



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2016

AT 6.00 P.M.

PARKSIDE SUITE - PARKSIDE

MEMBERS: Councillors L. C. R. Mallett (Chairman), K.J. May (Vice-Chairman), C. Allen-Jones, S. J. Baxter, C. J. Bloore, S. R. Colella, B. T. Cooper, M. Glass, J. M. L. A. Griffiths, R. D. Smith, P.L. Thomas and R. J. Deeming

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence and Named Substitutes
2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Arrangements

To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests.
3. To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 14th December 2015 (Pages 1 - 10)
4. Worcestershire Acute Hospital Trust - Update

The Leader of the Council will attend to provide a verbal update.
5. Burcot Lodge Emergency Homeless Unit - Financial Implications Report (Pages 11 - 20)
6. Medium Term Financial Plan (Pages 21 - 62)
7. Evening & Weekend Car Parking Task Group interim Report (Pages 63 - 68)
8. Cabinet Work Programme 1st February to 31st May 2016 (Pages 69 - 74)

9. Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme (Pages 75 - 78)
10. 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

Parkside
Market Street
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B61 8DA

7th January 2016



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Agenda Item 3

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

14TH DECEMBER 2015 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors L. C. R. Mallett (Chairman), K.J. May (Vice-Chairman), C. Allen-Jones, S. J. Baxter, C. J. Bloore, B. T. Cooper, M. Glass, R. D. Smith, P.L. Thomas and R. J. Deeming

Observers: Councillors G. Denaro, R. Laight, S. Shannon, C. Taylor, M. Thompson, L. Turner, S. Webb and P. Whittaker

Officers: Ms. J. Pickering, Mr. J. Godwin, Ms. A. Scarce and Ms. J. Bayley

81/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S. R. Colella.

The Chairman announced that following the last meeting Councillor J. M. L. A Griffiths had resigned from the Board. He thanked Councillor Griffith's for her hard work as a member of the Board and wished her well in her future endeavours. The Chairman also welcomed Councillor R. J. Deeming who had been appointed as a member of the Board for the remainder of the municipal year.

82/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS

There were no declarations of interest nor of any whipping arrangements.

83/15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 23rd November 2015 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 23rd November 2015 be approved as a correct record.

84/15 DOLPHIN CENTRE UPDATE

At the start of this item the Chairman advised Members that the subject of the Dolphin Centre had been raised at a recent meeting of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee. As Chairman of the Committee Councillor R. D. Smith was invited to comment on these discussions and he explained that the Committee had discussed whether the Dolphin Centre was a suitable topic for audit and had concluded that the matter was more appropriate for the consideration of Overview and Scrutiny.

The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services proceeded to deliver a presentation providing an update on the Council's position in respect of the development of the new Dolphin Centre and the ongoing negotiations with BAM in respect of the use of their Sports Hall (Appendix 1). During this presentation he highlighted the following matters for Members' consideration:

- The Blackmore House site would be free from contamination and there would be no risk on site from adverse conditions.
- Soft market testing had been carried out involving consultation with 12 leading market providers. The majority had submitted favourable responses and had not identified risks to the Council.
- The first stage of the procurement process had been completed and the Council was working with the preferred supplier.
- A decision from Sport England regarding the Council's application for support was due the following day.
- The climbing wall selected for the centre would be a play-based feature, rather than the traditional style of climbing wall.
- The decision had been made to hold the 2 week maintenance period during the summer months as this was when demand for services tended to be quieter than usual.
- Floodlighting was not available as yet at the school, though discussions were being held regarding the potential for floodlighting to be installed.
- Stage 2 of the procurement process was fairly advanced.
- As the project would be delivered in phases it would not be possible to open the car park until December 2017. Part of the current leisure centre site was located on a third of the area designated for the new centre's car park.

Following the delivery of this presentation the Board discussed a number of matters in further detail:

- The lack of access to the sports hall facilities at the school mid-week during the day.
- Existing demand for use of the Dolphin Centre during the day, which Officers advised stood at 50 per cent.
- The potential for further negotiations to take place to enable access to the facilities in the day during school holidays. Officers confirmed that this had not been discussed.
- Demand for facilities at the new Dolphin Centre during the evening and the potential levels of competition.
- The updates that had been made to the business case for the Dolphin Centre in response to the soft market testing which had taken place since the Cabinet had made an initial decision on this matter.
- The prudential borrowing rules that applied to Councils when borrowing to fund developments such as the new centre.
- The funding from Sport England and requirements in terms of match funding.

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- The recent decision that had been made by the Planning Committee concerning the new leisure centre and legal restrictions in respect of scrutiny Members analysing planning matters.
- The recent consultation with the public regarding leisure services and the extent to which the feedback provided in this consultation process would inform developments with the new centre.
- The potential for the Council to secure additional funding in future and whether this could be used to invest in a sports hall on the site.
- The option to work with other schools in the district to provide residents and clubs with access to sports hall facilities.

Members expressed a keen interest in the needs of community groups and sports clubs that frequently used the existing Dolphin Centre facilities during the day. Officers advised that the Council would provide groups in this position with support. There was general consensus that it would be useful for the Board to monitor this so that Members could be assured that clubs were able to learn about and access alternative facilities where required.

Concerns were expressed by some Members regarding the extent to which contingency plans were in place if the negotiations with BAM were unsuccessful. However, there was recognition that these negotiations had not yet been completed. Members also noted that the Cabinet had previously agreed in December 2014, in response to recommendations from the Leisure Provision Task Group, that if the negotiations with BAM were unsuccessful, the Cabinet would reconsider options for the facility to include a sports hall.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet remain observant of its decision in December 2014 to reconsider options for the leisure centre to include a sports hall if the negotiations with BAM are unsuccessful as detailed in the Cabinet response to the Leisure Provision Task Group Report; and

RESOLVED that regular updates be provided by the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services in respect of sports clubs and community groups displaced by the lack of an available sports hall during the day, to include information about the support provided to enable these groups to find alternative accommodation.

85/15

PERFORMANCE MEASURES DASHBOARD

The Policy Manager provided a demonstration of the Council's Performance Measures Dashboard. During this demonstration she highlighted the following for Members' consideration:

- The dashboard had taken time to develop. The aim of the dashboard was to present performance data in a new and meaningful way in line with the Council's systems thinking approach to service delivery.
- Officers could upload data onto the dashboard and use the facility to monitor performance and the impact of any changes to services.
- Members would have access to the dashboard via their iPads and access would also be available via a sunray computer in the Members' Room.

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- In 2016 Officers were aiming to make sections of the dashboard available to the public on the Council's website.
- The main page of the dashboard listed the Council's strategic purposes. The strategic measures data underpinning each of these strategic purposes was also accessible.
- Many of the strategic measures were supported by capability charts which enabled viewers to monitor performance trends. There was often additional, written information for each measure which provided context.
- Contact details would be provided for the lead Officers for each measure to enable Members to direct any enquiries to the relevant person.
- Some of the measures could not suitably be monitored in a capability chart. In these cases other visual images had been used, such as maps, though sometimes no images were appropriate.
- Some strategic measures were underpinned by supporting measures. By viewing these measures collectively it was possible to obtain a more nuanced understanding of the performance of services in particular areas.
- There were a number of operational measures on the dashboard which were accessible by team. Many of these would primarily be available to officers to use for day-to-day service delivery purposes and not all would be accessible to Members.
- A number of the operational measures reflected joint service performance statistics for Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils.
- The dashboard was continually evolving. Officers suggested that they would be happy to meet with elected Members to discuss the dashboard and methods for interpreting data contained within it.
- Officers confirmed that there was limited financial information on the dashboard at present. It was anticipated that this data would be added in due course.
- Visitors to the dashboard could develop a "My Dashboard" facility. This could be used to monitor the measures that were of interest to the individual.

Following the demonstration a number of issues were discussed in further detail:

- The source of the data and how it was measured.
- The potential for questions from Councillors to help Officers to ensure that appropriate contextual information was provided in respect of each measure.
- The breadth of data available to view on the dashboard and the need to be selective in order to make use of the facility in a constructive manner.
- The potential for colour coding to be used on the dashboard to make it easier for Members to ascertain whether performance was good, poor or satisfactory. Officers explained that a decision had been made to use annotations rather than colour coding.
- The number of measures on the dashboard.
- The potential for members of the Corporate Management Team (CMT) to monitor performance in relation to a number of key measures.

- The approach adopted by other Councils towards monitoring service performance. Members were advised that as the majority of Councils continued to produce more traditional quarterly performance monitoring reports.
- The safeguards in place to ensure that Officers did not opt to focus on areas where they knew performance was good.
- The type of issues monitored in HR operational measures. Members were keen to ensure that the number of employees who received Performance Development Reviews (PDRs) was monitored within this data set.
- The potential to link staff appraisals to performance in respect of the measures.
- Members requested further clarification as to whether they would be required to enter a separate password on their iPads in order to access the dashboard.

RESOLVED

- (1) To receive the next Planning Application Backlog Data report in February 2016 in the same format as usual; and
- (2) That the demonstration be noted.

86/15

BUDGET UPDATE REPORT

The Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Resources presented a report containing the latest update to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2018/19. She explained that the report compared the actual budget for services in accordance with the strategic purposes for 2014/15 with the proposed budget 2016/17. This comparison had been made as 2014/15 was the last year for which final figures were available and it provided an opportunity to review any underspends and to ascertain whether this should influence the level at which the budget was set for particular services in the future. Heads of Service had also considered the underspends in that year and this had informed their budget proposals for 2016/17.

Members noted that the manner in which the data had been presented was a little confusing. There was general consensus that it would be more useful for the Board to receive the figures reflecting actual expenditure in 2014/15, projected figures for 2015/16 and the proposed budget for 2016/17 for comparative purposes. Members also suggested that it would be useful to have information about any savings that had been achieved within the report.

Some concerns were raised in respect of it being difficult for the Board to make a constructive contribution to consideration of the budget due to the date by which information was available and the manner in which it was being presented. The Chairman noted that there would be greater opportunity for the Board to make a contribution to the budget setting process in January and February 2016, though the time available to consider any proposals before the Council's budget was set would be tight. Following discussion, Members agreed that further improvements in the process should be made for the 2016/17 budget consideration.

RESOLVED that, subject to the comments detailed in the preamble above, the report be noted.

87/15

COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW

The Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Resources delivered a presentation on the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review. In so doing she highlighted the following points for Members' consideration:

- There was significant reliance on economic growth and this could have implications at the local level for Council finances.
- The decision not to cut tax credits meant that savings would need to be achieved elsewhere in the budget.
- Whilst budgets for the police had been protected there were pressures in real terms on finances for Police forces.
- Councils that delivered social care services could increase Council Tax by 2 per cent. However, district Councils would still be advised to restrict Council Tax increases to 1.9 per cent or less.
- The revenue support grant would cease to be provided to local authorities by 2020 though Councils would be able to keep all business rates.
- No information had been provided to clarify arrangements for any future pools for business rates.
- Local authorities were being encouraged to sell off any assets and capital receipts could be used on revenue expenditure, though only for transformation work.
- The main concern for Officers was in respect of the New Homes Bonus (NHB). The Local Government Association (LGA) had reported that there would be no changes to the NHB in 2016/17, though this announcement only covered 1 year.
- The Council would need to consider whether to continue to allocate a proportion of the NHB to community projects in 2016/17.
- There was the possibility that in future the government would require local authorities to allocate all of the NHB to community projects.
- The Government had announced savings of £800 million from the NHB. This was not fully covered in the reduction of the period for payments from 6 to 4 years so further announcements on this subject in the future were considered likely.
- The revenue support grant settlement from the Government to the Council would cover a 1 year period only.
- Some of the Council's balances had been allocated to funding the new leisure centre.
- The Council's reserves were in the process of being reviewed and Heads of Service were being challenged as to whether particular reserves needed to be retained.
- There remained the potential for Members to submit capital bids at any time of the year and a number of capital bids had already been submitted.

- The Board noted that one of the bids listed in the presentation, a bid to fund a new scout hut in Hagley, had already had an application for grant funding from the NHB Community Grants Scheme rejected.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

88/15

FINANCE MONITORING QUARTER 2 REPORT

The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources presented the Finance Monitoring Quarter 2 Report. Members noted that this report had already been presented for the consideration of the Cabinet. This made it difficult for the Board to make any meaningful contribution in terms of consideration of this item.

The appropriate content of the report was considered. Members noted that they had previously requested that only details about areas where there had been 10 per cent or more in terms of variances be provided. This would be addressed in the next edition of the report. Officers had also given consideration to the different ways in which other Councils presented this report and had noted that colour coding could be used in future.

89/15

WORCESTERSHIRE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - UPDATE

Councillor B. T. Cooper, the Council's representative on the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), explained that the latest meeting of HOSC had been relatively lengthy and involved detailed discussions. The following items had been considered during this meeting:

a) **Adult Mental Health Transformation**

The HOSC had discussed action that was being taken to save £200,000 in adult mental health services. Members had been critical of the plans as they had considered these to be vague. Revisions would be made and the plan was due to be presented again for consideration at a later meeting of the Committee.

b) **Quality of Acute Hospital Services**

The HOSC had discussed the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) inspection findings of Worcestershire Acute Hospital NHS Trust's services, following the announcement that these services would be placed in special measures. The new interim Chief Executive had delivered a presentation to the HOSC which had revealed that only 2 areas were classified as inadequate in the inspection but this was enough to place the trust in special measures.

A number of actions would be taken in relation to the special measures classification:

- Links would be provided to a "buddy" Trust.

- A support Director had been appointed to the Trust's Board.
- Access would be provided to specific funds to help target improvements.

During the HOSC meeting 3 representatives from Redditch had advised Members about the vote that had been taken at Redditch Borough Council following a Notice of Motion on the subject of the trust and the inspection findings. In this vote Members had called for the trust to be broken up. Other members of the HOSC had not been happy with this proposal as there were concerns about the potential impact on health services within the county.

The Chairman noted that in recent press coverage it had been suggested that Bromsgrove District Council was in support of Redditch Borough Council's position. However, the Council had taken no vote on this subject and there was the potential that this could create a misleading impression of the wider position of Bromsgrove Members. To address this issue Members agreed that it would be useful to request further clarification from the Leader concerning the Council's position in respect of this matter. Members also requested that a copy of the Motion that had been submitted in Redditch be circulated for the Board's information.

RECOMMENDED that clarification be provided by the Leader with regard to the Council's position in respect of the future of Worcestershire Acute Hospital's NHS Trust and the recent vote taken by Redditch Borough Council calling for the trust to be broken up.

90/15

INCREASING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY JOINT SCRUTINY TASK GROUP - UPDATE

The Chairman explained that following the resignation of Councillor J. M. L. A. Griffiths from the Overview and Scrutiny Board Worcestershire County Council had been contacted in respect of this Joint Scrutiny Task Group as she could no longer remain the Board's representative on the review. The County Council had advised Officers that the review was nearing an end and therefore it would not be appropriate to appoint a new representative from the Council at this stage. However, Councillor Griffiths would be remaining on the group as a County Councillor. Under these circumstances Members agreed to approach Councillor Griffiths to ask her to provide brief written updates to the Board on the progress of the review until it had been completed.

Members noted that appropriate arrangements would need to be put in place for the presentation of the group's final report. It was suggested these arrangements could be based on the process for the presentation of the final report produced by the Joint Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) Task Group, whereby the Chairman and a Democratic Services Officer had presented the report at each of the participating authorities' Scrutiny Committee meetings. The Board agreed that Worcestershire County Council should be approached regarding the feasibility of the Chairman of the Task Group attending a future meeting of the Board to present this report.

91/15 **EVENING AND WEEKEND CAR PARKING TASK GROUP - UPDATE**

Councillor K. J. May, Chairman of the Evening and Weekend Car Parking Task Group, provided an update on the latest work of the Task Group. The group had interviewed Councillor G. Denaro as well as a representative of the High Street Improvements Forum, a local residents' group, since the last meeting of the Board. The group had been impressed to learn that the Forum had received 469 responses to a survey they had issued on the subject of retail outlets and car parking in the town and had agreed to share the findings which would help inform the group's final recommendations.

The group was increasingly coming to the conclusion that the Council needed a clear strategy for car parking. An interim report would be published in January 2016 containing a summary of the group's findings to date, though it was unlikely that there would be any recommendations proposed at this stage. A final report was scheduled to be published in March 2016.

92/15 **ACTION LIST**

The content of the Board's Action List was considered and the following points raised:

a) Planning Application Backlog Data

As agreed at the previous meeting of the Board Members discussed appropriate arrangements for the future presentation of Planning Application Backlog data following receipt of further information about the measures dashboard. Due to the complexity of the dashboard and the need for Members to spend time familiarising themselves with this facility it was agreed that they would receive the next quarterly update on Planning Application Backlog data in the standard style.

b) Quarterly Recommendation Tracker – CALC

Members were advised that CALC had welcomed the suggested presentation that had been referred to in the Youth Provision Task Group's final report. It was intended that this presentation should take place in March 2016 and that Councillor J. M. L. A. Griffiths, as the former Chairman of the Task Group, should be invited to deliver the presentation.

93/15 **CABINET WORK PROGRAMME 1ST JANUARY TO 30TH APRIL 2016**

Members were advised that a number of items scheduled for pre-scrutiny had been postponed, though would still be considered by the Board in due course. This included:

- Capital budget consideration.
- Burcot Lodge Hostel.
- High Street Refurbishment Phase II.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Work Programme be noted.

94/15

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the Board's Work Programme and discussed the following:

- The January 2016 meeting of the Board had a lengthy agenda. For this reason Members agreed to postpone consideration of the quarterly recommendation tracker until a later meeting.
- Councillor Cooper advised that as the next meeting of HOSC would take place after the January meeting of the Board there would be no update available about health scrutiny.
- The Board needed to scrutinise the work of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership before the end of the municipal year. It was agreed that this should take place in March 2016.
- Members agreed that the staff survey and an update on the work of Worcestershire HealthWatch should take place at the meetings of the Board in March and April 2016.
- The Chairman explained that there was capacity for another Task Group to be launched. Members were asked to consider potential topic ideas for a Task Group and to raise these at the following meeting.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board's Work Programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.19 p.m.

Chairman

Report to O&S on replacing Burcot Lodge Homeless Hostel

Introduction

This report for O&S explores the most effective way of replacing the existing homelessness facilities at Burcot Lodge Hostel. This temporary accommodation option will eventually be closed as a result of the sale of the Council House and the land surrounding it. In order to identify the best option for replacing the hostel, this report also explores the wider context to the provision of temporary accommodation to homeless households in Bromsgrove.

Background information

Burcot Lodge Hostel is owned by Bromsgrove District Council and provides temporary accommodation for up to eight homeless households in Bromsgrove - it is managed on a day-to-day basis by Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT). This arrangement has been in place since 2004, when the council transferred its stock together with its homelessness function to BDHT.

The council is planning to sell the Council House and surrounding land, and, at some stage during the course of this sale, the homeless hostel will need to close down. Advice provided to officers suggests this sale process will take at least a year to complete. However, when the hostel does close, BDHT will have eight fewer units to offer to homeless households when they are required, and there are concerns that unless alternative provision is created, there could be an increase in less suitable placements being made – for example in bed and breakfast in Bromsgrove.

The legal context – local authority duties and the use of temporary accommodation

The Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977 placed a duty on local housing authorities to secure permanent accommodation for unintentionally homeless people in priority need. Authorities' duties towards homeless people are now contained in Part 7 of the 1996 Housing Act (as amended).

Authorities do not have a duty to secure accommodation for all homeless people. If an applicant has become homeless unintentionally the authority must assess whether they, or a member of their household, falls into a 'priority need' category.

These categories are set out in section 189 of the 1996 Act and the Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation) (England) Order 2002 which includes:

- A pregnant woman or a person who resides with a pregnant woman, or might reasonably be expected to reside with a pregnant woman, who is eligible for assistance under the above Act.
- A person with whom dependant children reside or might reasonably be expected to reside;

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- A person aged sixteen or seventeen who is not a relevant child for the purposes of section 23A of the Children Act 1989; other than a person to whom a local authority owe a duty to provide accommodation under section 20 of that Act.
- A person (other than a relevant student) who is under 21; and at any time after reaching the age of sixteen, but while still under eighteen, was, but is no longer looked after, accommodated or fostered.
- *Vulnerable* as a result of old age, mental illness or handicap, physical disability, or other special reason or with whom such a person resides or might reasonably be expected to reside.
- a person (other than a relevant student) who has reached the age of twenty one and who is *vulnerable* as a result of being looked after, accommodated or fostered. You have not been looked after, accommodated or fostered as defined by the Children's Act 1989.
- a person who is *vulnerable* as a result of having been a member of Her Majesty's regular naval, military or air forces.
- a person who is *vulnerable* as a result of having served a custodial sentence (within the meaning of section 76 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000) (a); or having been convicted for contempt of court or any kindred offence; or having been remanded in custody (within the meaning of paragraph (b), (c) or (d) of section 88 (1) of that Act).
- homeless or threatened with homelessness as a result of an emergency such as a flood, fire or other disaster.
- a person who is *vulnerable* for any other special reason, or with whom such a person resides or might reasonably be expected to reside.

When a household makes an application to a local authority for assistance with homelessness the authority is under a duty to carry out inquiries in order to satisfy itself as to what level of duty is owed to a homeless applicant. If an authority has reason to believe that a homeless applicant has nowhere to stay and is in priority need, then there is an immediate duty to make suitable temporary accommodation available pending further inquiries.

After the completion of inquiries local authorities must inform applicants of their decision. The type of help that an authority might be under to a homeless household under the 1996 Act ranges from a main duty to secure suitable accommodation (which may be a private rented tenancy), to providing advice and assistance. Authorities only have an absolute duty to secure accommodation for households who are deemed to be eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need.

Where an absolute duty to secure accommodation exists, a household may have to spend a period of time in temporary accommodation before a final offer of accommodation is made. The length of time spent in temporary accommodation will largely depend on the availability of suitable accommodation in the authority's area. The Localism Act 2011 has enabled local authorities (since 9 November 2012) to discharge their duty towards homeless households in priority need by using privately rented housing irrespective of whether the household is in agreement with this.

An overview of the demand for and provision of temporary accommodation in Bromsgrove

The hostel is one of several temporary accommodation options available to BDHT. BDHT also uses up to 39 units of its own housing stock to provide temporary accommodation. These properties are provided on a rolling basis utilising void properties as and when available. They also make placements in specialist options such as domestic violence refuges, or occasionally in local bed and breakfast establishments in Bromsgrove.

In terms of developing an overview of the demand for and provision of temporary accommodation in Bromsgrove, and the role that the hostel plays in this, it is important to consider the following factors:

- The number of homeless applications taken in any part of the country, including Bromsgrove, fluctuates over time, as homelessness is influenced by various local and national dynamics.
- Not every homelessness application results in the provision of temporary accommodation, so the number of homeless decisions will always be higher than the number of temporary accommodation placements. There are several reasons for this. Firstly, housing providers rightly focus on trying to prevent homelessness in advance of having to respond to homelessness, so a number of these enquiries will be resolved before the need to provide temporary accommodation arises. Secondly, a housing provider is not under a duty to provide temporary accommodation in every case – a temporary accommodation duty is triggered when a provider has reason to believe that a household is eligible for help, homeless or threatened with homelessness, and that they have a priority need for accommodation. In cases where these tests are not satisfied, temporary accommodation is unlikely to be provided, but the applicant will still receive a homeless decision from BDHT.
- Not every homeless acceptance results in the provision of temporary accommodation. Each year, the number of homelessness acceptances will normally be lower than the number of temporary accommodation placements provided. This is because not all households offered temporary accommodation will subsequently be accepted as being owed the main housing duty under the homelessness legislation. An application may fail on the grounds that, once fully assessed, the applicant is subsequently found to be ineligible, not homeless, not in priority need, intentionally homeless, or without a local connection to the Bromsgrove area. Not all households accepted as homeless require temporary accommodation either – some have other interim arrangements that negate the need for an emergency placement.
- The level of demand for help with homelessness often outstrips the capacity of housing providers to resolve it. This is very important to understand, because households provided with temporary accommodation can often remain there for a considerable period of time, depending on the nature of their circumstances, and the position the housing provider takes in response.

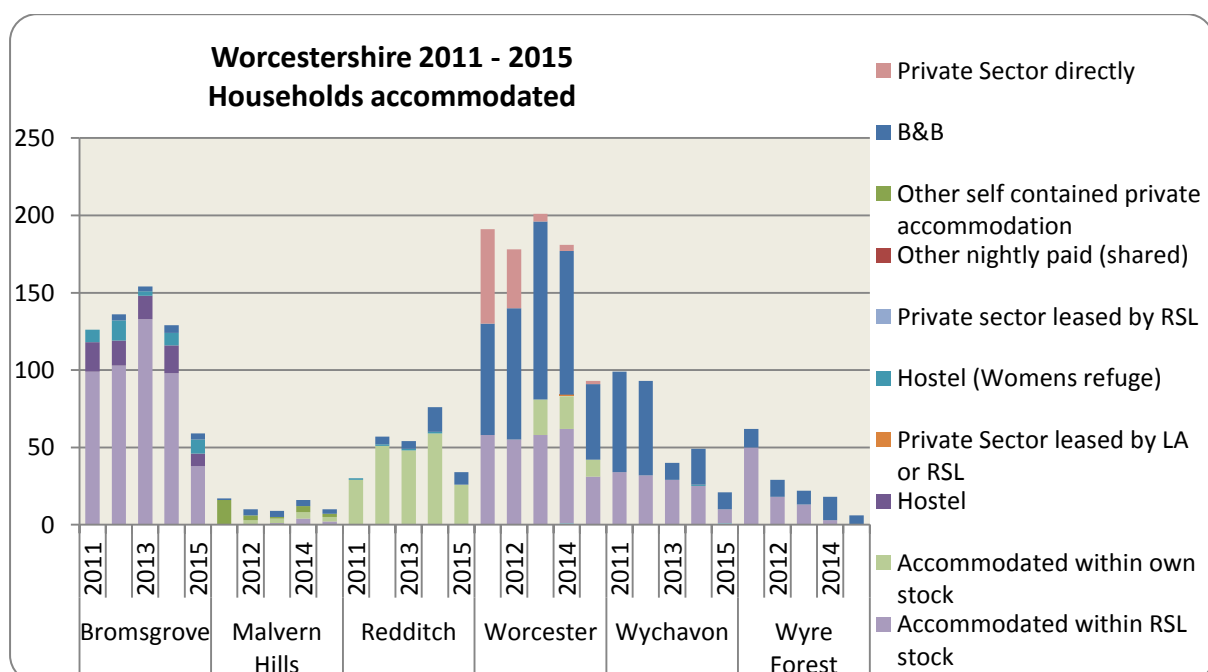
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An example of this issue is rent arrears. A household may be accepted for help under the homelessness legislation, but they may be prevented from moving into their address permanently until these rent arrears are cleared. In the meantime therefore, they remain in temporary accommodation, and housing providers experience a 'silting up' of their temporary accommodation resources as a result. The more these sorts of issues arise in their overall caseload, the more difficult it becomes for the provider to move the household on from temporary accommodation into permanent accommodation - the acceptance of homelessness duties builds up, but the ability to discharge these duties slows down.

- In summary, a proportion (not all) of incoming homelessness enquiries in any given year will trigger the provision of a temporary accommodation option by BDHT. The nature and duration of these placements will vary, and some can continue for well over a year. If the rate of temporary accommodation provision is not matched by a similar rate of ending this in favour of a more settled option, the number of households living under a temporary accommodation duty can 'silt up' and cumulatively rise over time. In turn, this has an impact upon the future availability of temporary accommodation for incoming households, and it has a direct bearing on issues such as the need to replace Burcot Lodge Hostel.

Bearing all these factors in mind, there is data available on homelessness and the demand for and provision of temporary accommodation in Bromsgrove. This data is collected by BDHT, and submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on a quarterly basis in a statistical return called the P1E. The data submitted to DCLG shows the overall demand for homelessness services in the district.

Table 1 – households accommodated under a temporary accommodation duty in Bromsgrove (and across Worcestershire) 2011- end quarter 2 2015



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Table 1 shows the number of households provided with temporary accommodation under the homelessness legislation in Bromsgrove (and across the county) between 2011 and the end of quarter 2 2015. NB - some of the placements will carry over between one year and the next – comments in section 2 refer). The majority of households accommodated temporarily are living in BDHT stock.

Table 2 – number of households accommodated under a temporary accommodation duty 2011- end of quarter 2 2015

Year	Own stock	Refuge	Burcot Lodge Hostel	B&B	Total for year
2015 to Q3	52	12	11	4	79
2014	98	8	18	5	119
2013	133	0	15	3	151
2012	103	13	16	4	136
2011	99	8	19	0	126

Table 2 sets out which type of accommodation is being occupied by homeless households – BDHT stock is the main property type, and hostel occupancy has remained fairly static throughout the same time period.

Table 3 – homelessness acceptances in Bromsgrove 2011 to end quarter 3 2015

Year	Homelessness acceptances
2015 to Q3	68
2014	58
2013	75
2012	77
2011	70

Table 3 shows the number of homelessness acceptances in Bromsgrove since 2011 which has remained relatively stable during that time period.

Table 4 – homelessness preventions/reliefs 2010 to end of quarter 3 2015

Year	Number of homelessness preventions/relieved
2015 to Q3	139
2014	266
2013	190
2012	228
2011	225
2010	155

Table 4 shows the number of cases where homelessness was prevented or relieved – this has an impact on the need to provide temporary accommodation to homeless

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households as resolving the situation in advance of providing temporary accommodation reduces the need to offer this provision in any given year.

Table 5 – overlapping the various data sets for a summary position 2011 to 2015 Q3

Year	Homeless decisions	Homeless acceptances	Total number of households placed in temporary accommodation	Own stock	Refuge	Burcot Lodge Hostel	B&B
2015 to Q3	105	68	79	52	12	11	4
2014	111	58	129	98	8	18	5
2013	111	75	151	133	0	15	3
2012	116	77	136	103	13	16	4
2011	134	70	126	99	8	19	0

Table 5 overlaps the various P1E data sets to provide an overview of the historical position with regards to homelessness and temporary accommodation usage. In short:

- Homelessness decisions and acceptances have remained fairly stable in Bromsgrove – the prevention of homelessness has increased over time
- BDHT's stock is the primary resource in terms of providing a response to homelessness in Bromsgrove
- Burcot Lodge plays a role in addressing homelessness
- There has been a build-up of households living in temporary arrangements over time though the data suggests this is reducing again

Burcot Hostel – the role the hostel currently plays in temporary accommodation provision

It is clear from the data that the hostel plays a role in providing a temporary address for homeless households in Bromsgrove – the tables above show the number of households who have stayed there during the course of each of the last five years. However, there are several things to note:

- As table 5 above shows, in four of the last five years, a small number of households have been placed in bed and breakfast in Bromsgrove, despite the hostel being less than fully occupied.
- In the last few years, as table 6 below shows, although the hostel has played a role in addressing homelessness in Bromsgrove, it has regularly been occupied at less than full capacity indicating that there is no need to replace like for like going forwards.

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Table 6 – breakdown of number of households staying at Burcot Lodge April 2013 to November 2015

	Single/ Couple	Family	Pregnant	Total Households	Number Children
Room 1	15	0	0	15	N/A
Room 2	13	0	1	14	N/A
Room 3	7	1	4	12	1 Child
Room 4	2	2	0	4	1 Child & 2 Child
Room 5	6	0	0	6	N/A
Room 6	9	0	0	9	N/A
Room 7	0	9	1	10	1 Child x 7, 2 Child x 1, 3 Child x 1
Room 8	0	8	0	8	1 child x 6, 2 children x 1, 5 children x 1
Total	52	20	6	78	

Assumptions/costings and next steps

- It is clear that the hostel plays a role in responding to homelessness in Bromsgrove, but that the building is often under occupied in any given year. As a result, we have agreed with BDHT, following analysis of the data as above, that there is no need to replace like with like.
- BDHT have tabled two proposals to replace the hostel (see appendix 1)
- BDHT have advised that they anticipate a 3 month period for conversion works to be completed so the council will need to cover the rent lost during the time taken to convert the 2 beds into 1 beds.
- Currently BDHT are paid to manage the hostel – there are no plans to alter this, as they would go on to manage any newly created replacement facilities
- Void costs are hard to predict, as these will depend upon occupancy rates of the replacement facilities – however, they should be fairly minimal as the number of spaces previously available at the hostel are being reduced.
- On balance, given the higher conversion costs associated with proposal 2, we plan to pursue proposal one in the first instance, and monitor demand for and use of temporary accommodation in the following twelve months. If it becomes clear during the course of this activity that further 1 bed temporary accommodation is required, another property can be converted by BDHT, funded by the Council, thereby providing a further resource.
- A report concerning the above will be submitted to the February 2016 meeting of Cabinet.

Derek Allen
Housing Strategy Manager

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18th JANUARY 2016

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2016/17 – 2018/19

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Geoff Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering (Exec Director)
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	None specific

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To enable Members to consider the impact of the financial settlement on Bromsgrove and the proposed budget pressures, savings and capital bids that have been put forward for the financial plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to consider the pressures and savings and capital bids and make any recommendations to Cabinet.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Council receives a proposed financial settlement on an annual basis from Central Government. Over the last few years the element of the funding allocated that relates to the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) has been reducing and the grant for 2015/16 is £1.229m.
- 3.2 Following announcements made in the Autumn Statement the Council was expecting this RSG to reduce to zero by the end of the Parliament ie 2019/20. Officers were considering plans to address this shortfall in revenue to ensure that a sustainable approach to the delivery of services was in place.
- 3.3 The Provisional Settlement was received on the 17th December and contained more detail on funding allocations. This confirms that Revenue Support Grant will disappear for Bromsgrove earlier than anticipated and will only be paid to the Council in 2016/17. It is worth mentioning that Bromsgrove is one of only 15 District Councils in the Country that have seen a the complete removal of RSG in the first year and officers are liaising with DCLG to fully understand the assumptions that have resulted in the Council seeing this impact in funding. It is clear that a new methodology for determining authorities' RSG allocations has been proposed within the provisional settlement. Rather than applying the same percentage cut to all authorities, the new approach takes into account individual authorities' council tax raising ability and the type of services provided. This is a significant

change in the methodology and would appear to favour social services authorities, with significantly larger funding reductions for district councils. It reduces government funding assuming optimistic increases in housing growth and council tax increases and may prove to be unrealistic. Central government intend for local government to be able to spend the same level by the end of this Parliament in cash terms as it does today – therefore a real terms reduction.

3.4 Due to continued reductions to local government funding and a new methodology for applying the reductions (which has an adverse impact for higher taxbase authorities such as Bromsgrove) the authority's overall entitlement is actually lower the amount due to be retained from business rates. Therefore, Revenue Support Grant is now negative and as such the proposals include a repayment to Central Government from the Council with effect from 2017/18.

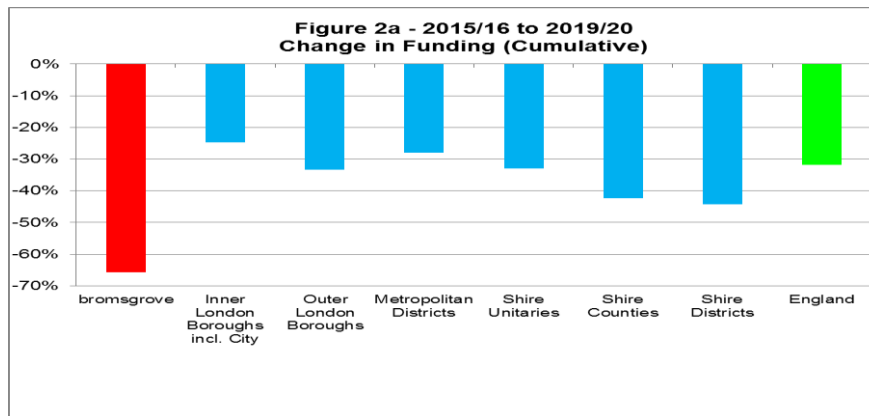
3.5 The table below reflects the RSG funding for 2015/16 & 2016/17 and the negative RSG for the following 3 years.

£000's	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Bromsgrove	1,229	560	-20	-360	-740
		(54%)	(-101%)	(-129%)	(-162%)

3.6 The following illustrates the impact of the settlement on council, the loss of RSG over the next 4 years up to and including 2019/20 compared to previous forecasts

Revenue Support Grant	Medium Term Financial Plan Assumption £'000	Settlement December 2015 £'000	Reduction £'000
2016/17	1,058	560	-498
2017/18	947	-20	-967
2018/19	450	-360	-810
2019/20	200	-740	-940
Total			3,215

3.7 The £3.2m shortfall in funding relates to that compared with the original budget assumptions. The graph below shows the impact of the significant funding reductions over the 4 year period for Bromsgrove compared to other Councils.



3.8 The other element of significant income to the Council is New Home Bonus. The Government have stated that this fund will continue on the current basis for 2016-17. The position beyond 2016-17 is not yet confirmed as it is subject to consultation although it will continue albeit on a reformed basis.

3.9 The level of New Homes Bonus for 2016/17 is £1.7m. Based on projections included within the consultation paper the following table shows the impact of the reductions in New Homes Bonus that may face the Council depending on the final scheme implemented.

£000's	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Bromsgrove	-542	-531	-523	-663	-2,259

3.10 The consultation also include proposals to reduce New Homes Bonus (NHB) where there is no local plan, where homes have been allowed on appeal or where the growth would have occurred anyway.

3.11 The consultation on what proposals for the move to 100% business rates retention may look like is expected to be issued in June 2016. The 27.5% reduction in Government grant for councils over the coming 4 years takes into account forecast business rates growth and is the average position: the reduction is expected to be greater for district councils because of the protection being given to social services authorities.

3.12 Other key elements of the Provisional Settlement and Autumn Statement so far as it relates to local government are:

- **A social care council tax 'precept'** of 2% will allow councils responsible for delivering adult social care such as Worcestershire County Council to raise up to £2 billion a year by 2019-20. Local authorities will be given this additional 2% flexibility on their current

council tax referendum threshold to be used entirely for adult social care. This is a new power for relevant councils to increase council tax to specifically pay towards social care in their areas;

- **An extra £1.5bn for the Better Care Fund** by the end of the Parliament – more information needed to understand the impact of this;
- The extension of **Small Business Rate Relief** to continue for another year – this is good news for local businesses and for our Business Rates Accounts;
- “Local authorities running education to become a thing of the past, delivering £600m savings to Education Services Grant”;
- Plans to build an additional 400,000 affordable homes by the end of the decade.
- An apprenticeship levy will be introduced in April 2017 at a rate of 0.5% of an employer’s pay bill, to deliver 3 million apprenticeship starts by 2020. This is estimated to cost this Council around £35k pa from 2017-18.
- Over £500 million by 2019-20 for the Disabled Facilities Grant to fund up to 85,000 housing adaptations pa. More detail on this proposal is needed to fully understand the impact of this change;
- **Homelessness** - increased funding of £10m available to invest in innovative ways of preventing and reducing homelessness. More detail on this proposal is needed to fully gauge the impact;
- Restrictions on **shared ownership** to be removed and planning system reformed to deliver more homes;
- **Real-terms protection for the police budget.**

3.13 Some further interesting points were included:

- Proposal to reform services and make them more efficient. A package of new flexibilities will be introduced to encourage local authorities to **release surplus assets**. Local authorities will be able to spend 100% of their fixed asset receipts investing in making services more efficient (local authorities currently hold £225 billion in assets). Under this guidance councils will be able to use new capital receipts from April 2016 to March 2019 to pay for the revenue set up costs of projects that are designed to make revenue savings. It will be for individual local authorities to decide if a project qualifies. In order to qualify, councils will be required to prepare an annual efficiency strategy listing all qualifying projects and this strategy, and any variations to it, will need to be approved by full council.
- It is proposed that the regime of referenda for “excessive” council tax increases will continue at the current rate of 2 percent. Council’s are asked to be mindful of prevailing inflation rates when considering increases and the DCLG have confirmed that there is no council tax freeze grant offer for 2016-17. This does not affect past allocations which are locked into the revenue settlement.

- 3.14 The impact of the settlement and in particular the speed that the RSG is reducing compared to that originally anticipated, together with the uncertainties around the New Homes Bonus funding will make it difficult to identify all the savings required to balance the financial position over the medium term.
- 3.15 As part of the budget considerations officer have proposed a number of financial pressures that they have raised as impacting on their ability to deliver their service against the proposed budgets for 2016/17. In addition they have proposed savings and capital bids for projects and replacement of equipment. As part of the capital programme considerations Members have put forward 3 bids for projects within their localities for Council consideration. All of the pressures, savings and capital proposals are included at Appendix 1.
- 3.16 Clearly the impact of the reduction in RSG and the proposed unavoidable pressures have resulted in a financial position that is worse than that originally anticipated of approximately £1.2m to the Council. Officers are working through reserves, prior year financial figures and revisiting the proposals to ensure that proposals can be presented to Members in February to agree a balanced budget for 2016/17.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.17 The pressures as identified will ensure that services are delivered to the community. The additional cuts to RSG will need to be addressed to ensure that quality of service provision is maintained in the District.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.18 Effective Budget Scrutiny will ensure all of the community are represented through the budget process.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 To mitigate the risks associated with the financial pressures facing the Authority regular monitoring reports are presented to both officers and Members to enable proactive action being undertaken to address any areas of concern.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 –Capital Bids

Appendix 2 – Vehicle Replacement Programme

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18th JANUARY 2016

- Appendix 3 – Capital Bid – Hagley Scouts (more detailed background available)
- Appendix 4 – Capital Bid – Hagley Chub (more detailed background available)
- Appendix 5 – Capital Bid – Wythall Car Park
- Appendix 6 (i) & (ii) – Capital Bid – Barnt Green Toilet
- Appendix 7 – Proposed Revenue Bids
- Appendix 8 – Proposed Unavoidable Pressures
- Appendix 9 – Proposed Revenue Savings

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Jayne Pickering – Exec Director Finance and Resources

E Mail: j.pickering@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Tel: 01527-881400

CAPITAL BIDS - BDC

APPENDIX 1

Department	Strategic Purpose	Description	Funding Source i.e. Grant, Borrowing, Reserve, S106	CAPITAL IMPLICATIONS			REVENUE IMPLICATIONS			Commentary
				2016-17 £'000	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000	2016-17 £'000	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000	
Community Services - CCTV	Keep my place safe and looking good		Borrowing	40						CCTV Camera replacement programme
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Fleet replacement program	Borrowing	0	0	1,261				As per capital replacement program
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Additional refuse freighter	Borrowing	165	0	0	30	31	32	Additional vehicle required to accommodate wide property developments

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VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

APPENDIX 2

	Vehicle	Use	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	2018/19 £
1	26 tonne RCV	Refuse & Recycling	170,000			
2	26 tonne RCV	Refuse & Recycling	170,000			
3	26 tonne RCV	Refuse & Recycling	170,000			
4	26 tonne RCV	Refuse & Recycling	170,000			
5	26 tonne RCV	Refuse & Recycling	170,000			
6	26 tonne RCV	Refuse & Recycling		175,000		
7	26 tonne RCV	Refuse & Recycling		175,000		
8	26 tonne RCV	Refuse & Recycling		175,000		
9	26 tonne RCV	Refuse & Recycling		175,000		
10	26 tonne RCV	Spare			175,000	
11	26 tonne RCV	Garden Waste				185,000
12	26 tonne RCV	Garden Waste				185,000
13	26 tonne RCV	Garden Waste				185,000
14	26 tonne RCV	Garden Waste				185,000
15	26 tonne RCV	Garden Waste	170,000			
16	10 tonne RCV	Refuse & Recycling				110,000
17	10 tonne RCV	Garden Waste				110,000
18	26 tonne RCV	Trade			180,000	
19	7.5 tonne RCV	Refuse & Recycling				85,000
	WASTE TOTAL		1,020,000	700,000	355,000	1,045,000
20	Tanker	Cess	95,000			
21	HGV Sweeper	Core	125,000			
22	HGV Sweeper	Core	125,000			
23	Multi Lift Hiab	Core		135,000		
24	3.5 tonne Cage	Strat	30,000			
25	3.5 tonne Cage	Place	30,000			
26	3.5 tonne Cage	Place	30,000			
27	3.5 tonne Cage	Place		30,000		
28	3.5 tonne Cage	Place		30,000		
29	3.5 tonne Cage	Place	30,000			
30	5.2 tonne Cage	Place		35,000		
31	5.2 tonne Cage	Place				40,000
32	5.2 tonne Cage	Place				40,000
33	5.2 tonne Cage	Place				40,000
34	5.2 tonne Cage	Place				40,000
35	5.2 tonne Cage	Parks	35,000			
36	Mini Sweeper	Place 4	80,000			
37	Mini Sweeper	Place 5	80,000			
38	Mini Sweeper	Place 6	80,000			
39	Mini Sweeper	Spare	80,000			
40	Combi Van Cleansing			20,000		
41	Combi Van Parks			20,000		
42	Combi Van Com Safety			20,000		
43	Combi Van Toilets Leisure			20,000		
44	3.5 tonne Flat Bed Tipper	Cem	30,000			
45	Tractor			40,000		
46	Small tractor mower			30,000		
47	Garage Pickup	Garage		32,000		
48	Minor Works Pickup	Minor	30,000			
49	Multi lift Small skip	Minor	100,000			
	PLACE/CORE TOTAL		980,000	412,000	0	160,000
	BURT Bus		60,000			
	Mowers and trailers		50,000	25,000	25,000	30,000
	Multi lift boddies		20,000			
	Minor Works Equipment		5,000	5,000	5,000	8,000
	Workshop Equipment		5,000	40,000	5,000	8,000
	Washbay ramps				30,000	
	Depot Fencing			30,000		
	Depot Site surface		100,000			
	Parking Meters		35,000	35,000		

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Pay on Foot			50,000		
Cemetery Mowers & Equip		25,000	10,000		10,000
Car Park Relining		20,000	20,000		
GENERAL TOTAL		260,000	215,000	65,000	56,000
OVERALL TOTALS		2,260,000	1,327,000	420,000	1,261,000

HAGLEY SCOUT HUT

APPENDIX 3

CAPITAL PROJECT OUTLINE DOCUMENT

2016/17 -2018/19

THIS FORM IS TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IN THEIR LOCALITY THAT WILL MEET THE STRATEGIC PURPOSES OF THE COUNCIL BY IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT / SERVICES /OUTCOMES FOR THE COMMUNITY.

1) PROJECT DETAILS

Please provide details of the project

This project is for the essential rebuild of the Hagley Scout hut to meet existing waiting lists and to build a capacity in which significant growth from new development in Hagley and surrounding areas can be accommodated.

Without the rebuild and alterations the existing hut will continue to face extensive repair and maintenance costs particularly in view of the critical nature of the roof and the urgent need for it to be replaced. A vast number of children are already unlikely to find a vacant position when needed and will not have access to the Scouts or Guides; a situation which cannot be acceptable and will only lead to disengaged youths and lost opportunities for positive engagement.

The formed project team has identified a cost effective solution to the need to expand and grow and meet the necessary expenditure on the roof. The bid from balances represents a significant contribution on a match funding basis.

The bid is for £100,000 from balances.

Please see the attached document to support the project details.

2) EVIDENCE AND DEMAND

"Please evidence how your project has been identified as the way to resolve a problem in the community.

This is to include:

Evidence/data that there is a problem (Complaints/Community Concerns)

Photographs of environment that is to be improved (if applicable)

Advice from the place team in support of the project (if applicable)

The problem which needs solving is the fact that the existing hut and facilities cannot meet current Scout and Guide needs of Hagley and surrounding areas. The roof is in a dire state and requires urgent replacement and to remove asbestos found in the roof structure.

The Hagley Scouts are the biggest in the district and approved housing growth will reinforce that position over the next four or five years.

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The physical capacity of the hut is limited and has a limited life before significant expenditure is required to replace an asbestos roof problem. Although there is a long waiting list and adequate Leaders to run the groups every night is full. The waiting list is so severe that it is resulting in parents taking children off or not applying because of the likelihood that a place won't be found.

The hut is used every day of the week, some evenings have two 'end to end' sessions, without any other alternative suitable venues in which the available leaders can take extra 'packs' to meet current demand and reduce the waiting list. Without being able to expand there is limited opportunity to find enough income from subscriptions to upgrade such things as the mini bus or keep the equipment modern and fit for purpose.

The situation has reached a critical point in the history of the Scouts in Hagley and without significant expenditure and investment there is a real risk that the demand from a growing population will not be met. It will also mean that significant investment is required just to stand still, even with the existing waiting list.

Hagley Scouts and Guides have been very successful keeping it vibrant and popular despite some very difficult constraints. It now requires the next step in its development to meet the needs of incoming young, expanding families who want to develop their children in an active and inclusive society.

Without a larger hut and enhanced facilities, significant numbers of children will not be able to be part of these very important movements. This is a very unfavourable position to be in and a failing of hundreds of children who have a need and wish to join. .

Youth services are facing increasing pressure with many council supported services being cut or reduced thus placing a greater need for communities to provide its own youth provisions. The demand is outstripping supply with the consequences being a retro grade step in providing youth activities that develop personal and social skills that are essential in the modern world.

The solution to the problem is therefore a bigger hut in which more children can benefit from in the Scout and Guide movement. Greater numbers of children will benefit from adult lead supervision, character building and community stewardship.

3) COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Please explain how this project will meet the Council's Strategic Purposes, how the community will benefit from the scheme and how it will resolve the problem that has been identified.

Although the following meet the Council's strategic purposes scouts and guides provide numerous other purposes including community and citizen stewardship.

Provide good things for me to do – Scouting provides the chance to experience adventure, regularly experience new challenges and enrich lives.

Keeping my place safe – Scouting helps to keep the young people of Hagley occupied and develop them into good citizens.

The role of Scouts and Guides is well known and without question; attracting a vast number of well organised and committed volunteers and helping develop strong community stewardship, leadership skills, individual support and development and strong ethical and social values.

4) PROJECT OUTCOMES

Please detail the measures of success for the project

The benefits of expanding the hut's capacity are therefore quite clear. The project costs and the contribution being sought in this bid make it a viable and worthy project for Bromsgrove District Council to support. The benefit in supporting this bid will be seen for years to come by hundreds of children who will use the new, modern and expanded facilities, the enormous team of volunteers that dedicate much of their free time and the many charities and community events that Scouts and Guides support and finally supporting a legacy that will continue to support the district over many decades to come.

5) PROJECT COSTS

What is the total capital cost of the project?

£250,000 (bid for £100,000)

Description of Capital Expenditure	2016/2017 (£)	2017/2018 (£)	2018/2019 (£)
------------------------------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

The capital expenditure for the project will be to meet demolition costs, rebuild and refit costs.

Are there any anticipated on going revenue implications of the project?

Running costs are not seen to be a overriding issue with subscriptions and public donations and fund raising events being an established part of the scout and guides operations.

PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 2ND 2015 TO:

j.pickering@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Signed: Cllrs Colella and Jenkins

Date: 25th November 2015

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HAGLEY COMMUNITY HUB (Chub)

APPENDIX 4

CAPITAL PROJECT OUTLINE DOCUMENT

2016/17 -2018/19

THIS FORM IS TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IN THEIR LOCALITY THAT WILL MEET THE STRATEGIC PURPOSES OF THE COUNCIL BY IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT / SERVICES /OUTCOMES FOR THE COMMUNITY.

1) PROJECT DETAILS

Please provide details of the project

Estimated cost of capital elements of Project: £1,250,000 - £1,500,000 (estimated build cost)

Amount of grant applied for: £600,000 – from current balances

The Community Hub (Chub) is a project to re-build Hagley Community centre to meet an urgent need to replace an out of date and deteriorating community building that is no longer fit for purpose and can only operate to a limited capacity. There is an opportunity to bring about a dynamic change to Hagley and its wider community and neighbourhood. The proposed Chub project aims to bring together the public and voluntary sectors under one roof; maintaining the popular Hagley playgroup, Hagley Theatre Group and well as the meeting hall, café and toilet facilities. This is not an open to the public community centre and is only open or visited for specific community events.

The project recognises that the community is changing fast and the new build must take advantage of the changes that are happening around it. The Hagley Library has a stay of execution from closure with Hagley Parish Council supporting a limited lease agreement, the future is seen within the Chub as an integral part of the building along with the parish office and community meeting space. An aging population needs community care and interaction to eliminate isolation and the symptoms of growing old. With devolution there is a greater need for localised council service, bringing council business away from its administrative centre to the people, reducing service costs and improving service provision.

The vision is a one stop community focal point giving flexible space and an irresistible venue to hold extra community health care though aging well, Bromsgrove Partnership, Age UK, support for dementia, adult education, further education and health and wellbeing support through daytime activity and recreation.

The Chub is visionary and a model that would support inward investment, community engagement and cohesion. Bromsgrove District Council is seen as the Principle Authority supporting betterment and devolved localised power sharing and effective service delivery across a wide scope of disciplines.

Please see the attached document to support the project details.

2) EVIDENCE AND DEMAND

"Please evidence how your project has been identified as the way to resolve a problem in the community.

This is to include:

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Evidence/data that there is a problem (Complaints/Community Concerns)

Photographs of environment that is to be improved (if applicable)

Advice from the place team in support of the project (if applicable)

What is the problem we're trying to solve? This gives a clear focus to what is needed and what could be achievable.

The problem we're trying to solve is multi-layered and inter-related.

- A growing population and growth in housing development
- A changing demographic profile driven by almost 20% increase in new housing and 40% increase in population.
- An aging population. Increasing single occupancy and increasingly feeling of isolation.
- Public Service spending reviews and reducing public service
- Drive towards Devolution and combined authorities.
- Window of opportunity to future proof public services and stronger communities.
- A Community Centre that is limited in its flexibility, underutilised and time expired.
- A community centre that is facing increasing running costs and repair and maintenance.
- Time limited. Originally built for a twenty five year life but now approaching its 50th.
- A changing dynamic community spirit where shared responsibility drives integration and community support

Combining this with a community asset based approach the case proving the case for change is crystallised.

- Train station with links to Birmingham, Worcestershire and the Black Country
- Major Road intersection to the M40, M42, M5 and M6 Motorways linking Birmingham, Worcestershire and the Black Country.
- GP surgery covering the Wyre Forest Health Partnership sharing resources across the north Worcestershire area
- Forward looking and dynamic Community Governance; one of six large settlements outside Bromsgrove Town
- A settled population that is precious over its community
- Community Dial a ride Hagley bus service
- Community shared car drive scheme
- A wide and varied community of self-help groups and charities
- A commercial and retail centre

Demand for change

Public spending reviews, rationalised public services and devolution of power mean a change to much of the public service. Hagley has an aging and changing demographic profile and increasing population. The case for change is driven by opportunity. Not merely to replace what it has with something new but to build something bigger and better but importantly build a stronger more dynamic self-supporting community.

There has already been a cut to local library services, leaving the parish council to support the service and give it a temporary stay of execution with no County Council guarantees for its long term future. Bus services are at best inflexible and irregular, making public travel difficult and expensive. Youth services have been cut leaving vulnerable and impressionable adolescents with few out of school activities. The Police station has closed and the presence of police officers and community support officers are conspicuous by their absence.

Agenda Item 6

The demand is driven by the requirement for a common vision for keeping public services local and accessible, delivered through a new culture of joint working between public and voluntary sector, focused on new community hub.

Please see the attached for the attached for more detail.

3) COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Please explain how this project will meet the Councils Strategic Purposes, how the community will benefit from the scheme and how it will resolve the problem that has been identified.

The bid against Balances held with BDC reflects the role of the Principle Authority over Hagley. Approval of this bid will be a significant move to support one of the district's distinct communities.

The recent appointment of the Bromsgrove Centres Manager to work with centres such as Hagley is a welcome appointment. This role will help support councillors and local community champions to bring betterment to communities in line with the council's strategic purposes.

The bid represents a 'match funding' approach which will see bids being placed with community grant funding providers, Hagley Community Association, Hagley Parish Council, Partnering arrangement and local community funding events.

Approval of this bid will reflect positively on the Principle Authority as a match funding partner and offer the council flexible 'drop in' facilities for BDC led community duties to support its strategic purposes in 'keeping my place safe and looking good', 'Provide good things for me to see, do and visit' and 'help me to live my life independently'.

Significantly important is its role within the Bromsgrove Partnership in particular with the WCC and Age UK agenda around its Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-16. Within this strategy are the "Dementia Action Alliance" and the focus on an aging population and the impact of loneliness and isolation within our communities.

Health and Wellbeing

Anecdotal evidence points to an unusually high degree of respiratory problems; this is associated with the poor air quality in the designated Air Quality Management Area and the topography which allows air pollutants to settle in the lower reaches of Hagley.

Equally there is an aging population with the profile likely to increase based on current age cohorts. As well as the physical aspects of aging there are also the consequences of loneliness and isolation and how these factors can affect the health and wellbeing of individuals. There is a shortage of daytime activities for elderly or retired members of the community to be active; indoor team or group activities support bonding and social interaction.

It is therefore important that the Community centre offers practical space and facilities for the care service to be able to provide daytime care and health service in these cases.

Safe Communities – Crime and the perception of crime

Hagley has seen its Police station close, its PCSO reduced, its special constables removed and general policing relocated to Rubery, some 7 miles away.

Crime statistics has been re-evaluated and given its location to MUAs criminals from across the border frequently use Hagley as a target area. Much of the perception of crime is the fear of crime and therefore the lack of police visibility is a **Page 37** void for the community.

The introduction of a Police Community post will give a greater access and visibility to the Policing Team. The Post will allow PACT meetings, public meetings and an information point from which the Police can work from and the public relate to.

Youth Facilities and community interaction.

Youth service provisions have seen some deep budget cuts in recent years. This has resulted in areas such as Hagley having to 'do it for themselves'. The Parish Council, Scouts and Guides, schools and sports clubs have tried to bridge this gap by looking to expand their youth services and provision.

There is still a yawning gap in youth provision of distraction interests and with the expected increase in youth population of c200 over the coming years there is a real risk that many more will feel excluded and vulnerable.

The only youth club was set up by the Haybridge High school with some support from Hagley Parish Council, but now closed because WCC withdrew the qualified youth leader and a replacement could not be found.

The Chub will provide an 'open all day' drop in centre where youths can access, with the support of local charities, schools and stakeholders.

4) PROJECT OUTCOMES

Please detail the measures of success for the project

The target to measure if this has been achieved - Positive Benefit Impact Assessment

- increase CHUB service users by 20% to 10,000 p/a
- increase no. of community groups to 20
- grow usage from 45% to 90% capacity over 3 years
- maintain and increase base number of 1,800 library users
- recruit 30 volunteers to support the library and learning centre
- engage 30 young people through Youth PACT meetings [2 x p/a]
- engage 50 adults through regular PACT meetings [2 x p/a]
- engage 250 older people aged 55+ in healthy living advice & guidance sessions
- 250 older people to participate in new fitness & exercise activities
- 100 young people to participate in youth activities inc Youth Hub info point.

Activities to deliver CHUB

- Management leadership development of purpose built community centre (CHUB), with flexible meeting spaces, to incorporate library, Community Health services, health and recreational pass times & police post.
- Facilitate further community consultation on CHUB development.
- Run Community Office for Parish Council, District & Country Council business.
- Provide delivery space for youth HUB & community café.
- Create central info points for accessible health & well-being advice/support.
- Facilitate additional health care & leisure services/ activities for older people and youth.

5) PROJECT COSTS

What is the total capital cost of the project?

Description of Capital Expenditure	2016/2017 (£)	2017/2018 (£)	2018/2019 (£)
------------------------------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

The bid is for match funding from several funding and possible loan arrangements. Timing of the demolition and rebuild is essential to ensure the continuation of the affiliated groups and partners to ensure continuity of service

Are there any anticipated on going revenue implications of the project?

The project has attracted £8,000 from the DCLG Locality Team through its 'Our Place' programme. Hagley Parish Council has also supported its project through funding of the appointed contractor to support the project and make formal bids (£7,000).

There is significant 'in kind' voluntary time given by the volunteers on the group which consists of professionals and expert unpaid contributions.

There is professional design and planning input promised by Cala Homes and demolition costs covered by Cala Homes (estimated at six figure contribution).

PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 2ND 2015 TO:

j.pickering@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Signed: Cllrs Colella and Jenkins

Date: 24th November 2015

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CAPITAL PROJECT OUTLINE DOCUMENT

2016/17 -2018/19

THIS FORM IS TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IN THEIR LOCALITY THAT WILL MEET THE STRATEGIC PURPOSES OF THE COUNCIL BY IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT / SERVICES /OUTCOMES FOR THE COMMUNITY .

1) PROJECT DETAILS

Please provide details of the project

Resurfacing of and improvement works to the car park at Wythall Park

Wythall Park is the main recreational open space available to the residents of Wythall. The main car park is in desperate need of resurfacing. The surface is uneven and causes a potential health and safety risk. The markings are worn in places which makes management of the space difficult. The designated disabled spaces need to be increased and improved to allow easier access to the park and buildings. Lighting is poor.

We have received an estimate for the work which includes the following:

- New kerbing
- Excavation and patching of susceptible areas
- Provision of surface water gullies
- Tack coat
- 40mm thick AC Surface course
- Markings
- New lighting

Wythall Park - Background information.

The parkland includes gardens, planted woodlands, children's playgrounds and areas for casual play and general use. There are also areas for organised activities, these include the use of three Association football and one Gaelic football pitches, a cricket field, an archery range, tennis courts, a bowling green and a dog training area.

The Park is owned by a Wythall Community Hall Trust, a Registered Charity (No. 523212) and is managed by Wythall Community Association (Registered Charity No. 243332) for the benefit of the local community.

The park was fortunate to receive some S106 monies from the Selsdon Close development which have funded improvements to the play area, pitches and toilet block, however the main car park is in desperate need of work.

Wythall park is managed and maintained by volunteers.

The park is funded through the following sources:

- The hiring of sports pitches, function and meeting rooms,
- Membership of the Association
- Wythall Community Club which was formed in order that members could raise funds socially for the benefit of the Association.
- The Community Association holds two major fund raising events each year which are also valued greatly by the local community - Wythall Carnival and Wythall Bonfire and Firework Display.
- The park receives regular grants from Wythall Parish Council. (£6000 in 2015/16)

All of the above sources of funding and volunteer help are needed to maintain the status quo at the park. There are no spare sources of cash to fund any major projects such as the car park.

2) EVIDENCE AND DEMAND

"Please evidence how your project has been identified as the way to resolve a problem in the community.

This is to include:

Evidence/data that there is a problem (Complaints/Community Concerns)

Please see Appendix 1

Photographs of environment that is to be improved (if applicable)

Please see Appendix 2

Advice from the place team in support of the project (if applicable)

Not applicable

3) COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Please explain how this project will meet the Councils Strategic Purposes, how the community will benefit from the scheme and how it will resolve the problem that has been identified.

<p>Provide good things for me to see, do and visit. This is the main strategic purpose that this project will meet. We know from the evidence received that the state of the car park is problematical to our visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wythall Park is the only park readily available to the residents of Wythall. It is also the main community centre for the village.• Wythall covers a large geographic area, not all residents live within easy walking distance to the park a serviceable car park is needed so that our residents can take full benefit from it.• In addition to our local sports teams the car park needs to accommodate visiting teams• The function rooms are regularly hired out for local events. there needs to be adequate parking to accommodate these as well as the regular park users.• The car park is used into the evenings, when darker nights increase the problems experienced with the uneven surface and markings. <p>A safe and serviceable car park with adequate disabled spaces will help our residents to use the facility to its full potential.</p>
Keep my place safe and good looking

Agenda Item 6

Wythall residents value the park and need it to be a safe place to visit. The current car park does cause a health and safety risk, with its uneven surface and lack of disabled parking.

4) PROJECT OUTCOMES

Please detail the measures of success for the project

• Visitor feedback
• Increased numbers of visitors both to the park and club.
• Increased bookings for functions and meeting rooms
• Increased sports fixtures
• Improved revenue income and therefore sustainability of this valuable community amenity. The Community Association barely breaks even at present

5) PROJECT COSTS

What is the total capital cost of the project? £75k

Description of Capital Expenditure	2016/2017 (£)	2017/2018 (£)	2018/2019 (£)
			£75k

Are there any anticipated ongoing revenue implications of the project ? No

Please see Appendix 3 for breakdown of costs

PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 2ND 2015 TO:

i.pickering@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Signed *Sue Baxter* .Date: 01/12/2015

Appendix 2 - Photographic evidence











Appendix 3 - Costs

From: Pete Liddington
Sent: 01 September 2015 13:54
To: geoff.denaro@hotmail.co.uk;Geoffrey Denaro
Cc: Guy Revans;Kevin Hirons
Subject: Proposed Car Park Improvements - Wythall Community Club, Silver Street, Wythall

Dear Cllr Denaro

I refer to our site meeting last week together with your colleague, regarding the above.

As promised, I attach a copy of Drawing No. P2030/247 (A3 size) showing the Draft Layout for the car park improvements. Obviously, at this stage detailed design details have not been produced until suitable finance has been secured. The Layout is not fixed, and can of course accommodate any amendments, within reason, required by the Club's Committee/representatives.

I have produced an estimate for the works, based upon our approved Contractor's Contract rates. As our discussions, the items included within the estimate are as follows:

1. New kerbing;
2. Excavation and patching of susceptible areas;
3. Provision of surface water gullies and connections, as required;
4. Tack coat;
5. 40mm thick AC Surface course;
6. Markings;
7. New lighting.

The estimated cost being £74k.

if you have any queries please come back to me.

Regards

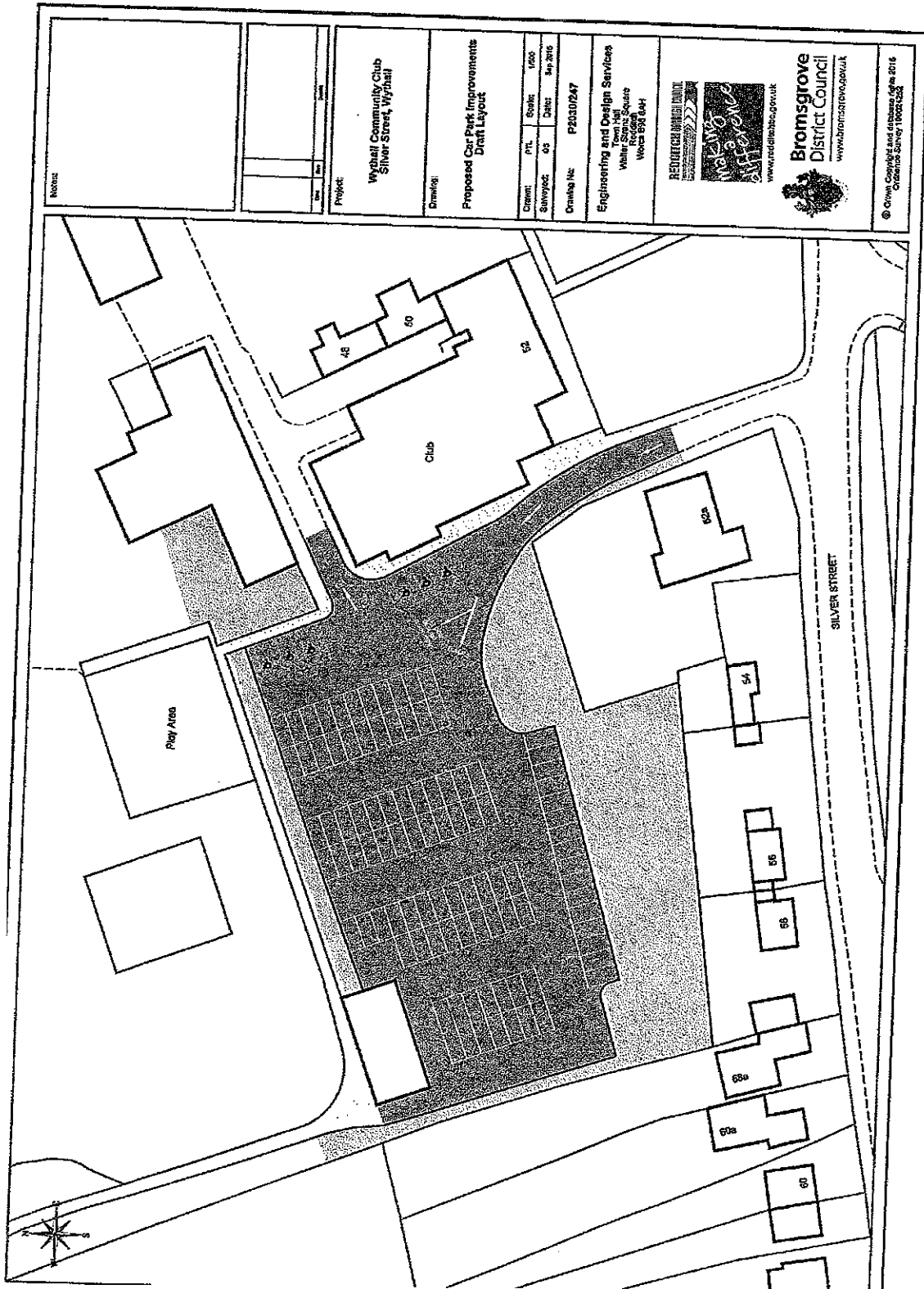
Pete

Pete Liddington
Engineering Team Leader
Engineering and Design Services for both Bromsgrove DC and Redditch BC
Leisure, Environment and Community Services Directorate

Redditch Borough Council Town Hall, Wailer Stranz Square, Redditch, Worcestershire B98 8AH
Tel: (01527) 534108

E-mail: pete.liddington@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Website: www.redditchbc.gov.uk

*Redditch's vision is an enterprising community which is safe, clean and green
Please don't print this e-mail unless you have to. Save paper, energy and carbon emissions*



BARNT GREEN TOILET.

CAPITAL PROJECT OUTLINE DOCUMENT

2016/17 -2018/19

THIS FORM IS TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IN THEIR LOCALITY THAT WILL MEET THE STRATEGIC PURPOSES OF THE COUNCIL BY IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT / SERVICES /OUTCOMES FOR THE COMMUNITY .

1) PROJECT DETAILS

Please provide details of the project

Install public toilets at Barnt Green Millennium Park. Hewell Road. A unisex pod toilet being fully automatic and disabled compliant. Toilet to be free to use and open 8am to 6pm approx.

2) EVIDENCE AND DEMAND

"Please evidence how your project has been identified as the way to resolve a problem in the community.

This is to include:

Evidence/data that there is a problem (Complaints/Community Concerns)

Photographs of environment that is to be improved (if applicable) >

Advice from the place team in support of the project (if applicable)

Neighbourhood plan consultations highlighted a need. Other major shopping areas within BDC area have public toilets (Rubery, Alvechurch and Catshill in the library). Toilets are often hired by the Parish Council to support community events in the park. The ageing population of Barnt Green makes provision more urgent. Barnt Green is designated a larger settlement in the emerging plan and as such should have a public toilet.

3) COMMUNITY BENEFIT

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BARNT GREEN TOILET.

Please explain how this project will meet the Councils Strategic Purposes, how the community will benefit from the scheme and how it will resolve the problem that has been identified.

Barnet Green has received very little in capital investment from BDC and this project is in line with improving the village centre amenities and then for shop keepers hits "help me run a successful business". For the elderly it hits "help me live my life independently". As community events are run in the park and the Parish Council wish to encourage tourism to the hickney wood and use of our circular walks it is part of "Provide good things for me to see, do and visit". We also have a well used train station with no public toilet.

4) PROJECT OUTCOMES

Please detail the measures of success for the project

More use of the village centre with people spending longer shopping. More visitors to Barnet Green.

5) PROJECT COSTS

What is the total capital cost of the project?

Build cost / Pod cost is £52,000 + VAT approx.
plus groundworks and connections of £10,000 + VAT approx.

Description of Capital Expenditure	2016/2017 (£)	2017/2018 (£)	2018/2019 (£)
One off cost depending on year of project.			

One off cost depending on year of project.

Are there any anticipated ongoing revenue implications of the project?

It is expected the running cost will be shared between the Parish Council and B.D.C.

PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 2ND 2015 TO:

j.pickering@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Signed:



Date:

30-11-2015

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UNAVOIDABLE PRESSURES - BDC

APPENDIX 8

Department	Strategic Purpose	Description of Pressure	2016-17 £'000	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000	Comments
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Garden waste collection charge - gap between expected and actual fee	69	33	33	Income budget was set based on an original price of £45 which is higher than the price now agreed
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Garden waste - not achieving anticipated increase in number of customers for rural areas	80	80	80	Based on estimate in 13/14 that approx 3000 additional customers taking service however only 1000 took up the service
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Cesspools - tipping charges increase by Severn Trent	26	26	26	Difference between actual and historical budget
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Cesspools - loss of income due to emptying filtration plants	10	10	10	Loss of income due to resources being diverted to filtration plants
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Trade Waste - tipping charges increased by WCC	42	42	42	Difference between actual and historical budget
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Domestic Waste collection - increase in properties throughout district	66	67	68	Additional staff resources required to accommodate for district wide developments - 1 drivers, 2 loaders
Environmental Services	Help me run a successful business	Reduction in income from On street Civil Parking Enforcement	20	20	20	Continued increase in compliance resulting in fewer pcns issued
Environmental Services	Help me run a successful business	Potential pressure from continuation of Evening Parking Trial	60	60	60	Only needed if the trial is made permanent
Environmental Services	Help me run a successful business	Free weekend parking for Christmas period	10	10	10	£5k per weekend offering Christmas parking.
Environmental Services	Help me run a successful business	Loss of income from station car park due to new Network Rail car park.	30	30	30	Loss of income from station car park due to new Network Rail car park.
Corporate	Enabling	Additional bank charges	20	20	20	increases in bank charges.
Communities	Help me find somewhere to live	Increase in web based supplier charges	3	4	5	Increase in cost of choice based letting
Business Transformation - ICT		Microsoft License Costs/Increase	28	44	44	Microsoft are removing the discounted framework we have used to purchase licenses
CAFS - Customer Services	Enabling	WCC Funding reduction	25	25	25	WCC Funding reduction
CAFS - Fraud & Compliance	Help me be financially independent (incl education & skills)	DWP Funding reduction	66	68	71	DWP Funding reduction
TOTAL			555	539	544	

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SAVINGS & ADDITIONAL INCOME - BDC

APPENDIX 9

Department	Strategic Purpose	Description of saving	2016-17 £'000	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000	Comments
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Income from RBC Trade collection	-14	-14	-14	Net additional income from Trade taking on RBC collections after deduction of addition costs for tipping charges
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Additional cemeteries income	-30	-30	-30	Additional cemeteries income based on actual income achieved over budget in last few years
Corporate - Printing	Enabling	Savings achieved from change in printing contract	-4	-4	-4	
BDC Reg Client	Keep my place safe & looking good	Savings realised due to efficiencies within the service	-35	-35	-35	
Environmental Services	Keep my place safe & looking good	Additional savings generated from service review	-42	-36	-34	Additional savings generated from service review
TOTAL			-125	-119	-117	

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EVENING & WEEKEND CAR PARKING TASK GROUP

INTERIM REPORT



January 2016



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

Background

At its meeting held on 24th August 2015 the Overview and Scrutiny Board considered a topic proposal entitled Review of Evening Car Parking which had been submitted by Councillors Karen May and Luke Mallett, the aim of investigation was to assist officers in evaluating the success of the trial of free evening car parking which had been implemented in February 2015, with the possibility of recommendations being made for future car parking arrangements.

During discussions at that meeting Members were advised that a Task Group review of evening car parking would investigate use of the car parks during the evenings and the impact that this had had on the night time economy. It was envisaged that Members would consult with both local businesses and residents to ascertain the impact that free parking had had on the local economy and whether this free parking provision represented value for money for local tax payers. A review would also explore the potential for alternative parking arrangements to be introduced in the town. Following discussion the Board agreed that a Task Group review of this subject would provide information which could help the Cabinet when reviewing the outcomes of the trial and it was on this basis that Members agreed that the Task Group should be launched. It was also agreed that a report would be brought back to the Board in January 2016 before being presented to the Cabinet at its February 2016 meeting, which would be in time for the final budget setting process to be completed.

The Task Group is made up of 5 Members:

Councillor Karen May (Chairman)
Councillor Margaret Buxton
Councillor Malcolm Glass
Councillor Sean Shannon
Councillor Shirley Webb

The Task Group held its first meeting on 30th September when it discussed how best to carry out its investigations. A number of key witnesses were identified together with data which was requested from the appropriate sources. It quickly became apparent from the work already carried out at the early stages of the investigations that an assessment of the success of the introduction of the free evening car parking was difficult to measure and any recommendations would have to be based on assumptions and anecdotal evidence.

This led the Members of the Group to unanimously agree that car parking as a whole needed to be reviewed in order to widen the area of benefit to residents and contribute to economic growth for the local traders and the district as a whole. The Task Group was mindful that part of the regeneration of the Town Centre will impact on car parking provision and believe that it would be prudent to undertake a full review at this time in order to ensure that going forward the Council's car parks meet the needs of both visitors to the Town Centre and the traders.

The Task Group therefore requested, at the Overview & Scrutiny Board meeting on 23rd November, an amendment to its terms of reference together with an extension

Agenda Item 7

of the time to complete its work. Following discussion the Board agreed to amend the Task Group's remit to cover Evening and Weekend Car Parking and to extend its timescale for completion to March 2016, with an interim report being produced in January 2016.

To date the Task Group has held 7 meetings and interviewed the following witnesses:

Kevin Hirons - Environmental Services Manager
Martin Ashcroft – Partnerships & Projects Manager

Councillor Geoff Denaro – Portfolio Holder for Finance
Councillor Peter Whittaker – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

Representative from the Older People's Forum
Representative from the Bromsgrove High Street Improvement Forum

At the time of writing the Task Group Members have also arranged to attend a meeting of the Bromsgrove Town Team (14th January 2016) and are looking to interview a number of other witnesses, including officers and Councillors. It is likely that it will also invite Councillors Denaro and Whittaker to attend further meetings as the Task Group begins to formulate its recommendations.

From the work carried out so far the Task Group has broken down its findings into 4 categories and this report contains details of two potential recommendations and a number of salient points (more detailed comments and evidence will be provided in the final report) which will formulate the basis of the evidence supporting those and any further recommendations it makes when presenting its final report in March 2016. It should also be noted that each recommendation will include supporting evidence together with any legal, financial and resource implications.

What is the Council's Strategic Approach to its Car Parks?

Following its investigations it has become apparent to the Group that there is no car parking strategy which provides clear guidance on the purpose of the Council's car parks. The main points arising from this are whether it is purely an income stream for the Council or whether it is a tool to be used to support economic development of the town centre. Whilst it is understood that this will be a balance of the two elements it would be useful to all concerned to have this written down in order for Environmental Services and the Economic Development team to be able to work together to meet the needs of all concerned.

It is likely therefore that the Group will put forward a recommendation along the lines of the following:

Recommendation
The Council needs to formulate a clear strategy for car parking as soon as possible.

Data

When the original report was put before Cabinet on 7th January 2015, suggesting the 12 month trial of free evening car parking, it was made clear that it would be difficult to monitor the success of such a scheme, due to a large number of variables. The suggestion was made that either the Town Centre Regeneration Team or the Economic Development Team could assist with any form of monitoring the impact on the night time economy.

From the Group's investigations to date; it is clear that there is no efficient way of monitoring the impact of the free parking trial or assessing whether it has been a success or what the financial impact to the Council has been. The Group has been well supported by the Environmental Services Manager and he has been able to provide a variety of data which has been requested, however this has been both difficult and time consuming for him due to the system and the way that the pay and display car parks are set up. It is believed the Council is the only Council which, as change is not given, allows these car parks to take account of the amount paid and provides extra "time" on tickets, in 10 minute intervals.

It is likely therefore that the Group will put forward a recommendation along the lines of the following:

Recommendation
Prior to any further trials (of any nature) being carried out the necessary data should be collated in order to have appropriate comparative information available to ensure that any such trial can be measured successfully.

Consultation

At an early stage of the investigation the Group were in agreement that they needed to consult with both residents and local traders to get their views on car parking in Bromsgrove. An online questionnaire was set up and promoted through the Council's website, a press release and the Together Bromsgrove magazine. The Group have been disappointed with the number of responses received and do not feel that, at the moment, there is sufficient evidence from those responses to support any recommendations. Further details and copies of the questionnaire will be provided in the final report.

The Group discovered, shortly after issuing a press release on the consultation, that a survey was also being carried out by the Bromsgrove High Street Improvement Forum. After making a number of enquiries it was discovered that this group had been set up by a number of local residents who were keen to promote the Town Centre and support the local high street. The Group were able to make contact with a representative of the Forum and who subsequently attended a meeting of the Task Group. She informed the Group that the Forum had already received over 450 responses to its survey and provided details of the areas covered by it (largely retail related and car parking) and a summary of the responses. Following discussions she was happy to provide the Group with the final results of the survey (which was open until 20th December). The Group were appreciative of this and assured her that credit would be given to the Forum within the content of the final report.

At the time of writing the Group are awaiting sight of those final results, but from the information already provided they are hopeful that these will go some way towards provide supporting evidence for further recommendations.

Charges and Concessions

As detailed in the Data section of this report, the Group are having difficulties in being able to assess whether free evening car parking has been a success. From the consultation responses and from anecdotal evidence provided by a number of witnesses, the Group are in the process of considering a number of other options covering both charges and concession schemes for car parking. More detailed investigation and costings need to be carried out before any firm recommendations or observations can be provided. However, these have been briefly discussed with both the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Environmental Services and the Group were encouraged by the responses given. As these ideas are at an early stage the Group feel that it would be inappropriate at this time to provide any further details.

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CABINET LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 FEBRUARY 2016 TO 31 MAY 2016

(published as at 1 January 2016)

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

(NB: There may be occasions when the Cabinet may make recommendations to Council for a final decision e.g. to approve a new policy or variation to the approved budget.)

Whilst the majority of the Cabinet's business at the meetings listed in the Work Programme will be open to the public and media organisations to attend, there will inevitably be some business to be considered that contains confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information.. This is called exempt information. Members of the public and media may be asked to leave the meeting when such information is discussed.

If an item is likely to contain exempt information we show this on the Work Programme. You can make representations to us if you consider an item or any of the documents listed should be open to the public.

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

Key Decisions are those executive decisions which are likely to:

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

Key Decisions will include:

1. A decision which would result in any expenditure or saving by way of a reduction in expenditure of £50,000 provided the expenditure or saving is specifically approved in the Medium Term Financial Plan.
2. A virement of any amount exceeding £50,000 provided it is within any virement limits approved by the Council;
3. Any proposal to dispose of any Council asset with a value of £50,000 or more or which is otherwise considered significant by the Corporate Property Officer;
4. Any proposal to cease to provide a Council service (other than a temporary cessation of service of not more than 6 months).
5. Any proposal which would discriminate for or against any minority group.

The Work Programme is available for inspection free of charge at Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove, B61 8DA from 9am to 5pm Mondays to Fridays; or on the Council's web-site www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

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

The Cabinet's meetings are normally held every four weeks at 6pm on Wednesday evenings at Parkside. They are open to the public, except when confidential information is being discussed. If you wish to attend for a particular matter, it is advisable to check with the Democratic Services Team on (01527 881409) to make sure it is going ahead as planned. If you have any queries Democratic Services Officers will be happy to advise you.

The full Council meets in accordance with the Councils Calendar of Meetings. Meetings commence at 6pm.

CABINET MEMBERSHIP

Councillor M. A. Sherrey	Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Community Safety and Partnerships
Councillor C. B. Taylor	Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning Services and Housing
Councillor G. N. Denaro	Portfolio Holder for Finance, ICT, HR and Enabling Services
Councillor R. L. Dent	Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Regeneration and the Town Centre
Councillor R. J. Laight	Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Cultural Services
Councillor P. J. Whittaker	Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Regulatory Services

Decision Including Whether it is a Key Decision	Decision Taker including Details of Exempt Information (if any)	Date of Decision	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Capital Budget consideration	<i>Cabinet (possible recommendations to Council</i>	3 February 2016	Report of the Executive Director Finance and Resources	Jayne Pickering 01527 881400 Councillor G Denaro
High Street Refurbishment Phase 2 consideration of Options Key Decision	Cabinet	3 February 2016	Report of the Chief Executive	Kevin Dicks 01527 881484 Councillor R. Dent
New Homes Bonus Scheme – to consider the future scheme	Cabinet <i>(May be recommendations to Council)</i>	3 February 2016	Report of the Executive Director Finance and Resources	Jayne Pickering 01527 881400 Councillor G. Denaro
Medium Term Financial Plan	Cabinet	3 February 2016	Report of the Executive Director Finance and Resources	Jayne Pickering 01527 881400 Councillor G. Denaro
Burcot Lodge Hostel, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove – future options	Cabinet	3 February 2016	Report of the Head of Community Services/Executive Director Finance and Resources	Jayne Pickering 01527 881400 Judith Willis 01527 534149 Councillors Denaro/Taylor

Decision Including Whether it is a Key Decision	Decision Taker including Details of Exempt Information (if any)	Date of Decision	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
CCTV Code of Practice	Cabinet	3 February 2016	Report of the Head of Community Services	Judith Willis 01527 534149 Councillor M Sherrey
Budget and Council Tax Recommendations	Cabinet <i>(recommendations to Council)</i>	24 February 2016	Report of the Executive Director Finance and Resources	Jayne Pickering 01527 881400 Councillor G. Denaro
Council Tax Support Scheme	Cabinet	2 March 2016	Report of the Head of Customer Access and Financial Support	Amanda De Warr 01527 881421 Councillor G Denaro
Modifications to the Bromsgrove District Local Plan	Cabinet <i>(recommendations to Council)</i>	TBC	Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration	Mike Dunphy Strategic Planning Manager 01527 881325 Councillor K. Taylor

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Agenda Item 9

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

WORK PROGRAMME

2015-16

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board considers and agrees the work programme and updates it accordingly.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Date of Meeting	Subject	Additional Information
18/01/16	Budget Report for Scrutiny	
	O&S Work Programme	
	Action List	
	Cabinet Work Programme	
	Evening Car Parking Task Group – Interim Report	
	Increasing Physical Activity Joint Scrutiny Task Group – update	
	Burcot Lodge emergency Homeless Unit – Financial Implications Update Report	Requested at meeting 26/10/15
29/02/16	Staff Survey – Update	Requested following presentation at February 2015 meeting.
	O&S Work Programme	
	Action List	
	Cabinet Work Programme	
	Planning Application Backlog Data	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
21/03/16	Quarter 3 Finance Monitoring Report	
	Crime & Disorder Partnership Scrutiny	It is a statutory requirement for the Board to hold at least one meeting a year to scrutinise this partnership.
	O&S Work Programme	
	Action List	
	Cabinet Work Programme	

Agenda Item 9

Date of Meeting	Subject	Additional Information
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
25/04/16	O&S Work Programme	
	Action List	
	Cabinet Work Programme	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Quarterly Recommendation Tracker	

Updates Received - Monthly

The Council's representative on the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (who must be a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Board) provides a verbal update to the Board each month.

Reports to be Received by the Board - dates to be confirmed

Budget Scrutiny
Write Off of Debts – Annually
Sickness Absence Performance - Annually
Making Experiences Count - Annually

Reports to be Received by the Board Annually

Summary of Environmental Enforcement (March 2016 meeting)

Scrutiny of Crime & Disorder Partnership

The Board must hold at least one meeting at which it considers the scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Partnership. Appropriate date to be agreed (previously looked at in March 2015.)

Items for inclusion at future meetings if the Board feels these are appropriate areas to give further consideration to:

1. Staff Survey – Update following request for further information at February 2015 meeting.
2. Invite Peter Pinfield from Worcestershire Health Watch to a future meeting (as discussed at meeting held on 20th July 2015).

Agenda Item 9

Areas for further discussion and possible inclusion within the Work Programme

- Community Transport facilities
- Planning Issues – Particularly enforcement
- Local Plan Development
- Residential developments causing traffic problems
- Social Housing issues
- Lack of affordable social housing for young people
- BDHT addressing issues re sites.
- Youth provision
- Sports hall for badminton
- Parking availability/charges/policy
- Town Centre shops
- Town Centre Regeneration

When considering topics for investigations Members may wish to take into account the Council's Strategic Purposes as detailed below:

Our Strategic Purposes for Bromsgrove



Help me to live my life independently

Help me to be financially independent

Keep my place safe & looking good

Help me find somewhere to live in my locality

Provide good things for me to see, do & visit

Help me run a successful business

Support services enable us to deliver our purposes

Bromsgrove District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

For more information view the Council Plan at:
<http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/cms/council-and-democracy/council-plan.aspx>