



## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **MEETING OF THE CABINET**

**WEDNESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2010 AT 4.00 P.M.**

**THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BURCOT LANE, BROMSGROVE**

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

### **AGENDA**

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 3rd November 2010 (Pages 1 - 10)
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Board held on 26th October 2010 (Pages 11 - 16)
  - (a) To receive and note the minutes
  - (b) To consider any recommendations contained within the minutes
5. Minutes of the meeting of the Overview Board held on 2nd November 2010 (Pages 17 - 20)
  - (a) To receive and note the minutes
  - (b) To consider any recommendations contained within the minutes
6. Minutes of the meeting of the Performance Management Board held on 15th November 2010 (Pages 21 - 26)
  - (a) To receive and note the minutes
  - (b) To consider any recommendations contained within the minutes

7. Minutes of the meeting of the Equality and Diversity Forum held on 12th August 2010 (Pages 27 - 40)
8. To receive verbal updates from the Leader and/or other Cabinet Members on any recent meetings attended in an ex-officio capacity (Pages 41 - 42)
9. Bromsgrove Museum (Pages 43 - 50)
10. Climate Change Strategy (Pages 51 - 56)
11. Presentation on Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/2012 to 2013/2014
12. Review of Pay on Foot Car Parking (Pages 57 - 64)
13. Council Tax Base Calculation 2011/2012 (Pages 65 - 70)
14. Laurel Grove/Beech Road Play Area (Pages 71 - 76)
  - Appendices For Item 10 - Climate Change Strategy (Pages 77 - 164)
15. To consider any other business, details of which have been notified to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services prior to the commencement of the meeting and which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting

K. DICKS  
Chief Executive

The Council House  
Burcot Lane  
BROMSGROVE  
Worcestershire  
B60 1AA

23rd November 2010

# Agenda Item 3

## 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**

### **MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY BOARD**

**TUESDAY, 26TH OCTOBER 2010 AT 5.00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillors D. L. Pardoe (Chairman), C. B. Taylor (Vice-Chairman),  
A. N. Blagg, R. J. Deeming and C. J. Tidmarsh

Observers: Councillors Mrs. R. L. Dent and P. J. Whittaker

Officers: Mr. J. Godwin, Mrs. A. Heighway, Mrs. S. Sellers, Ms. S. Garratt,  
Mr. M. Carr and Ms. A. Scarce

#### 29/10 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor C. R. Scurrall.

#### 30/10 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS**

There were no declarations of interest or whipping arrangements.

#### 31/10 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Scrutiny Board meeting held on 28th September 2010 were submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

#### 32/10 **REVIEW OF STREET TRADING POLICY**

The Board considered a report which reminded Members of the previous decision to review the operation of the Street Trading Policy after it had been in operation for 6 months. Reference was made to the preliminary questions which had been put to the Licensing Manager and her answers, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report. Officers advised Members that all Councillors had been given the opportunity to put forward any concerns they had about the Policy, or particular issues within their Ward. An issue had been raised in respect of a farm shop and Officers confirmed that this was being investigated.

Members discussed the following areas in more detail:

- Whether “tatters” (mobile scrap metal dealers) came under the jurisdiction of the Street Trading Policy. Officers felt it was unlikely that they would need Street Trading Consent, but agreed to investigate the issue further.

- Members were concerned that Mobile Hot Food Takeaway vehicles which were parked in lay-bys did not meet food hygiene regulations or disposed of waste appropriately. Officers confirmed that checks were made, prior to the issue of a Street Trading Consent, to ensure that all necessary regulations would be met. Officers also confirmed that the enforcement of the Street Trading Consents would be delivered by officers from the Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS).
- Members asked if the fee structure was in line with other areas. Officers advised that this had been calculated by taking an average of the fees charged by all districts throughout Worcestershire.

The Board discussed any legislative powers that would restrict Ice Creams vehicles from parking outside schools, as they were aware that Hillingdon Borough Council had recently banned ice cream vendors from certain areas. The Senior Solicitor confirmed that the legislation that Hillingdon Borough Council had relied on was unique to London and therefore not applicable within the Bromsgrove District. However, it may be possible to give consideration to such a restriction when the new Core Strategy was in place.

Officers confirmed that the Street Trading Policy did not cover telephone canvassers or buskers.

Members thanked Officers for a comprehensive report and after further discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that the Review of the Street Trading Policy be noted.

### 33/10 **SPORTS PROVISION REVIEW**

The Board was reminded that a review of sports provision had been put forward by the Leader at the Chairmen's quarterly meeting with him and the topic had been agreed by the Scrutiny Board for inclusion in its Work Programme 2010-2011.

The Chairman reminded Members of the terms of reference for the investigation: *"to consider the value for money of sports provision and explore any potential savings, alternative options and improvements"*.

The Board considered a report from the Scrutiny Officer which compiled all of the key information provided by the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services. Reference was made to the preliminary questions to the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services and his answers provided at Appendix 1 of the report.

The Board considered the business aims and objectives for sports provision contained in the Service Business Plan 2009/2010 and the Sports & Active Recreation Strategy 2009 to 2012 and how these linked to the Council priority C03 (One Community). The Board also considered the wider benefits of sport and physical activity for the health and well being of communities, which was evidenced in a series of policy papers by Sports England, *"Shaping Places Through Sport"* which showed the impact that sport played in the lives of individuals and the wider community.

The Board considered the organisational structure for Leisure and Cultural Services and Sports Development, which was delivered in partnership with external organisations such as Sports England and Wychavon Leisure and Community Services Ltd (the Dolphin Centre). This included a Sports Development Manger post, two Sports Development Officer posts, Community Sports Coaches and a Walking Co-ordinator. It was noted that this structure was subject to change depending upon the service review as part of the organisational transformation process. It was also noted that the Sports Development Manger post had been vacant for 12 months and funding for the Community Sports Coaches (funded by Sports England) and Walking Co-ordinator posts was due to expire in 2011.

The Board considered the headline performance of Leisure and Cultural Services and sports services based on usage. Performance was reported as generally high. Members also considered the budget for sports provision, including details of revenue and capital spend and noted that the future delivery of the service was dependent upon the budget review and the organisational transformation process, which would commence in December 2010.

The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services also advised Members that there was a need to develop the volunteering base in the community in the delivery of sports projects, in line with the Big Society agenda and to mitigate any funding gaps in the future.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that in the view of the Board the delivery of sports provision in Bromsgrove represents good value for money and is a valued and important part of facilities for the community, contributing to both community well being, leisure and healthy living; and
- (b) it be noted that, in the current budget context, which will require substantial savings across the Council, the vacant posts within Sports Development may represent an important savings opportunity if services are re-configured around shared services with Redditch Borough Council.

34/10 **ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PLACE SURVEY**

Members were advised that an update had been received from the Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships. It was anticipated that, following the demise of the Place Survey, a local survey would be produced to measure residents' satisfaction and other areas. How this was done, would be dependant upon budget restraints following the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Board agreed that this should be re-scheduled on the Work Programme for the meeting to be held on 25th January 2011.

35/10 **BROMSGROVE URBAN AND RURAL TRANSPORT (BURT)**

Members were advised that unfortunately, the BURT bus was currently out of action and the service was being provided by using the spare "Dial-a-Ride" bus from Redditch Borough Council. It was anticipated that the repairs needed to the BUIRT bus would cost in the region of £1,000. Funding was available for the service for the next 12 months; however a capital budget bid might have to be put forward to replace the bus; Members would then need to consider whether the Council wished to continue to provide this service.

The Head of Community Services provided Members with updated figures on the age profile of BURT users. However, she confirmed that, as part of her review of the BURT service, she was meeting the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) on 28th October and had requested a comprehensive annual report on BURT and further clarification of the age profile information. As part of the review process the Head of Community Services would be advising and assisting WRVS with funding streams available to them, with a view to minimising the costs of the service to the Council.

Members also discussed the following areas in more detail:

- The Council does not have a statutory duty to provide the service.
- A breakdown of journey details (this would be provided by WRVS in the annual report).
- The feasibility of the option to link the service with the "Dial-a-Ride" service provided by Redditch Borough Council.
- Other possible avenues of funding available in order to maintain the service.

36/10 **WORK PROGRAMME AND MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Board agreed to update the Work Programme and Meeting Schedule to include an update on alternative arrangements for the Place Survey to the meeting to be held on 25th January 2011.

37/10 **QUESTIONS FOR WITNESSES ATTENDING MEETING ON 25TH JANUARY 2011**

Members were informed that the following topics would be discussed at the meeting to be held on 25th January 2011:-

- The Annual Bonfire Event (Part 1)
- Review of the Hot Food Takeaway Investigation

The Board agreed that the example questions provided would be appropriate for the Annual Bonfire Event and asked that they be provided with a full financial breakdown of the event for this and previous years.



The relevant Heads of Service would be invited to attend the meeting and Members were asked to provide the Scrutiny Officer with any questions they would like to put forward to officers as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 6.20 p.m.

Chairman

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## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW BOARD

TUESDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER 2010 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors S. R. Colella (Chairman), Mrs. M. Bunker (Vice-Chairman),  
Mrs. C. J. Spencer and L. J. Turner

Officers: Ms. J. Pickering, Mr. M. Carr and Ms. A. Scarce

#### 31/10 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. R. L. Dent and Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths.

#### 32/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS

No declarations of interest or whipping arrangements were received.

#### 33/10 MINUTES

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

#### 34/10 PAY ON FOOT CAR PARKING SCHEME - VERBAL UPDATE

The Head of Environmental Services and the Portfolio Holder for Community Services had sent their apologies as they were unable to attend the meeting. The Executive Director, Finance and Resources gave a detailed explanation of the current position in respect of the Pay On Foot Scheme. Members were informed that a report would be presented at the Cabinet meeting to be held on 3rd November 2010 which would ask Cabinet to make recommendations to Full Council.

The Board noted that the Council's charges were comparable with other districts and that Wychavon Council had recently increased car parking charges. Officers were not aware of any other operator currently using an incremented tariff. Members were of the view that, as the losses were significant and that in light of the Comprehensive Spending Review, it would be inappropriate for the Council to meet this from balances for 2010/11. It was also felt that, if an increase in charges was anticipated for 2011/12, this should be included within the VAT increase which would take effect from 1st January 2011. The Executive Director, Finance and Resources undertook to feedback the Board's views to the Cabinet meeting to be held on 3rd November 2010.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) that the Cabinet do not implement the incremented car parking tariff; and
- (b) that the Council incorporate any increased charges within the VAT increase to take effect from 1st January 2011.

35/10 **BROMSGROVE RAILWAY STATION DEVELOPMENT - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Chairman advised that the Executive Director, Planning and Regeneration, Regulation and Housing Services had sent his apologies but had provided the following information:

*“The County Council received a letter from the Department of Transport on Wednesday (27th October 2010) informing us that there would be no capital funding for the Bromsgrove railway station project from the Department of Transport. We are welcome to bid for funding from future funds released by the Department for Communities and Local Government but there is no guidance on any of these funds at the current time and competition is likely to be intense for any limited funds released. As a result no further work is to be done on the railway station project until such time as any funding is available.”*

The Board was disappointed that the letter from the Department of Transport appeared to preclude development of the Railway Station in the future. The possibility of funding being available through the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) was discussed. Officers agreed to ask the Executive Director, Planning and Regeneration, Regulation and Housing Services, whether this had already been explored.

Members queried whether there would be any implications for the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework, as the Railway Station was an integral part of the Town Centre Redevelopment, and what effect this would have on the Council's priorities.

Officers reminded Members that at the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting to be held on 23rd November 2010, Members were due to receive a further presentation from the Head of Planning and Regeneration and that this matter could be discussed in more detail at that meeting.

36/10 **LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY TASK GROUP**

The Chairman invited Councillor L. J. Turner, as Chairman of the Task Group, to introduce this item. Councillor Turner gave background information on the Transition Town Bromsgrove group and explained that he had attended one of their meetings and felt that the work that they hoped to do was of a similar nature to that of the Task Group. It was felt that it would be useful to co-opt two members of Transition Town Bromsgrove on to the Task Group. An informal meeting of the Task Group had been held, to which the potential co-optees had been invited and it was felt that they were enthusiastic and committed to the work and would be an asset to the Task Group. Councillor

Turner confirmed that the first meeting of the Task Group would take place on 11th November 2010.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that Councillors S. R. Colella, C. R. Scurrill and D. McGrath be appointed as members of the Task Group;
- (b) that Ms. A. Horton and Mr. M. Draper be co-opted as members of the Task Group;
- (c) that the terms of reference of the Local Food Economy Task Group as submitted now be agreed; and
- (d) that the Task Group commence its investigation as soon as possible.

37/10 **OVERVIEW BOARD QUARTERLY RECOMMENDATION TRACKER**

The Board considered the Quarterly Recommendation Tracker report and was disappointed that detailed updates had not been received from Officers. Members agreed that it was important that recommendations, which had been agreed by Cabinet, were tracked to find out what outcomes had been achieved and when the agreed recommendations (Cabinet decisions) had been implemented, and that officers and relevant Portfolio Holders were requested to provide details of these. The Executive Director, Finance and Resources advised Members that she would bring the Overview Board Recommendation Tracker Report to the attention of the Corporate Management Team at their next meeting and ensure that responses were brought back to the next meeting of the Board to be held on 4th January 2011.

It was noted that an action update had been received in respect of the Community Involvement In Local Democracy Task Group, but unfortunately this was not in the required format and did not cover all aspects of the recommendations. It was noted that Councillor G. Denaro had been suggested as the Council's Democracy Champion. The Board felt that in view of his heavy workload as Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources and Deputy Leader, the Vice Chairman of the Council would be a more appropriate candidate as Democracy Champion.

38/10 **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS 1ST NOVEMBER 2010 TO - 28TH FEBRUARY 2011**

The Board considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions and discussed the following items in more detail:

- Garden Waste Service - Future Developments.
- Worcestershire 'Single Conversation' and Investment Plan.
- Longbridge – Memorandum of Understanding.

39/10 **WORK PROGRAMME AND MEETING SCHEDULE 2010/11**

The Board considered the Work Programme and Meeting Schedule and agreed that the item on Garden Waste – Future Developments and Civil Parking Enforcement Part 1 be carried over to the meeting to be held on 4th January 2011 and if a further meeting was required for the Implementation of

Civil Parking Enforcement, this would be carried over to the 1st February 2011 meeting if necessary.

40/10 **QUESTIONS FOR WITNESSES AT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 4TH JANUARY 2011**

The Board considered the strategic questions which had been provided as a guide for Members to ask witnesses at the meeting to be held on 4th January 2011.

Members asked for the following points/questions to be put to the Head of Service and Portfolio Holder in respect of the Civil Parking Enforcement topic:

- Key deliverables
- Level of service
- Would the same service be delivered throughout the district?
- What was the deadline, if any, for this service to be in place?
- Was it possible to broaden the remit of the enforcement officers' role i.e. to include litter, dog fouling and fly tipping.

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

Chairman

# Agenda Item 6

## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**MONDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER 2010, AT 6.00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillors C. B. Taylor (Chairman), Mrs. M. Bunker (Vice-Chairman), S. R. Colella and Ms. H. J. Jones

Observers: Councillor G. N. Denaro

Invitees: Ms. A Glennie and Ms. C Garner (Housing Manager, Needs and Money Advice, BDHT)

Officers: Mr. H. Bennett, Mr. A. Coel and Ms. A. Scarce

#### 36/09 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. A. E. Doyle and Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths.

#### 37/09 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs. M. Bunker declared a personal interest in Minute No.38/10 (Report and Presentation on Housing and Homelessness) in her role as a director of Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (bdht).

#### 38/09 **REPORT AND PRESENTATION ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS**

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Housing Manager on the Homelessness and Housing Register. A presentation was also given by Amanda Glennie, the Strategic Housing Officer and Clare Garner, Housing Manager (Needs and Money Advice) Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (bdht).

The presentation covered the following areas, which were discussed by Members:

- Bdht's role and the service level agreement they have with the Council.
- The Council's statutory responsibilities
- Homelessness and Housing Options
- The work of the Bromsgrove Homelessness Steering Group
- Homeless acceptances and households in temporary accommodation
- Home ownership, lender forbearance and mortgage rescue.
- The work of the Step Up Private Tenancy Scheme

- The Home Choice Plus Scheme, the banding system, properties advertised and the increase in demand for properties and future issues.
- Current position and the risks attached to cutting preventative work and services.

The Board also discussed in detail the Homelessness Grant and the wide range of initiatives that this funded, including a Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) owner occupation debt advisor, NewStarts Furniture Project and Homelessness Prevention Floating Support. By providing successful prevention schemes and reducing the use of temporary accommodation the Council had influenced an increase in the Homelessness Grant funding to Bromsgrove from £32,000 in 2003 to £81,050 for the current year. The Council understood that it was the Government's intention to continue to award Homelessness Grants at the same level as in previous years but in an un-ring fenced form that was likely to become part of the Area Based Grant. The Strategic Housing Manager advised Members that it was crucial that the homelessness prevention services continued in order to avoid increased use of temporary accommodation and the potential expense to the Council of having to provide Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

The Strategic Housing Officer confirmed to Members that there had recently been a satisfaction survey for the Home Choice Plus Scheme and agreed to pass the results of this to officers for circulation to Members when available.

Members also raised a concern in respect of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs), with particular reference to those who had accessed the grants and the level of satisfaction with the quality of the work undertaken. The Strategic Housing Manager agreed to provide further information on this via officers.

After further discussion it was

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) that the Homelessness Grant funding be ring fenced in order for the preventative measures to continue to be carried out; and
- (b) that the relevant Portfolio Holder is made aware of and investigates further, what is the likely impact and anticipated increase in homelessness and whether it is being appropriately prepared for.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that the Board notes the performance of the range of homelessness prevention initiatives and success of the Housing Options service in significantly reducing homelessness acceptances;
- (b) that trends indicating a potential increase in demand from homeless or potentially homeless clients following a period of economic downturn and the implications of proposed welfare benefit changes on the demand for homelessness services in the future be noted; and
- (c) that the importance of maintaining continued investment in good housing advice and homelessness prevention services and the cost effectiveness of these services in currently avoiding and reducing future risk to the Council of having to meet excessive bed and breakfast costs be noted.



39/09 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Performance Management Board held on 19th October 2010 were submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

40/09 **QUARTER 2 INTEGRATED FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT (INCLUDING SUNDRY DEBTORS REPORT)**

The Board considered the Integrated Finance and Performance Report for Quarter 2.

The Board noted the increase in sickness absence and the Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships confirmed that this had been noted and that a performance clinic would be held to review actions to improve the situation.

Members discussed the follow areas in more detail:

- Recycling rate of 43.06%. The Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships agreed to ask the Head of Environmental Services for information on any future plans to expand recycling.
- Community Safety – overspend within this area. Members were concerned as this was a shared service. The Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships agreed to seek further clarification on this item.
- Town Centre Development – Revised Budget £170,000. It was not clear from the information provided, what exactly this referred to and the Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships agreed to seek further information on this for Members.
- Regulatory Services – performance management. The Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships confirmed he was due to meet with the Head of Regulatory Services shortly to discuss this.

The Board had requested a detailed report on outstanding debtors, which had been included within the Integrated Finance and Performance Report. Members discussed this in detail and requested that a similar report be included in the Integrated Finance and Performance Report for Quarter 3 in order to monitor progress on recovery of the outstanding debts.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that it be noted that 59% of performance indicators are stable or improving;
- (b) that it be noted that 59% of performance indicators that have a target have met their targets as at the month end and 76% are projected to meet their target at the year end;
- (c) that the performance figures for September 2010 as set out in Appendix 2 be noted;
- (d) that the successes and areas for potential concern as set out in the 'Council Summary' at 4.1.1 of the report be noted;

- (e) that the current financial position on Revenue and Capital as detailed in the report be noted;
- (f) that the proposed budget virements between £15k and £100k, listed in Appendix 6 be noted;
- (g) that the complaints and compliments data detailed at Appendix 7 be noted; and
- (h) that the request for Cabinet to approve a new reserve of £20k for Voice Recognition Analysis (VRA) within the Benefits Section be noted.

41/09 **ANNUAL FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT 2009/2010**

The Board considered the Annual Report which contained information on the Council's performance and finances during 2009/10. Members were reminded that this was a plain text version and that an "internet" style version had recently been published on the internet.

Members discussed the Top Stories of 2009/10 as detailed at item 4 of the report and commented on the good progress that the Council had made in recent years and felt that the report was a true reflection of the current position of the Council. After further discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that the Annual Report 2009/10 be noted.

42/09 **SHARED SERVICES**

The Board was informed that the next meeting of the Shared Services Board (SSB) would be held on 9th December 2010. The Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships advised Members that a written update report on Shared Services would be provided at the meeting of the Performance Management Board to be held on 20th December 2010. In the meantime he advised Members that business cases would be put forward to the SSB meeting for Policy, Performance and Partnerships and Human Resources, and that the "systems thinking" stage had begun for the Benefits Team.

Members were advised that the Council had failed to recruit for the Programme Manager's post for Shared Services; this would now be re-advertised internally. The Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships also informed Members that several problems, on a day to day operational level, had also been picked up at a recent staff focus group, and these would be addressed as soon as possible.

43/09 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Board considered the Work Programme. After further discussion it was agreed that a report on the performance of Regulatory Services would be included in the January 2011 Work Programme. After further discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that the Work Programme be noted, subject to the above amendment.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Chairman

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**Bromsgrove**  
District Council  
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

**The Equality and Diversity Forum**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
**in The Committee Room**

<b>In attendance</b>	
Stuart Bray	Pinke/ Core Assets
Mary Collett	Bromsgrove Disabled Access Group and Worcestershire Association of Service Users
Debbie Corns	CSM Barnardos Sunfields Children's Centre
Kevin Dicks	Joint Chief Executive Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils
Rebecca Dunne	Senior Policy and Performance Officer ( Community Engagement ) Bromsgrove District Council
Claire Felton	Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils
Patricia Hackett - Chair	MENCAP and Bromsgrove Resident
Joan King	The Gender Trust
Art Lavelle	Bromsgrove Resident ( Fair Trade )
Chris Lewis	Bromsgrove District Housing Trust
Elaine Mortimore	The Basement Project for Young People
Claire O'Gorman	Padstone Day Centre, Worcestershire County Council
Councillor Dave Pardoe	Elected Member for Sidemoor
Councillor Stephen Peters	Diversity Champion for elected Members, Bromsgrove District
Jayne Pickering	Executive Director of Finance – Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils
Liz Rouse	CSM Barnardo's Pear Tree Children's Centre
Steve Moralee	Bromsgrove resident and Fresh Winds
Fiona Scott	Equality Officer, Bromsgrove District Council
Ann Sowton	Chief Officer, Bromsgrove and Redditch Network
Sonia Spurr	Community Engagement Manager – Primary Care Trust
Balbinder Kular-Taylor	West Mercia Police
Julie Wright	Community Support Officer, West Mercia Police

<b>Apologies</b>	
Mr B K Chaudhari	Bromsgrove Indian Community Forum
Gill Christison	Health Improvement Manager
Cllr Geoff Denaro	Elected Member and Executive Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Mark Eastwood	Bromsgrove resident and Worcestershire LGBT Forum
Jeff Edwards	Bromsgrove and District Older People's Forum
Nigel Godwin	Bromsgrove resident and Disabled Users Group
Sonia Hambidge	Citizens Advice Bureau, Bromsgrove
Gina Harris	HMP Hewell
Anne Jeffs	HMP Hewell
Luke Mallett	Bromsgrove resident
Eileen Mulhall	Bromsgrove Disabled Access Group and Worcestershire Association of Service Users
Jackie Murrall	Droitwich Spa and Rural Council for Voluntary Service
Trevor Rigg	Chair – Bromsgrove Black History Society
Hazel Robinson	Community Engagement Officer, Worcestershire County Council
Nishad Searle	Bromsgrove Muslim Community Trust
Jim Smith	North Worcestershire Disability Information Line
Mr G S Virk	Bromsgrove Indian Community Forum
Lynn Ward	Pertemps Disability Consultancy

### **1. Introductions and apologies**

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting including new members from Barnardo's and from the community.

**Apologies** – as above.

### **2. Minutes of meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

The minutes were agreed as accurate.

### **3. Items from the Forum Chair**

It was recognised Ramadan started yesterday although the exact date does vary round the country and the world. General apologies were assumed from all members of the Bromsgrove Muslim Community as they had not joined the meeting of the Forum on this occasion.

It was announced with great sadness that Sat Aggarwal, a member of this Forum, passed away earlier this week and the Bromsgrove Indian Community Forum have sent their apologies as the funeral will be tomorrow.

A letter of condolence to the Bromsgrove Indian Community Forum will be sent from the Equality and Diversity Forum to be passed on to Sat's family in recognition of his support and contribution to the cause of equality in Bromsgrove through his support for our Forum.

There was a positive item to report, the Council has been contacted by a family who are travelling on holiday from the North West to the South West and were looking for a place to stop on route where there is a Changing Places Toilet. They looked this up on the National Changing Places Consortium website and contacted the Council to arrange access. Someone from Padstone Day Centre has arranged to meet them there.

This is a great success for Bromsgrove as we have been hoping to attract people who need the use of our Changing Places toilet when travelling using the nearby motorway networks. We hope that this will be just the first of many and that this family have a good experience and tell everyone else they know about the facilities in Bromsgrove.

#### **4. Draft Cancer Strategy – Sonia Spurr, Community Engagement Officer, Worcestershire NHS**

**Sonia** introduced this item and asked “Has anyone been touched by cancer services?” The usual answer is that most people have, or know someone who has been. What these people will know is that this is a complicated service area.

The purpose of this presentation was to give an understanding of the current arrangements for cancer treatment in the County of Worcestershire. The presentation also aims to give an insight into the changes that are going to take place.

People from Bromsgrove and Redditch needing cancer treatment would come from the Arden Cancer Network. If you live in the South of the County you would go to Cheltenham for your treatment from the Three Cancers Network and people in Wyre Forest receive treatment from the Greater Midlands Network.

To form a network you have to have a certain number of people within a geographical area and Worcestershire is not big enough to be a network in it's own right.

This makes accessing cancer services in Worcestershire quite difficult. The Worcestershire NHS commission and purchase cancer services on the behalf of the patient. Childrens cancer services are purchased and provided in Birmingham and this would not be effected by this strategy.

Breast screening is generally offered to all women although men can get breast cancer too, is offered by one provider and if someone is classed as "symptomatic", for example they have a lump or pain they would be referred to a hospital for treatment from another provider.

It is agreed nationally that these should be provided by one provider.

Radiotherapy – there is none provided in Worcestershire as we don't have the very expensive equipment needed. If you live in Redditch you have to go to Coventry every day, for example, for six weeks on a daily basis. This can be a big strain for families as well as for the patient. The cumulative effect of radiotherapy can make the person feel quite ill towards the end of the treatment. It will likely be 1½ hrs each way travelling for 5 minutes of treatment. In addition it may be difficult to park when you get there. If someone is using hospital transport that can make a very long day from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Treatment for cancer can be in the form of surgery and/or non surgery, oncology. The majority of surgery is provided in Worcestershire and some is provided out of County. This is not likely to change. The surgery on offer has to fit certain guidelines, for example, the provider must be able to say that they carry out certain procedures on a regular basis – they must be "IOG" ( Improving Outcome Guidance ) compliant.

Chemotherapy in Worcestershire is done at the Royal Worcester, the Alex, Redditch and Kidderminster Treatment Centre. Due to the network arrangements in Worcestershire clinical staff are having to work with 3 different drug protocols and this makes things quite complicated. There are also issues relating to access to patient information when a patient is unwell and taken to hospital. It often leads to patients needing to be transferred from one hospital to another to receive urgent treatment.



## Proposal in the Cancer Strategy

The National Cancer Reform Strategy seeks to integrate the Breast Screening and Symptomatic services and offer one provider for the whole County and be able to provide radiotherapy and one provider of chemotherapy.

To put a "LINEAC" (radiotherapy machine) into a hospital means that it has to have very thick walls and this very sensitive machinery is prone to breaking down. Building units to house one lineac is not cost effective or efficient. Ideally, there should two units with space for a third.

The need for radiotherapy is increasing – we know that we have to increase the number of radiotherapy units so this is a good opportunity to get a unit for this County.

It will need to be on a hospital site with in patient beds so this would have to be the Alex or Royal Worcester but not the Kidderminster Treatment Centre as they don't have the inpatient beds or the appropriate medical cover.

The idea is to have as much radiotherapy treatment being done in the County as possible. The capital cost would not be provided by NHSWorcestershire, but the revenue costs would be.

To build the unit will cost £14 million with an annual running cost of £4 million which we are already paying. The revenue costs would not be greater than this. The whole project would have to go out to tender.

If all goes to plan, the spend will be in 2012 but the units would not be up and running until 2014.

In the main travel times would be reduced, this would be much greener, would reduce the stress for patient and family and be less expensive all round. But NHS Worcestershire do recognise that some people may have to travel further but feels that provision of services in county for the majority is of greater importance when reviewing services as a whole.

In relation to staffing it would be one unit with one provider. This would need less staff than two units each with one machine. It will also be easier for clinicians in the county.

Surgical oncology wouldn't change as there is a need for a centre undertaking this form of treatment to be IOG compliant.

Most counties will have some cancer strategy of some sort as cancer strategy as cancer services are very complicated.

NHS Worcestershire feel confident that this has got to go ahead.

Figures suggest that the need for cancer treatment is on the increase. Currently the time limits for treatment are being extended so that people are getting more treatment. Treatment is changing. Cancer increases with age and we are an ageing population. We are detecting cancer earlier so people might be treated differently than in the past.

In relation to the justification for the decision on where the services will be based, Worcestershire NHS will be setting up a Stakeholder Reference Group. **Sonia** and colleagues will be tasked with getting this group together and will be looking at a non financial assessment process using a scoring system.

Although the consultation formally closed on 6<sup>th</sup> August, **Sonia** is still writing the report so can include any last minute comments and views. **Sonia** can come back to a future meeting of the Forum with the outcome of the consultation.

## **5. Community Engagement Toolkit – Rebecca Dunne, Senior Policy and Performance Officer, Bromsgrove District Council**

The Council currently has a Customer First manual which is for staff to tell them what messages we give to customers, what voice mail messages should say and so on.

The Council is proposing to create similar manual for staff to refer to for any Community Engagement activities they may be considering. This manual can be developed with experience and will include comments and results from Community engagement activities to help other officers.

It will not give answers but give options. Community engagement is not just about asking questions, it is about how we respond to the answers we get. The engagement with the Equality and Diversity Forum is a good example.

Sometimes a focus group can give as much information or more as a questionnaire. A questionnaire is limited as to what people can tell us. A questionnaire with a small response may not tell us anything – a focus group might have been more useful

On line questionnaires gives opportunities for people to post comments

Other examples are Street theatre, having a stall at the Farmer's market, and using events at the TRUNK to engage with community members.

The Budget Jury is a longer term focus group which needs a deeper understanding of what we, as a Council have to spend money on. They will be at the real Council Budget in the Autumn of this year.

Another example is "U Decide". This was from a government initiative which we adopted as "U Decide" and it was something that gave young people ownership and developed their confidence in standing up and presenting their ideas.

The joint Senior Management Team for Bromsgrove and Redditch is now undertaking a "Walking the Wards" exercise and another "Back to Floor" exercise similar to that undertaken two years ago.

Another way of engaging is to go along to "Say and Play" young mothers events and talk to them while the play event is happening.

Members of the Equality and Diversity Forum have helped us with Equality Impact Assessments and have been involved in the setting up of Community Transport i.e. BURT. This is real engagement.

There are other things we could do, such as electronic graffiti boards to take round to community events but these are very expensive and we can't afford this in the current changing times.

All these things make the services better.

The workshop this evening is for the Forum to tell the Council how do you want us to engage with you?

And for Partners, what has worked well for you? What could we do together? We need to think about pooling our resources to get a more meaningful response.

The Forum broke into workshops groups and reconvened after the mid meeting break.

**Rebecca** will put all the ideas into a paper and feed this back to a future meeting of the Forum.

**Rebecca** thanked everyone for their input. If anyone has any other thoughts or ideas drop **Rebecca** a line to [r.dunne@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:r.dunne@bromsgrove.gov.uk)

## **6. Questions from floor for the Chief Executive – Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive for Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council**

No questions had been tabled in advance and there were no questions from the floor of the meeting.

**Kevin** stated that like most public authorities we are still trying to work out the how to respond to the new Coalition Government's Housing Strategy as there is no specific guidance as yet.

In relation to budget planning, it was felt that the savings of 25% could be delivered through Shared Services. However, if the required savings go up to 40% this would mean a completely fresh look needing to be taken at how this could be achieved.

The Town Centre redevelopment is progressing – the roof is on the new GPs surgery. The Council have bought George House and Sainsbury's are due to come into the town subject to planning permission. We think that we've got enough funding to resurface the High Street which has always been one of the main priorities for people in the Town for all sorts of reasons, disability, parents with children and so on. The Cabinet have also agreed to further funding for a Shopfronts project.

## **7. Equality Highlight Report, Fiona Scott, Equality Officer, Bromsgrove District Council**

**Fiona** drew everyone's attention to **Item 1, the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Formal Inquiry into Disability related harassment and hate crime**. Forum members were urged to pass on questionnaires to anyone they knew that might want to submit evidence.

## **Item 3. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans History Month 2011**

Some planning for the event has already taken place as it is hoped to have an advance flyer ready for the Worcester Pride event on 18<sup>th</sup> September. The Worcester Pride event has not been cancelled, only reduced in size because the change in the economic climate reduced the number of sponsors but an event will still go ahead and the three North East District Councils will have a presence there, possibly in partnership with Worcester City Council.

A new community group, "Proud 'n' N.E.W. is developing in Redditch which hopes to create something across the North East of Worcestershire and to carry on the good work of Redditch Rainbow and Finding a Voice. It is early days but they have had a meeting with officers from Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils who have provided some advice and guidance on bidding for funds and progressing their aspirations.

#### **Item 4. The Equality and Diversity Forum**

The date shown for the October meeting is incorrect – it should read 9<sup>th</sup> October, not the 1<sup>st</sup>.

All those who were present on the 12<sup>th</sup> who had been involved in the original Equality Impact Assessment working group are interested in reconvening on 7<sup>th</sup> September. The choice of Equality Impact Assessments to review has already been made and the papers will go out sometime at the end of next week.

#### **Item 6. Bromsgrove Black History Society**

There was a small presence at the Bromsgrove Carnival. The same puppet theatre activities will be undertaken this year with one performance to be at the Bromsgrove library as an extension of this activity.

The Positive About Mental Health event on the 6<sup>th</sup> October maybe be classed as part of Black History Month as the story line is about a black person with mental health problems who becomes homeless. A response on this is awaited.

#### **Item 13 International Older People's Day 2010 – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010**

There will be a tea dance on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September but there will also be a separate event on the Friday, which is 1<sup>st</sup> October. Co-incidentally, this is the same day as the next Disabled Users Group meeting.

The new Guide to Facilities and Services will be launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, not the 29<sup>th</sup> September as stated in the Equality Highlight report.

Further details of the event on 1<sup>st</sup> October will be issued as soon as they are available.

## **8. Update on the proposed Disabled Access Awards Scheme for Bromsgrove**

Distribution of the Consultation Questionnaire started on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

All members of the Equality and Diversity Forum and the Disabled Users group have been sent copies by post or by email. In addition, so far, it has been distributed to

- All Councillors for Bromsgrove
- Bromsgrove Parish Councils
- All Bromsgrove Libraries have had a supply
- Batches have been posted or delivered to
  - The Bromsgrove Disabled Access Group
  - Wendron, Bromsgrove
  - Chadsgrove School ( on holiday at the moment )
  - Padstone Day Centre
  - Amber Support Services
  - The TRUNK, Charford
  - Bromsgrove District Housing Trust
  - Citizens Advicie Bureau, Bromsgrove

Questionnaires have been issued at Street Theatre and Keep Active events and are being distributed to shops, petrol stations, cafes, pubs and restaurants, GPs surgeries, vets surgeries and dentists, nurseries, estate agents, solicitors, insurance agents, car dealerships and taxi companies.

Many have been sent by post and by email and will be including visitor attractions, sports and social clubs e.g. golf clubs.

A contact has been made with Best of Bromsgrove who are very interested in the idea and would like to be involved at the awards stage with a view to including details on their website. This will help publicise good services to disabled people and should help make the awards more popular year on year.

A shop by shop distribution has been carried out on foot so far for part of Bromsgrove High Street, Alvechurch and Hopwood and Hagley, Belbroughton and Clent will be done over the coming weekend.

Arrangements are being made to deliver the questionnaire to the rest of Bromsgrove High Street, Wythall and Rubery High Streets and Catshill over the next 2-3 weeks.

Approximately 70 replies have been received so far – summary of results attached at the end of these minutes. The responses have all, bar one, been very positive and the top choice of name of the award has varied with each batch of replies that come in.

### 8. Agenda items for future meetings:

<b>Inter Faith Week 2010</b>	<b>To be included in Equality Highlight Report</b>
<b>Trips and Falls</b>	<b>Amanda Wheeler from the PCT</b> <b>An alternative speaker may have to be found.</b>
<b>Guide to Services – “Together Bromsgrove Plus” (Older People’s Directory of Services)</b>	<b>Ann Marie Darroch - Communications and Customer First Manager, Bromsgrove District Council</b>
<b>International Older People’s Day</b>	<b>to be included in Equality Highlight report</b>
<b>Future meetings</b>	
<b>The Equality Act 2010</b>	<b>Speaker to be identified</b>
<b>Hate Crime Reporting</b>	<b>Update on new publicity materials when available</b>
<b>Outcome of Equality and Human Rights Commission Formal Inquiry into Disability related harassment and Hate Crime</b>	<b>Speaker to be identified</b>

**The meeting closed at 8.15 pm**

**Time, date and place of next meeting –**

**6.15 to 7.30 pm**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010 – Community Bids meeting**

**6.15pm to 8.30p.m**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010 – next regular meeting**

**Both meetings will be held in the Committee Room**





## Disabled Access Awards – Analysis of replies – as of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010

### 1. What should the scheme be called?

No barriers”	15
DAME (Disabled Access Made Easy)	13
Freedom Awards (Use Dove as symbol)	4
BAB (Bromsgrove Against Barriers)	17
Access and Attitude	8
Disabled Friendly	10
Other	
Access To All	
AccessAble	

### 2. What would you like to see awards for?

Accessible public house or restaurant	17
Accessible place of interest or tourist attraction	14
Accessible retail outlet	18
Good employment Opportunities for disabled people	16
Accessible transport	15
Accessible public building	27
All of the above	33
Other	
Accessible Sporting venues	
Accessible toilet facilities	
Accessible business	
Disability project	
Innovative solutions	
Staff awareness training	
Accessible professional services e.g.	
Solicitors, Accountants	
Places of Worship	

**3. Which of the following should be used as criteria for the awards? The criteria must be things that the business or service provider has control over.**

Access for Wheelchair Users (independently or with assistance)	62
Assistance Dogs Welcome	31
Assistance for Visually Impaired People	32
Hearing Loop available	27
Accessible Toilet	37
Means of requesting staff assistance	55
Disabled parking facilities ( nearby )	20
Other –	
Good employment recruitment policies and practice	
Innovative solutions	
Breast feeding facilities	
All of the above	
All of the above would be great, some would be good	
Mobility aids provided e.g. wheelchairs, electric trolleys	
Staff awareness training	
Helpful staff	
All of the above if possible	

**4. What will the award be?**

Certificate of Recognition with year with the right to display in premises or on website	44
Publicity in local media and in Together Bromsgrove	41
Logo or sticker with year of Award for shop window	37
Logo to use own publicity material	18
Other- Please specify	

Ask the business what they would like/ prefer

All of the above

Do you realise the lack of dropped kerbs on one side of Austin Road

Bromsgrove towards the A38. Trying to cross the A38 to reach Morrisons

Is a nightmare for able bodied people. For those in wheelchairs or pavement mobility scooters it is ny on impossible.

My award would go to the employer who employs more people with slight (should read sight) disabilities between the ages of 21-60 years who seem to get very little help

List of premises who meet the criteria available perhaps through the Hub and Shopmobility

Another waste of tax payers money – get a life

# Agenda Item 8

**THERE ARE NO ENCLOSURES FOR THIS AGENDA ITEM**

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## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### **CABINET**

1st December 2010

#### **BROMSGROVE MUSEUM**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor M. J. A. Webb
Relevant Head of Service	J. Godwin - Leisure and Cultural Services
Non-Key Decision	

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 This report follows on from a report submitted to Cabinet in October 2009 and asks for members of the Cabinet to consider a change to the previously agreed terms and conditions of a proposed transfer of the Bromsgrove Museum.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **Cabinet is asked to consider and determine whether or not to continue with the disposal of the museum as previously agreed at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009 with the revision that it be disposed of free from restrictions at the current market value.**

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of the Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009 members considered and agreed the terms and conditions that would be attached to any sale of the museum building to the Friends of the museum (the Friends).
- 3.2 Members are advised that the Friends have sought funding for the purchase of the museum on these terms and have advised the Council that potential funders are not able to commit to the project because of the existence of the claw back.
- 3.3 At their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009 Cabinet members acknowledged the value of the museum and their desire to maintain the provision thereof to the community of Bromsgrove.
- 3.4 Members are being asked to consider the request by the Friends for the Council to dispose of the building at the current market value of £285,000.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Cabinet has previously agreed to the sale of the building and the sale of the building is in line with the Council's priority to develop and regenerate the Town Centre.
- 4.2 The Cabinet has determined through the business plan provided by the Friends of the Museum that the proposed project would benefit the Town Centre and enable the Council to further the objects of the Museum Trust.
- 4.3 It is essential that members consider the costs associated with continuing to store, maintain and catalogue these items and the risks, which have previously been reported to members of disposing of the collection in relation to cost, time and reputation.
- 4.4 Indeed in every respect the reputational issue maybe challenging as a considerable number of the items have been donated since the collection came into the control of the Council. Items, a number of which are of considerable value –financial and / or sentimental – will have been donated with the intention of being for the benefit of the people of Bromsgrove. The donors or their relatives may see the disposal of their donations for money as unacceptable and disrespectful of their wishes. Returning items may be difficult because of the terms on which they were donated and time consuming in terms of investigating whether those making a claim for the item had a genuine entitlement; returning items will amount to disposal of charitable assets and must be undertaken in accordance with charity law.
- 4.5 The current market valuation of the building is £285,000. The 'Friends' are interested in purchasing the building for that sum.
- 4.6 Members must also consider that the building itself is not currently delivering any of the Council's priorities or achieving its worth within the context of the assets management plan. In addition there are considerable running costs including business rates.
- 5.1 If the Collection is to be disposed of it is estimated that the work of listing, pricing and photographing would approach 140 days to complete the work based on 80 items a day. At £200 per day this would cost £28,000. This does not include the cost of materials and cameras. Furthermore after all this work there is not a guarantee that the items will sell. There are also costs associated with the continued housing of the dormant collection whilst the museum remains closed together with the officer time in ensuring that cataloging of artifacts it undertaken.

4.8 Taking these points into consideration together with the likely positive impact that a museum would have on the regeneration of the Town Centre, a matter which is at the fore of Council priority, members may wish to consider that being released from the current burdens of general upkeep that a disposal at this time might be advantageous.

4.9 Members are advised that in all other respects the conditions of sale remain as articulated in the Cabinet resolution of the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and that the sale would be conditional on the Friends obtaining charitable status.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The cost of staff undertaking the itemising of the collection could be considerable as they will have to list, photograph and price between 15–17,000 items. The time required to do this work will also be extensive. The Council would have to consider whether it had the capacity to do this work, if it did not agency staff would need to be engaged. The collection would have to be advertised in the trade press and if the Council did not receive offers for the collection it would have to enter into a contract with an auctioneer to dispose of the items.

5.2 The current valuation of the building is £285,000. The 'Friends' are interested in purchasing the building for that sum. The Council will pay £13,000 a year non domestic rates plus any costs associated with maintaining the building until a sale is achieved.

5.3 If a transfer of the collection is not achieved as proposed to the friends and the Council has to consider the disposal of the collection it is estimated that the work of listing, pricing and photographing would approach 140 days to complete the work based on 80 items a day. At £200 per day this would cost £28,000. This does not include the cost of materials and cameras. Furthermore after all this work there is not a guarantee that the items will sell. Members will be aware that the transfer of the collection is dependent on the Friends being able to purchase the museum building.

5.1 The combination of non-business rates, work on preparing the items for sale, the reputational damage and the other associated costs leads to the proposal that a sale price should be agreed and that the 'Friends' are given 12 months to raise the money. In the meantime the museum remains closed and the building mothballed.

5.5 There is a real risk that if negotiations are terminated with the

'Friends' the Council may face legal action which would involve the Council incurring legal costs to defend the Council's position.

- 5.6 If the sale is approved any budgets currently associated with the provision of the museum building will be included as savings within the medium term financial plan.

**6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 It is a legal requirement that any transfer of the Collection is made to a charity or charitable trust with objects which are substantially similar to those of the Norton Collection. The Friends are not currently a registered charity as a trust with charitable objects is only required to register as a charity if it has an income of £5,000 per annum, and the Charity Commission is not currently accepting voluntary registrations from organisations with a lesser annual income. However, it is reasonable for the Council to require a receiving organisation to be a registered charity. Firstly, a registered charity is more accountable than a non-registered charity in terms of being listed on the public register with the Commission and, subject to differing thresholds, having to account to the Commission for its activities on an annual basis.

**7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The Council must ensure that all assets are managed in accordance with its priorities and the wider assets management plan. This report is proposing a sale at market value.

**8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

- 8.1 The Council has identified the regeneration of the Town Centre as a priority and the museum falls within the Town Centre.

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 Members are advised that although the restrictive covenant articulates the Council's intention that the building continue to be used as a museum that it may be challenged in a tribunal environment.

**10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The museum is a facility that would become open to the public and would rely on customer support for its future.



**11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The building is not currently accessible for persons with physical disabilities.

**12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 By continuing to operate the museum as it was previously the Council would not be demonstrating value for money – visitor numbers were low and as a result the cost per visitor were high. The Museum does not directly contribute towards the achievement of the Council's objectives and priorities and as such doesn't represent value for money.

- 5.1 The challenge in relation to value for money is the need to secure a best value return on the sale of the building while balancing this against the costs incurred from the maintenance of the building and the payment of nondomestic rates on an empty building.

- 12.3 A further value for money consideration is the costs incurred in disposing of the items compared with transfer of the items to a trust. It is suggested that if negotiation can be successfully concluded with the trust based on an agreed market value for the building and transfer of items then and if an agreed market value can be achieved and transfer secured to a trust this would release resources to the Council and remove any revenue implications.

**13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

- 13.1 None associated directly with this report

**14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1 None associated directly with this report

**15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 15.1 None associated directly with this report

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

- 16.1 None associated directly with this report

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

1st December 2010

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**17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

17.1 None associated directly with this report

**18. LESSONS LEARNT**

18.1 None associated directly with this report

**19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

19.1 None associated directly with this report

**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	Through CMT
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Through CMT
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Through CMT
Head of Service	Through CMT
Head of Resources	Through CMT
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Author
Corporate Procurement Team	Through CMT

**21. WARDS AFFECTED**

**All Wards**

**22. APPENDICES**

None

**23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Cabinet report dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**24. AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### **CABINET**

1st December 2010

#### CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Peter Whittaker (BDC) Councillor Brandon Clayton (RBC)
Relevant Head of Service	Hugh Bennett, Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
Key Decision	

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

To agree a Climate Change Strategy for Bromsgrove District (BDC) and Redditch Borough (RBC) Councils.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That, subject to final Council decisions on the Policy / Budget implications,

- 1) Bromsgrove District Council Cabinet be requested to consider the BDC Overview Board comments and agree / reject / amend the recommendations (contained in Appendix 2 to the report), and note the comments from RBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- 2) Redditch Borough Council Executive Committee be requested to consider the RBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee comments and agree / reject / amend the recommendations (contained in Appendix 3 to the report), and note the comments from BDC Overview Board;
- 3) the Cabinet / Executive Committee be requested to **RECOMMEND** to their respective full Councils adoption of the Climate Change Strategy (attached at Appendix 1 to the report);
- 4) the Cabinet / Executive Committee be requested to **RECOMMEND** reinvestment of 100% of the savings from the Salix project into further climate change work until further notice; and
- 5) the Cabinet / Executive Committee be requested to **RECOMMEND** that a policy be approved for insertion in both the Planning Core Strategy and Climate Change Strategy whereby:  
*“for any new developments that the Council undertakes, for example, building a new public leisure centre, consideration of whole life costs of the building are considered and, as part of this, all new public buildings will aim to exceed the nationally set BREEAM standard”.*

**3. BACKGROUND**

Because the issues of Climate Change are not geographically specific, a joint strategy for reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change is proposed.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 This strategy sets out the policy framework in which BDC/RBC can meet their corporate objective of tackling climate change,
- 4.2. The strategy also sets out the strategic direction required to meet targets on reducing carbon emissions internally, across the wider community, and how we can adapt to severe weather events and future climatic change.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There is currently no specific budget for climate change activity. This strategy does not ask for additional funding. However, it does require acceptance of potential spend to save activity. Should funding be required, separate capital bids would be submitted. In addition, external funding will be sought wherever possible.
- 5.2. Since the Overview Board, at Bromsgrove an interest free loan of £37,525 has been secured for energy efficiency projects, mainly at Bromsgrove Operational Depot (agreed as Urgent Business). This report asks that once the investment has paid back the loan, that the ongoing savings are reinvested to achieve further savings/undertake other climate change activity, ideally 100% of the saving.
- 5.3. At Redditch, a similar request is made for the recent Salix funding of £13,840, and also that a proportion of the ongoing savings from the original £189,000 funding (once the loan is paid back) are reinvested to achieve further savings/undertake other climate change activity.
- 5.4. This would only apply to this particular Salix funding stream, not to all climate change related efficiency savings. Should this be agreed, this commitment will be added to the final climate change strategy.
- 5.5. Because the Salix savings will not become apparent for a few years, budget bids for climate change activity will be submitted as required.

**6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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. There is a possibility that the Government will place statutory targets for carbon reduction onto Local Authorities.

**7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 This strategy will set out the strategic framework in which the Councils will tackle one of its corporate priorities of climate change.
- 7.2. Following RBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee, despite having no objection to the anaerobic digestion in principle, Officers have established that it is not possible to include a recommendation specifically on the inclusion of anaerobic digesters in new developments, as it may not be viable in all schemes. In addition, there would be a requirement for a financial viability appraisal of the costs. Planners have also advised that it is not appropriate for the Core Strategy to specify any particular waste management method.
- 7.3. As per recommendation 5; Officers recommend that a policy is approved for insertion in both the Planning Core Strategy and Climate Change Strategy whereby:

*“for any new developments that the Council undertakes, for example, building a new public leisure centre, that consideration of whole life costs of the building are considered and as part of this, all new public buildings will exceed the nationally set BREEAM standard”.*

**8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

As above, Climate Change is a corporate priority in both Authorities.

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

There is a risk that without a strategy the Council will not hit its National Indicator nor Local Area Agreement targets.

**10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

The strategy has implications for reducing fuel poverty and health inequality.

**12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

A large section of this strategy describes how we need to manage our assets in a more efficient way, saving both money and carbon emissions.

**13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

This strategy has significant implications to improve the Council's performance in these areas, especially in terms of reducing carbon emissions.

**14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

One of the strategies actions is to review the mileage reimbursement rate as part of the Harmonisation of Terms and Conditions, with a view to reducing overall business mileage.

**15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

An annual report will be provided to Cabinet at Bromsgrove and Executive at Redditch detailing progress on the Salix funded projects and proposals for reinvestment of savings once the loans are paid back.

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

None.

**17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

17.1 The strategy takes into account its contribution to reducing health inequality.

17.2. In relation to the BDC Overview Board recommendations v) and vi) Officers suggest that any public communication about "switching off" is kept low key and is specifically related to lights and appliances, to avoid confusion and vulnerable residents possibly switching off electric heaters/heating systems which they genuinely need in order to remain healthy – this is especially important during winter months. We can revise this once we know more about the issue through working with the Primary Care Trust.

**18. LESSONS LEARNT**



None.

**19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

A consultation on this report has been carried out with key stakeholders such as the Worcestershire Partnership Climate Change Task Group, Transition Bromsgrove, and members of the public who expressed an interest in being consulted.

**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	Yes
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes
Head of Service	All
Corporate Procurement Team	No

**21. WARDS AFFECTED**

All Wards.

**22. APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy [page xx]
- Appendix 2 - Extract of minutes from the BDC Overview Board - 31.8.10 [page xx]
- Appendix 3 - RBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee Referral [page xx]

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

1st December 2010

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**23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Climate Change Draft Strategy (Appendix 1).

**24. KEY**

***BREEAM*** = Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### **Cabinet**

1st December 2010

#### **REVIEW OF PAY ON FOOT CAR PARKING**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Michael Webb
Relevant Head of Service	Guy Revans
Key Decision Yes	

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 This report responds to the request made by Members of the Council and details the financial implications of a re-introduction of the incremented tariff on the Council 'Pay on Foot' car parks.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **Cabinet is requested to note the financial implications associated with the reintroduction of the incremental car parking charging tariffs on the Council owned 'Pay on Foot' car parks (Churchfields and Recreation Road South), and in light of this information decide whether or not the incremental charging should be reintroduced.**

- 2.2 **In the event that members are minded to reintroduce the incremental charging system detailed within this report, it is suggested that the Cabinet resolve as follows:**

- (a) **that officers be tasked with undertaking a review of the car parking provision, the charging structure that supports this and the extent to which alternative methods of service delivery can be achieved in this area that would lead to a more sustainable and cost effective car parking provision as part of the current shared service review;**

- (b) (i) **that Members note the cost implications of reintroducing incremental charging and the consequential effect that this will have on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2011/12 and 2012/13;**

- (ii) **that this deficit be managed by the Executive Director of Finance & Resources as part of the wider budget setting process for future years; and**

**the Cabinet RECOMMEND to the full Council**

- (c) **that £45,000 be released from balances to ensure a balanced budget for 2010/11 in respect of the incremental charging scheme**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Members are aware that the introduction of the Pay of Foot car parking system in the Council car parks in Churchfields and Recreation Road saw the introduction of a tariff system that trialled the payments in 10 minute increments in favour of a tariff that charged to the next hour. It was clear after this initial trial that the incremental charging was having a significant impact on the overall car parking revenue and as a result it was removed. At that time it is estimated that the cost associated with the incremental charging system over a period of approximately three and a half months was circa £24K. It is predicted that a reintroduction of the 10 minute incremental charge would cost a further £21k to the end of the current financial year.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010 officers were tasked with reporting to members on the costs and implications of reintroducing the incremental tariff scheme.
- 3.3 Members are advised that the practice of charging in hourly segments is not unusual but it is accepted that it offers less flexibility to the shopper in relation to the time spent and paid for parking. An example of the effects are that a driver who is one minute over an hourly fee of 70p under the hourly segment tariff would be required to pay £1.40. Using an incremental tariff system the charge would be 90p.
- 3.4 It is clear that the cost of reintroducing car parking provision on an incremental basis will have a financial impact on the overall income to the Council that is generated from parking in the Councils car parks.
- 3.5 Members are advised that the current medium term financial plan is based on assumptions that certain levels of car parking revenue will be achieved and that these assumptions have been based on the currently hourly charges. This predicted level has not been achieved.
- 3.6 If members are minded to return to the incremental tariff then this will have a detrimental effect on the overall budget for 2010/11 and future years that will need to be addressed as part of the review of the medium term financial plan.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 There are 2 tariff options for Recreation Road South and Churchfields car parks that Members can consider;
- a) remain with the current hourly rates
  - b) amend the tariff to 10 minute increments
- 4.2 The loss of income in the earlier part of the year due to the incremental charging tariff was circa £24k and the predicted additional revenue required to cover the reintroduction of the incremental tariff for the remainder of 2010/11 amounts to £21k and it would be necessary for this sum to be released from balances to fund the deficit in 2010/11.
- 4.3 Members are advised that although release of £21k would cover the costs between January and March 2010 and that a further release of £24k would cover the shortfall arising from the incremental tariff, there remains a significant shortfall to anticipated income of approximately £164k for 2010/11. This will be addressed as part of the medium term financial plan.
- 4.4 Members are reminded that in addition to the decisions relating to the incremental charging that there are wider car parking revenue issues that will need to be addressed as part of the wider budget setting debate for future years and that these relate to the increase in VAT charges, the underachievement generally in car parking income and the wider need for the Council to consider all of its fees and charges in light of the current economic climate and the reduction in Local Authority Grant funding. Members are advised that this will be presented as part of a wider fees and charges and budget report.
- 4.5 It is fair to say that notwithstanding the additional burden that the incremental charging will place on the Council in financial terms that in view of the Councils wider priority to invest and improve the shopping experience within the Town Centre that the move to incremental charging would be supported and valued by town centre businesses and customers.
- 4.6 That said members are advised that officers have been working on the options available in respect of alternative service delivery methods and the extent to which the service can be rationalised to enable greater efficiencies moving forward.
- 4.7 To this extent members will be presented with a separate report detailing those options once the review has been completed during 2011/12.

- 4.7 Members are also advised that as a consequence of the economic downturn car parking income has dropped and that this move to the provision of such a highly competitive tariff charging structure may result in a growth in custom to the Town Centre and the car parks.
- 4.8 It is important to note as part of this report that the importance of the two free parking weekends (11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> December) has been acknowledged as part of this report and Members are advised that all financial projections included within this report ensure that this provision is maintained.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The incremented tariff was introduced when the new system went live on March 2010. This tariff initially cost up to £1.5k net per week in lost revenue to the service.
- 5.2 The tariff operated for a number of weeks before it was removed. This has allowed officers to predict the effects of reintroducing the incremented tariff. Based on the current spend and revenue patterns, including the reintroduction of the incremented tariffs, the Council will be faced with a further £21k shortfall in income in addition to the £164k predicted income shortfall on the whole car parking service for 2010/11.
- 5.3 This shortfall is largely the result of a lower than expected revenue increase from the pay on foot car parks, the loss of income resulting from the removal of the incremented tariff.
- 5.4 It is proposed that the £45k shortfall to fund the incremental tariff is met from balances as officers are unable to identify other areas of savings that could meet this shortfall.
- 5.5 Members acknowledge the wider financial implications of these proposed changes and the need for them to be addressed as part of the wider budget setting and the medium term financial plan.

**6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The provision of the incremented tariff is discretionary and does not require any changes to the parking Order to implement.
- 6.2 The procedure for making an amendment of car parking orders is regulated by the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 and the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) regulations 1996 and any change

the charging rates for the purposes of VAT other increases would require an amendment to the existing order.

**7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None.

**8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

8.1 The town centre is one of the Council objectives. The provision of affordable, safe, and well maintained car parking supports the economy in the town centre.

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

9.1 None.

**10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The customers will pay less when using the Council pay on foot car parks. Although not directly comparable, this does reflect the incremented tariffs for overpayments on pay and display car parks.

**11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 None.

**12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

12.1 None.

**13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

13.1 None.

**14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 None.

**15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 None.

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Cabinet**

1st December 2010

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

16.1 This will reduce levels of aggression between Council staff and customers.

**17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

17.1 None.

**18. LESSONS LEARNT**

18.1 None.

**19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

19.1 During the six month review of the new system, there were 36 comments out of 402 questionnaires stating that the removal of the tariffs was unfair and that they should be reintroduced. This was the second most popular comment made with long queues at the paystations being the most common.

**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	Yes
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	Yes
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No



**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Cabinet**

1st December 2010

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21. **WARDS AFFECTED**  
All

22. **APPENDICES**  
None

23. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**  
None

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### CABINET

WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010

#### COUNCIL TAX BASE CALCULATION 2011-2012

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor Denaro
Responsible Head of Service	Teresa Kristunas
Non-Key Decision	

#### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Local Authority (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations require the Council to determine its Council Tax Base for the coming financial year and to notify precepting authorities of the outcome between 1st December and 31st January in the preceding financial year.

For the financial year 2011-2012 the Council Tax base is estimated at 36,548.42 Band D equivalents when applying a 99% collection rate.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the Council's Tax base for 2011-2012, assuming a collection rate of 99.00%, is calculated at 36,548.42 for the area as a whole. Individual parishes are shown at **Appendix 1** of this report.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Local Authority (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations require the Council to determine its Council Tax Base for the coming financial year and to notify precepting authorities of the outcome between 1st December and 31st January in the preceding financial year. This is done by parish and the information is used to calculate the Council Tax bills each March for the following financial year.

When determining the Council Tax Base, Councils are required to estimate the proportion of the tax to be collected in the coming year after making allowances for banding changes, exemptions, discounts, new properties and losses on collection. For 2011 -2012, a collection rate of 99.00% is expected. When applied to the estimated Council Tax Base of 36,917.60 Band D equivalents, it results in a 'net' figure of 36,548.42.

- 3.2 This is a statutory requirement and no consultation is required.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 This forms the basis of the calculation of Council Tax for the new financial year.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Publishing the Council Tax Base between 1st December and 31st January in the preceding financial year is a legal requirement.

The legislation that covers this is the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

#### **6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

- 6.1 Collection of Council Tax underpins the corporate objectives of the Council.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no risk management issues.

#### **8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The Council Tax Base forms the basis of the calculation of Council Tax for 2011-2012. These bills will be sent out in March 2011.

#### **9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no implications for the Councils Equalities and Diversity Policies.

#### **10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS ?**

- 10.1 There are no value for money implications.

#### **11. CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no climate and carbon implications.

**12. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Procurement Issues – None
Personnel – None
Governance/Performance Management – None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – None
Policy- None
Biodiversity – None

**13. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Joint Chief Executive	No
Executive Director - Partnerships and Projects	No
Executive Director - Services	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	No
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

**14. WARDS AFFECTED**

**All Wards**

**15. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Council Tax Base Calculation for 2011-2012

**16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992

**CONTACT OFFICER**

Name: Lorraine Caswell  
E Mail: [l.caswell@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:l.caswell@bromsgrove.gov.uk)  
Tel: (01527) 881249

## Council Tax Base Calculation 2011-2012

The Council Tax Base calculation for each parish is detailed below (Band D equivalents).

<b>Parish Name</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Net (99.00%)</b>
<b>Alvechurch</b>	<b>2,306.70</b>	<b>2,283.64</b>
<b>Barnt Green</b>	<b>922.20</b>	<b>912.98</b>
<b>Belbroughton</b>	<b>1,225.60</b>	<b>1,213.34</b>
<b>Bentley Paucefoot</b>	<b>189.60</b>	<b>187.70</b>
<b>Beoley</b>	<b>468.70</b>	<b>464.01</b>
<b>Bourneheath</b>	<b>218.80</b>	<b>216.61</b>
<b>Catshill &amp; Marlbrook</b>	<b>2,465.80</b>	<b>2,441.15</b>
<b>Clent</b>	<b>1,222.60</b>	<b>1,210.37</b>
<b>Cofton Hackett</b>	<b>757.50</b>	<b>749.92</b>
<b>Dodford with Grafton</b>	<b>407.30</b>	<b>403.23</b>
<b>Finstall</b>	<b>301.60</b>	<b>298.58</b>
<b>Frankley</b>	<b>51.70</b>	<b>51.18</b>
<b>Hagley</b>	<b>2,131.70</b>	<b>2,110.38</b>
<b>Hunnington</b>	<b>241.60</b>	<b>239.18</b>
<b>Lickey and Blackwell</b>	<b>2,097.50</b>	<b>2,076.52</b>
<b>Lickey End</b>	<b>1,108.40</b>	<b>1,097.32</b>
<b>Romsley</b>	<b>702.50</b>	<b>695.47</b>
<b>Stoke Prior</b>	<b>1,774.60</b>	<b>1,756.85</b>
<b>Tutnall and Cobley</b>	<b>357.30</b>	<b>353.73</b>
<b>Wythall</b>	<b>4,853.40</b>	<b>4,804.88</b>
<b>Urban</b>	<b>13,112.50</b>	<b>12,981.38</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>36,917.60</b>	<b>36548.42</b>

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## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### **CABINET**

1st December 2010

#### **Improvements to Laurel Grove / Beech Road Play Area and Recreation Ground**

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

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 This report requests Members to approve the improvements and enhancement of Laurel Grove/Beech Road Recreation Ground play and ancillary facilities funded from £51,000 Section 106 Monies.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.2. Cabinet are requested to recommend to full Council that the above scheme be included to the forward Capital Programme for 2010/2011 and request officer to undertake the work require before the “claw back” point is reached.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In recent years investment has been made into larger recreation grounds such as King George Recreation Ground and Charford Recreation Ground to create larger strategic locations of multi functioning open space / parks to benefit the whole community.

Laurel Grove/Beech Road Sidemoor, is a large recreation area that runs from Laurel Grove/Beech Road to Broad Street and services a large section of the local community to the East of Broad Street. In 2004 a small junior, fenced play provision was installed to support the older toddler area that was already on site. There is also a set of basketball posts and hard standing area with in the recreation ground.

- 3.2 The toddler play area and small scale basketball provision lacks innovation, does not challenge users imagination, has low play value and is coming to the end of its useful life. This has a detrimental affect on the aesthetics of this recreation ground and has a subsequent impact upon the local area and resident satisfaction.
- 3.3 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. These Improvements enhance community cohesion bringing local residents together in one area and also by involving the community with designs and proposals will provide residents with a sense of belonging and contribution to their local area.

3.4 The recent PPG17 survey covering provision for Children and Young People shows that Bromsgrove Central area received the lowest score for quality of play provision for children. The analysis suggests that enhancing the quality of existing play areas is considered to be as important as increasing the quantity. However, the quantitative standard when broken down by Ward level has identified Sidemoor with a shortfall in provision of children's play facilities.

3.5 The PPG17 report also sets out provision standards for access which is essential for maximising usage of the sites as well as providing opportunities for people to use the site. It is recommended that the standard for provision for children is a 10 minute walk time.

This site is accessible from multi access points from the top of Holly Road / Laurel Grove and surrounding area and from Broad Street at the bottom of the site.

3.6 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 quantitative and qualitative assessment of the District facilities. During this review the monies outlined have been identified as unallocated and a claw back period is in place that will see part of the monies returned to the developer should it not be used on or before December 2010. There is also a restriction on development of play provision which stipulates that any facilities provided must be within a 2km radius of the development (All Saint's Road).

3.7 Officers have sought a suitable local scheme in line with Corporate Objectives & Priorities, the principles of the Play Strategy and the restraints identified in section 3.5. The current provision at Laurel Grove / Beech Road is in need of qualitative and quantitative improvements and as such this scheme is considered to be the most appropriate. This is further supported given the condition of the equipment on site and the need to consider replacement/enhancement of the area in the near future.

3.8 By increasing the quality of the provision in Sidemoor through this scheme and recent improvement at King George Recreation Ground, BDC will be able to consider in the future the potential to rationalise other play areas. For example the small and badly located Silverdale Close play area and return them to either POS or potential look at using them as investment locations. This play area is within a 5 minute walking distance from Laurel Grove/Beech Road Play area and has several issues that would need to be considered as part of a future review.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES**

The key issues within this report are 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 The current toddler facility and basketball posts are coming to the end of their useful life and this funding will allow their replacement at no direct cost to BDC.
- 4.3 The completion of the works in Sidemoor will although a formal review of play areas sites to be undertaken based on known situations rather than indicative ideas. This will lead to effective rationalisation and potential budget savings in the future.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The £51,000 section 106 monies are in place and available for use at Laurel Grove/Beech Road and as the site is already within the 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 within this report.

**7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 This scheme would support the County Play Strategy Objectives and Principles and those of the BDC Play Action Plan.

**8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

- 8.1 The scheme will support the following objectives:
  - Objective One - Improvement and Value for Money, reducing the ongoing impact on maintenance relating to age of equipment and by responding to the qualitative aspects of PPG17 in relation to Young persons facilities.
  - Objective Two - One community, by working and engaging with local people to seek their needs and requests and enhancing resident feedback following PPG17 assessment.

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 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.

- 10.2 Possible customer implications with the removal of the Silverdale site.

**11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The proposals will ensure multi age ranges within the local community 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 / update old items of equipment.

**13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

- 13.1 Reduction in the poor condition hard standing pad at the lower area of the site and increase grassed areas for amenity purpose.

- 13.2 Inclusion of tree planting along the pathway running through the site and additional supporting shrub planting.

**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 within this report.

**18. LESSONS LEARNT**

18.1 None.

**19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

19.1 Liaison to be held with the local community using 3 options / proposals to discuss and reflect wishes of the local people. This will be carried out in the form of an open morning event to welcome all residents to view proposals – this would include residents Silverdale Residents.

**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

**CABINET**

1st December 2010

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21. **WARDS AFFECTED**

Sidemoor

22. **APPENDICES**

23. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

24. **KEY**

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

Name: Jackie Boreham  
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Tel: (01527) 881611

# Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils (2010-2013)

“We face only one truly existential threat: that is climate change, the great moral imperative of our era”.

(Ban Ki-Moon, January 2009)

## Executive Summary

This joint climate change strategy is designed to increase awareness of the wide variety of issues that the Council needs to be aware of in order to deal with climate change, and to set out the strategic actions which will contribute to reducing carbon emissions from our own organisation, and the communities we serve.

Although published in ‘the age of austerity’, the strategy recognises the need for making investments now, in order to save in the medium to long term. In many cases, the joint aims of saving emissions and saving money are perfectly aligned - and often also have significant health benefits for vulnerable residents. Dealing with climate change is not an expensive bolt on to our work, it should be at the heart of the organisations.

As well as trying to limit the changes in our climate which are coming, we also need to accept that the more prepared we are for change, the better placed we and our communities will be to be resilient to the changes and can make the most of any opportunities. The areas in which we can demonstrate leadership are:

- Energy – we need to reduce wasteful consumption and ensure our buildings are as energy efficient as possible
- Renewable energy – we need to encourage homeowners and businesses to generate their own heat and power where possible
- Water – processing and providing water uses huge amounts of energy, so wasting water also wastes emissions
- Transport – although we have limited influence for this sector, we can all do our bit to reduce our own travel emissions
- Green economy – we need to help the local economy recover in the cleanest, greenest way it can
- Open spaces – we can use our open spaces to absorb carbon emissions but we also need to support biodiversity to cope with change
- Sustainable new development – new buildings and infrastructure need to be designed to reduce carbon emissions



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(TBI)

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**Foreword:**

This strategy has been jointly produced and demonstrates the importance of the issue to both our organisations and the commitment of our staff to ensuring that we act now to tackle climate change.

The UK Government has committed to take action now and has introduced the Climate Change Act with a target to cut carbon emissions by at least 80% by 2050, with a minimum reduction of 26% by 2020 across the UK. We are keen to support and contribute to these targets and ensure our area is doing enough to tackle the issues and take advantage of the opportunities climate change will bring. We therefore welcome this Climate Change Strategy and hope that we can demonstrate that by working together, we can show leadership in this area and ensure our organisations are run sustainably and in a low-carbon way and that our communities are empowered to embrace this agenda alongside us.



Councillor Peter Whittaker  
Portfolio Holder for Climate Change  
Bromsgrove District Council



Councillor Brandon Clayton  
Portfolio Holder for Climate Change  
Redditch Borough Council

## 2. Vision and Objectives

The Strategy's aim is to provide a policy framework in which the two Authorities can reduce both their own and their communities carbon footprints, mitigate against future climate change and identify how best to adapt for the risks and opportunities that future climate change will bring.

### 2.1. Vision

This joint strategy is aligned with the Worcestershire Partnership Climate Change Strategy and Bromsgrove and Redditch's Sustainable Community Strategies (2010-13); and is broadly grouped into three areas:

- **Mitigation** - taking action to tackle the causes of climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere arising from residents and businesses in Bromsgrove and Redditch (including exported emissions).
- **Adaptation** –taking action to deal with the consequences of a changing climate, resulting from already emitted and increased levels of atmospheric greenhouse gases, as well as future unavoidable emissions.
- **Raising awareness** of climate change related issues amongst our residents and businesses.

## **2.2. This strategy will allow us to deliver**

- on our National Indicator targets and LAA obligations;
- but also allows flexibility to deliver on locally important priorities

## **2.3. Objectives**

- Measure and monitor our current carbon emissions baseline as organisations and communities and set targets to reduce them
- Identify the likely changes in climate locally and risk assess against them
- Communicate widely and promote active engagement; support innovative change and the development of a greener local economy
- Embed strategic climate change activity (mitigation, adaptation and raising awareness) across the Council and its partners

## **3. Background**

### **3.1. What is climate change?**

This strategy does not try to explain the science of climatic change nor tries to persuade the reader that climate change is happening\*. Both Councils have acknowledged that climate change is real, have made it a corporate priority and intend to reduce our impact on future climate change.

Climate refers to weather patterns experienced over a long period of time, around 30 years, whereas weather refers to what we see on a daily basis. Climate change generally refers to weather patterns since the 1900's (UKCIP, 2010). Variations in the Earth's climate are normal, however the changes we are currently seeing are happening much faster than any natural variance would cause. The IPCC (2007) concludes that this is as a result of increasing human-caused emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>). Reducing these pollutants mean we '**mitigate**' climate change.

### **3.2. Why is climate change important?**

The effects of climate change will differ globally and inevitably will affect those who are least able to deal with the consequences disproportionately. This may impact on our areas if net immigration occurs due to severe climatic change elsewhere, freely within the EU and potentially from further afield. The UK Climate Impact Profile (UKCIP) projected in 2009 that the following changes are likely to occur in the West Midlands under a medium emissions scenario (Table 1) – acknowledging these changes and aiming to reduce their impact is known as '**adapting**' to climate change, please note these are average (Av.) predictions:

\*If required, more detailed information regarding the science of climate change is available from the Met Office (<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climatechange/guide/>) or Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch))

Table 1: Predicted changes to climate

Impact	By 2020's	By 2050's	By 2080's
Hotter, drier summers	Av. mean summer temperature rises between 1.5 °C	Av. mean summer temperature rises by 2.6°C	Av. mean summer temperature increases by 3.7°C
	Av. summer precipitation reduces by 7%	Av. summer precipitation reduces by 17%	Av. summer precipitation reduces by 30%
Milder, wetter winters	Av. winter temperature rises by 1.3°C	Av. winter temperature increases by 2.1°C	Av. winter temperature increases by 2.9°C
	Av. precipitation increases by 5%	Av. precipitation changes by 13%	Av. precipitation changes by 17%

(Source: UKCIP 09)

The Earth's changing climate was shown to be an important concern for Worcestershire residents – in a recent survey only 7% of respondents were not at all concerned about climate change (Citizens Panel, 2009). This high awareness of the importance of Climate Change will hopefully mean that residents will be receptive to change and will embrace the opportunity to influence this agenda on a personal basis.

Worcestershire Partnership's (2006) study illustrates a changing climate in the County; Worcestershire's annual temperature has risen by 0.6°C since the 1900s, coupled with an increased intensity of rainfall events. This is predicted to continue, and will also include increased frequency of extreme weather events, such as storms and floods. The effects of this can be devastating, e.g. the 2007 floods cost Worcestershire over £150 million, and affected both households and businesses.

Although a single such event cannot be singly attributed to climate change, the increased frequency of flooding, (both fluvial and pluvial events) is clearly being seen within the County.

The extent of the seriousness of climate change will ultimately depend on how we react now. Historic greenhouse gas emissions emitted will continue to exist in the atmosphere for some time. However, continuing with this trend will only amplify the impact of climate change, which is why it is very important that we begin to reduce emissions right away. Taking action to tackle climate change can provide numerous benefits. For example, improving the energy efficiency of our homes can help combat rising fuel costs and tackle cold and damp associated health problems as well as reducing emissions. For the business sector, climate change may provide opportunities e.g. in the environmental technologies sector and the development of green collar economies. For the Councils internally, we can combine reducing emissions with reducing ongoing revenue costs through spend to save initiatives e.g. investing in local renewable energy projects.

### 3.3. Other reasons to act

- **Security of supply** – we need to ensure we have access to secure, clean and affordable energy sources
- **Health Issues** – e.g. reduced emissions will result in better air quality, increased cycling/walking and consuming local food products/healthier living may impact on obesity and fitness levels; and
- **Social** – increased summer temperatures can lead to increased summer deaths, illness (e.g. food poisoning) but milder winters may reduce excess winter deaths, a particular area of concern in Bromsgrove.
- **Economic issues** – increased severe weather events can cause disruption to the point where it affects the economy, for example the transport network is vulnerable to roads melting, rail tracks buckling, drainage issues leading to flooding etc.
- **Peak Oil** - when non-renewable oil extraction peaks and goes into terminal decline, prices will increase; although due to global population increases, demand will likely be sustained or be increasing. A number of scientists predict we are very close to peak oil, if not already at the tipping point, and although this will have a massive impact on global travel, food



supplies and energy security patterns, until recently, little attention has been given to the issue. Reducing our reliance on oil and other non-renewable fossil fuels now, can therefore only increase our resilience to future changes in oil production/availability. While this strategy deals with climate change, it acknowledges that there is commonality with the two issues.

- **Timing** - According to the prominent economist, Sir Nicholas Stern (2006), “the price of inaction would be extraordinary and the cost of action modest” – suggesting that investment of 2% of UK GDP would be appropriate funding for the climate change agenda. This strategy therefore requires the acceptance of the ‘**spend to save**’ concept.

#### 3.4. How can we respond?

There are significant economic and social drivers which push Local Authorities towards leadership on these issues including maintenance and improvement of quality of life for our residents, ensuring sustainable and green economic development and sensible consumption of resources.

This strategy aims to tackle the issue of climate change in a more coordinated manner, to ensure that our objectives are met in the most efficient way possible, with the most far ranging benefits for all, bearing in mind the severe financial restrictions being placed on local government for the foreseeable future.

We recognise that there are some tough decisions to be made if we are to ensure the future viability and sustainability of the Bromsgrove and Redditch areas and we believe that this strategy provides a platform for us to begin to do this.

### What and where are our current emissions?

The maps below show the main sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Bromsgrove and Redditch district. The highest concentrations of emissions are from our towns, main roads and industrial estates. Central government now provide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions data for each Local Authority area and 2005 data was used as the baseline for Worcestershire’s emissions reduction targets (NI 186), being the first year of detailed CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring activity.

Figure x: 2007 split of emissions by area

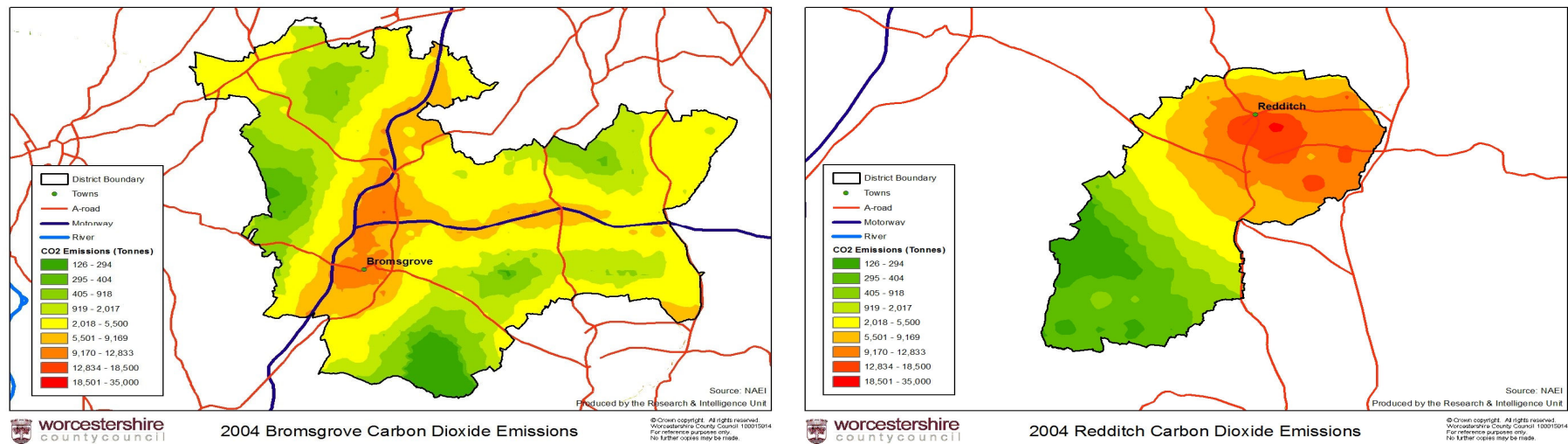
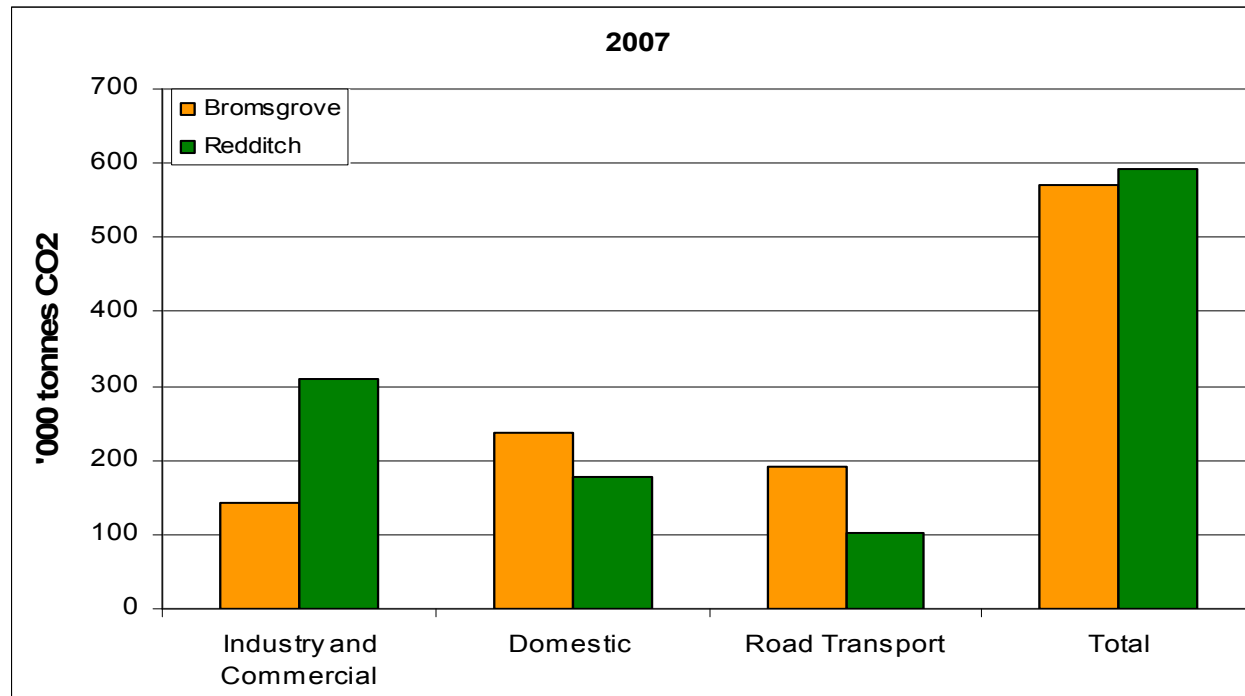


Figure x illustrates differences between the two areas, notably that Redditch has far higher industrial emissions, but much lower transport emissions. The older housing stock and potential income-based factors in Bromsgrove probably influences for the higher domestic emission results.

Figure x: Emissions by sector



Emissions in both areas rose between 2005 and 2006 but reduced slightly in 2007. It is anticipated that emissions will also reduce in 2008-10.

## **4. Strategic context**

The Climate Change Act (2008) resulted in a legally binding obligation on the UK to reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050. In 2007, total UK emissions were 532 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e/yr tonnes (532'000'000 tonnes).

There is also an interim target in the Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009) of reducing UK carbon emissions by 34% by 2020.

Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) also requires the UK to source 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 (2008 level was 5.4%)

National Indicators (NI) relating to Climate Change were introduced in 2008/9 (section 5). There is the potential that targets may become mandatory in the future, similar to household recycling targets.

Climate Change is one of the few issues that political parties have a consensus on...

- Conservatives (2010) "A Conservative Government will make developing renewable and low carbon energy sources a priority"
- Liberal Democrats (2010) "We believe achieving sustainability cannot be done by one government department alone. Damage to our environment damages personal health, impoverishes economies and weakens communities"
- Labour (2010) "Climate change is the greatest long term threat facing the world today. We all need to make changes to help our environment and avoid the terrible consequences of climate change".

**The new Coalition Government have stated: "this will be the greenest Government ever" and have pledged to reduce their own emissions by 10% by May 2011 (David Cameron, May 2010)**

At the County level, the Worcestershire Partnership has made tackling climate change a key crosscutting issue throughout its Sustainable Community Strategy and the Worcestershire Partnership Environment Group monitors progress on the LAA climate change (NI186, NI187 and NI188) indicators.

Both Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) and Redditch Borough Council (RBC) are signatories of the Nottingham Declaration and key partners in the delivery of the LAA. The Bromsgrove Partnership, in which BDC is a key partner agency, has prioritised climate change mitigation and adaptation in 2009/10 as their key environmental objectives for the next few years. Redditch Partnership of which RBC is a key partner agency has climate change as 'golden thread' running through its Sustainable Community Strategy. Both Councils have included climate change as key corporate priorities in their corporate plans and both have signed up to the 10:10 commitment, pledging to aim to cut emissions by 10% in 2010, in addition to existing commitments to the Nottingham Declaration and the Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge.

## 5. Performance management – Indicators and data quality

### NI185 – CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from local authority (LA) operations

**Rationale:** Action by local authorities is likely to be critical to the achievement of Government's climate change objectives. The public sector is in a key position to lead on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction by setting a behavioural and strategic example to the private sector and the communities they serve. The manner in which the local authority delivers its functions can achieve CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions.

Measurement against this indicator will require each local authority to calculate their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from analysis of the energy and fuel use in their relevant buildings and transport, including where these services have been outsourced.

**Definition:** Percentage CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from LA operations:

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: is the total amount of direct and indirect CO<sub>2</sub> emitted as a result of LA operations.

LA Operations: The delivery of the relevant functions of a local authority which result (either directly or indirectly) in the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Functions of an authority covers all their own operations and outsourced services. Even if the services are being provided by an external body (e.g. a private company) they remain the function of the authority. This includes schools, but excludes social housing.

**Good performance:** Year on Year reductions

**Baseline Year** (2008/9): Bromsgrove DC (349 employees) – 2414 tonnes; Redditch BC (997 employees) – 3788 tonnes

**Current position** – 2009/10 estimated\* out-turns are:

**Bromsgrove – 2515 tonnes** (5% increase) – anticipate buildings emissions have gone up 10% (partly due to new air conditioning system at the Dolphin centre), staff and Councillor mileage up 18%, but a reduction in operational fleet emissions.

**Redditch – 3085 tonnes** – (6% reduction) – almost exclusively from improvements to buildings as a result of successful Salix Finance bid, although fleet mileage has decreased, this is offset by an increase in staff mileage (5%).

**Three year target** (2013) – 6% overall reduction from baseline for both Authorities

**Long term target** – by 2020 – anticipate 12% overall reduction from baseline for both Authorities

\*Note – because this is a new indicator, these yearly fluctuations may be ‘normal’.

#### **NI186 - Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area**

**Rationale:** Action by local authorities is likely to be critical to the achievement of Government’s climate change objectives. Local authorities are uniquely placed to provide vision and leadership to local communities by raising awareness and to influence behaviours. In addition, through their powers and responsibilities (housing, planning, local transport and powers to promote well-being) and by working with their Local Strategic Partnership they can have significant influence over emissions in their local areas.

This indicator relies on centrally produced statistics to measure end user CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the local area from:

- Business and Public Sector,
- Domestic housing, and
- Road transport

This data is already captured and analysed to produce area by area carbon emissions per capita. It is sufficiently robust with relatively low levels of uncertainty.

The percentage reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> per capita in each local authority area will be reported annually. The statistics for 2005 will be used as the baseline.

**Definition: Percentage reduction of the per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the local authority area:** The indicator comprises of an annual amount of end user CO<sub>2</sub> emissions across an agreed set of sectors (housing, road transport and business) measured as a percentage reduction (or increase) of the per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emission from the 2005 baseline year.

**End user:** calculations allocate emissions from fuel producers to fuel users. The end user calculation therefore allows estimates to be made of emissions for a consumer of fuel, which also include the emissions from producing the fuel the consumer has used.

**Domestic Housing:** All housing in the local authority area, including Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMOs), privately owned and leased housing

**Business:** Industry and commercial emissions, including public sector, but not those included in the EU Emissions trading scheme

**Road Traffic:** All road traffic, (but excluding motorways)

**Good performance:** Year on Year reductions and demonstrable activity that would likely result in the required reductions, for example, the Warmer Worcestershire project.

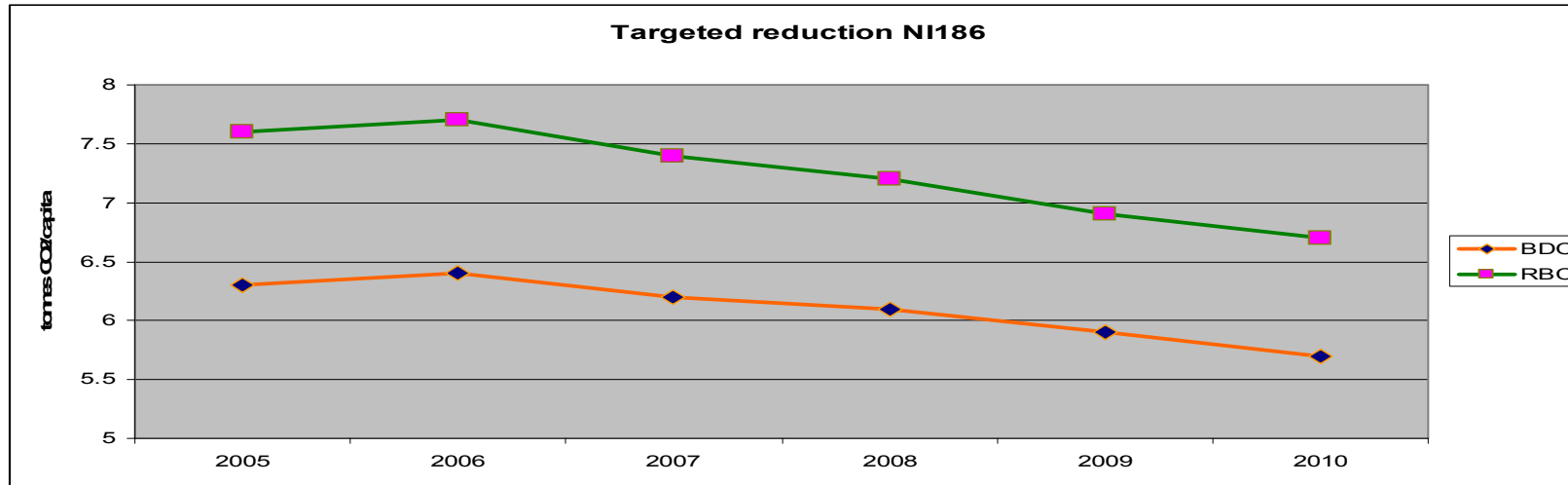
**Baseline Year (2005)** – there is a 2 year time lag from which data is available.

(Bracketed figures indicate the reduction required to meet the target set)

				3% reduction	3% reduction	3% reduction
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Bromsgrove	6.3	6.4	6.2	(6.1)	(5.9)	(5.7)
Redditch	7.4	7.7	7.4	(7.2)	(6.9)	(6.7)



Figure x: Graphical representation of target reductions NI186



**Current position** – 2008 data should be available in Autumn 2010. We believe we are on target for this indicator.

**Three year Target (2013)** – 9% reduction from 2005 baseline (3% from local measures).

**Long term target (2020)** – not confirmed locally, but nationally, the Climate Change Act (2009)'s target is to achieve an 80% reduction by 2050 with an interim target of 34% reduction by 2020 (from 1990 levels) – NI186 savings would form a significant part of this target.

## NI187 Tackling fuel poverty - % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low and high energy efficiency rating

**Rationale:** To measure progress in tackling fuel poverty through the improved energy efficiency of households inhabited by people claiming income based benefits.

**Definition:** The indicator measures the proportion of households on income related benefits for whom an energy assessment of their housing has been carried out, living in homes with:

1. Low energy efficiency
2. High energy efficiency

The energy efficiency of a house can be measured using the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP). The procedure calculates a number between 1 and 100, low numbers generally indicate a house that has low levels of insulation and an inefficient heating system where as numbers closer to 100 indicate a very energy efficient house. SAP is the Government's recommended system for energy rating of dwellings.

SAP is being used as a proxy for fuel poverty in households of people claiming income based benefits, given the link between income poverty and fuel poverty.

- Low energy efficiency - A SAP rating of less than 35
- High energy efficiency - A SAP rating of 65 or more

**Fuel poverty is the requirement to spend more than 10% of household income to maintain an adequate level of warmth and includes non-heating fuel use.**

Adequate level of warmth follows World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines of 21°C in main living areas and 18°C in other areas.

Housing - all households in both private and social sectors.

The survey is based on an annual, random sample SAP survey of households, inhabited by people claiming income based benefits.

**Good performance:** Reducing number of homes with SAP <35 and increasing number of homes with SAP>65

**Baseline Year: 2008** – and target reduction is shared County-wide.

### Current position

Bromsgrove

Progress from baseline		
year	%<SAP35	%>=SAP65
2008-09	8.89%	36.51%
2009-10	7.55%	42.32%
Change	-1.34%	5.81%

Redditch

Progress from baseline		
year	%<SAP35	%>=SAP65
2008-09	5.93%	49.70%
2009-10	3.79%	53.73%
Change	-2.14%	4.03%

**Future targets - subject to national targets: not yet set**

**Rationale:** To ensure local authority preparedness to manage risks to service delivery, the public, local communities, local infrastructure, businesses and the natural environment from a changing climate, and to make the most of new opportunities. The indicator measures progress on assessing and managing climate risks and opportunities, and incorporating appropriate action into local authority and partners’ strategic planning.

The impacts might include increases in flooding, temperature, drought and extreme weather events. These could create risks and opportunities such as: impacts to transport infrastructure from melting roads or buckling rails, increases in tourism, increased damage to buildings from storms, impacts on local ecosystems and biodiversity, scope to grow new crops, changing patterns of disease, impacts on planning and the local economy and public health.

**Definition:** Local authorities should report the level of preparedness they have reached against the 5 levels of performance, graded 0 to 4. The higher the number, the better the performance.

The criteria for achievement of each of the levels is detailed below.

**Level 1: Public commitment and prioritised risk-based assessment (currently where BDC and RBC are placed)**

The Authority has made a public commitment to identify and manage climate related risk. It has undertaken a local risk-based assessment of significant vulnerabilities and opportunities to weather and climate, both now and in the future. It can demonstrate a sound understanding of those not yet addressed in existing strategies and actions (i.e. in land use planning documents, service delivery plans, flood and coastal resilience plans, emergency planning, community risk registers/strategies etc ). It has communicated these potential vulnerabilities and opportunities to department/service heads and other local partners and has set out the next steps in addressing them.

Examples of evidence:

- the authority and partners have made a public commitment to manage climate risks, e.g. signed up to the Nottingham Declaration or an equivalent
- a Local Climate Impacts Profile or equivalent process is ongoing
- initial assessment produced using the UKCIP scenarios
- department/service heads facing significant vulnerabilities and opportunities have an understanding of the issues, with evidence of actions already in place to address these
- evidence of working in partnership and pooling of resources and expertise across sectors, areas and council tiers where applicable

## **Level 2: Comprehensive risk-based assessment and prioritised action in some areas (Target for 2010/11)**

The Authority has undertaken a comprehensive risk based assessment of vulnerabilities to weather and climate, both now and in the future, and has identified priority risks for its services. It has identified the most effective adaptive responses and has started incorporating these in council strategies, plans, partnerships and operations (such as planning, flood management, economic development, social care, services for children, transport etc). It has begun implementing appropriate adaptive responses in some priority areas. In its role as a community leader the council has started working with its LSP encouraging identification of major weather and climate vulnerabilities and opportunities that affect the delivery of the LSP's objectives.

Examples of evidence:

- comprehensive risk assessment produced (for example using the UKCIP method)
- Nottingham Declaration accreditation
- Council Members and department and service heads have a detailed understanding of weather and climate risk in all vulnerable areas identified in risk assessment and actions taken in priority areas.
- documents like Local Development Frameworks include climate change adaptation
- local adaptation partnership established
- LSP partners are aware of actions being taken by the council, feel engaged in the process and confirm they have started to identify weather and climate risk that affect the delivery of their own objectives

**Good performance:** Progression through the levels

**Baseline Year – 2008/9 – Level 0** for both Authorities

**Current position – Level 1 for both Authorities**

**Three year Target (2013)** Not agreed Nationally. Level 2 to be reached by 2011/12 by both Authorities.

**Long term target (2020)** Not agreed Nationally.

There are also two other relevant indicators for this strategy, namely:

(NI189) Flood and Coastal Erosion risk management

(NI194) Air quality – % reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> and primary PM<sub>10</sub> emissions through local authority's estate and operations

### **Data quality**

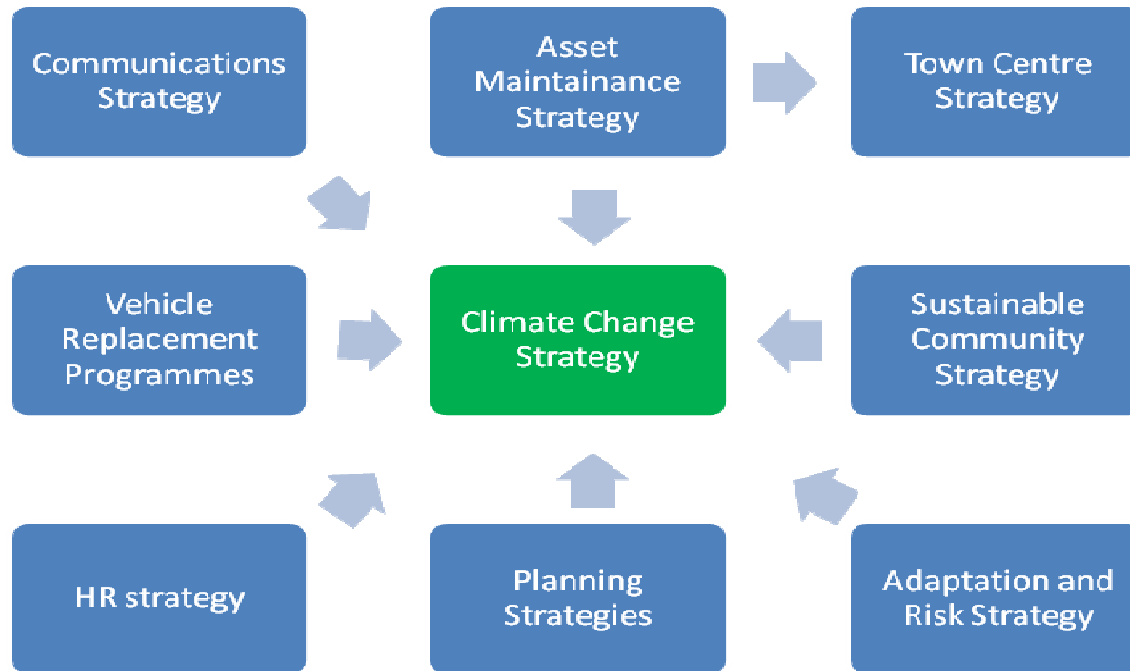
The method of calculating carbon emissions is relatively new and also complex, involving gathering data from a number of sources.

- For NI185, data quality issues are internal and as such a method of auditing this has been developed by Policy Officers.
- NI186 data is externally calculated and is usually 'tweaked' as issues are identified, therefore published figures can be subject to change.
- NI187 data is supplied by homeowners and is therefore subject to data quality issues as the responses cannot be fully verified.

- NI188 is a process based indicator.
- Each indicator is subject to national definitions, and locally calculated indicators must produce a performance certificate and procedure note.
- As part of the Councils Data Quality Strategy the indicators are also subject to an internal quality check.

## 6. Strategic Management

Climate change is a cross cutting theme involving a number of different strategies/work programmes:



In addition, during the budget setting process, proposals will be impact-assessed against their contribution to reduce or increase our energy costs and carbon emissions.



**The role of the Climate Change Manager:**

1. The Climate Change Manager is responsible for leading the delivery of both Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils' commitments to Climate Change, with a particular focus on developing and implementing a Climate Change Strategy and associated Action Plan which will relate to departmental activity in this area, and monitoring/reviewing progress.
2. To lead on the establishment and on-going management of corporate and associated environmental management initiatives relating to natural resource use across all departments of both Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils.
3. Lead or co-ordinate delivery of National Indicators relating to the mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change for both Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils.
4. To be the climate change conscience of both Organisations.

**The role of others in the organisation:**

Corporate Management Team has a significant role to play in delivering the aims of this strategy and as such are required to incorporate climate change activity in their business plans. Climate Change is a priority for both Councils and is a 'golden thread' running through both Sustainable Community Strategies. Clearly, delivery of this priority requires significant input from all employees and all Services are required to contribute to the climate change agenda, with directive support and coordination from the Climate Change Manager.

## **Governance:**

Internal activity is monitored through the Corporate Performance Management Process.

### Bromsgrove

Governance is through the established LSP Better Environment Theme Group, whose two priorities are mitigating and adapting to Climate Change. Activity is monitored through the LSP board.

**Recommendation:** Continue with existing arrangements.

### Redditch

Redditch BC has an established Councillor Climate Change Advisory Panel, whose purpose is to:

- Influence positive change and raise the profile of climate change and sustainable development;
- Champion environmental issues in decision-making to improve the quality of life of local residents and ensure the borough is resilient to change;
- Ensure that all Council services are run sustainably and that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions resulting from the organisations activity is reduced on an ongoing basis;
- Support appropriate funding applications for implementing action and develop projects to mitigate or adapt to climate change;
- Encourage our communities, visitors and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint.

**Recommendation:** Redditch LSP needs to increase LSP activity on this Theme. Because this strategy does not take into account the area boundaries, it is recommended that a joint Better Environment Group be set up with BDC to avoid duplication and drive the agenda forwards.

## **7. Climate Change Strategic Themes**

### **7.1. Energy**

#### **Community Energy Issues**

##### **Statistics and Key Information:**

Contextually, there are 39'048 households in Bromsgrove and 34'955 households in Redditch - these account for 25% in Bromsgrove and 29% in Redditch of local CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, mainly emissions from energy used to heat and power our homes. Because the cost of fuel is volatile and generally increasing, more people are likely to suffer fuel poverty and this has important social and health inequality impacts. Inequality, poverty and climate change issues are closely connected. According to Oxfam (2010) people in poverty are most vulnerable to negative climate change impacts, as they tend to have lower levels of physical and mental health, live in worse housing with less access to insurance and have fewer resources to cope with rising costs.

There is great potential to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and tackle fuel poverty by improving the energy efficiency of the overall housing stock. Redditch Borough Council still maintains around 6000 social housing properties while Bromsgrove has a number of partnerships with housing associations, most notably BDHT.

The cheapest and most effective option to reduce emissions would be widespread loft/cavity insulation, but there are limits to this, especially in Redditch as there are very few un-insulated properties left, as current fuel price increases have been enough of a financial incentive for owner-occupiers to insulate their homes, and the Councils own subsidised insulation schemes have been running for several years. Taking Headless Cross and Oakenshaw ward as an example, approximately only 7% of homes have no loft insulation and 22% have unfilled cavity walls (404 homes).

### **What is the current housing situation?**

A large proportion of Bromsgrove district's existing older housing stock is in need of improvement in terms of adequate insulation and energy efficient heating and lighting systems, whereas a large proportion of homes in Redditch were built during the New Town Corporation Development and were built to 1970's and early 1980's building standards.

Free insulation for over 60's in Bromsgrove: In 2008 Bromsgrove Council launched a scheme to encourage the over 60's (in Council tax bands A-E) to have their lofts and cavity walls insulated for free. The scheme is administered by Act on Energy and has been extremely popular, with over 185 homes being insulated each year, and the fund (£50,000) was fully subscribed. Based on average figures, these loft/cavity wall insulations have saved 116 tonnes of CO emissions each year.

### **What do we need to achieve over the life of this strategy?**

- Deliver our targets under LAA and National Indicator 186 (per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions). In Bromsgrove and Redditch, this equates to a reduction of 9% from 2005 levels, through a combination of National (7.1%) and Local (1.9%) measures, of 51'390 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> /annum in Bromsgrove and 54,450 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> /annum in Redditch by 2011.
- Contribute to the delivery of National Indicator 187 (Tackling fuel poverty) by improving the energy efficiency of households in receipt of means tested benefits.

### **Business, Public and Voluntary Sector Energy Issues**

#### **Statistics and key Information**

This sector accounted in 2005 for 147'000 tonnes in Bromsgrove and 320'000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in Redditch and includes emissions from our own assets, and all other non-domestic premises in the localities. The main sources of emissions are from the use of gas and electricity to provide heating and lighting and to power equipment. In Redditch there are a number of manufacturing and food

based power-hungry industries, whereas in Bromsgrove light industrial and technology activity is the main sector. This sector, in line with the domestic sector, has seen energy bills increase significantly in recent years (e.g. the combined energy bill for both Councils is over £750'000 per annum). Good energy management makes good economic, as well as environmental, sense. For private businesses, reducing energy bills by 20% can add the same amount to profits as a 5% increase in sales (*source: Carbon Trust*). For the public and voluntary sectors, improving energy efficiency should mean more money available to spend on service provision.

### **What is available for businesses?**

There are various sources of assistance to help organisations improve their energy efficiency and their bottom line, examples of which include the following:

- The Carbon Trust works with organisations to help them reduce their carbon emissions.
- Envirowise provides advice to business to improve resource efficiency.
- The Economic Development Team runs seminars and events to promote business continuity and efficiency.

#### **Case study: Leading by example at Redditch Town Hall**

Redditch Borough Council were early adopters of detailed monitoring of energy consumption and invested in remote logging equipment in 2004. This equipment paid for itself in less than a year due to the ability to be able to identify wasteful activity, such as out of hours electricity use. The equipment also means that energy saving activity, for example installing sensor lighting, can be fully evaluated and proves value for money.

## **Internal Council Energy Issues**

In 2008/9 for the first time we were required by Government to make a detailed calculation of emissions arising as a result of running our business and services. The main areas of focus include looking at our buildings; our fleet transport and business mileage undertaken by staff. Our baseline CO<sub>2</sub> footprints were as follows:

Bromsgrove (349 employees) – 2440 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>

Redditch (997 employees) – 3637 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>

**Both organisations have committed to a 2% year on year reduction in our carbon footprint for the life of this strategy.**

BDC have committed to moving out of the current Council house which is currently very energy inefficient - moving to new, greener premises would have a significant impact on the organisations corporate carbon footprint.

Redditch Council has an agreed Energy Strategy and Action Plan (2009) to deliver CO<sub>2</sub> savings largely based around Salix funding to make physical improvements to assets.

Figure x – Bromsgrove Council target reductions

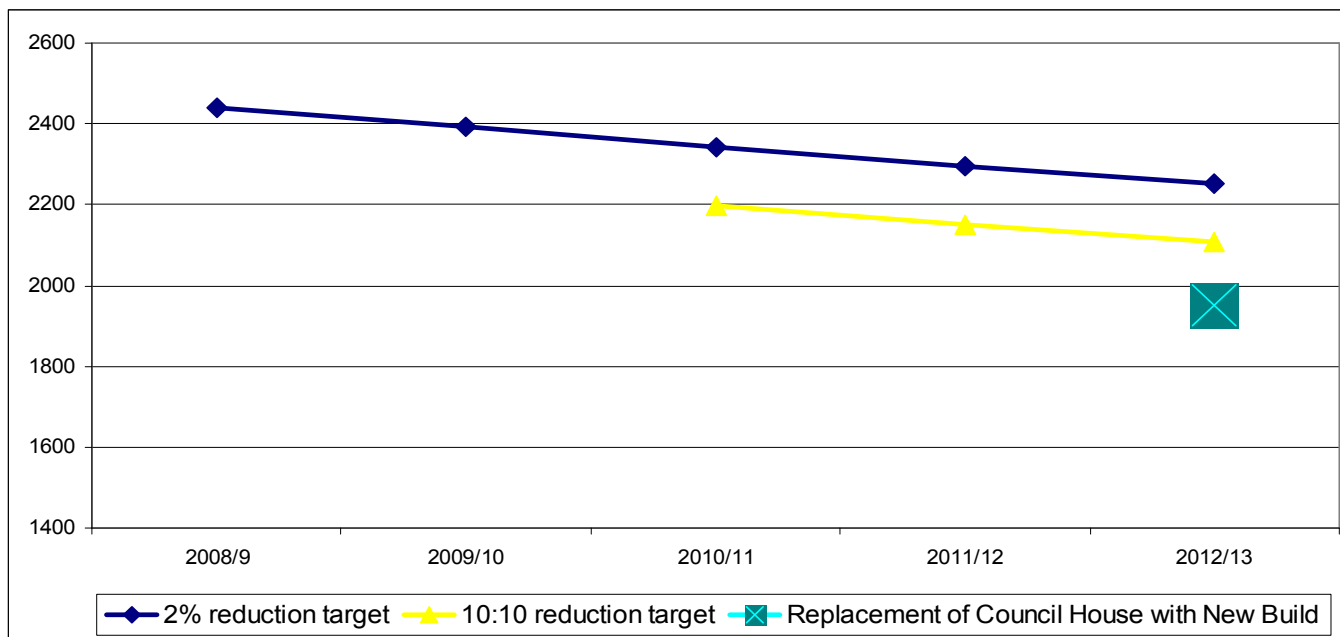
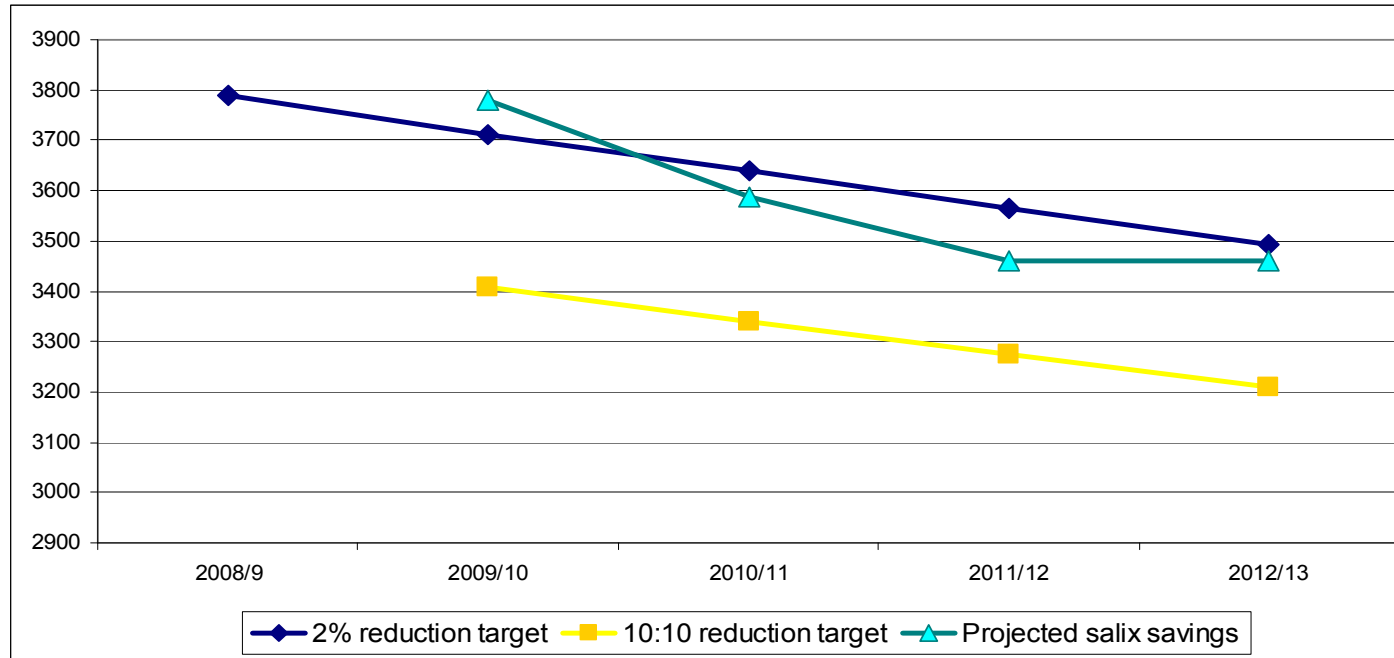


Figure x: Redditch Council target reductions



### What do we need to do?

1. Reduce energy consumption and increase efficiency of our buildings through spend to save.
2. Reduce emissions from our fleet transport i.e. use the most efficient vehicles and travel only essential miles.
3. Reduce staff mileage and ensure only essential travel is undertaken.



## Strategic Actions Arising

- Continue schemes to promote loft/cavity wall insulation, improve RBC housing stock and work with Housing Associations to increase domestic energy efficiency.
- Reduce internal energy consumption and increase energy efficiency of buildings
- Work with LSP partners (e.g. PCT, New College) to improve their own performance in relation to energy efficiency
- Make available good practice to others in the business community

## 7.2 Renewable Energy

### **This is important because...**

The demand for energy is increasing, and where financially feasible, should be sourced from clean renewable (e.g. solar, wind, hydro, biomass) and low carbon sources (e.g. Combined Heat and Power). The potential to increase renewables locally are two-fold:

- large scale projects and
- smaller installations, for example micro-renewables such as solar panels on individual homes.

### **What is the current situation?**

There are several planning applications for industrial sized wind turbines in the Bromsgrove area. We do not have an established list of micro-generating properties in the area although a number of homeowners have installed solar hot water panels (historically the most viable option) and these can be seen when driving/walking around the areas. Solar hot water systems have historically been the most viable option.

### **Actions which will contribute to achieving our aim**

#### **Increase Domestic renewables**

Both Bromsgrove District (up to £1000) and Redditch Borough Councils (up to £600) offer a grant scheme to help residents meet the cost of installing renewable energy systems at home. Combined with the new electrical renewable incentive, or Feed-in-Tariff scheme, this makes renewables more economically viable than ever – for example, in Redditch, 3 residents have installed solar PV systems between April-June 2010. In terms of renewable heat, it is unclear whether or not the renewable heat incentive will go ahead.

**Increase in the amount of renewable energy capacity, specifically large scale wind power in the Bromsgrove area.**

A WCC (2008) study concluded that there is only potential in the Bromsgrove area only to support large scale renewable energy generation, and not in the Redditch area:

District	Potential number of large-scale renewable energy installations*		
	WIND TURBINES†	BIOMASS PLANTS	HYDROPOWER PLANTS
Bromsgrove	19	1	0
Malvern Hills	20	1	3
Redditch	0	0	0
Worcester	0	1	1
Wychavon	83	5	3
Wyre Forest	21	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>

**Bromsgrove’s contribution could range between 1-73 MWh capacity, depending on how much investment is available.**

**Strategic actions arising:**

- **Continue to promote and provide grants for domestic renewable installations (*subject to eligibility of equipment type*)**
- **Increase internal renewable capacity and also encourage partners to do so**
- **Support development of large scale renewable projects in Bromsgrove where appropriate in relation to planning guidelines**

## 7.3 Water

Although the UK is perceived as a rainy area, because population density is high and geographical and seasonal variance of available water is variable, there is relatively little water available per person. This situation is likely to worsen as the climate changes, especially during summer months – our plan for adaptation will consider these issues – for example how to ensure service delivery (e.g. maintaining open spaces) and how we can reduce this (e.g. using drought resistant plants). Using water efficiently is important, because heating hot water, and processing all water uses a large amount of energy, resulting in carbon emissions. Wasting water is also a waste of money for the majority of local residents, public bodies and businesses who are on meters.

### **Statistics and key Information,**

- Water consumption is at its highest for both Authorities in its swimming pools at leisure centre's, the street sweeping process and at Depot vehicle washing facilities. When improvements are carried out to these, and other buildings, water conservation/reuse should be considered.
- The UK average water consumption per person per day is about 150 litres. The Government's Water Strategy aims to reduce this to 130 litres per person/day by 2020 and this strategy supports this aim. Bromsgrove's Draft Core Strategy is considering using 105 litres/person/day for new developments.
- However, these figures are not a true representation of our water usage, these figures represent how much clean drinking water we use via taps, toilets, bathing and using the washing machine for example.
- Realistically, we each use about 4645 litres per day, that's the same as 50 baths of water. Water is embedded in the products that we drink and consume and it is this much higher figure that tells us our water footprint.

- We each on average use 3400 litres through agricultural crops, 1095 litres through manufactured products and 150 litres in the home.
- It takes 10 litres of water to produce one A4 sheet of paper, 70 litres of water to produce just one apple, 140 litres to produce one cup of coffee, 2700 litres to produce one cotton shirt and a staggering 15,500 litres to produce 1kg of beef.

Source:waterwise.org.uk

### **Strategic Actions Arising**

- **Communicate water issues**
- **Ensure water efficiency/harvesting wherever possible, including at heavy user sites e.g. Depot, Leisure Centres etc.**
- **Ensure drainage systems are maintained and appropriate**
- **Work with the Environment Agency to develop local flood plans.**
- **Encourage green roof installations**

## 7.4 Waste

Disposal of waste adds to the climate change problem by releasing greenhouse gases such as methane and CO<sub>2</sub> as it breaks down in landfill sites. Energy is also used to collect, transport, manage, process and dispose of waste, including recycling, creating further emissions. However, in general, less energy is needed to make items from recycled materials than from raw materials, which often require energy-intensive processes such as mining, to release them. This is why it is critical that all types of waste is minimised, and that as much as possible of created waste is recycled. Landfill space is decreasing and will eventually run out (by 2016), leading to the need to create new ways of dealing with residual waste, such as incineration (Energy from Waste).

### Statistics and key Information:

Recycling rates are currently:

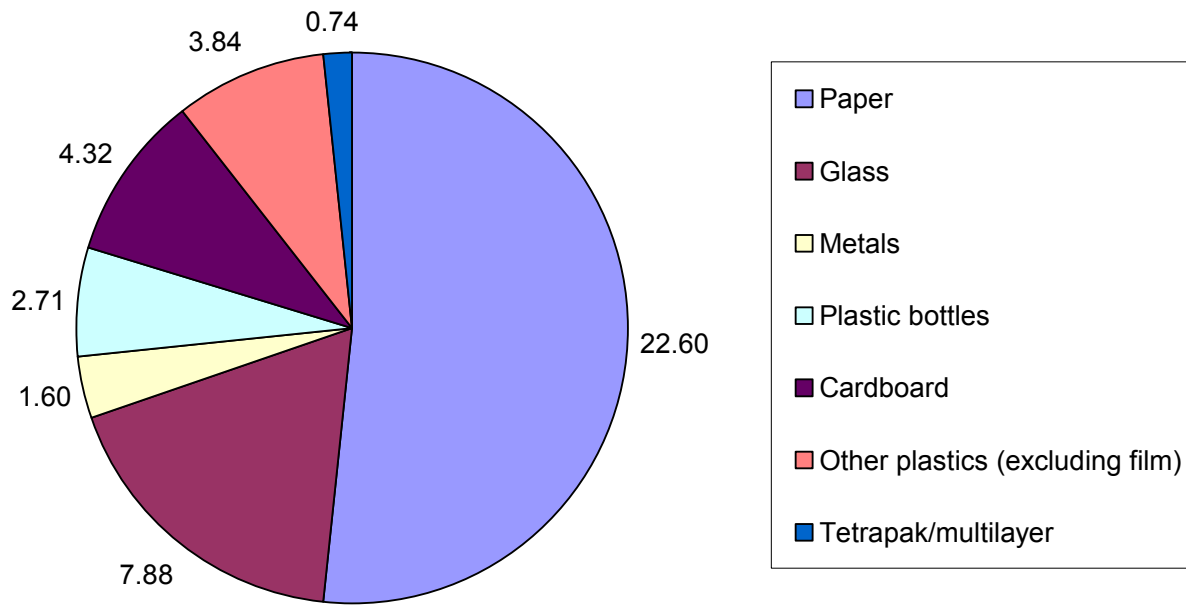
**Bromsgrove** – 21% (dry) 16% (garden waste) - **37%** total

**Redditch** – **28.3%** (dry) – a garden waste trial begun in early 2010.

The majority of residual (grey bin) waste is sent to Energy from Waste plants.

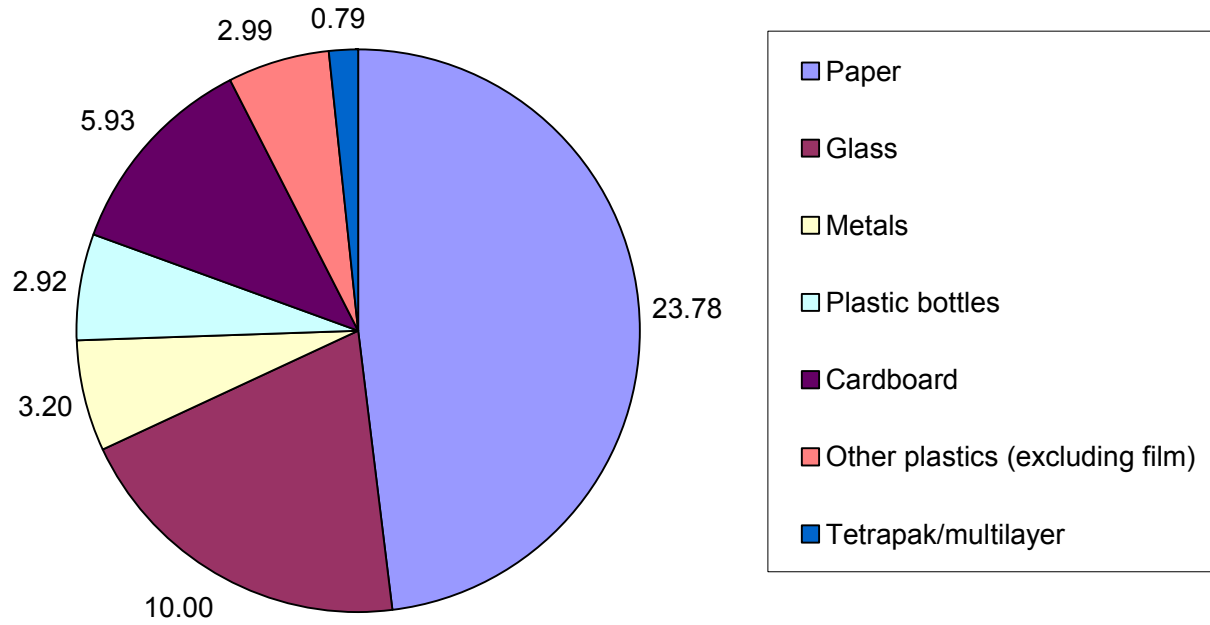
We need to encourage residents to minimise more of the waste they generate, and also reuse and recycle more. A waste analysis study (2008) conducted indicates the average household in Bromsgrove and Redditch could be recycling more, 44% and 50% respectively.

### Bromsgrove 43.69% of all waste can go in green bin





**Redditch - 49.61% of all waste can go in green bin**



## Strategic Actions Arising

1. Participate in waste minimisation programmes such as Love Food, Hate Waste to jointly tackle disposal issues and reduce carbon emissions resulting from generating food products which are then wasted.
2. Work with Worcestershire County Council to increase recycling rate
3. Ensure non-recycled waste is used as a resource e.g. as feedstock for EfW plants.
4. During periods of very hot weather, the Councils should consider the need to move collection times to cooler times of day to ensure staff safety.
5. The Councils need to risk assess for prolonged periods of cold weather/snow to ensure service delivery resilience.
6. Reduce our own waste and recycle more internal waste as a priority.
7. Ensure waste collection and disposal options are considered in relation to carbon emissions as per the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.
8. Encourage new developments through the planning process to consider on site treatment of waste, for example through mini anaerobic digestion systems.

## 7.5 Transport

This is a prime example of a situation which requires completely different approaches between Bromsgrove and Redditch areas. The Citizens Panel results showed that 70% of Redditch residents felt that using an alternative to a car for transport was a good way of tackling climate change, which was the highest in the County. However, Redditch New Town was designed for the easy use of a car, and therefore, although regular public transport is readily available for the majority of residents, there is little incentive to use it.

In Bromsgrove however, being a more rural and larger district, solutions are more difficult to find. The price of fuel on one hand may reduce unnecessary mileage (Petrol is currently at £1.20 litre - a 17% rise from Feb 2010 to March 2010), but this may cause a real problem for those who have no alternative but than to drive – and can limit access to services and employment. Road transport accounts for approximately 57% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Bromsgrove. Traffic congestion is an issue within Bromsgrove Town; which can cause air quality problems, health impacts and may limit economic development in the town. The District has three Air Quality Management Areas, at Redditch Road Stoke Heath, Kidderminster Road Hagley, and Lickey End adjacent to Junction 1 of the M42 in addition a further AQMA will be declared at Worcester Road Bromsgrove near the Town Centre. Future development must include the provision of a sustainable transport network if these issues are to be improved.

### **What is the current situation?**

Proposals to reduce transport emissions and promote more sustainable travel are included in several key district and county strategies. The Worcestershire Local Transport Plan (2006-11) includes several Bromsgrove District specific policies mainly related to the Train Station improvements.

Bromsgrove LSP Transport group will be responsible for achieving transport related CO<sub>2</sub> reductions in Bromsgrove. However, it is acknowledged that responsibility for achieving reductions in the transport sector is largely based at Worcestershire County Level.

### **Council-specific fleet transport**

Both Councils are participating in the Energy Saving Trust green fleet review which will form the basis of both Councils strategy to reduce emissions from transport.

### **Council-specific mileage**

It is critical that council policies and working practices, (e.g. shared services) are mindful of the impact this may have on transport emissions and actively work to minimise any impact.

### **Strategic Actions Arising**

- **Encourage partner organisations to ensure that key services are accessible to everyone via public transport.**
- **Planning Departments to influence sustainable travel options in new developments.**
- **Identify vulnerabilities relating to transport in a changing climate, e.g. the impact of melt point of tarmac during heatwaves.**
- **Encourage use of walking and cycling – to achieve significant health benefits.**
- **Establish a Council Travel Plan/s for our own business miles including options of car sharing and public transport.**
- **Review staff mileage reimbursement rates**

## 7.6 Green economy

This is a relatively new policy area but it is imperative that Bromsgrove and Redditch take full advantage of this opportunity. According to the then Government's 2009 Low Carbon Transition Plan, *“Many more of us will find ourselves working in a growing low carbon industry. Already 880,000 people in the UK work in the low carbon and environmental sector, a rapidly growing worldwide market worth £3 trillion per year and £106 billion per year in the UK. By 2020, this could rise to more than a million people if we seize the opportunity to establish the UK as a global centre of low carbon industries and green manufacturing. Around 200,000 of these new jobs by 2015 are expected to be in renewable energy, which could grow by a further 300,000 additional renewables jobs by 2020 as set out in the UK Renewable Energy Strategy, a total of half a million additional UK jobs in the renewable energy industry to 2020.2 In doing this, the UK will need to focus on low carbon sectors where we are likely to have a competitive advantage such as offshore wind, marine energy, civil nuclear power, carbon capture and storage, renewable chemicals, low carbon construction and ultra-low carbon vehicles, and specialist financial and business services”.*

### Strategic Actions Arising

- **Ensure the Economic Development Team are encouraging a local green economy**
- **Work with the LSP Economic Theme Group to improve the sustainability of local businesses**

## 7.7 Open spaces, land use and biodiversity

Land use and management can impact upon the levels of carbon emissions released and stored in the environment. Different types of habitats and agricultural crops emit and retain different levels of carbon - the Forestry Commission estimate that semi-natural woodland stores on average 1588 tonnes of carbon per hectare. Carbon emissions are also influenced by land management practises, such as the cutting or burning of vegetation.

Redditch is noted for its high amount of trees and ancient forests, and how these are managed could affect climate change emissions, much of which is in Council ownership. Bromsgrove District has extensive areas of significant landscape value, particularly the uplands of Clent, Waseley, Beacon, Lickey and Weatheroak Hills which are of regional importance and are more generally owned by other bodies, for example the National Trust, Worcestershire County Council/Birmingham City Council. There are a number of specially designated sites across both Authority areas.

It is important to take into account emission levels from changing land use (e.g. development) and management practices (e.g. drainage). In the urban landscape, green infrastructure (trees and green spaces in urban settings) can also play a role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, for example by increasing the floodwater storage capacity of the land. The Councils, as major landowners, are well placed to positively influence this.

Climate changes will affect biodiversity and wildlife because natural ecosystems are very sensitive to climatic changes, and extreme weather events such as flooding and heat waves can also affect local populations. The Councils have a duty to have regard for biodiversity through the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) which aims to ensure all public authorities have to conserve biodiversity. Both Councils are also signatories to the West Midlands Biodiversity Pledge.

### **What is the current situation?**

Land use management and climate change is a new area of work in Worcestershire and further research is needed on this topic. There is much to do to raise awareness about how land use and land management practices contribute to carbon emissions and Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils will need to work with the Worcestershire Partnership, including key partners such as Natural England, English Nature, Forestry Commission and Environment Agency on this topic. As mentioned, biodiversity issues relating to climate change are covered under the WM Biodiversity Pledge Commitments that both Councils have signed.

### **What do we need to achieve?**

Gain a better understanding of how land use contributes to total carbon emissions in the district/borough.

Seek to influence land use decisions in a way that helps reduce emissions and store carbon.

### **Strategic Actions Arising**

- **Actively participate in countywide work to increase and share knowledge and understanding of this issue.**
- **Green spaces such as parks should be planted with more climate change tolerant species and there will be more opportunities for shade. This will be achieved through a mixture of planting different species, installing benches in shadier spots and setting up permanent shades for public use. Green space is extremely valuable for providing cooler spaces which also help to mitigate the urban heat island effect. Overheating is likely to become a major health risk, particularly affecting vulnerable residents on hot summer nights.**
- **The Council needs to manage, connect and enhance wildlife habitats on its land so that wildlife can move and are more resilient and adaptable to climate change.**

- Green spaces are important for both areas, but especially more urban Redditch, and are a very effective form of 'soft' flood management options which reduce total flow, reduce peak runoff rates and allow water to drain away into the ground; unlike hard surfaces such as concrete and tarmac.
- The Council should consider planting fruit trees in community gardens as part of local food growing initiatives.
- There are separate Biodiversity strategies which should be read in conjunction with this one.
- Protect existing and where possible generate more high quality green spaces, bearing in mind the widespread benefits including health and wellbeing.



## 7.8 Sustainable New development

Buildings contribute almost half of the UK's carbon emissions. By looking at where and how new developments are built, and the way that existing buildings are refurbished, it is possible to reduce these emissions. The new Coalition Government has yet to announce the formal plans for new development locally but the general principle, such as ensuring sustainable development is achieved is encouraged to reduce emissions and adapt for a changing climate.

### What is the current situation?

All new development in Bromsgrove and Redditch meets, but does not necessarily exceed, the energy efficiency standards required by the UK Building Regulations, which were updated in 2010. The Code for Sustainable Homes sets six target levels for emissions from new homes and will provide a stepped progression in standards, leading to the overall target for all new homes to be zero-carbon by 2016. Housing Associations are already required to meet Level 3 of the Code, a 25% improvement on the energy standards in the 2006 Building Regulations. Standards similar to those in the Code are provided for non-domestic buildings through the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM).



**Redditch Borough Council was a partner with Redditch Cooperative Homes project to build the country's first Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 eco-home, timber framed development in Sillins Avenue and Farm Road, which have been very successful and have an average SAP rating of 83. Further developments are planned e.g. Walton Close.**

## What do we need to achieve?

Construction of new buildings that reduces environmental impacts, for example by encouraging implementation of the Code for Sustainable Homes ahead of the government's timetable.

### Strategic Actions Arising

- Ensure that climate change is embedded in strategic planning policy.
- The Council will encourage exemplar sustainable design (including waste/water/renewable energy/energy efficiency standards) for all new build developments within the district/borough, and for any new developments that the Council undertakes, for example, building a new public leisure centre, the whole life costs of the building are considered and as part of this, all new public buildings will exceed the nationally set BREEAM standards.
- Lead by example - ensure that sustainable construction techniques are used in new build and refurbishment projects and adopt planning policies that set higher energy efficiency standards than national guidelines.
- Promote more sustainable, energy efficient construction, utilising the planning system to promote sustainable development where possible, e.g. through the Local Development Framework and Core Strategy and also consider future adaptive techniques, such as shuttering windows for shading to reduce heat gain.
- Smart metering and energy monitors to encourage behavioural change towards efficient use of energy in the home.
- Encourage the use of green roofs for improved insulation, reduced surface water run off and biodiversity.
- Ensure that any extensions to existing properties result in improved energy efficiency.
- Consider combined heat and power/district/community heating systems for new properties built, including non-residential development.
- Ensure planning policy takes into account measures to tackle future water stress issues such as grey water recycling/storage in new homes.
- Ensure planning policy encourages water efficiency in new dwellings, and that sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) are in place.
- Encourage electric charging points to facilitate electric vehicles in new developments.

## 7.9 Adaptation to Climate Change

### What is adaptation?

We need to reduce our vulnerability to the effects of climate change, build adaptive capacity in our organisations and make plans to capitalise on the opportunities they bring. We need to “climate change-proof” ourselves and our communities because even if we drastically reduce emissions now, we are still facing years of unavoidable change. A key area of work in these early years of adaptive activity is to anticipate and prepare for key impacts of climate change across the complete range of Council services and infrastructure through the existing risk management process.

### What are the likely changes in climate?

This depends on the ongoing rate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (mitigation) into the future. UKCIP (2009) – has concluded that the ‘medium-emissions’ scenario is the most likely, and will likely lead to local changes:

Key findings for the West Midlands, 2080s

- the central estimate of increase in **winter mean temperature** is 2.9°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.6°C and is very unlikely to be more than 4.4°C. By 2020, on average, winter mean temperature will be warmer than we are used to.
- the central estimate of increase in **summer mean temperature** is 3.7°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 2°C and is very unlikely to be more than 6.1°C. By 2020, on average, mean summer temperature will be 1.6°C higher than we are used to. On paper, this sounds like a good thing, but there are a number of problems associated with this.
- the central estimate of change in **winter mean precipitation** is 18%; it is very unlikely to be less than 3% and is very unlikely to be more than 39%. By 2020, on average, there will be 6% more winter precipitation than we are used to.
- the central estimate of change in **summer mean precipitation** is –20%; it is very unlikely to be less than –43% and is very unlikely to be more than 6%. By 2020, it is estimated that there will be 7% less summer precipitation than we are used to.

## Impacts and Vulnerability

We know that our current climate has impacts on our economy, health and environment, and that the changing climate of the UK will pose increased risk in future due to higher temperatures and a greater frequency of extreme events such as heatwaves, flooding, extreme cold weather and drought.

Although we cannot say with certainty exactly what will happen in our local areas, UKCP 09 allows us to make assumptions based on previous events and can mean we are better prepared for whatever does happen, for example:

- There were about 35,000 premature deaths across Northern Europe in the intense heatwave of 2003 with around 2000 premature deaths in the UK. The heatwave in 2003 occurred during a summer in which average summer temperatures were 2°C above the 1961-1990 average in the UK. However it was the high daily maximum temperatures, combined with a lack of effective plans to deal with these that created casualties. As average temperatures increase, so do the number of hot days, although this relationship is not necessarily linear. A study undertaken by the Met Office suggests that such heatwaves are expected to become more frequent in coming decades, as summers as warm as this will be 'normal' by the 2040s.
- In its 2004 report, 'A Changing Climate for Insurance', the Association of British Insurers notes that claims from storm and flood damages in the UK doubled to over £6 billion over the period 1998-2003 with the prospect of a further tripling by 2050 (UKCIP 09).
- In the 2007 floods, 10,000 motorists were trapped in vehicles on the M5 and surrounding roads and residents in Bromsgrove and Redditch were affected by the transport disruption.

Looking ahead, the impacts of the changing climate will depend significantly on how well central Government, local councils, businesses, voluntary organisations and individuals plan for and adapt to these changes. As with mitigation, our response to climate change adaptation affects all of our departments and the majority of our partners too.

The effects on our health during a heatwave can be reduced through effective planning by the NHS and social services, and by individuals knowing what to do. Similarly, the effects of flooding can be reduced by investment in flood defences and sensible long-term planning.

### **How this will affect The Council and its Departments (Service Provision), Partners and the Public**

In Bromsgrove and Redditch, the most significant problems will be more serious water stress and overheating. Rainfall is projected to decrease during the summer and increase during the winter months, with an increased risk of more intense events which will increase the risk of fluvial and surface water flooding and parts of the drainage system is prone to being over-whelmed during heavy rainfall. How we deal with this will form part of our work under the risk management process for NI188 and is a developing area of work.

**The following are examples of how adaptation could filter down through our organisations.**

#### **Buildings**

Offices are more likely to overheat as a result of warmer summer temperatures.

- Methods of passive cooling, such as the use of blinds and external shading, will be needed so as not to increase the reliance on air conditioning/desk fans, which will increase energy consumption.
- Our buildings may be exposed to increased risk of flooding due to higher winter rainfall levels and an increased frequency of extreme weather.
- There will be increased risk of subsidence.

#### **Economy and society**

We need to think about how severe weather and longer term climate changes affect the economy and local people:

- Climate change may affect food supply chains, for example, where our food comes from/availability.
- There may be opportunities for new markets and new jobs; for example in tourism or from making new products to help us cope with these changes.

## **Agriculture**

There is likely to be:

- Risks to agriculture from changes to the growing season, droughts and floods, increased heat stress in livestock, more storm damage and increased risks from pests and diseases, potentially leading to some food shortages/changes in affordability.
- Agriculture may, however, also see increased yields in some crops with higher temperatures, and the opportunity to grow new crops.

## **The natural environment**

The natural environment is likely to suffer from:

- Fire risks on heathlands (especially in the Clent/Lickey Hills) could increase as a result of higher summer temperatures and lower rainfall.
- Spring is already happening earlier in the year. Some key trees are leafing and some butterflies arriving 10 days earlier than was the case 30 years ago due to increases in temperature in March and April.

## **Transport infrastructure**

- Road surfaces will need to be more heat resilient to cope with higher projected summer temperatures.
- Rail lines could be prone to buckling in high temperatures

- Alternative routes may need to be found or existing routes protected for road and rail infrastructure.

### **Why do we need to adapt?**

1. Our organisation is affected by changes in weather and climate in a number of ways, including disruptions to movement of people and goods, and many of our services are reliant on power, safe premises to work in, and transport; all of which may be affected.
2. Our organisation takes decisions and makes investments which have long term life spans. These investments often have high values at stake including the safeguarding of human life and the natural environment.
3. Our organisation provides support in emergencies and has a duty of care for vulnerable groups.

### **Strategic actions arising:**

- **Ensure CMT fully considers adaptation for their service area, and develop adaptive capacity through/with LSP organisations**

## 7.10 Public Health, Health Inequality and Climate Change

Health inequality is a key issue locally in Redditch (although there are pockets of areas in Bromsgrove which also experience similar issues), as are above average incidences of excess winter deaths in Bromsgrove and there is a clear policy agenda link between climate change, health and wellbeing. According to the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), health impact include possible increased infectious and vector-borne diseases (e.g. malaria), deaths from prolonged heat/cold exposure, skin cancers, food poisoning etc.

A recent report, Health Effects of Climate Change in the West Midlands found that deprived communities face greater impacts because:

1. They have the smallest potential to adapt (e.g. cannot move, afford more expensive food, and buy air-cooling systems)
2. Generally they are less healthy and therefore would be more susceptible

### **Strategic actions arising:**

- **This issue can only be tackled through a partnership approach with LSP members but ensure that the Councils actively participate in this agenda.**



## 7.11 Food

Food is a critical crosscutting theme for consideration in relation to climate change. Generating food uses large amounts of energy and water, contributes to waste emissions, requires significant transport in its processing and distribution (including air miles for imported food) provides jobs in both manufacturing and agriculture and can influence biodiversity. Therefore this strategy encourages the consideration of food in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation where relevant to Council business and to encourage and enable wherever possible residents to support local food production.

## 8. Community Engagement and Communications

Whilst surveys have shown a high level of concern about climate change in Worcestershire, a significant decrease in CO2 emissions has yet to occur. Increased awareness of the urgent need to take action is needed, together with clear, consistent, practical advice to help people actually make the necessary changes.

We also need to raise awareness about the issue of climate change with Partnership Organisations and Businesses - there are good opportunities to do this throughout the existing LSP network. However, more needs to be done to support Businesses locally, including SME's. However, financial resources are currently strained therefore all activity will need to demonstrate good value for money.

### **This is important because...**

All sectors of the community will need to take action to tackle climate change; no one group (including the two Councils alone) can solve the issues alone. Effective awareness raising can help individuals understand the positive changes they can make in different

aspects of their lives. The public also expect community, public and private sector organisations to demonstrate leadership on this issue.

### **What is the current situation?**

Research carried out in 2007 shows that there is a high awareness of the issue of Climate Change throughout the county, including in Bromsgrove and Redditch areas. Therefore, we now need to shift our attention from raising awareness of the general issue i.e. we no longer need to persuade residents to “believe in climate change” - to motivating physical action and behavioural change leading to physical reductions in emissions: being mindful of “greenwash”/ “green fatigue”.

### **What do we need to achieve?**

To move on from raising awareness of climate change, to delivering real action in homes, organisations and businesses. We need to ensure that messages are clear and consistent, including county wide and national messages.

### **Strategic Actions Arising**

- **Encourage staff and members of the Councils and our partner organisations to tackle climate change at home and at work and actively promote the issues as part of their work (where appropriate)**
- **Introduce a green office policy and encourage take up of this across both areas in other organisations and businesses. Set up a climate change champion network to share best practice.**
- **Use the Warmer Worcestershire project as a key vehicle to capture residents attention, using the information from the aerial thermal imaging survey (2009) to help raise awareness about heat loss from properties in the district and to help deliver targeted energy efficiency improvement measures.**
- **Actively participate in county-wide awareness programmes and activities, such as the annual switch it off campaign.**
- **Focus communications on the basis that saving energy saves money as well as carbon emissions.**
- **Develop a low carbon communication strategy and investigate opportunity for county wide branding to increase recognition**

## Yearly Communications Planner

Topic / event	Key Message/background	Event date	Risk and Implication	How we will respond	When
Fair Trade Fortnight	Supporting the fair trade movement locally	February 2011	Reputation	Increase staff awareness	February 2011
Earth Hour (WWF)	Global switch off of lights to highlight climate change issues	March 2011	Reputation	Investigate if possible to switch off our buildings lights	Start work Jan 2011
World Environment Day	Global celebration of Environmental issues	June 2011	Reputation	Increase staff awareness	May 2011
10/10/10	Global event to highlight the recent 10:10 campaign, which both Councils have signed up to.	10/10/10	Reputation	Tbc – some sort of event	September 2011
Switch it Off Week	County wide event to promote energy efficiency	November 2011	Reputation	Tbc – county wide promotions. Would like to run a Council meeting by candlelight...	September 2011.

Topic / event	Key Message/background	Event date	Risk and Implication	How we will respond	When
Launch of Climate Change Strategy	New strategy for both Councils agreed	Tbc	Reputation	Publish on website. Press releases.	tbc
Other events as they happen e.g. procurement of electric vehicles, launch of solar panels at Sanders Park etc.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

## 9. Consultation

This strategy has been consulted upon by the following key partners:

WPEG, Bromsgrove Better Environment LSP Group including Transition Bromsgrove, Redditch Alliance of Greens, Members of the Public who have expressed an interest via the webpage, Internal Staff at both Councils (including Waste Management, Planning, EDU, Communications, Biodiversity, Overview and Scrutiny Panels, Climate Change Advisory Panel.

Once the strategy has been in place for at least 1 year, and we are clearer about the carbon emission data locally, it is intended that there will be a wider community consultation.

## **10. Delivery Partners**

Worcestershire County Council, Worcestershire LSP, Environment Agency, Bromsgrove LSP members, Redditch LSP members.

## **11. Equality and Diversity**

Equalities Impact Assessments will be undertaken on a case by case basis.

## **12. Conclusions**

As Local Authorities, we have a moral and legal obligation to tackle climate change and to demonstrate leadership in this area. We need to reduce carbon emissions from our own and other buildings, our homes and our transport, and this needs to be tackled at a personal, community, business and organisational levels. We need to be ready for the challenges and opportunities that a changing climate, and associated increase in severe weather events will bring. Finally, we need to move beyond awareness raising and communicate the need to take action to our own staff and residents.

Dealing with climate change is challenging, but a sustained focus on the diverse issues involved and a desire to have ambitious targets will mean that we can achieve our objectives.

### **13. Date of Review**

This strategy is due for review by 2014 at the latest. The action plan will be continually reviewed and added to, and will be monitored quarterly.

### **14. Contact Information**

The author of this strategy is Ceridwen John, Climate Change Manager for Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils who is contactable on (01527) 64252 x3046 or [ceridwen.john@redditchbc.gov.uk](mailto:ceridwen.john@redditchbc.gov.uk)

Appendix 1 follows. The purpose of this action plan is to set out general actions under each theme group which would contribute to the aims of the strategy. Due to the nature of climate change work, this is likely to change regularly depending on available funding and current priorities.

## APPENDIX 1 - Action Plan

<b>Strategic Priority 1:</b>	<b>Mitigating against climate change by reducing carbon emissions</b>
<b>LAA Link:</b>	<b>NI186, NI187</b>

Strategic Outcome Measures	Baseline (2005)	2009/10 Outturn	2013/14 Target	2049/50 Target
e.g. NI 186 – reducing per capita CO emissions	BDC – 6.3 tonnes/capita RBC – 7.4 tonnes/capita	6% reduction	Aspire to 12%	Aspire to 40%

1.1	Strategic Action	<b>Improve Home Energy Efficiency</b>				
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
1.1.2	Provide home energy advice to residents	2004/5	Ongoing	SLA c.£6000 per annum	L	Act on Energy
1.1.3	Provide and promote grants for domestic loft and cavity wall insulation. Set targets for completions.	2004/5	Ongoing	BDC £46'000	M	Act on Energy/BDC LSP

1.2	Strategic Action	<b>Improve Business Energy Efficiency</b>				
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
1.2.1	Engage with LSP organisations and other large local employers to reduce their energy use, as well as reducing the Councils emissions – including identification of the most inefficient buildings (pareto principle).	2008/9	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Climate Change Manager WCC Property Service Economic Development Team
1.2.2	Signpost businesses towards available information and funding sources. Explore opportunities to green the local economies.	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	L	LSP Climate Change Manager

1.3	Strategic Action	<b>Reduce fuel poverty</b>				
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Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
1.3.1	Use the warmer Worcestershire project to target vulnerable households	2008/9	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Katie Sharp-Fisher CCM
1.3.2.	Area based programmes and landlord programme for home insulation. Consider specific programme for Areas of Highest Need.	2009/10 Redditch only	Ongoing		M	Andy Coel Don Wright
1.2.2	Develop and deliver Affordable Warmth Programme	Ongoing	Ongoing		L	Andy Coel Don Wright

1.4	Strategic Action	<b>Increase renewable energy capacity</b>				
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
	Promote incentives and grants available for home and SME micro-generation of energy, as well as funding for public buildings. Set targets for completed	2008/9	Ongoing	BDC - £18000p.a. RBC - £6000 p.a.	H	Strategic Housing

	installations.					
	Monitor take up of commercial renewable planning applications including potential decentralised schemes in new developments	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Planning
	Consider viability of solar PV for our own buildings	September 2010	Ongoing	A business case will be required as upfront investment will be needed, although payback approx 7 years followed by 19 years of income generation	H	Climate Change Manager

1.5	Strategic Action	<b>Strategic corporate actions relating to this strategy</b>				
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
	Ensure all Service Business plans address	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	H	Hugh

	this strategies objectives					Bennett/ Ceridwen John
	Reduce the amount of paper sent out as part of the committee process. Set target for print cost savings at 10%.	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	L	Ivor Westmore
	Office space to be re-planned to avoid heating and lighting unused spaces. Consider impact of shared services on energy consumption.	2009/10	Ongoing	Property Services SLA may not cover this, therefore costs involved	M	Teresa Kristunas
	Deliver on 10:10, Nottingham Declaration and Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge Commitments	2008/9	Ongoing	Staff Time	H	
	Disposal of Assets  -Council House BDC and move to more efficient building.  -Hewell Road demolition/Abbey Stadium development				H	
	Asset Maintenance – The main emitters are:  BDC – Council House, Dolphin Centre,	2009/10	Ongoing	No budget exists for improving energy efficiency –	M	Property Services/ Teresa

	Depot and Car Park. RBC – Town Hall, Abbey Stadium, Crematorium, Depot and Hewell Road. Reduce emissions from these buildings.			funds will be required if physical investments needed.		Kristunas
	Ensure all new policies/proposals are checked for climate change impacts.	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Committee Services/CCM

1.6	Strategic Action	<b>Encourage efficient use of water</b>				
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
1.2.1	Investigate opportunity for water efficiency internally				L	Ceridwen John Relevant departments
	Communicate water issues to staff and residents				L	CCM

1.2.2	Work with Environment Agency to reduce flood risk					M	Clive Wilson ?
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1.7	Strategic Action	<b>Increase the amount of waste recycled and decrease the amount of waste disposed of</b>					
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer	
1.2.1	Internal waste issues to be considered at both Councils to identify if waste can be minimised/increase recycling	2009/10	Ongoing	Tbc	M	Guy Revans	
	Continue to encourage domestic and business sustainable waste management	Ongoing	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Guy Revans	

1.8	Strategic Action	<b>Transport</b>					
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer	
	As part of the harmonisation of Terms and Conditions, consider revision of mileage	2009/10	Tbc	Staff time	H	HR	

	reimbursement rates and policy to ensure travel to Birmingham is undertaken on the train only.						CCM
	Undertake green fleet review recommendations	2009/10 BDC 2008/9 RBC	Ongoing	Staff time	M		Guy Revans
	Reduce fleet emissions through vehicle replacement programme and reduced mileages undertaken – target of 4% reduction in 2010/11	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	H		Guy Revans
	Regeneration of Bromsgrove Train Station and the Longbridge Access Strategy				H		tbc
	Promotion of alternative transport methods e.g. cycle grant scheme	2010/11	Ongoing	Staff time	L		HR
1.2.2	Introduce internal Travel Plan to reduce business mileage	2010/11	Ongoing	Unknown	L		CCM HR

1.9	Strategic Action	<b>Green Economy</b>
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Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
1.2.1	<b>Encourage a local green economy</b>	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	EDU/CCM

1.10	Strategic Action	<b>Sustainable New Development</b>				
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
1.2.1	Planning policy to support achievement of zero-carbon housing	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Ruth Bamford
	Adopt Planning policy towards renewable energy and more sustainable homes – go further than current building regulations	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	H	Ruth Bamford
	Providing advice and information – provide a detailed guide on how to improve domestic dwellings for climate change including RET/FIT.	2009/10	2010/11	Staff time	L	Ceridwen John

1.11	Strategic Action	<b>Open Spaces, Land use and Biodiversity</b>				
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Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
1.2.1	Develop skills and knowledge in the area of land use management and carbon emissions				M	JB/PG
	Ensure biodiversity strategies are implemented and considerate of climate change issues.				H	JB/PG

2.2	Strategic Action	<b>Communicating the Challenge</b>				
	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
	Add to the communications planner at both Councils relevant events such as 10/10/10, and run awareness campaigns. Potential staff OWL monitor energy loan scheme.	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	CCM/Comms
	Explore viability of an area based approach delivery for insulation measures in Charford/Sidemoor and Winyates	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	H	CCM
	Work with Blackwell PC as a pilot project to increase solar PV	2010/11	2010/11	Staff time	M	CCM



	Actively seek funding for communication initiatives e.g. eco-driving simulator	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	H	CCM
	Encourage LSP partners to sign the Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	BDC LSP
	Encourage Transition Town initiative through LSP Better Environment Group	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	BDC LSP CCM
1.2.1	Contribute to the Worcestershire LSP CC communications plan	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	CCM

<b>2</b>	<b>Strategic Priority:</b>	<b>Adapting to climate change by increasing local resilience</b>				
	<b>LAA Link:</b>	<b>NI188</b>				
Strategic Outcome Measures		Baseline	2009/10 Outturn	2013/14 Target	2049/50 Target	

e.g. NI 188	Level 0	Level 2	Level 3	Not set
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2.1	Strategic Action	Adapting to Climate Change				
	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
	<p>Requirements for Level 2: The Authority has undertaken a comprehensive risk based assessment of vulnerabilities to weather and climate, both now and in the future, and has identified priority risks for its services.</p> <p>It has identified the most effective adaptive responses and has started incorporating these in council strategies, plans, partnerships and operations (such as planning, flood management, economic development, etc).</p> <p>It has begun implementing appropriate adaptive responses in some priority areas.</p>	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	H	HoS/ Ceridwen John  HoS/ Ceridwen John  HoS/ Ceridwen John

	In its role as a community leader the council has started working with its LSP encouraging identification of major weather and climate vulnerabilities and opportunities that affect the delivery of the LSP's objectives.					LSP
	Climate Change to be included in Risk Management Plans	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Heads of Service

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**EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW BOARD**

**TUESDAY, 31ST AUGUST 2010**

21/10 **DRAFT JOINT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

The Board considered the Draft Joint Climate Change Strategy and covering report. Members were concerned that the report indicated that there was no specific budget for climate change activity. The Executive Director for Finance and Resources informed Members that she was currently looking at “invest to save” projects with the Climate Change Manager and that there was a small budget available at Redditch Borough Council (RBC) for promotional work to be carried out. The Head of Environmental Services confirmed that savings made would not just be in respect of the Council’s carbon foot print but also monetary savings, which would then be re-invested. RBC had already implemented several schemes with money from the Carbon Trust. This money was paid back from any savings that were made by implementation of the schemes.

Members agreed that climate change should feed into all areas within the Council. The appropriateness of national indicators was also discussed and the possible amendments to these which may be implemented by the new Government. It was agreed that it was important that whatever elements were measured, they should make a difference. After further discussion it was

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that the notes of the informal meeting on the Draft Joint Climate Change Strategy be agreed; and
- (b) that the Board recommend that Cabinet adopt the strategy.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (i) that the Joint Climate Change Strategy be commended to Cabinet for approval;
- (ii) that the Council bring the Climate Change agenda to the forefront and act as a community leader to champion the reduction of carbon emissions;
- (iii) that the Council ensure that Climate Change is embedded in strategic planning policies, (specifically the development of the Core Strategy) and all future policies;

- (iv) that internal action to reduce the Council carbon footprint and increase recycling within Council offices be prioritised;
- (v) that the Cabinet identify and support spend to save initiatives to reduce the Council's carbon emissions;
- (vi) that information for residents on the "turn off in winter" campaign be included in the autumn edition of Together Bromsgrove;
- (vii) that the Council highlight concern over excess winter deaths through the Local Strategic Partnership and local media and support partners wherever possible in reducing this; and
- (viii) that the Council celebrate successes in projects to reduce carbon emissions and other climate change initiatives, both through the local media and to staff in the organisation.

**CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY – REFERRAL FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Brandon Clayton
Relevant Director	Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the draft contents of the Joint Climate Change Strategy during a meeting on 25th August. Members discussed the strategy in some detail and ultimately they endorsed the strategy subject to consideration of a number of comments submitted by members concerning the content of the document. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of these comments for the consideration of the Executive Committee.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to **RECOMMEND** that

- 1) subject to noting Members’ comments as detailed in the preamble (below), the Joint Climate Change Strategy be adopted by the Council; and**
- 2) the Council adopt highly ambitious targets for the Joint Climate Change Strategy, including a commitment for the installation of anaerobic digesters to be a condition for new build developments in the Redditch Local Plan; and**

to **RESOLVE** that

the report be noted.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny plays an important role in policy development at the Council. Increasingly, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is reviewing important strategies and policies relating to both key and non-key decisions that are scheduled for consideration by the Executive Committee and / or the Council. The aim of the Committee is to scrutinise the issue in detail and to

help the Executive by: identifying areas for improvement, assessing the feasibility of proposed actions; and ultimately advising on the validity of proposed decisions.

- 3.2 As part of this process the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a draft of the Joint Climate Change Strategy during a meeting on 25th August 2010. During the course of this meeting Members were advised that, whilst there was further work to be done, the Council was performing well in relation to a number of relevant initiatives that were designed to address climate change. For example, energy consumption was falling as there had been a reduction in carbon emissions of eight per cent in general terms. However, some areas remained to be addressed, such as emissions from staff travel, as mileage claims had increased by five per cent over the past year in part due to shared working arrangements with Bromsgrove.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was in agreement that the Joint Climate Change Strategy represented a significant policy area which needed to be approved by the Council. However, the Committee expressed the view that the strategy could be more ambitious and discussed a number of additional actions and targets which they felt were suitable for inclusion in the strategy.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a couple of recommendations in relation to the Joint Climate Change Strategy. These recommendations are listed below as follows.
- 4.2 **Recommendation 1: We recommend that subject to noting Members' comments as detailed in the preamble (below), the Joint Climate Change Strategy be adopted by the Council.**
- 4.2.1 The Committee agreed that a strategy should aim to reflect each of the following levels: previous achievements, present activities, and future developments that could help to improve performance in meeting the strategy's key objectives. In this context, Members suggested that a number of additional targets could usefully be incorporated into the strategy, particularly with regards to future developments.
- 4.2.2 In particular Members commented that action could be undertaken to encourage both residents and local businesses to address climate change. In this capacity they suggested that the following activities could be undertaken:
- a) promoting loft insulation;
  - b) encouraging less wastage of water;
  - c) encouraging cycling and walking to work;
  - d) working with bus companies to encourage better local transport systems;



- e) providing more green spaces;
- f) increasing town centre pedestrian areas; and
- g) supporting more renewable energy generation.

4.2.3 The Committee also discussed the contribution that the Council could make to achieving the targets detailed in the Joint Climate Change Strategy.

4.2.4 Members commented that a key issue for the Council to resolve was the level of carbon emissions produced due to staff travel arrangements. To address this situation it was suggested that the Council should:

- a) encourage staff to utilise public transport whenever possible and practical;
- b) encourage car sharing, cycling and walking to work;
- c) provide bus passes to Officers travelling on Council business; and
- d) provide pool cars to restrict vehicle use.

**4.3 Recommendation 2: We recommend that the Council adopt highly ambitious targets for the Joint Climate Change Strategy, including a commitment for the installation of anaerobic digesters to be a condition for new build developments in the Redditch Local Plan.**

4.3.1 The Committee concurred that the most effective strategies were those which set highly ambitious targets for the area concerned. It was agreed that the Council could encourage local businesses, partner organisations and residents to meet such ambitious targets by setting an example.

4.3.2 Members suggested that one example of ambitious action that could be undertaken by the Council would be to introduce a requirement for the installation of anaerobic digesters to be a condition for new build developments in the next version of the Redditch Local Plan. The anaerobic digester was considered to be significant by the Committee because, as an onsite waste treatment process, the digester reduced the amount of waste that needed to be removed to external locations as well as the regularity of collections from particular sites, thereby reducing emissions. It was noted that anaerobic digesters were relatively inexpensive to install and maintain and could legitimately be incorporated into the Redditch Local Plan.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct legal implications.

## **7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are proposing a couple of amendments to the draft Joint Climate Change Strategy. If the Committee's recommendations are approved this would have implications for the implementation of the strategy.

**8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

One of the Council's priorities is for Redditch to be clean and green. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations with regards to the Joint Climate Change Strategy are intended to enable the Council to achieve this objective.

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no direct risk management implications, including health and safety considerations.

**10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct implications for the customer.

**11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct equalities and diversity implications.

**12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

There are no direct value for money, procurement or asset management implications.

**13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

The proposals contained within the report relate specifically to the contents of the Joint Climate Change Strategy. Any amendments to the strategy could potentially impact on actions that might be undertaken to address climate change, carbon management and biodiversity issues.

**14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct human resources implications.

**15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct governance or performance management implications.

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

There are no direct community safety implications.

**17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct implications for health inequalities.

**18. LESSONS LEARNT**

18.1 The full strategy was presented in a draft form for the consideration of the Committee on the 25th August 2010. Members suggested that a few amendments could be made to the way that the strategy was presented for Members' consideration during future Committee meetings.

18.2 Members expressed the view that the strategy was a complex and lengthy document. Under these circumstances they suggested that it would be suitable to incorporate an Executive Summary into the report. They also suggested that it would be appropriate to consider the strategy through the delivery of a presentation on the subject as this would enable Officers to highlight the core features and objectives for Members' consideration.

18.3 The first appendix to the draft strategy, Appendix 1: Action Plan, was also discussed. Members commented on the value of this Action Plan as a tool to facilitate a constructive response to the challenges posed by climate change. To further develop this appendix they suggested that a brief introductory

passage should be inserted to clarify the purpose and contents of the Action Plan.

**19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee invited a member of the public to submit comments for the consideration of members during discussion of this item. These comments were considered alongside submissions from members of the Committee.

**20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	No
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Not directly, though the Director was present during the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when the Joint Climate Change Strategy was scrutinised.
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes.
Head of Service	No
Head of Resources	No

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

**21. WARDS AFFECTED**

There is no direct ward relevance.

**22. APPENDICES**

There are no appendices to this report.

**23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Minutes from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that took place on Wednesday 25th August 2010.

Joint Climate Change Strategy

**24. KEY**

Anaerobic Digestion - the process of breaking down food waste through bacteria in the absence of air. The process produces two by-products - the bio-gas methane which can be captured for energy recovery, and a liquid or solid digestate which can be used as a soil improver.

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