to the reasonable satisfaction of the Holding Trust. This agreement for the avoidance of doubt may also include other matters that cannot be legally covered within a Deed of Easement due to its limit as a right over property; and
 8. that the West Mercia Police and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service jointly agree to undertake to pay all the costs reasonably incurred in connection with the preparation, negotiation and completion of all legal documentation.
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services in consultation with the Executive Director Resources and the Portfolio Holder to:
1. agree the terms of the easement to the Police and Fire and Rescue Service to incorporate the conditional elements detailed in (a) above; and
 2. approve and implement any associated legal documents relating to the establishment of the easement and variation of the lease between Bromsgrove District Council, the Holding Trust and the Operating Trust.

57/09 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

RESOLVED that under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item of business the subject of the following minute on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in part 1 of

schedule 12A to the Act, as amended, the relevant part being as set out below and that it is in the public interest to do so.

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
58/10	1 and 4

58/09 **SHARED SERVICES BOARD**

The confidential minutes of the Shared Service Board held on 19th August 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

The meeting closed at 4.42 p.m.

Chairman

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 6TH OCTOBER 2010 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hollingworth (Chairman), G. N. Denaro (Vice-Chairman), Dr. D. W. P. Booth JP, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP, R. D. Smith, M. J. A. Webb and P. J. Whittaker

Observers: Councillors S. R. Colella, D. L. Pardoe and C. B. Taylor

Officers: Mr. K. Dicks, Ms. S. Hanley, Ms. A. de Warr, Ms. J. Carstairs and Ms. R. Cole

59/10 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E.

60/10 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

61/10 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

62/10 **PROPOSED HEWELL GRANGE CONSERVATION AREA**

The Cabinet considered a report on the proposed designation under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, of a new Conservation Area centred on the Hewell Estate including HMP Hewell and the village of Tardebigge. A schedule of the properties to be included within the Conservation Area and a summary of the comments which had been received in response to the consultation process were attached to the report as appendices.

Members supported the proposal to designate Hewell as a Conservation Area. It was also noted however that as referred to in section 4.4 of the report, there was a possibility of applying additional protection to properties which currently retain historic leaded windows. The Conservation Officer stated that the application of an Article 4 (2) direction would require a further consultation process to be undertaken and a report would need to be submitted to the Cabinet following this.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the designation of a new Hewell Grange Conservation Area as described in the report and appendices be approved; and
- (b) that officers be requested to commence the necessary public consultation procedure in order to apply an Article 4 (2) direction in respect of properties within the new Conservation Area with historic leaded windows.

63/10 **OVERVIEW BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview Board held on 31st August 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the minutes be noted; and
- (b) that consideration of the recommendations contained at Minute No. 26/10 relating to the Joint Climate Change Strategy be deferred until the Joint Strategy is considered by the Cabinet.

64/10 **JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 31st August 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

65/10 **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Performance Management Board held on 20th September 2010 were submitted. Members noted that some of the issues considered under Minute No. 24/10 had already been addressed or were matters for the Audit Board.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the minutes be noted; and
- (b) that in relation to Minute No 24/10, recommendation (a) be noted and recommendations (b) and (c) be approved.

66/10 **WORCESTERSHIRE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee held on 9th September 2010 were submitted. It was noted that the Joint Committee had recommended that each Member Authority adopt the fees and charges in respect of private water supplies.

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

RECOMMENDED that the following fees and charges in respect of private water supplies be adopted:

Risk Assessment	£40 per hour (up to £500 maximum)
Investigation (each investigation)	£40 per hour (up to £100 maximum)
Granting an Authorisation	£100 maximum
Sampling (each visit)	£100 maximum
Analysing a sample	
- taken under regulation 10 (small supplies)	£ 25 maximum
- taken during check monitoring	£100 maximum
- taken during audit monitoring	£500 maximum

67/10 **VERBAL UPDATES FROM THE LEADER AND/OR OTHER CABINET MEMBERS ON ANY RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED IN AN EX-OFFICIO CAPACITY**

The Leader reported on a Meeting of West Midlands Councils he had attended and referred to issues arising from the meeting.

Councillor Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP reported on her attendance at the Older People's Day and the Bromsgrove Citizens Advice Bureau AGM.

68/10 **COUNCIL PLAN 2011-2014 PART 1**

Members considered a report on the Council Plan 2011-2014 Part 1 which re-confirmed the Council's vision and priorities together with areas of focus for the forthcoming service business planning process and budget round. It was noted there were a small number of amendments to be made

Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the Council's vision and priorities as set out in 6.1 to 6.4 of the appendix to the report be reconfirmed;
- (b) that the analysis of the Council's national, regional and local context be noted; and
- (c) that based on this context the areas of focus for the forthcoming budget round as set out in 6.5 of the appendix to the report be approved.

69/10 **REVISED CUSTOMER FEEDBACK POLICY**

The Leader welcomed the Head of Customer Services, Amanda de Warr to her first Cabinet meeting.

Members considered a report on proposed changes to the Corporate Customer Feedback Policy.

It was noted that the changes were intended to provide a more effective means for a customer to submit comments, compliments and complaints about Council services or staff. It was anticipated that the alterations would result in a more streamlined process which would be simpler for the customer to access and for staff to administer. It would also ensure a consistent approach was adopted by officers when dealing with customer feedback.

The Head of Customer Services reported that under the new process complaints would be dealt with at Head of Service level in the first instance and that in many cases this would obviate the need for customers to re-iterate the complaint a number of times.

In response to questions from Members it was stated that the system for the monitoring of complaints would be developed and that feedback and information on trends would be available. This was valuable in understanding customers and informing what services were provided in the future.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the revised Corporate Customer Feedback Policy, as set out in the appendix to the report be approved.

The meeting closed at 7.11 p.m.

Chairman

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER 2010, AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hollingworth (Chairman), G. N. Denaro (Vice-Chairman), Dr. D. W. P. Booth JP, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP, R. D. Smith, M. J. A. Webb and P. J. Whittaker

Observers: Councillors S. R. Colella, D. L. Pardoe and C. B. Taylor

Officers: Mr. K. Dicks, Ms. S. Hanley, Ms. J. Pickering, Mrs. C. Felton, Mr. J. Godwin and Ms. R. Cole.

70/09 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. J. Dyer M. B. E.

The Chief Executive requested that the best wishes of the staff be sent to Councillor Mrs. Dyer for a speedy recovery.

71/09 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

72/09 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

73/09 **AUDIT BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit Board held on 27th September 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

74/09 **SCRUTINY BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Board held on 28th September 2010 were submitted. In relation to the recommendation at Minute No. 22/10 regarding arrangements for concessionary fares, the Leader reported on the latest position and it was noted that the option of travel before 9.30am may not be open to the Authority.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the minutes be noted;
- (b) that in relation to recommendation contained at Minute No 22/10 regarding the use of bus passes before 9.30am, in any consultation the option of pre 9.30am travel be not supported in view of the likely additional cost.

75/09 **JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 5th October 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

76/09 **SHARED SERVICES BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Shared Services Board held on 14th October 2010 were submitted.

The Chief Executive referred to Minute No. 4 relating to the ICT section of the Shared Services Progress Report, and stated that following requests from Members, the Members of both Authorities would retain their current separate Email addresses whilst officers would move to a single domain name.

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

77/09 **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The minutes of the meeting of the Performance Management Board held on 18th October 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the minutes be noted; and
- (b) that in relation to the recommendation contained at Minute No. 32/10 regarding a proposed debate on the idea of the Big Society, no debate take place at present, but that consideration be given as to how this could take place at a later stage when more detailed information is available.

78/09 **VERBAL UPDATES FROM THE LEADER AND/OR OTHER CABINET MEMBERS ON ANY RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED IN AN EX-OFFICIO CAPACITY**

Councillor G. N. Denaro reported on a Member Development Assessment he had undertaken in Newcastle under Lyme.

Councillor Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP reported on a Compact Awards event she had attended at Worcestershire County Council.

79/09 **BROMSGROVE MUSEUM**

The Leader reported that he wished to defer this item at present as additional information had very recently been received from the Trust which required further consideration.

80/09 **ARTS AND EVENTS STRATEGY 2010/2011 TO 2013/2014**

The Cabinet considered a report on a proposed Arts and Events Strategy 2010 – 2013.

It was noted that the new Strategy outlined the priorities for Arts and Events within Bromsgrove and identified many key partners with whom the Council could work to deliver its priorities and vision for the arts in the District.

RESOLVED: that the Arts and Events Strategy 2010 – 2013 be approved.

81/09 **IMPROVEMENTS TO CHARFORD RECREATION GROUND - SKATE PARK**

Consideration was given to a report on the proposed enhancement of play facilities at Charford Recreation Ground, such improvements to be funded by way of Section 106 monies arising from the development of land at Villiers Road, Charford. It was reported that the monies would be the subject of “claw back” by the Developer if they were not utilised by 11th April 2010.

It was noted that it was intended to provide an improved and enhanced skate park facility which would meet the needs of local children and young people and address any potential health and safety concerns arising from informal adaptation of the facility by users of the Recreation Ground.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the scheme to enhance play facilities at Charford Recreation Ground, by way of improvement to the existing skate park, be included in the Capital Programme for 2010/2011 and that the scheme be funded from available Section 106 monies; and
- (b) that the work be undertaken prior to the “claw back” point being reached.

82/09 **ALVECHURCH MUGA - REPORT OF THE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The Leader invited the Chairman of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board, Councillor S. R. Colella to introduce the report of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board following their Inquiry into reported crime and disorder issues around the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Swanslength, Alvechurch.

Councillor Colella reminded members that following the receipt of three public petitions, one calling for removal of the MUGA and two supporting its retention, the issue had been referred by the Cabinet to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board and that an Inquiry had been subsequently been

undertaken. Interviews had taken place with a variety of stakeholders and partners including a number of local residents. Officers had provided reports and information to the Joint Board and Members had also carried out site visits.

Councillor Colella referred to the eleven recommendations from the Joint Board, including the main recommendation that the MUGA be retained.

The Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Councillor M. J. A. Webb responded by thanking the Joint Board for its very thorough and detailed investigation of the matter and stated that he was particularly pleased that local children who used the facility had attended some of the meetings and had participated in the local democratic process.

Councillor Webb referred to paragraph 6.15 of the report and indicated it may be appropriate to look again at the Council's procedures to consider where improvements in processes may be achieved. It was important to ensure that the fullest information was provided to officers.

Councillor Webb stated that he would be pleased to attend the next meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board on 23rd November 2010 in order to formally report back to the Board the Cabinet's response to each of the recommendations within the report.

Following discussion of the recommendations it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the response to each of the recommendations within the report of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board be as set out below:

Recommendation One

That the Alvechurch MUGA be left in situ.

Cabinet Response

This was agreed.

Recommendation Two

That the Community Safety Officers for Alvechurch make periodic house calls to vulnerable residents living in close proximity to the MUGA.

Cabinet Response

That the Community Support Officers be requested to continue to make periodic house calls to vulnerable residents living in close proximity to the MUGA.

Recommendation Three

That the Alvechurch Community Together (ACT) Trust consider extending the opening hours of the Alvechurch Youth Club until the later time of 10pm in the evening for the older teenagers to actively discourage young people from socialising around the MUGA area late in the evening.

Cabinet Response

This was agreed but wording to be amended to relate to “the Lounge” Drop in Centre.

Recommendation Four

That the Alvechurch Youth Club carry out targeted outreach work on the MUGA itself to engage with the young people who use the site as a social meeting point in the evening after dusk.

Cabinet Response

Amend to “that ACT youth workers be requested to carry out targeted outreach work to positively engage young people and encourage them to join the youth club and that youth workers run organised activity sessions at the MUGA.”

Recommendation Five

That the Performance Management Board monitor the levels and types of reported Anti-Social Behaviour at Swanslength over the next 12 months to assess the levels of reported ASB compared to the previous 12 months. This should also be compared to general ASB trends across the district.

Cabinet Response

That the situation be monitored by the relevant Portfolio Holder rather than the Performance Management Board.

Recommendation Six

That Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership monitor the levels of reported Anti-Social Behaviour around the MUGA to identify emerging issues of ASB and coordinate remedial action in partnership with the local police service and the Bromsgrove District Council Community Safety Team.

Cabinet Response

Amend to read “that Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership continue to monitor...”

Recommendation Seven

That West Mercia Police allocate a higher level of uniformed presence of the Swanslength area between 9pm and 1am at night.

Cabinet Response

Amend to read “that West Mercia Police be requested to continue monitoring the vicinity of the MUGA after 9pm in the way they did in the summer.”

Recommendation Eight

That the street lighting located near to the MUGA facility be relocated further away from the MUGA site to discourage this area from being a social meeting point for people in the evening.

Cabinet Response

This was agreed.

Recommendation Nine

That the full length of the perimeter wall running alongside Swanslength be removed and the ground re-banked to remove the makeshift seating that the wall provides for people using the MUGA area as a social meeting point in the evenings.

Cabinet Response

This was agreed.

Recommendation Ten

That a programme of landscaping be completed to create an open space recreation ground to increase visibility of the site and reduce the number of ASB acts that are obscured by undergrowth.

Cabinet Response

This was agreed.

Recommendation Eleven

That the seating panels provided as part of the MUGA facility be removed and replaced with blank panels and that the swing frame and seat be removed altogether.

Cabinet Response

This was agreed.

- (b) that relevant officers work within the planning process to ensure that Statutory Consultees and partners engage effectively with the planning process and that they properly respond in their capacity as Statutory Consultees.

83/09 **BROMSGROVE TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION**

The Cabinet considered a report which gave an update on the Town Centre Regeneration Programme and in particular proposed the resurfacing of the High Street and the upgrading of the Public Realm in the Primary Shopping Area.

Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that an additional £1,000,000 be included within the 2010/2011 Capital Programme to fund the majority of the upgrading of the Public Realm and resurfacing work in the High Street, with this being financed from the balance of capital receipts arising from the sale of industrial units (£500,000) together with a contribution from Worcestershire County Council from the sale of capital assets within the Town Centre (£500,000);
- (b) that a further sum of £500,000 be included within the 2011/2012 Capital Programme once a final assessment can be made of the monies available from the Section 106 Agreement with Sainsburys;
- (c) that the sum of £5,000 be allocated to the revenue budget from balances in order to extend the Regeneration Programme into 2010/2011;
- (d) that it be noted that a further report will be submitted in due course seeking approval for the final contribution of £500,000 arising from future asset disposals in the Town Centre.

84/09 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

The Executive Director (Section 151 Officer) gave a presentation on the latest situation regarding the Authority's financial position 2011/12 to 2013/14.

The presentation included the impact as far as it was known to date of the Comprehensive Spending Review on the Authority's finances, together with the impact of local issues such as shortfall of income on car parking and planning fees.

It was noted that the budget gap at the present time for 2011/12 was £600,000 but it was stressed that measures were being taken to reduce this gap and that officers would continue to work with Members with the aim of achieving a balanced budget.

RESOLVED that the current financial position be noted.

85/09 **CAR PARKING - PAY ON FOOT**

The Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Councillor M.J.A. Webb referred to the background to this issue in particular the reasons why pay on foot had been introduced and the impact on usage and revenue which had resulted from changes in tariffs.

Whilst it was the aim of the Authority to re-introduce the ten minute incremented tariff, it was likely this would significantly reduce the revenue generated and the Authority had to ensure that the impact of any changes introduced was affordable and sustainable in the current economic situation.

Councillor Webb also explained that additional financial information and detailed car park usage figures had been produced and that more time was required to consider this information fully.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that consideration of this issue be deferred and that a report including the additional information be considered as soon as possible.

86/09 **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT - QUARTER 2 2010/2011**

Consideration was given to a report on the Council's performance and financial position as at September 2010.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that it be noted that 59% of Performance Indicators were stable or improving;
- (b) that it be noted that 59% of Performance Indicators which had a target were meeting their target as at the month end and 76% were projected to meet their target at the year end;
- (c) that the performance figures for September 2010 as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be noted;
- (d) that the successes and areas for potential concern as set out in section 4.1.1 of the report be noted;
- (e) that the current financial position on both the revenue and capital budgets as detailed in the report be noted and that officers be requested to consider actions to enable the predicted overspend to be mitigated as far as possible;
- (f) that the budget virements as listed in Appendix 6 to the report be approved;
- (g) that the detailed information on compliments and complaints as set out in Appendix 7 to the report be noted;
- (h) that a new earmarked reserve of £20,000 be established in respect of Voice Recognition Analysis within the Benefits Section.

87/09 **LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS**

(The Leader agreed to the consideration of this item as a matter of urgency as a decision was required prior to the next meeting of the Cabinet).

The Leader reported on the latest position regarding Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP).

The Worcestershire bid had not been accepted by the Government and it was proposed that Bromsgrove now seek to join the Birmingham and Solihull LEP. It was stated that if in the future it became clear that Authorities could be part of more than one LEP and the Worcestershire bid was eventually approved, then Bromsgrove would also look to join this partnership.

It was felt to be important to seek to join the Birmingham and Solihull LEP at an early stage in order to be able to participate fully in its development.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that in the light of the Government's decision not to accept the Worcestershire LEP proposal, Bromsgrove District forms part of the Birmingham and Solihull LEP in order to ensure that the business and economic interests of the businesses and residents within the District can be properly and adequately represented in the important early stages of the LEP's development; and
- (b) that it be recognised that the Government's position on membership of LEP's continues to change, particularly in relation to whether a Council can be represented on more than one LEP and in that regard, if at any future date the Worcestershire is accepted then Bromsgrove be similarly represented on the Worcestershire LEP.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

Chairman

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

CHANGES TO GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Geoff Denaro
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 As reported to Council on 23 June 2010 the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires every authority operating a Leader and Cabinet model to change its executive arrangements in accordance with a statutory timetable. This report sets out the outcome of the public consultation on this issue, the timetable for the necessary changes to be implemented and recommends that Members re-affirm their previously expressed preference that the “Strong Leader Model” should be adopted.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Council notes and considers the responses to the consultation as referred to in Appendix 2 of this Report; and
- 2.2 Council notes that the next stage is for “proposals” to be published and then be implemented by resolution at the Full Council meeting on 1st December 2010; and
- 2.3 Council agrees the draft “proposals” based on the “Strong Leader Model” attached at Appendix 3 and resolves that these proposals be published.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Local Government Act 2000 required all authorities to adopt executive arrangements in one of three forms, namely:
- A Mayor and Cabinet executive; or
 - A Leader and Cabinet executive; or
 - A Mayor and Council Manager.
- 3.2 This Council adopted a Leader and Cabinet executive.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

- 3.3 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 abolishes the Mayor and Council Manager model and replaces the Leader and Cabinet executive model with a Leader and Cabinet Executive (England) model which is known as the “Strong Leader” model. The Strong Leader model is a different legal form of executive to the old-style Leader and Cabinet model. It is a requirement of the Act that the Council changes its governance arrangements to either the Strong Leader model or the Mayor and Cabinet model in accordance with a statutory timetable. The resolution to adopt the new governance arrangements must be passed by 31st December 2010.
- 3.4 In summary, under the “Strong Leader model”, the Council elects a Leader. All executive powers then vest in the Leader and the Leader is then responsible for:
- Determining the size of the Cabinet;
 - Appointing the members of the Cabinet;
 - Allocating portfolios or areas of responsibility to the various Cabinet Members;
 - Allocating decision-making powers to the Cabinet and to individual Cabinet Members; and
 - Removing and replacing Cabinet members.

The Leader must be elected for a 4 year term of office.

There are 3 key differences to the current Leader and Cabinet model:

- The Leader’s term of office is extended beyond the 4th day after the local elections to run up to the day of the first annual meeting after the Leader’s normal day of retirement as a Councillor;
- During his/her term of office the Leader will automatically cease to be Leader on death or disqualification, but may only be removed from office by a resolution of Council. Currently an authority’s Constitution may specify other means of removing a Leader, such as notification that he/she has ceased to be Leader of the relevant political group; and
- There is a requirement for the Leader to nominate a Deputy leader who may act if the Leader is unable to act or the post of Leader is vacant. Currently, a Deputy Leader may only exercise the “portfolio

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

responsibilities” of the Leader in his/her absence as opposed to the statutory functions.

- 3.5 The alternative model is for an elected Mayor and Cabinet executive whereby a Mayor is elected directly by the electorate for a 4 year period and he/she must appoint at least 2 members to the Cabinet. The key difference with an elected Mayor is that it is the electorate which selects the Mayor as opposed to the controlling political group, and the Mayor would be under no obligation to select the Cabinet members from the controlling political Group.
- 3.6 As reported to Members previously, the vast majority of local authorities have to date favoured the Strong Leader and Cabinet model. Moving to the Strong Leader model would not differ significantly from the current governance model adopted by this Council, as the Constitution currently empowers the Leader to determine the size of the Cabinet, appoint the members of the Cabinet, allocate portfolios or areas of responsibility to the various Cabinet Members and remove and replace Cabinet members. This would be the least disruptive to implement and would incur the least cost to the Council.
- 3.7 Members are reminded that in drawing up proposals for the new governance model to be adopted, the Council is required under section 33E of the Local Government Act 2000(as amended) to have regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The required changes were considered at the meeting of Council on 23 June. Members expressed a preference towards the “Strong Leader Model” and resolved as follows:-

(a) that the Leader and Cabinet Executive (England) Model known as the “Strong Leader” model be the model on which public consultation is based; and

(b) that the public consultation be undertaken on a modest basis and that views be sought by way of methods such as “Together Bromsgrove” and the Council’s website.

- 4.2 The consultation period closed on 15 October 2010 (having been extended from the original closing date of 30 September).

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

4.3 In accordance with the recommendation that consultation be carried out on a “modest basis”, the following consultation took place:-

(1) Press release issued which was published in the Bromsgrove Advertiser and the Bromsgrove Standard.

(2) Through the Council’s website including an option for members of the public to register and express their views on-line (known as the “Consultation Portal”).

4.4 Members may wish to note that since this matter was last considered on 23 June, the Government issued guidance on consultation to Leaders of District Councils in England. In summary, the Government’s view was that Council’s need not incur significant expenditure on consultation around new governance models:-

“ ...it will be for each Council to decide, but in our view no more than a small newspaper advert/article or press release on your website may be proportionate and right in these circumstances”.

4.5 A copy of the briefing note placed on the Council’s website is attached at Appendix 1.

4.6 The result of the consultation was:-

- 4 in favour of Elected Mayor Model
- 2 in favour of Strong Leader Model
- 2 respondents expressing views but no clear preference

4.7 A summary of the comments received is attached at Appendix 2.

4.8 The next stage in the process, now consultation has taken place, is for the Council to draw up it’s proposals for a new governance model. The proposals must be published and then adopted and implemented. In terms of timescale, the proposals will be published immediately following the Council meeting on 17th November; the matter will then be considered again at the Special Full Council Meeting on 1st December with a view to the proposals being adopted. For the purposes of this Report a set of draft proposals is included at Appendix 3, together with a note of the consequential changes which will need to be made to the constitution.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

Conclusions

4.8 The starting point for Council's consideration of the consultation response is:-

- (1) The resolution passed on 23 June that consultation be on the basis of the "Strong Leader Model"; and
- (2) The statutory duty to consider "economy, efficiency and effectiveness" as referred to in para 3.7 above.

4.9 It should be noted that the level of response to the consultation was not such that any significant conclusions can be drawn from the results. Certainly there seems to be no overwhelming appetite amongst the public to move to an Elected Mayor Model. Members previously indicated a preference in favour of the Strong Leader Model. Taking into account the low level of responses there appear to be no strong arguments to support moving away from this position and adopting the Elected Mayor Model.

4.10 Accordingly, Members are asked to consider continuing to pursue the Strong Leader Model. As explained above the next stage will be the publication of "proposals". A set of draft "proposals" based on the Strong Leader Model are set out at Appendix 3 for approval.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Of the two options available, the least expensive is to change the governance arrangements to a Strong Leader Model. The costs involved in this are minimal and there are no significant financial implications. There would be costs implications to move to a mayoral system including the cost of the referendum that would be required before any changes could take place. Thereafter if the electorate voted in favour of a mayoral system there would be the associated costs of making changes to the current election arrangements and setting up the new post.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 inserts new provisions into the Local Government Act 2000 which make changes to the form of executive arrangements which the authority can have. The legal implications of these changes are set out in the report. Dependent on the

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

form of Executive arrangements which is eventually selected, the Council's Constitution will need to be changed to reflect the arrangements chosen.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Full Council approval will be required.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

8.1 N/a

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 The main risks associated with the details included in this report are:

- Failure to follow the statutory process

9.2 These risks are being managed as follows:

Risk Register: *Legal & Democratic Services*
Key Objective 3: *Effective Ethical Governance*

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The "proposals" for the new governance model will be advertised on the Council's website prior to the Special Council Meeting on 1st December 2010.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 N/a

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

12.1 N/a

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

13.1 None

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

14.1 None

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

15.1 Governance implications are set out in the report

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

16.1 None

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

17.1 None

18. LESSONS LEARNT

18.1 N/a

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

19.1 Cabinet is requested to decided the extent and nature of any community and stakeholder engagement in the consultation process

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	No
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

21. WARDS AFFECTED

All wards

22. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Copy of Briefing Note on Governance Models
Appendix 2 Responses to consultation
Appendix 3 Draft Proposals based on Strong Leader Model

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Cabinet 28 April 2010
Guidance on consultation issued by Department for Communities and Local Government

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Claire Felton
E Mail: c.felton@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881429

Strong Leader or Elected Mayor

Council's consultation with local residents on the two new forms of Governance

From 19th July 2010 to the end of September 2010 the Council is consulting with residents on changes it has to make to its constitution.

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Council must change to one of two new forms of local government in May 2011. These two forms of government are:

1. a Leader with stronger powers – (which is known as the Strong Leader model)
2. Directly Elected Mayor

These are the only forms of local government now permitted and the Council has no choice but to change to one of them.

The Council would like to hear what the residents of Bromsgrove have to say on changing to either a Strong Leader or a Directly Elected Mayor form of local government. At the conclusion of the public consultation the views received from local residents will be collated and presented to councillors for consideration. A formal decision on which model to implement will be taken by Councillors at the meeting of the Full Council on 17th November 2010.

A summary of the changes is described below.

Current system:

The Council has a Leader and a Cabinet.

The Leader is appointed every year by the Council.

The Council decides how many people are in the Cabinet.

The Leader appoints the Cabinet every year.

The Leader decides what jobs the people in the Cabinet perform.

The Council decides a scheme of delegation to say what decisions the Cabinet and the Officers can make.

New Systems:

The differences are as follows:

The Elected Mayor is not a councillor. It is an additional post to the 39 councillors.

The Strong Leader is one of the 39 councillors

The Elected Mayor is elected by the residents once every four years.

The Strong Leader is elected by the Council for a four year term.

The Elected Mayor cannot be removed during his or her term of office.

The Council can remove the Strong Leader during his or her term of office.

But these things are the same for the Elected Mayor and the Strong Leader:

The Mayor or Strong Leader decides how many people are in the Cabinet.

The Mayor or Strong Leader decides what jobs the people in the Cabinet do.

The Mayor or Strong Leader appoints the Cabinet and can dismiss them at will.

The Mayor or Strong Leader decides a scheme of delegation to say what decisions the Cabinet and the Officers can make.

So in both cases there is a concentration of power away from the Council to one person, either an Elected Mayor or a Strong Leader.

We would like to hear your views as to which form of government the Council

should choose.

The Council currently prefers the Strong Leader model because:

- Strong Leader and Cabinet model preserves the links with the councillors and representation of wards in the present political system.
- Elected Mayor model introduces the prospect of personality into local politics which although it may be conducive to city government is less appropriate in a small district such as Bromsgrove.
- A Strong Leader can be removed by the Council during the term of four years and this is an important constitutional safeguard.

But we want to hear your views before we make any final decision.

By email to the Head of Legal Equalities and Democratic Services:

Insert link

or by post to:

Claire Felton
Head of Legal Equalities and Democratic Services
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
B60 1AA

Further information:

[Link to full briefing note including FAQ's](#) (Word 55kb)

[Link to Cabinet Report with recommendations to Council 29 April 2010](#)

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CONSULTATION RESPONSES				
	Strong Leader	Elected Mayor	No preference	Comments
1			X	Bromsgrove as a local authority is too small in terms of population to support an elected Mayor. I would like to see Bromsgrove as part of a larger unitary authority under a mayoral system.
2		X		
3		X		Councillors would control a leader. I am in favour of taking as much away from Councillors as possible. Councillors in Bromsgrove are inefficient and lack any ideas whatsoever. We need to get away from the old party hacks (all political parties). Desperately need to shake up this old worn out system. I would like to see an elected mayor.
4		X		I would prefer an elected mayor system of government for Bromsgrove.
5		X		I prefer an elected Mayor
6	X			Yes to a Leader for the Council. No to a Mayor.
7	X			
8			X	No overall preference but concerned that the consultation should have been better publicised to enable local people to express their views.

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APPENDIX 3

CHANGES TO GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE ADOPTION OF STRONG LEADER MODEL

1. The Constitution be amended as shown in Schedule 1.
2. That the Strong Leader Model be implemented from 18 May 2011 or such other date being the date of the Council Annual Meeting for 2011.
3. As a transitional arrangement, from 18 May 2011 (or such other date on which the Council Annual Meeting for 2011 takes place), the current Leader should continue in office.

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SCHEDULE 1

ARTICLE 7 - THE CABINET

7.1 Role

The Cabinet will carry out all the Council's functions which are not the responsibility of the full Council or any other part of the Council, whether by law or under this Constitution.

7.2 Composition

The Cabinet will consist of the Leader, a Deputy Leader and such number of Cabinet members as the Leader may determine. The minimum number of Cabinet Members (including the Leader and Deputy Leader is 3 and the maximum is 9). ~~together with at least two, but not more than nine, Councillors appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader.~~ Within these limits, the exact size of the Cabinet will be decided by the Leader.

7.3 Leader and Cabinet Members

(1) The Leader will be a Councillor elected to the position of Leader by the Council at its annual meeting. The Leader shall hold office for a period of 4 years starting on the day of his/her election and ending on the day of the post-election annual meeting. ~~will hold office until:~~

(2) The Leader shall appoint a Deputy Leader and such other members of the Cabinet as he thinks fit (subject to paragraph 7.2 above).

(3) The Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members shall continue to hold office:

(a) (In the case of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members) at the discretion of the Leader.

(b) (In the case of the Leader) unless he is removed by a resolution of Full Council (and the Leader may not be removed from office except by such resolution):

(c) a. Unless they he/she resigns from the office; or

- (d) b. **Unless they are** he/she is removed from office by resolution of the Council; or
- (e) e. **Unless they are** he/she is suspended from being a Councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although they he/she may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); or
- (f) d. **Unless they are** he/she is no longer a Councillor.

7.4 Other Cabinet members Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader (or in his/her absence the remaining Cabinet **Members**) may act if the Leader is unable to act or if the post of the Leader is vacant.

~~Other Cabinet members shall hold office until:~~

- ~~a. they resign from office; or~~
- ~~b. they are suspended from being Councillors under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although they may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); or~~
- ~~c. they are no longer Councillors; or~~
- ~~d. they are removed from office by the Leader who must give written notice of any removal to the proper officer. The removal will take effect two working days after receipt of the notice by the proper officer.~~

7.5 Proceedings of the Cabinet

Proceedings of the Cabinet shall take place in accordance with the Cabinet Procedure Rules set out in Part 7 of this Constitution.

7.6 Responsibility for functions

All Cabinet decisions will be taken by the Cabinet acting collectively except:

- a. when the Cabinet has made a decision in principle it may authorize the Leader or the Portfolio Holder with responsibility to finalise outstanding details in agreement with the appropriate Head of Service;

- b. when a decision regarding a Cabinet function requires attention as a matter of such urgency that formal reporting to Cabinet is not possible, the Leader may take that decision in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, the Chief Executive, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer;
- c. the Leader may request the Overview Board, the Scrutiny Board, the Audit Board and the Performance Management Board to consider including issues within their work programme;
- d. when the Cabinet has arranged for a Cabinet function to be discharged by a Cabinet committee or an officer or by way of joint or local arrangements.

The Leader will maintain a List in Table 3 Part 3 of this Constitution (Scheme of Delegation) setting out which Cabinet committees, officers or joint or local arrangements are responsible for the exercise of particular Cabinet functions.

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

REPORT TITLE: ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES - INTEREST FREE LOANS

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Peter Whittaker
Relevant Head of Service	Hugh Bennett
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1. This report seeks to advise the Council of an urgent decision that has been taken under the Urgent Decision Procedures to apply for an interest free loan to install energy efficiency measures to help to meet the Council's CO₂ emissions reduction target. The application has been successful.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **Officers RECOMMEND that the Council note the urgent decision taken:**

- 1) authority be delegated to the Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships to apply for an interest free loan from Salix in the sum of £37'200 to fund energy efficiency measures within Council buildings, in the terms detailed in the report; and
- 2) if the loan is granted by Salix, the Council set aside a budget for repayment of the loan, based on savings made on energy bills as a result of the installation of energy efficiency measures.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has no direct budget allocation for energy efficiency projects. An existing fund operated by Salix on behalf of the Carbon Trust had closed, but due to under spend was re-opened briefly on a first come, first serve basis. The inference was that bids needed to be submitted almost immediately, hence the need for Urgent Decision Procedures.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Council has a NI target to reduce its carbon emissions by 2% year on year, and has signed up to the 10:10 campaign which is a commitment to aim for a 10% reduction in emissions, to meet its objectives and to contribute to the national climate change agenda. One of the main ways in which the Council can achieve these objectives is by improving the energy

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

efficiency of its estate. In this context, 'estate' means the Council's buildings, operations and services.

- 4.2 The data which the Council has collected as part of its baseline figure for National Indicator 185 (estimated) shows that of the 2515 tonnes for BDC of CO₂ emissions in 2009/10, 65% were from the Council's buildings. The Council's buildings therefore make a significant contribution to the Council's overall carbon emissions.
- 4.3 Salix is a not for profit social enterprise company which has funding from the Carbon Trust. Salix is using some of this funding to make interest free loans to local authorities to enable them to install energy efficiency measures. Funding is provided for proven technologies which are cost effective in saving CO₂. Salix projects bid for include sensor lighting and heating upgrades, voltage reduction, downsizing water tanks and insulating pipes boilers, powerdown plugs for all BDC computers and timer switches for water coolers which are currently running 24/7.
- 4.4 The minimum amount of loan is £500 but there is no upper limit. Any project funded by the loan has to be completed within 4 months of the application being approved.
- 4.5 The Salix website includes a compliance toolkit so that local authorities can ensure that their proposed projects are eligible for funding. Your Officers have identified a number of projects which could benefit from the interest free loan being offered by Salix and these are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 4.6 The toolkit also enables local authorities to calculate their savings in financial terms and in terms of CO₂ emissions In summary, the projects listed, if implemented, could lead to the following :
- Savings would be around £11'306 per annum. In the first instance, these savings would be required to repay the loan but thereafter any savings would be retained by the Council for other climate change activity.
 - A reduction in CO₂ emissions of 96.90 tonnes per annum, which would equate to almost 3% of BDC's baseline corporate carbon footprint.
- 5.7 The deadline for applying for the loan is when the money is all allocated i.e. first come, first served. Salix have suggested that applications would ideally be submitted within weeks.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is currently no allocated budget for the installation of energy efficiency measures, or for climate change activity in general.
- 5.2 Salix (part of the Carbon Trust) have reopened calls for funding due to an under-spend on the previous round, and are offering interest free loans to local authorities to enable them to carry out energy efficiency projects. The loans are repayable from March 2011 in 8 equal instalments over 4 years. The expectation is that savings from energy efficiencies will be set aside in order to repay the loan, following which the Council will be able to keep any savings generated after the loan has been repaid.
- 5.3. The report accompanying the climate change strategy (due at Cabinet 1.12.10) recommends that ongoing savings be re-invested in further climate change activity.
- 5.4. The total amount of the loan approved amounts to £37'200. Details of the specific projects which would be carried out are set out in Appendix 1.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 places the Secretary of State under a duty to ensure that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline. The Low Carbon Transition Plan 2009 sets out the Government's Plan for meeting the Climate Change Act target and demonstrates how the UK will deliver emission cuts of 18% on 2008 levels by 2020 (and over a one third reduction on 1990 levels).
- 6.2 In cases of urgency involving expenditure outside the budget and policy framework decisions must be taken in accordance with paragraph 5 (a) of Part Six of the Bromsgrove District Council Constitution – Budget and Policy Framework Rules.
- 6.3 Such decisions must also comply with the requirements of the Scheme of Delegation as to urgent decisions where formal reporting to Cabinet or Council is not possible due to urgency.
- 6.4 For Members information, in accordance with the constitutional requirements referred to above, the following persons were consulted and gave approval to the urgent decisions:-
 - Deputy Chief Executive (in absence of Chief Executive)

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

- The Leader of the Council
- The Section 151 Officer
- The Monitoring Officer
- The Chairman of the Scrutiny Board

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Councils are in the process of adopting a Joint Climate Change Strategy which states that the Council needs to reduce energy consumption in our buildings.
- 7.2. National Indicator 185 measures the carbon emissions resulting from running the Council's operations and services and the Council's performance against this target will be monitored.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 This is fully in line with the objective of tackling climate change.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1. Although the Council was successful in its application for funding from SALIX, there may still be budget bids placed for other works, where identified, and Officers may still be asking to borrow a sum of money to enable savings to be made, on a 'Spend to Save' basis.
- 9.2. If Salix funding is granted, there is a risk that insufficient savings will be made in the period between the making of the loan and the repayment dates in which case the Council would need to repay the loan from existing resources. The expectation is, however, that savings will generate sufficient funds to repay the loan over the lifetime of the loan. The calculations are based on existing cost per kWh of just under 9pence per kWh of electricity. If the cost paid for electricity goes up, then the loans will payback faster than the predicted average of 3.62 years.
- 9.3 These risks are being managed as follows:
- Ongoing detailed monitoring of consumption is possible at Bromsgrove Depot, where the majority of the investment is to be made.
 - Close working with Financial Services to ensure savings are set aside for repayment.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

Currently the risk identified in 9.2. is not addressed by any risk register and will be added to the Financial Service risk register.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

12.1 Energy efficiency measures are a significant element of management of the Council's assets and will help to improve the sustainability of the Council's assets and protect the Council from potential future rises in the cost of energy.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

13.1 The installation of more energy efficient systems can make a significant contribution to the Council's reduction in its energy use and therefore to its carbon emissions. The loan will enable the Councils to make quicker progress in installing energy efficiency measures than would otherwise be possible and will enable a faster reduction in carbon emissions.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

14.1 None

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

15.1 None

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

16.1 None

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

17.1 None

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

18. LESSONS LEARNT

18.1 A similar project is underway at Redditch Borough Council and savings are being delivered as expected, therefore confidence that this scheme will work to its full potential are high.

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

19.1 None

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	No
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

21. WARDS AFFECTED

All wards

22. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Projects funded

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Ceridwen John, Climate Change Manager
E Mail: c.john@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: 01527 64252 x3046

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17th November 2010

APPENDIX 1

<u>Site</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Cost £</u>	<u>Payback (years)</u>	<u>Annual ongoing saving £</u>
BDC Depot	Garage/Workshop – change from sodium to compact fluorescent lighting	8000	4.73	1691
BDC Depot	Stores area – install discrete controls as currently one switch powers on all lights	1400	4.78	293
BDC Depot	Sensor lighting in Office, canteen, toilets	4500	4.21	1068
BDC Depot	Reduce hot water tank size and insulate pipes	2600	4.94	526
BDC Depot	Connect heating appliances to new RBC BEMS system, allows control and monitoring	6000	4.11	1461
BDC Depot	Voltage Optimisation Software	6500	4.06	1602
BDC Depot	Heating Control System in Workshop only (near roller doors)	5625	1.62	3487
BDC	Powerdown plugs	1750	1.87	935
RBC and BDC Main Offices	Timer switches for water coolers	315	4.96	129
RBC and BDC	Savaplug for individual fridges	510	4.25	364

Joint Committee
9 September 2010
Report Title :

Fees and Charges for Private Water Supplies

Report originator	Geoff Carpenter, Environmental Protection Manager (Wychavon)
Background Papers	Water Industry Act 1991 The Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009 Private water Supplies: Technical Manual
Recommendation	That the fees and charges outlined in the report are agreed and recommended for adoption by each partner authority.
Introduction / Summary	<p>The Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009 came into force on the 1st January 2010 and will apply to all private water supplies intended for human consumption including private distribution systems .</p> <p>The regulations impose new monitoring duties and require the local authority to carry out a risk assessment on areas of supply. In addition revised water quality standards and tighter monitoring of certain supplies will also be carried out. Local authorities will have powers to charge for reasonable fees for the services they provide. The purpose of this report is to agree the level of these fees and charges.</p>
Background	<p>A private water supply is any supply which is not provided by a water company, such as Severn Trent Water. The water may come from a spring, a well, a bore-hole or a stream. A private distribution system is where mains water is further distributed by a person other than a water undertaker such as Severn Trent and would typically include systems serving caravan sites.</p> <p>Every home should have a supply of good clean water to be fit for people to live in. It is estimated that there are in the region of 600 private water supplies in Worcestershire affected by the regulations not including private distribution systems.</p>
Report	<p>Each local authority has a responsibility for holding information on all private water supplies in its District.</p> <p>The new Regulations aim to protect public health and require each supply to undergo a risk assessment. The findings of the assessment would determine future sampling frequency and analysis requirements and there may be recommendations for remedial action to reduce the risk of contamination.</p>



The Regulations allow local authorities to charge a fee, subject to prescribed maximum levels to enable reasonable costs of services (lab fees etc) to be recovered.

Proposed Fees and Charges

Risk Assessment	£40 per hr (up to £500 max)
Investigation (each investigation)	£40 per hour (up to £100) max
Granting an Authorisation	£100 max
Sampling (each visit)	£100 max
Analysing a sample	
- taken under regulation 10 (small supplies)	£25 max
- taken during check monitoring	£100 max
- taken during audit monitoring	£500 max

Financial Implications

None

Sustainability

None

Legal implications

Legal requirement to monitor private water supplies and carry out a risk assessment, each local authority will be required to provide the Drinking Water Inspectorate with annual reports to ensure the regulations are being complied with.



Appendix

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

06 OCTOBER 2010

COUNCIL PLAN 2011-14 Part 1

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Roger Hollingworth, Leader of the Council
Responsible Head of Service	Hugh Bennett, Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To re-confirm the Council's Vision and priorities and areas of focus for the forthcoming service business planning and budget round.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- i. Reconfirm the Vision and priorities (**Appendix 1**, 6.1 -6.4).
- ii. Consider the analysis of the Council's national, regional and local context (**Appendix 1**)
- iii. Based on this context agree the focus for the forthcoming budget round.

- 2.2 That Cabinet recommend to Full Council the Vision and priorities as set out in 6.1 – 6.4 Appendix 1 and focus for the forthcoming budget round.

3. BACKGROUND

Council Plan 2011-2014

- 3.1 Cabinet and Full Council approved the Council Plan as part of the 2010/11 budget round. The Council Plan is effectively the business plan for the Council and a key document for Members. The 2011/2014 plan will be published until in early 2011/12; however, the Council needs to agree it priorities and areas of focus now, so that officers can make detailed plans to deliver these as part of the service business planning cycle and forthcoming budget round.

Process to Date

3.2 As part of the work on developing the Vision and priorities, the Council must take account of the strategic context within which it operates. The Council is in a good position to determine this. The Council has the following information to draw on:-

- The Bromsgrove Profile e.g. deprivation indices, population growth predictions etc.
- The current work on the Bromsgrove Partnership Board, around its priorities, in particular, the town centre, children and young people and housing.
- The Worcestershire “Story of Place” and the resultant Local Area Agreement.
- Public consultation feedback, including the Budget Jury.
- Performance data, based on the indicators in the Council Plan.
- Survey data, including Worcestershire Viewpoint.
- The Equalities and Diversity Forum and Disabled User Group.
- Customer complaints data.
- A three year medium term financial plan.

3.3 Based on this information, the following priorities are recommended to Cabinet and Full Council:-

- Economic Development.
- Town Centre.
- Value for Money
- One Community.
- Housing.
- Climate Change.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Inevitably, the forthcoming budget round will be dominated by the Comprehensive Spending Review (due on 20 October 2010); however, it is

critical that we continue to focus on our priorities. The Council's priorities and areas of focus are set out in section 6.1 -6.4.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications to this report.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

6.1 The report sets out the Council's priorities and the evidence for them.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 The Council Plan is supported by the corporate risk register.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1. There are no direct recommendations on customer service; however, the report does indicate that an increased focus on customer service is required (Appendix 1, 5.5).

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct recommendations on equalities and diversity, however, the report identifies that age, linked to disability are a key demographic facing the District (Appendix 1, 1.3)..

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The report supports value for money through ensuring that the Council aligns its spending and services to its priorities.

11. CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The report identifies that more spend to save initiatives will need to be brought forward to meet the climate change targets and that these targets are likely to increase under the new Coalition Government.

12. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues: None.
Personnel: HR modernisation and other HR practices e.g. workforce planning, competencies etc. are identified as an area of focus.
Governance/Performance Management: Non
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act

1998: The report identifies community cohesion as an area of focus.
Policy: None.
Biodiversity: The report identifies the need for an increased focus on climate change.

13. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Please include the following table and indicate 'Yes' or 'No' as appropriate. Delete the words in italics.

Portfolio Holder	At Leader's
Chief Executive	At CMT
Executive Director and Deputy Chief Executive	At CMT
Executive Director – Finance and Resources	At CMT
Executive Director – Regeneration and Planning	At CMT
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	At CMT
Head of Service	At CMT
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	At CMT
Head of Finance and Resources	At CMT
Corporate Procurement Team	Not applicable.

14. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards

15. APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Bromsgrove Position Statement, September 2010

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Draft Structural Reform Plan, DCGL, July 2010

Draft Structural Reform Plan, Cabinet Office, July 2010

Draft Structural Reform Plan, DECC, July 2010

Worcestershire Viewpoint Survey, WCC, March 2010

Bromsgrove Profile, WCC, September 2009

Council Plan, BDC, 2010-13

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Hugh Bennett
E Mail: h.bennett@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881202.

Bromsgrove DC
Position Statement
October 2010

1. Bromsgrove District Overview

Geography

- 1.1 Bromsgrove District is in north Worcestershire, covering a large area of approximately 83.9 square miles. Whilst only 14 miles from the centre of Birmingham, the Lickey Hills country park provides an important dividing line between the urban West Midlands Conurbation and the rural landscape of north Worcestershire. Ninety percent of the District is greenbelt which creates difficulties for housing policy. Four radial routes pass through the District, each served by railway lines and major roads, including the M5 running north and south, the M42 running east and west, with further links to the M40 and M6.
- 1.2 Data suggests that 16,643 people travel into the District for work, with 26,112 (29%) of the population travelling out, a net commute out of 9,469.¹ Our main communities are detailed in the map (below). The District has no wards in the top 20% most deprived in England.²

Table 1 – Map of Bromsgrove District

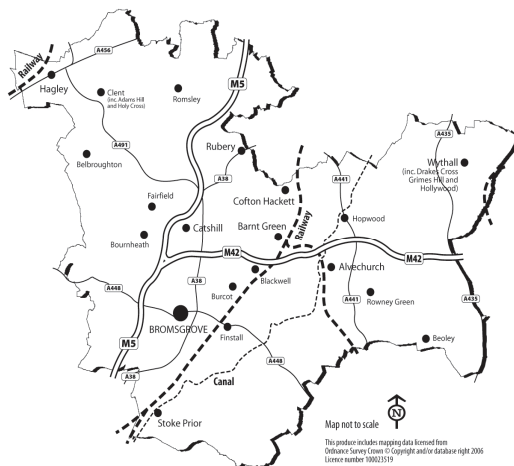
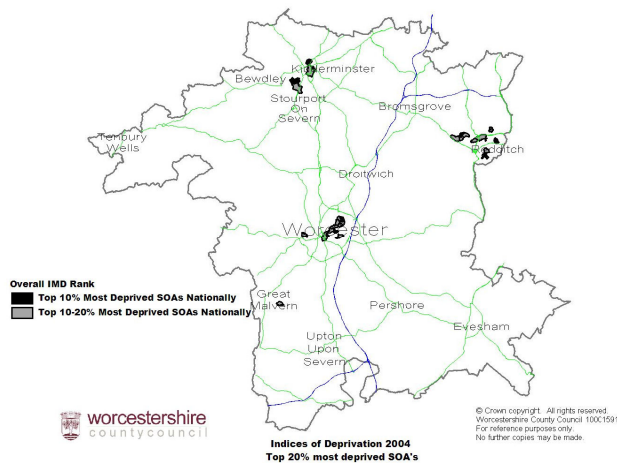


Table 2 – Map of County Deprivation



¹ ONS 2001 Census
² DCLG Indices of Mu



Population

- 1.3 The population of the District is 92,300³. The over 80s population is set to increase by 87.5% and the 70-79 population by 41.3%. This is one of the defining characteristics of the District. There is a clear link between older age and disability. The Bromsgrove Profile, undertaken for the LSP states-⁴

“This increasing aging population may have a significant impact on policy and planning for the District, with specific regard to community safety, health and the strength of communities.”

Table 3 - Population projections by age, 2007 - 2026

Age Group	Thousands								% Change
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2016	2021	2026	
0-9	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.5	8.6	8.4	-15.2%
10-19	11.9	11.9	11.6	11.1	10.8	9.8	9.8	9.3	-21.8%
20-29	8.3	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.0	7.4	-10.8%
30-39	11.8	11.2	10.7	10.2	9.9	8.3	8.1	8.6	-27.1%
40-49	14.6	14.9	14.9	14.9	14.8	13.0	10.5	9.0	-38.4%
50-59	12.8	12.5	12.4	12.4	12.7	13.5	14.0	12.3	-3.9%
60-69	10.8	11.1	11.4	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.4	12.3	13.9%
70-79	7.5	7.7	7.8	8.0	8.0	9.3	10.6	10.6	41.3%
80+	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.3	6.0	7.2	9.0	87.5%
Total	92.3	92.1	91.7	91.4	91.1	89.6	88.2	87.1	-5.6%

Source: ONS projections - Research and Intelligence Unit Worcestershire County Council

- 1.4 The black and minority ethnic population (BME) is 6.4%, which is low for the region and nationally. This percentage comprises 1% Irish, 2.6% Asian, 1.2% Mixed, 1.0% Black and 0.6% Chinese.⁵ There are no definitive data sources for the migrant worker population living in Bromsgrove, but indicative figures suggest this is in the region of 0.2%.⁶ The BME population appears to have doubled in recent years.

Economy

- 1.5 The economic picture of the District is comparatively positive despite the current economic downturn. The mean household income is £38,690 (pre-credit crunch), which is the highest in the county (the County average is £35,656).⁷ Whilst the average household income is high, it is less than £25,000 per annum in Charford, Sidemoor, Catshill and St Johns. There are three major areas of economic regeneration within the District: the

³ ONS 2007 Mid-Year Population Estimates

⁴ ONS 2006 Subnational population projections

⁵ ONS 2006 Resident Population Estimates by Ethnic Group

⁶ Worcester County Economic Assessment 2007-2008

⁷ PayCheck 2008

Longbridge site, Bromsgrove town centre and Bromsgrove railway station. Unemployment, whilst comparatively low, has risen in recent years to 3.0% (August 2010), but the recent trend is downwards, with the benefits claimant rate being over 10%. The area action plan for the Longbridge is in place, but stalled due to the changing economic conditions. Bromsgrove town centre needs a major overhaul to encourage local shopping and to be able to compete with neighbouring shopping centres. Bromsgrove station's funding has been suspended, pending the Comprehensive Spending Review. The new station will have a significant impact on Bromsgrove town, due to the planned Cross City Line electrification being extended to Bromsgrove and as a result bringing the town more into Birmingham City's economic orbit. It remains a priority for the Council. VAT registrations have risen slightly (pre "credit crunch" data) and are consistent with the national trend away from manufacturing, towards more service based industries. Not surprisingly, employment is now considered a key deliverable for economic development. Cabinet and Corporate Management Team have also identified the need for the Council to increase its voice on economic development at a sub-regional and regional level, working with other councils across north Worcestershire.

Sustainable Development

- 1.6 Two years ago Full Council agreed to fund the joint appointment, with Redditch Borough Council, of a Climate Change Manager. Since then, the Council has, for the first time, calculated the total carbon emissions it emits from its activities, which totals over 2,500,000 KGs per annum. Each property in the District emits on average over 10 tonnes. It is critical that the Council starts to reduce these figures.

Education, Deprivation and Health

- 1.7 The percentage of the District's population qualified to NVQ Level 4 is significantly higher than average. GCSE results gained at local authority schools and colleges in Worcestershire in 2008 were amongst the highest in the country (64.4% achieved five or more GCSEs at A*-C).⁸ The District ranks 299th out of 354 councils on the national index of multiple deprivation 2007 (where 1 is the most deprived), making the District one of the least deprived nationally.⁹ It is also the only district in Worcestershire to have become less deprived since 2004.¹⁰ Bromsgrove has one of the lowest levels of receipt of benefits.¹¹ As a result, identifying the vulnerable within our communities is more difficult than a district with geographic areas of deprivation.

⁸ Worcestershire LEA Key Stage 4 results 2007/08

⁹ & 16 DCLG Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007

¹⁰ ibid

¹¹ Worcester County Economic Assessment 2007-2008

- 1.8 Generally, the District's population is healthier than the regional average. Young people (18-24) have a high risk status being the most likely to smoke, binge drink and not take exercise. Potentially, we could be storing up problems in our young people. A Primary Care Trust (PCT) annual report noted that our children's health is good, but there is a need for more child and adolescent mental health services. The rate of teenage pregnancies in Bromsgrove in 2006 was 23.6 conceptions per 1,000 females, which is almost half that of the England average of 41.1.¹²

Crime and Fear of Crime

- 1.9 At the end of the 2007/08 year, crime had reduced by 32% in the District, surpassing the target of a 17.5% reduction from the 2003/04 baseline results.¹³ This was exceptional when compared to the national reduction of just 4%, and the county-wide figure of 24%. Reductions were seen in all British Crime Survey comparator crime types, with the largest decrease being seen in domestic burglary at 53% and the smallest in criminal damage which only reduced by 12% compared to the baseline year 2003/04.
- 1.10 Fear of crime, however, remains a problem in the District despite the reduction in actual crime. Residents are most fearful of house burglary, vandalism or damage to property and having their car broken in to, despite significant reductions in all of these crime types; however, residents most commonly identify issues like teenagers hanging around, rubbish and graffiti as their top concerns.¹⁴

Core Strategy and Housing

- 1.11 The preparation of the Core Strategy will address the issue of setting a level of new housing provision up to 2026 and identifying the new strategic sites for housing development.

¹² DH 2008 Bromsgrove Health Profile

¹³ British Crime Survey 2008

¹⁴ West Mercia Crime and Safety Survey 2008

2. National Policy

2.1 A change of national Government has led to a significant change in national policy towards local government. It is early days and we are not at a legislative stage yet, however, the Draft Structural Reform Plan (July 2010), gives the best indication yet of the Coalition Government's direction. Before looking at the specifics, two key phrases have emerged: "Big Society" and "New Localism".

Big Society

2.2 Big Society includes the decentralisation of power, changes to the planning regime, increased accountability and increased transparency. Much of this will be legislative, so the Council will need to comply with it; however, there is more scope for local policy makers around the Cabinet Office's definition of Big Society: "encourage more Social Action and strengthen the voluntary sector through a programme to make it easier to run a voluntary sector organisation, get more resources into the sector and make it easier for the sector to work with the State"; this is the Big Society as defined by the Cabinet Office. Specifics proposals include:-

- Support the creation of mutuals, co-operatives, charities and social enterprises;
- Explore how to make regular volunteering an element of civil service staff appraisals;
- Break down barriers to social action and volunteering;
- Launch a national day to celebrate social action;
- Train a new generation of community organisers;
- Fund and support the creation of neighbourhood groups.

2.3 All of these are particularly relevant to our priority: one community.

2.4 The recent letter from the Secretary of State for the DCLG asking local authorities to make it easier for people to have street parties, also points to a focus on events that bring people together and help develop an increased sense of community.

New Localism

2.5 "A radical shift of power from Westminster to local people"; this is how the DCLG defines New Localism.

- 2.6 We can expect a Localism Bill to be passed in November 2011. We have already seen that New Localism will lead to a reduction in off shoots of central Government, for example, regional government, the Audit Commission and other quangos. It has also already led to the abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategies and current local government planning system
- 2.7 The Structural Reform Plan also includes proposals for giving residents the power to instigate local referendums on any local issue and veto excessive council tax increases. New Localism also suggests an increased focus on community engagement, through techniques like participatory budgeting and neighbourhood budgets.

Comprehensive Spending Review

- 2.8 The financial backdrop to this is the impending Comprehensive Spending Review (20 October 2010), which will set out the Coalition Government's plans for deficit reduction. The size of the reductions and speed are still a matter of conjecture, but range from 25% to 40%; either way, they are significant and every head of service has been asked to complete an Options for Change pro-forma, detailing how they might achieve these reductions and the anticipated impact on service provision.
- 2.9 A local government resource review is also due to start in summer 2011, finishing sometime in 2012, which could see a change to how local government is funded. If the outcomes are consistent with New Localism, a move towards less central government funding and more local taxation may be in offing.

Climate Change

- 2.10 The Coalition Government has promised to be the "greenest ever". The Department of Energy and Climate Change's part of the Structural Reform Plan includes:-
- A reduction in central government's emissions by 10% in 12 months; and
 - Build support for the increase in the EU emissions reduction target to 30% by 2020 (and increase of 10 percentage points).
- 2.11 It would come as no surprise if the first commitment is passed onto local government and the second commitment a legal requirement.

3. Regional/Local Policy

Worcestershire Local Area Agreement

- 3.1 The key strategic document which makes the link between national, regional and local policy is the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The current LAA is due to run out in March 2011. The Worcestershire Partnership fought a long battle with regional government to prevent the Worcestershire LAA being a means for imposing Whitehall targets in a local setting and it does broadly reflect Worcestershire priorities, not imposed Whitehall targets. The LAA is determined by a “Story of Place”, which uses consultation and evidence to identify the main issues affecting Worcestershire. It is anticipated that the “Story of Place” will continue, that the LAA will not be replaced when it ends in March 2011 and that instead an updated Worcestershire Sustainable Community Strategy will include a tighter set of priorities, supported by appropriate indicators.

Borough Community Strategy

- 3.2 At a local level, we will continue to need a District Sustainable Community Strategy, which provides a long term vision and business plan for the District, which the Leader of the Council in his role as Chair of the Bromsgrove Partnership, can use to engage with partners and hold them to account. Currently, the District Sustainable Community Strategy is due to run out in March 2013 and is fit for purpose. It is cross referenced to the Local Area Agreement. The priorities for the Bromsgrove Partnership are set out overleaf:-

Our Vision: “We will make Bromsgrove District a better place to work, live and visit by driving forward change.”

Objectives (Total of 6)	Communities that are safe and feel safe	A better environment for today and tomorrow	Economic success that is shared by all	Improving health and wellbeing	Meeting the needs of children and young people	Stronger communities
Priorities (Total of 13)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing and Communication Intergenerational Activities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing CO₂ emissions Adaptation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Town Centre Economic Development Strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health Lifestyle Choices 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Being Healthy Marketing existing services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stronger Communities Balanced Communities Older People
Key Deliverables (under each Priority) (Total of 34)	<p><u>Marketing and Communication</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Changing perception of crime Tolerance Promoting area as a nice/safe place to live <p><u>Intergenerational activities</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> History Sharing skills and experiences 	<p><u>Reducing CO₂ emissions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Business Transport <p><u>Adaptation</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding Planning Policy 	<p><u>Town Centre</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion Improve retail offer Improve public buildings Improve High Street appearance <p><u>Economic Development Strategy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop railway station New businesses Strengthening regional links 	<p><u>Mental Health</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improve Services Improving perception and confidence building <p><u>Lifestyle Choices</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Alcohol Maintaining low levels of smoking Diet and physical activity 	<p><u>Being Healthy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in positive activities Healthy lifestyles <p><u>Marketing existing services</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Positive attitudes Engagement 	<p><u>Stronger Communities</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Trunk Catshill LNPs (now suspended) <p><u>Balanced Communities</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate housing mix Appropriate employment mix <p><u>Older People</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Age Well Housing Access to services

4. Consultation

Viewpoint

4.1 Worcestershire Viewpoint is a free survey conducted by the County Council's Research and Intelligence Unit. The survey was conducted in November and December 2009 and the results published in March 2010. The report is measuring residents' perceptions (like the Place Survey which has now been abolished). The headline results are as follows:-

- Bromsgrove has not seen major changes in its scores, but the downward trend on some key indicators has reversed;
- The % of residents satisfied with the Council has risen from 34.1% to 36.7%;
- Satisfaction with Bromsgrove as a place to live has risen from 81.2% to 84.9%; and
- The % of residents who agree that they can influence decisions in their area has increased from 27.1% to 34.7%.

4.2 The continuation of Viewpoint is now under review. The Head of Customer Service would like to see a more localised survey that measures customer service and satisfaction with local services. The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services has also expressed a need for this type of data. The Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships supports this view.

Community Engagement

4.3 Feedback from the Budget Jury on their priorities is as follows:-

- ⇒ **Town Centre**
 - Better Mix of Shops
 - Development of Market(s)
- ⇒ **Economic Development**
 - Support for Businesses
 - Skills & training
 - Rovers Site
- ⇒ **Bromsgrove 'District'**
 - Transport (accessible)
 - Use of partners facilities
 - Sports Development
 - Community clean-ups
- ⇒ **Activities**
 - Traders in the Park
 - Adventure Trail
 - Paddling / Splash pools

⇒ **Promotion**

- Promotion of retail offer
- Celebrate achievements
- Localised marketing

4.4 The Council has recently given planning permission to Sainsbury's and has a number of strategic sites in the town centre that will be suitable for retail once there is an up turn in the economy. The market on the High St has been a success. The Council could explore improving the market offer, once suggestion has been a harvest festival market with local produce. The Council is working towards a north Worcestershire economic development unit and has now resolved the Bromsgrove Rover's issue with positive feedback from supporters. The Council has made a contribution to the transport agenda through BURT, but transport remains a difficult issue for the District Council as we are not the lead authority. Total Place is currently undertaken an asset review across the County to look at the best utilisation of our assets. Sports Development has received investment in previous years. Based on public feedback, it is an area that is valued which Members will need to remember when making difficult decisions in the forthcoming budget round. Community cleans ups already take place, are consistent with Big Society and we should look to support further. For Activities, the forthcoming budget round is going to be particularly difficult in terms of service expansion, but Members may wish to consider this feedback and how we might respond. The North Worcestershire economic development unit will increase the promotion and marketing of the District. The public valued things like Together Bromsgrove.

5. Performance Position

Performance Indicators

5.1 Bromsgrove performance is much improved from several years ago. Examples of good performance in 2009/10 include: exceeding the affordable housing target, keeping the number of families in temporary accommodation below the Government target during the recession, sports development usage being 9,000 higher than target and the Artrix usage being up from 48,821 to 60,250. In order for the Council to achieve its Vision we will need to deliver on the town centre project, housing needs, CO2 emissions and ensure our now much improved performance is delivered with an excellent customer service. All of this will need to be delivered in a time of fiscal austerity. In other words, the focus is no longer really on performance, however, good governance means we will need to continue managing performance and there are also still one or two areas that need attention:-

- Time taken to process benefit claims 9.12 days, but has risen in the first quarter of 2010/11(best in class 5 days);
- % of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting 37.28% (best in class 51.91%);
- income from the community transport service, BURT, is lower than anticipated making the running costs expensive;
- The Council's CO2 emissions have risen by 8%;
- Sickness levels, although seeing a significant improvement in the second half of 2009/10, are also on the high side at over 9 days (the private sector average is 7.5 days per FTE).

5.2 Disabled facilities grant average times from referral to completion remain an area of concern with figures ranging from 44 weeks to 63 weeks depending on the category (this service has now transferred to the Worcestershire Home Improvement Agency).

Audit Commission

5.3 The Audit Commission is set to be abolished. Some form of performance regime for local government will continue, probably with a reduced number of National Indicators, increased transparency, some financial benchmarking, expanded private sector auditing of the financial accounts, particularly, around value for money and reserve powers for central government to intervene in failing local councils. Although the Audit Commission is set to be abolished, the last report on the Council identified that progress on the town centre had been slow and affected by the "credit

crunch". Regenerating the town centre remains the key issue by which residents will judge the performance of the Council.

Transformation and Customer Service

- 5.4 The Shared Services programme includes identifying six areas as suitable for a deeper transformation using private sector techniques like systems theory (particularly associated with manufacturing). Experience from other local authorities that have used these techniques suggests that can have a dramatic impact on customer service, for example, reducing benefits claim turnaround times by 70%.
- 5.5 Not all of the Council will be able to go through a deeper transformation, but is important that we drive improved customer service across the whole of the Council. Whilst customer service is seen as crucial by the private sector to retaining customers and increasing profits, the public sector has focused on either reducing costs or targets, neither of which has enabled a focus on the customer. The best example of this is letter writing and complaints handling. Customer service is also something that should be seen as part of everyone's job, not just those staff working in the Customer Service Centre. The Head of Customer Service will shortly be producing a Joint Customer Service Strategy for both councils. The intention is to re-launch customer service, develop customer standards for each team, provide training on letter writing and customer service in general and in the longer term work towards achieving the Customer Service Excellence accreditation for the whole council, which is like Investors in People, but for customer service.

6. Strategic Direction

Vision

6.1 The Council's Vision is:-

“Working together to build a District where people are proud to live and work, through community leadership and excellent services.”

6.2 This Vision is still considered appropriate.

Priorities

6.4 Based on the analysis:-

Current Priority	Comment	Report Ref.
Economic Development	Increasing employment opportunities and developing a stronger voice for north Worcestershire, through a north Worcestershire economic strategy and economic development unit remain priorities.	1.6
Town Centre	With the building of the medical centre and planning approval for Sainsbury's there is increasing momentum for the town centre's regeneration, but this focus needs to be sustained over the longer term.	1.6 5.3
Value for Money	The Comprehensive Spending Review will require a further focus on value for money. The Council is comparatively well placed to respond to this through the Shared Services programme. Customer service across the whole council also requires an increased focus.	2.8 5.4 - 5.5
One Community	The Council's answer to the Big Society. The Council has had a focus for a number of years on bringing our communities together and working with the voluntary sector. We may need to increase our focus on engaging people in voluntary activities.	2.2 – 2.4
Housing	The Council continues to exceed its affordable housing target, but will need to re-affirm its local housing need in the new planning regime once this becomes clearer.	1.12
Climate Change	The priority requiring the biggest	1.7

	improvement and one where we anticipate tougher targets from the Government.	2.10 – 2.11
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Key Deliverables

- 6.5 The budget bids and performance measures for each proposed priority will need to be “worked up” through the business planning process, budget process and production of the Council Plan 2011/2014 (March 2011 Cabinet). The outline key deliverables/budget bids for each priority are:-

Priority	Areas of Focus
Economic Development	<p>Development of Core Strategy that supports economic development, in particular, cross subsidising development, land for economic development and housing growth that supports improved infrastructure.</p> <p>Continued work on economic development (including improved marketing) and strengthen relationships with partners outside Bromsgrove.</p> <p>Central Technology Belt/Longbridge</p>
Town Centre	<p>Continued focus on train station. Explore flexible approach to land use and cross subsidy from development.</p> <p>Continue momentum on town centre, including site acquisition and soft market testing.</p> <p>Dolphin Centre/Council House.</p>
Value for Money	<p>Shared Services programme.</p> <p>Service transformation through lean systems techniques.</p> <p>Asset Management/procurement.</p> <p>Customer Service across whole Council.</p>
One Community	<p>Continue to market services to older people e.g. community transport, Lifeline etc.</p> <p>Maintain focus on children and young people e.g. Youth Bank, diversionary activities, safeguarding.</p>

	Further develop Bromsgrove/Redditch Community Safety Partnership.
Housing	Balanced housing mix. Reduced DFG times.
Climate Change	Reducing CO2 emissions through spend to save schemes. Linking changes in the business to reducing emissions e.g. energy efficient new buildings, energy efficient fleet, reduced mileage rate through harmonisation of terms and conditions.

Management Processes

6.6 Delivering these priorities is underpinned by a range of key management processes, which will also require a continued focus: -

✚ Managing Finances

Medium Term Financial Strategy (post CSA), improved budget consultation and integrated financial/performance reporting.

✚ Governing the Business

Continued focus on procurement and improved corporate and risk management systems.

✚ Managing Resources

Asset Management, in particular, building utilisation and community assets. Workforce Planning Strategy.

✚ Managing Performance

Data quality, project management, simple performance management arrangements and improved value for money measures.

✚ Customer Processes

Focus on customer need, reduce demand by getting right first time, develop a joint customer service strategy, review access channels and one stop shop provision.

✚ Political Governance

Member development, Standards, Strong Leader and Localism Bill.

✚ Shared Services/Transformation

Shared Services programme, Transformation programme, improved IT communication systems, single financial ledger.

✚ Worcestershire Enhanced Two Tier

Continue roll out of WRS. Seek further opportunities.

✚ Planning
Core Strategy.

✚ Learning and Development
Workforce Planning Strategy. Competency Framework. Corporate Training Plan.

✚ HR Modernisation
Harmonisation of terms and conditions.

✚ Positive Employee Climate
Internal communications, visible leadership, recognition and celebration of achievements, performance management, sickness absence and Employee Survey.

6.7 These are still considered appropriate at this outline stage, but will be subject to further consideration as we work through the service business plans and Council Plan.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

Improvements to Charford Recreation Ground – Skate Park

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Michael Webb
Relevant Head of Service	John Godwin
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report requests Members to approve the enhancement of Charford Recreation Grounds play facilities funded from Section 106 Monies.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.2. Cabinet are requested to recommend to full Council that the above scheme be included to the Capital Programme for 2010/2011 funded from available S106 monies and request officers to undertake the work required before the “claw back” point is reached.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In recent years the Charford Recreation Ground has been enhanced using Capital Monies and external grant funding sources to create a large multi functioning recreation space for all age ranges. In 2007 £50,000 of Youth Capital funding was secured to install a MUGA to support the £100,000 BDC Capital Monies which was used to create a toddler/junior play area and linked footpath to a small concrete skate park.
- 3.2 The skate park is a small scale facility with a limited number of ramps that was procured in line with the available funding at the time.
- 3.3 In Section 7 of the PPG17 report, commissioned in 2007/8 and concluded early 2010, the need for increased provision for children and young people is highlighted across the District, with the Charford Ward showing a deficiency of provision for young people:-
- *Specific lack of facilities for children aged 10 years and over*
 - *85% of household survey respondents aged under 16 years indicated that they believe current provision of childrens play areas is insufficient*
 - *Limited opportunities for older children being highlighted as a common theme*
 - *In terms of new facilities the most popular request from young people was for provision of a skatepark (17%)*

This project would support our policy to provide larger, higher quality facilities in strategic locations and move away from low quality, small facilities which experience limited use.

3.4 Following the development of land at Villiers Road, Charford for social housing an offsite contribution provision for Adult/Youth play facilities and open space development for £11,684 has been paid to the Council.

3.5 Officers have been reviewing the current 106 budget allocations and available budgets in line with the up coming revisions to the County Play Strategy and PPG17 quality and qualitative assessment of the district facilities. During this review the monies outlined in section 3.4 has been identified as being unallocated and that a claw back period is in place that will see the monies returned to the developer should it not be used on or before the April 11th 2011.

3.6 Officers have sought a suitable local scheme in line with corporate priorities. The current provision at Charford Recreation Ground skate park is being adapted by local young people using soil/earth from the site to create more ramps. The new proposal is to increase and enhance ramps to the adapted design and increase the overall scheme to create a larger skate facility. This new scheme will prevent the adaption of the design by CYP and meet the demonstrated demand the adaption clearly shows is required. It will also address health and safety concerns the adaptation/vandalism creates and minimise the on going maintenance issues and call outs to repair damaged areas.

4. KEY ISSUES

The key issue with in this report as follows:

4.1 By including the enhancement scheme within the capital programme the potential for claw back of the 106 funding is removed.

4.2 Continual vandalism of site by young people using surrounding earth mound to re-create more ramps and potential health and safety risk.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications with in this report other than those highlighted above. The section 106 monies are in place and available for use and as the site is already with in council's portfolio of play areas there are no additional maintenance or inspections cost involved.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal implications contained with in this report.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

8.1 The scheme will support the following objectives:

- Objective Two – Improvement and Value for money reducing the ongoing impact on maintenance/response budgets, minimising a current health and safety risk and by responding to the qualitative aspects of PPG17 in relation to Young persons facilities.
- Objective Three - One community, by working with local young people and responding to their needs and requests and enhancing service based on resident feedback.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 The principal risk is continued modifications by local young people could heighten the risk to health and safety should the modifications increase in size and location

9.2 Advice sought from external play risk inspector to provide us with information of how the scheme could be adapted in line with regulations and local demand.

9.3 Risk assessments will be managed via project management of the scheme and external/independent risk inspection/assessment of the facility will be carried out and recorded as part of our normal assessments of new facilities

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct customer implications as this is an existing site and facility

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The proposals will ensure all ages in the local area are provided for at this site

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

12.1 The proposed scheme will reduce officer time for re-active works to monitor and replace soil taken from site for unauthorised modifications to ensure risk and safety of the site/facility is maintained

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

13.1 Concrete ramps will be added to an existing facility

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

14.1 None

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

15.1 None

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

16.1 None

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

17.1 None directly contained with in this report.

18. LESSONS LEARNT

18.1 Although limited budget available for the original scheme – the lessons learnt have been the need for a more substantial facility on a this large recreation ground in order to sustain and facilitate the local need of young people.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 19.1 Liaison with local young people on site to discuss creation of informal mounds/ramps. Proposal is to re-create solid structure to support existing scheme in line with young people informal designs and modifications and in line with risk inspector advice and guidance.
- 19.2 Issues of the site have been addressed and reported by Local Ward Members Councillor Christine McDonald and Councillor Sean Shannon and liaison meeting has been held with Councillor Christine McDonald also involving the Community Safety Partnership.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	Yes
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	No
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

21. WARDS AFFECTED

Charford

CABINET

3rd November 2010

22. APPENDICES

None

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

BROMSGROVE HIGH STREET – RESURFACING & PUBLIC REALM UPGRADE

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Del Booth
Relevant Head of Service	John Staniland
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration Programme is looking to facilitate a high quality upgrade of the Public Realm in the Town Centre.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to update the Cabinet on progress with the Regeneration Programme and seek a commitment to provide funding to allow for the next phases of the Regeneration Programme: Specifically the funding for the resurfacing of the High Street and a high quality upgrade of the general Public Realm in the Primary Shopping Area.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Cabinet are asked to recommend to Full Council the approval of :

2.1.1 The addition of £1 million to the 2010/11 Capital Programme to fund the majority of the upgrade and resurfacing in the Town Centre. This is to be financed from:-

- (i) balance of capital receipts arising from the sale of the industrial units (£500k)**
- (ii) contribution from Worcestershire County Council from sale of capital receipts within the Town Centre (£500k).**

2.1.2 The addition of a further sum of £500k to the 2011/12 Capital Programme once a final assessment can be made of the monies available from the Section 106 agreement with Sainsbury's

2.1.3 That a revenue budget of £5k in relation to extending the Regeneration Programme into 2010/11 is allocated from balances.

2.2 Cabinet are asked to note that a further report will be presented to request approval for the final contribution of £500k arising from future asset disposals in the Town Centre.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Bromsgrove District Council Cabinet formally approved a proposal in November 2007 to initiate a Public Partnership led Regeneration Programme supported with £300k capital funding over 3 years to fund the management and operation of the project.
- 3.2 A Regeneration Manager, jointly funded by Worcestershire County Council, was subsequently appointed in May 2008. The Regeneration Programme was then constituted with common aims and objectives agreed across a Regeneration Partnership of Bromsgrove District Council, Worcestershire County Council, Worcestershire Primary Care Trust, West Mercia Police and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service
- 3.3 This enabled a partnership working and integrated cross-functional approach to; the town centre environment and public realm; transport issues; economic development; and a 'Total Place' approach to the Public Estate: Partners agreed to collaborate in an overall Area Property Review to regenerate the declining town centre, draw out cost savings and improve services to the community
- .
- 3.4 The Area Action Plan (AAP) is designed to deliver a vibrant, sustainable and attractive town centre. It is intended to do this by increasing the number of visitors and the number of people living and working in the town centre. The strategy to achieve this is to; upgrade the public realm; enhance the conservation area; effectively utilise Bromsgrove's natural assets to provide for open and green spaces in the town centre; improve accessibility and connectivity; reduce through traffic; create new larger and modern retail premises in an extended primary shopping area; extend the hours of activity in the town centre; create new employment sites; promote new housing developments and the use of vacant spaces above shops.
- 3.5 The Area Action Plan is due to be published for final public consultation at the end of this year. However, in advance of this strategic planning framework, it has been possible for the Regeneration Partnership to already make progress in an initial or first phase of the Public Property Rationalisation and Regeneration of the town:

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

- WCC made land available to facilitate a new PCT funded Health Centre, which is under construction and due to open in April 2011
- A development site has been identified and outline agreement reached to provide a new combined Police & Fire station within 3 years and this has helped Worcestershire to be one of only 6 fast-track 'Total Place' initiatives in the whole Country
- New award winning Public Conveniences have been completed by the District Council
- A collaborative project between County and District Councils provided an upgraded Bus Station which has resulted in a significant increase in passenger numbers
- The strategically important George House site at the southern most end of the High Street has been procured by the District Council to facilitate a landmark development
- A £70,000 shop-fronts scheme part funded by both County and District Councils has been launched and a further scheme has successfully converted empty spaces above shops into new homes
- The Market Hall has been demolished and the Street Market moved onto the High Street with a resulting increase in footfall to the Town Centre evidenced by its annual Health Check which also shows a drop in empty shops, which are now below the national average

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 These initial developments have shown a tangible commitment to the regeneration of Bromsgrove, which has helped to attract private development funds into the town. These in turn will lead to obtaining mandatory private contributions (e.g. 'Section 106' or 'Section 278') to infrastructure improvements required to facilitate the public realm and transport upgrades required for the town.
- 4.2 Investment in the Public Realm was the catalyst for the rapid projection of Leicester into the top ten retail cities in the country. More locally, recent successful projects in Evesham and Pershore have also demonstrated the positive impact of public realm investment. An attractive public realm will:
- attract visitors and shoppers into town
 - increase the number of people living in town
 - support the investment proposition for leading retailers
 - tangibly demonstrate public investment in the town
 - prove the deliverability of the Area Action Plan

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

- 4.3 It is vital for the regeneration of the town that a seamless public realm is created throughout the primary shopping area with a consistency of design that will deliver a high quality redevelopment. This approach will enable a programme of works to be to deliver a consistent scheme over 4 phases: High Street Central, High Street North, Birmingham Road & The Strand, High Street South and Worcester Road.
- 4.4 The completion of the second phase of the property review in conjunction with the implementation of the Area Action Plan will require the procurement of Private Partner Developer(s). This will then enable a phased construction programme of the various redevelopment sites throughout Bromsgrove Town Centre to be prepared, together with commercial terms and planning obligations. This process will begin early in 2011 and be instrumental in finalising the detail of the funding for the various elements of the overall public realm development. As well, of course, as the integration of the overarching management of the public realm construction project into the overall Regeneration Programme.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The initial £300k funding for the operation of the Regeneration Scheme has been well managed with sufficient money retained to allow for the continued funding of 50% the Regeneration Team costs into a fourth year in 2011/12. The County Council have agreed to match this.
- 5.2 A small revenue budget is required for the Regeneration Programme for the legal fees, public consultation and inward investment marketing purposes over the next 18 months.
- 5.3 The County Council is the Highways Authority for Bromsgrove High Street. Halcrow, the County Council's retained Highway Consultants, have estimated the total cost of a high quality refurbishment scheme at £2m.
- 5.4 At a meeting of the County Council Cabinet of the 21 October 2010 it was decided that £0.5million of their receipt from the release of land for the new Bromsgrove Health Centre be reinvested into the town to upgrade the High Street Central Section between the Housman Statue and the New Road crossing, to include Church Road.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

6.1 The Planning application by Sainsburys was considered by Members at Planning Committee on 28 June 2010 and Members resolved that it should be granted subject to conditions and a section 106 agreement. The 106 agreement provides for the following contributions to be paid by Sainsburys.:

- £347850 towards Bromsgrove Town Centre public realm improvement measures
- £100000 towards sustainable transport objectives
- £50000 towards walking and cycling schemes in Bromsgrove
- £10000 air quality monitoring on Birmingham Road Bromsgrove

Members should note that the 106 agreement has not yet been finalised and further negotiations are taking place. As a consequence of this the formal planning permission has not been issued. Members should further note that there may be a significant delay before the scheme is implemented; a five year permission has been approved and there is currently no fixed start date for the development.

6.2 As far as possible the 106 agreement will protect the Council's interests in securing the contributions from Sainsburys. However Members need to be aware that there is currently no certainty as to the timescale for those monies to be received. Further, as with any legal agreement that has not yet been finalised there is a risk, albeit a relatively low risk, that if Sainsburys decided not to proceed with the scheme then no section 106 monies would be received.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Meets the Council priority of improving the Town Centre viability.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

8.1 Town Centre Regeneration

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

- 9.1 Failure to resurface the pedestrianised High Street in question could adversely affect the investment proposition being created in Bromsgrove town centre in order to lever private funds for infrastructure improvements
- 9.2 Failure to refurbish the High Street North and High Street South to the same standard as Birmingham Road, the Strand and High Street Central could result in a disjointed and 'two-tier' town centre and threaten the ability to attract retailers and lever private investment in other parts of the public realm scheme.
- 9.5 Omitting a section of pedestrianised High Street will leave the area looking unattractive, potentially reducing footfall and spend in the area.
- 9.4 Poor retail performance due to an unfinished or poor quality High Street renovation scheme may close existing shops and prevent new ones opening.
- 9.5 These risks are being controlled within the overall Risk and Issues Register of the Town Centre Regeneration Programme, which is managed by the Regeneration Programme Manager and overseen by The Town Centre Steering Group, the Portfolio Holder and the Head of Service.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 External Customers will benefit from an improved and more accessible town centre and modern more efficient public service facilities.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The existing public realm is difficult to navigate for the disabled because of surplus street furniture, uniform paving design and uneven surfaces. The new public realm will make the town centre equally accessibly for all.

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

- 12.1 A minimum of 50% of the funds of the refurbishment of the High Street have been raised from 3rd party sources, with the prospect of further private sector funds being secured.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

- 12.2 The funds committed can also be used as match for a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding Townscape Heritage Initiative, which matches 3:1. This may give a further £1million towards Town Centre Regeneration in terms of Historic Buildings in the Conservation Area.
- 12.3 Procurement of the Design will be via appointment of an Urban Design/ Landscape / Planning Architect by Bromsgrove District Council as the main individual funder.
- 12.4 Procurement of the Works themselves will be via negotiation with the County Council, either in respect of a 278 Agreement for Bromsgrove District Council to appoint a contractor and carry out the works, or via agreement to pass the funding package to Worcestershire County Council for addition to their Capital Works Programme.
- 12.5 Town Centre Assets for potential redevelopment will be identified by the Area Action Plan, together with the disposal mechanism. This may be by individual disposal or by part of an overall agreement with a Partner Developer(s) to develop a package of public sector sites to deliver the Area Action Plan. This mechanism will be brought to Cabinet for approval prior to implementation.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

- 13.1 The Area Action Plan contains measures in respect of climate change, carbon reduction and biodiversity and the public realm design and the redevelopment of Bromsgrove District Council sites will conform with these policies.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 The funding of the Regeneration Programme Manager, Regeneration Programme Projects Assistant and the Bromsgrove District Council Partnerships and Projects Manager will continue for up to another 24 months.

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 The Governance and Performance Management of the Regeneration Programme is managed by the Regeneration Programme Manager and

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

overseen by The Town Centre Steering Group, the Portfolio Holder and the Head of Service. Provision for continued funding of this approach for the duration of the proposed works are contained in the recommendations.

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

16.1 The New Public Realm will be designed with Community Safety and Crime Reduction in mind. A technical report on this matter has been produced which will form part of the design parameters for the Architects appointed.

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

17.1 The Public Realm upgrade will provide a healthier and cleaner environment, especially in terms of additional green spaces and hence improved air quality.

18. LESSONS LEARNT

18.1 Extensive benchmarking has been carried out of other public realms schemes so as to identify best practice and avoid costly design errors.

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

19.1 The Area Action Plan Issues and Options Consultation resulted in over 1200 responses with the state of the Public Realm identified as the primary issue and priority for action by the Community.

19.2 Further consultation with the Regeneration Programme Stakeholder Forum and Disabled User Group has reached similar conclusions.

19.3 A public consultation will take place on the proposed design.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

21. WARDS AFFECTED

21.1 All Wards affected

22. APPENDICES

Plan – Development Phases

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

23.1 Bromsgrove District Council Cabinet Report November 2007

24. KEY

Section 106 – payments to the planning authority in order to discharge planning obligations/conditions

Section 278 – a mechanism by which works to the highway are carried out or funded by third party developers to discharge planning obligations/conditions

AUTHOR OF REPORT

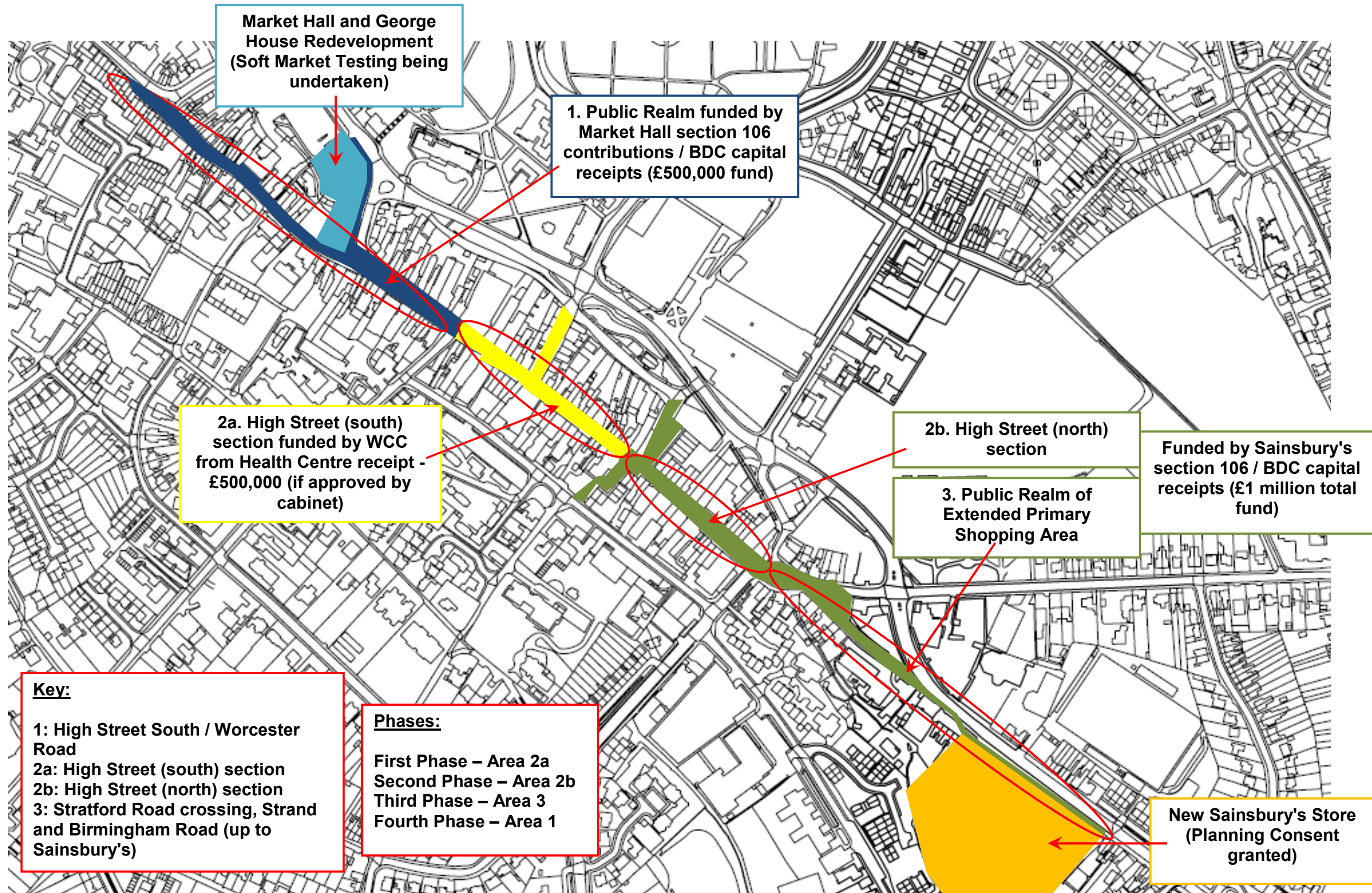
BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

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Bromsgrove High Street / Primary Shopping Area – Development phases



Total fund = outcome of section 106 negotiations on development sites plus balancing contribution from Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) capital receipts following property or site rationalisation / redevelopment / disposal

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