



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2015 AT 4.00 P.M.

THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BURCOT LANE, BROMSGROVE

MEMBERS: Councillors M. A. Sherrey (Leader), C. B. Taylor (Deputy Leader), G. N. Denaro, R. L. Dent, R. J. Laight and P. J. Whittaker

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest

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 meetings of the Cabinet held on 2nd September 2015 (attached) and 23rd September 2015 (to follow) (Pages 1 - 4)
4. Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 24th August 2015 (Pages 5 - 14)
 - (a) To receive and note the minutes
 - (b) To consider any recommendations contained within the minutes
5. New Homes Bonus - Consideration of the Recommendations from the New Homes Bonus Grants Panel (Pages 15 - 58)
6. Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan (Pages 59 - 94)
7. Disposal of Council owned Assets at Hanover Street/George House (Pages 95 - 106)

8. 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
9. To consider, and if considered appropriate, to pass the following resolution to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of item(s) of business containing exempt information:-

"RESOLVED: that under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended, the relevant paragraph of that part, in each case, being as set out below, and that it is in the public interest to do so:-

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>	
10	3	"

10. Disposal of Council Owned Assets at Hanover Street/George House (Pages 107 - 200)

K. DICKS
Chief Executive

The Council House
Burcot Lane
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

29th September 2015

Agenda Item 3

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

2ND SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors M. A. Sherrey (Leader), G. N. Denaro, R. L. Dent, R. J. Laight and P. J. Whittaker

Observers: Councillor S. R. Colella, Councillor M. Glass and Councillor C. J. Spencer

Officers: Ms. J. Pickering, Ms. C. Flanagan, Mr. M. Hanwell and Ms. A. Scarce

24/15 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

25/15 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

26/15 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1st July 2015 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1st July 2015 be approved as a correct record.

27/15 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 22nd June 2015 and 20th July 2015 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 22nd June 2015 and 20th July 2015 be noted.

28/15 **AUDIT, STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee held on 16th July 2015 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee held on 16th July 2015 be noted.

29/15 **WORCESTERSHIRE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE**

Members further considered the minutes of the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee in conjunction with a report in respect of Home Office Code of Practice on the Exercise of Powers of entry. Following a short discussion it was

RESOLVED that consideration be given by partner authorities to adopt a similar approach for their retained regulator service elements to ensure consistency of operation in all regulatory fields' across the authorities in Worcestershire and to support joint operational working.

30/15 **CHARGING FOR STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, ICT, HR and Enabling Services presented the report and the cost of providing the service would be divided equally between Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils, giving an estimated income of £16k in the first twelve months, which would give a net profit to the Council of approximately £2.5k. Further explanation was provided in respect of the charging structure as detailed in the proposed schedule of fees.

RECOMMENDED that

- (a) Sections 64 and 65 of the Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847 and Sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 be adopted by the Council;
- (b) Charges for the discretionary element of Street Naming and Numbering be introduced and that the fees set out at Appendix 1 be adopted; and
- (c) Authority be delegated to the Head of Transformation and Organisational Development, to make the necessary amendments to the Street Naming and Numbering Policy resulting from the decision at (a) and (b) above.

31/15 **FINANCE MONITORING QUARTER 1 REPORT 2015/16**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, ICT, HR and Enabling Services presented the report and in doing so explained that this was the first quarter report in a new format. The addition of an extra line giving the split for income and expenditure produced net figures and this had been requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Board. It was acknowledged that whilst it would take time to get used to the report being structured around the Strategic Purposes, rather than departments, the information now provided was much more helpful and gave Members a more detailed overview of the financial position and highlighted more easily any areas that may be of concern.

The Executive Director, Finance and Resources provided background detail in respect of the current position within Development Control, and provided a good example of the being able to identify potential problem areas from the new format of the report. Explanations were provided within the commentary but Members were also able to see in more detail the position and request further information in necessary. The next quarter would provide a much

better view as to the expected financial position of the Council at the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the current financial position on Review and Capital as detailed in the report.

RECOMMENDED that the 2015/16 Capital Programme be increased by £40k to include a Section 106 funded project for financial support towards the South Bromsgrove High School 3G Astro Turf pitch.

32/15

LEASEHOLD ISSUES AT SHERWOOD ROAD, BROMSGROVE

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, ICT, HR and Enabling Services provided Members with relevant background information and explained the Council's current position in respect of this very complicated report and responded to questions from Members, in respect of the following areas:

- The original lease being for 35 years – this had been standard practice at that time (1984/5) and not unusual.
- The review of properties carried out in 2009 and advice received from Worcestershire County Council on the commercial property market.
- The history of the lease as detailed within the report.
- Current financial costs to the Council together with anticipated future costs.
- The current condition of the units and whether further costs would be incurred in respect of this.
- The options available to the Council to mitigate those costs and the legal advice that had been received.

The Principal Solicitor explained the legal position in further detail, informing Members that the current Lessee had claimed unpaid rent from the Council as this was more advantageous than pursuing the current subtenant for the debt and was within the Lessee's rights under section 17 of the Landlord and Tenants (Covenants) Act 1995.

It was confirmed that the Council had investigated all options in order to bring this matter to a satisfactory and cost effective conclusion. However, it was highlighted to Members that should they decide to take the practical steps to intervene and manage the property an opportunity would be available to use the units for the benefit of a wide range of customers, for example as business start-up units or under other schemes which may benefit business in Bromsgrove and that rental income received would reduce the financial exposure of the Council.

RECOMMENDED that Council set aside £265k from revenue balances to cover the expenses that the Council will incur due to its obligations under the current lease arrangements (£200K) together with estimates to fund potential dilapidation costs (£60k) and any legal costs arising from the steps set out in (a) below (£5k).

RESOLVED subject to Council agreeing the financial provision of £265k that

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Cabinet
2nd September 2015

- (a) approval to the Council for and entering into an overriding lease of Sherwood Road Industrial Estate (33-51 Sherwood Road) and if the Sublessee (LNX) continues not to pay the rent due under the sublease to take steps to forfeit or agree a surrender of the sub-lease and take on responsibility for managing the existing occupying tenants;
- (b) authority be delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to take the steps necessary to implement (a) above; and
- (c) the Cabinet note the contents of the report.

(During consideration of this item Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed relating to business and financial affairs. However, there is nothing exempt in this record of the proceedings.)

33/15

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

The confidential minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1st July 2015 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the confidential minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1st July 2015 be approved as a correct record.

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.

Chairman

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

24TH AUGUST 2015 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors L. C. R. Mallett (Chairman), K.J. May (Vice-Chairman), 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 S. A. Webb

Invitees: Councillor G. N. Denaro, Councillor C. B. Taylor, Councillor P. J. Whittaker and Councillor S. P. Shannon

Officers: Ms. J. Pickering, Mr. G. Revans, Mr. D. Allen, Mrs. H. L. Plant, Ms. A. Scarce and Ms. J. Bayley

27/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMES SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor C. Allen-Jones. It was confirmed that Councillor S. Webb was attending as his substitute.

28/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor L. C. R. Mallett declared an other disclosable interest in agenda item No. 6 due to his involvement with representatives of Whitford Vale Voice, a campaign group that had opposed a planning application for housing development on Whitford Road.

29/15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 20th July 2015 were submitted.

Reference was made to discussions at the previous meeting of the Board regarding Primary Care commissioning and GP access, particularly in boarder areas of the county. Councillor J. M. L. A. Griffiths commented that whilst patients living in Alvechurch had experienced problems in this regard progress had been made in recent months and it was likely that this was now more of a problem in other parts of the district.

Members noted that at the previous meeting a request had been made for the Chief Executive of Bromsgrove District Council to write to the Chief Executive and Medical Director of NHS Arden Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Officers explained that this action would be undertaken shortly.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 20th July 2015 be approved as a correct record.

30/15

IMPACT OF WHITFORD ROAD PLANNING DECISION - SCRUTINY TOPIC PROPOSAL REPORT

The Chairman advised the Board that whilst any Member of the Council could propose an item for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, there were legal restrictions regarding scrutiny of planning and licensing applications. These legal requirements needed to be taken into account when considering any proposals to review planning matters; Overview and Scrutiny Members therefore needed to focus on policy and procedures and not on matters that were subject to a separate quasi-judicial process.

Councillor S. R. Colella proceeded to present a scrutiny topic proposal containing terms of reference for a proposed review of the impact of the Whitford Road planning decision on Council services. During presentation of this document he highlighted the following points for the Board's consideration:

- The outcomes of planning appeals and the implications for Council services and finances.
- The need to learn lessons as an organisation following appeal decisions.
- The interest of residents in planning developments within the district and surrounding areas.
- The influence of advice from Worcestershire County Council's (WCC) Highways team on planning applications.
- The potential for a Task Group to investigate this matter in detail.

Following presentation of this topic proposal Councillor C. B. Taylor, as Portfolio Holder for Planning Services and Housing, outlined current developments that had implications for the Planning Department, which included a review of the modelling approach used by the Highways Department. Officers from Bromsgrove District Council were being consulted as part of this process so that the implications for Council services, including the Planning Department, could be taken into account.

Members discussed the potential for a Task Group to investigate this matter further. The timing of the review was questioned as it was noted that a briefing was due to be delivered to all Members regarding planning matters the following evening. Concerns were also raised that it might be difficult for a district scrutiny exercise to review the county Highways Department, and it was suggested that a review of this nature could be referred to WCC's Overview and Scrutiny Committees for consideration.

In view of the legal requirements Members concurred that it was not possible to reach a decision about whether to launch a Task Group based on the content of the topic proposal form. For this reason the Board agreed that Councillor Colella should redraft the proposal, focusing on policy and procedural matters.

RESOLVED that Councillor Colella review the content of the topic proposal form and resubmit the proposal for the consideration of the Board at a later date.

31/15

FINANCE BRIEFING - PRESENTATION

The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources delivered financial awareness training. During the delivery of this presentation the following matters were highlighted for Members' consideration:

- A new approach to presenting Financial Monitoring Reports had been requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Board the previous year and Members' suggestions had helped to inform the new report style.
- The reports would include a breakdown of financial information in relation to the Council's strategic purposes.
- Support services, such as Financial Services, would be recorded within sections of the financial monitoring report dedicated to enabling. Members were advised that enabling services accounted for £6.5 million of Council expenditure.
- Developments with regard to business rates and the proportion that could be retained by the district Council.
- The involvement of Bromsgrove District Council in a business rates pool with other authorities in the Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area.
- The potential financial impact of business rate appeals, particularly those involving GP surgeries following a test case at the national level which resulted in a 40 per cent reduction on the business rates required from that practice.
- The number of GP surgeries in Bromsgrove district and the potential impact on Council finances of any future appeals. Members were advised that Officers were undertaking a review of this matter.
- A reduction of 51 per cent in the level of the revenue support grant provided by the Government to local authorities and the expectation that this grant would cease to be provided in future years.
- Reductions in the Living Support Grant provided to Councils and an assumption that this would decrease by a further 20 per cent in the year ahead.
- The referendum level for increases in Council Tax levels.
- Capital expenditure and the limited number of capital receipts held by the council.
- Future plans for the Council to borrow to cover the costs of large capital projects such the new Dolphin Centre.
- The level of balances held by the Council. Members were advised that the Council's balances were currently £4.03 million, though £1 million of this sum would be allocated to covering the costs of borrowing.
- The level of reserves held by the Council. Some of these reserves were due to be used for specific projects such as to replenish the Council's fleet of vehicles for Environmental Services.
- The New Homes Bonus. No assumptions had been made that the New Homes Bonus Community Scheme would continue beyond 2015/16,

though Members could agree to do so as part of the budget setting process.

- A new financial management system had been introduced for the Council and information arising from this system would inform reports to Committee.
- Heads of Service were meeting with the Council's accountants on a monthly basis. This would enable the Council to assess the reasons for both savings and any overspends.
- In future Officers were aiming to present quarterly updates on the Council's business rates to enable Members to assess the impact of appeals on the local authority's finances.

Members thanked Officers for the presentation and expressed appreciation for the amendments that had been made to the financial monitoring report.

Councillor S. R. Colella left the meeting at 6.52 pm.

32/15

PLANNING APPLICATION BACKLOG DATA

The Area Planning Manager presented a report which provided an update on the backlog at the Council in terms of resolving outstanding planning applications. As requested at the previous meeting when this report had been considered, in March 2015, comparable data for Redditch had been provided regarding the level of demand from customers. Members were advised that as of 24th August the backlog had fallen to 24 planning applications.

Combined data for Bromsgrove and Redditch had also been provided for each week for the period January to August 2015 in the report. Members suggested that it would be useful in future to receive this data for Bromsgrove only to enable Members to assess the trends for the district.

The implementation of service transformation by the Planning Department compared to other Councils was also briefly discussed. Officers explained that the Council was learning from colleagues at other local authorities as part of this process. Service transformation was designed to enable the Planning Department to focus on improving the service for the customer and removing any processes that did not add value from the customer's perspective. This transformation process would continue to be implemented for the foreseeable future.

33/15

DISPOSAL OF BURCOT LODGE EMERGENCY HOMELESS UNIT - BRIEFING PAPER

The Strategic Housing Manager presented a briefing paper on the subject of the disposal of Burcot Lodge emergency housing unit. Members were advised that Burcot Lodge was owned by the Council with Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT) using the property to provide emergency housing for people at risk of being made homeless.

Burcot Lodge formed part of the Council House site. Following the Council's move to Parkside a decision would need to be taken about the future uses of

this site. There was the potential that the site would be sold to a developer, though it would take some time for this to progress, particularly as any new developments would require planning permission. In the meantime Burcot Lodge would remain open. It was highlighted that BDHT had a further 39 units, located within the district, which could also be used to house people at risk of becoming homeless.

A number of options were being considered in terms of housing provision for people at risk of homelessness which could replace Burcot Lodge. This included the potential to work with neighbouring local authorities such as Birmingham City Council or Redditch Borough Council. Officers were in regular contact with representatives of BDHT and were aware of the need to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

The latest figures available for Burcot Lodge indicated that there was a 42 per cent occupancy rate at the property. Members acknowledged that homelessness numbers could fluctuate over time, depending on the economy and the circumstances of individuals. However, it was suggested that this 42 per cent occupancy rate could mean that in future alternative forms of provision might meet local need.

Councillor S. P. Shannon, attending in his capacity as the Member who had proposed a Task Group review of this subject, reminded the Board that the Council had a statutory responsibility to provide housing to people at risk of homelessness. Concerns were expressed that a resolution, concerning the future of Burcot Lodge, had not yet been identified despite progress with the Council's future move to Parkside. It was also suggested that hostel and bed and breakfast accommodation would not be ideal solutions, though Officers assured Members that traditionally bed and breakfast accommodation was used as a last resort in the district.

Members briefly discussed each of the options presented within the report. The Board agreed that in order to make an accurate assessment of these options it would be useful to consider the financial information underpinning some of these options. Members were advised that this would need to take place in confidential session. The Board also noted that it would be useful to review a timeline for the potential disposal of the Council House site which included when replacement services would need to be in place and how long it would take to secure provision.

The Board discussed the potential to launch a Task Group review to assess the disposal of Burcot Lodge. It was suggested that private Task Group meetings would be a more suitable environment in which to consider the subject. A small group of Councillors could also dedicate time to consideration of the matter, supported by officers, and identify a potential solution to an issue that would need to be resolved quickly. However, it was also suggested that the Board was in just as good a position to assess potential options and could make informed recommendations to Cabinet based on consideration of further information.

RESOLVED that the financial costs involved in delivering each of the options that could replace Burcot Lodge, together with further information about the timeline available to resolve this issue, be provided for consideration at a future meeting of the Board.

34/15

CHURCHFIELDS CAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS - BRIEFING PAPER

The Head of Environmental Services explained that no briefing paper had been provided for the Board's consideration as a decision had been made at Leader's Group to defer consideration of a report on the subject of Churchfield Car Park improvements. This would provide time for Portfolio Holders to visit and assess the condition of the car park and for Officers to undertake further work in relation to this matter.

However, it had been considered prudent to present the report into the security of Churchfields Car Park, produced by the Crime Prevention Design Advisor for West Mercia Police, to the board. Cabinet Members had recognised that the Overview and Scrutiny Board might be in a position to make useful suggestions about the car park based on the content of the security assessment.

Future options for the management of the car park were briefly discussed by the Board. There was the potential for the car park to be cleaned, although officers noted that cleaning work had been carried out in the past without deterring anti-social behaviour. The actions proposed in the security report could help to restrict the access of people causing anti-social behaviour; however, these actions would entail significant financial expenditure of approximately £50,000 by the Council. The suggestion was also made that consideration should be given to selling the land in which the car park was located or using it for alternative purposes as the number of customers using the car park was lower than for other car parks in the town centre.

In the long-term the intention was to provide the top floor of the car park for staff parking once the Council had moved to Parkside. However, questions were raised about the extent to which staff would feel comfortable about parking in the car park without action first being taken to address the anti-social behaviour. Concerns were also expressed that staff might be tempted to park in residential areas close to Parkside which might not be welcomed by local residents.

Members concurred that further information was required before any recommendations could be made on this subject. For this reason, following further debate, Members

RESOLVED that, subject to the timing of a report to Cabinet on this subject, a further briefing paper concerning Churchfields Car Park improvements be presented for consideration at a future meeting of the Board.

35/15

EVENING CAR PARKING - SCRUTINY TOPIC PROPOSAL REPORT

The Chairman presented a scrutiny Topic Proposal form containing the terms of reference for a suggested review of the evening car parking scheme that had been introduced in Bromsgrove in February 2015. The terms of reference had been jointly proposed by the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, who had been assured that the proposed review would be helpful to the Council and had the support of the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

Members were advised that a Task Group review of evening car parking could investigate use of the car parks during the evenings and the impact that this had had on the night time economy. Members could 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 could also explore the potential for alternative parking arrangements to be introduced in the town.

The timing of the review was briefly discussed by the Board. Members noted that if a Task Group review was launched in September the trial would have reached the mid-stage point. By undertaking a review at this stage Members could obtain information about demand for free evening parking during the autumn as well as the winter and this would ensure that the feedback provided did not just take into account parking during the peak Christmas period. The Board noted that in order to assess demand for free parking during the evenings effectively Members would need to consult with both customers and businesses directly.

The financial costs involved in providing free parking during the evenings were also considered by the Board. Officers explained that the main costs related to the loss of revenue from the free parking provision in the evenings. However, there had been no additional financial outlay to fund the scheme.

On balance the Board concurred that a Task Group review of this subject would provide information which could help the Cabinet when reviewing the outcomes of the trial. On this basis Members agreed that the Task Group should be launched.

The financial costs involved in launching a review were considered and Members noted that Members of the Task Group would be eligible for a one off payment of £106 (except for the Chairman of the review who would receive £200) as well as to claim allowances for any travel expenses incurred during the review. To ensure that the financial costs entailed in undertaking a review of this matter were limited the Board agreed that a maximum of 5 Members should be appointed to the Task Group.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the proposed Review of Evening Car Parking Task Group be approved;
- (b) Councillor K. J. May be appointed Chairman of this Task Group; and

- (c) A maximum of 5 Members, including the Chairman, take part in this Task Group review to be appointed on a first come first serve basis.

36/15

INCREASING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY JOINT SCRUTINY TASK GROUP - VERBAL UPDATE

Councillor J. M. L. A. Griffiths, the Council's representative on the Increasing Physical Activity Joint Scrutiny Task Group, provided a verbal update on the progress of the review.

The Board was advised that the first meeting of the Task Group had taken place. During this meeting Members had discussed the terms of reference for the review and considered the background to the investigation. A key consideration would be the role of Worcestershire County Council in relation to promoting physical activity and the links to public health. Members would soon be meeting again to participate in a health walk in Worcester.

An objective of the review was to assess the extent to which there was an Olympic legacy in the county. It was acknowledged that this would be a difficult subject to assess, however, the Task Group would be investigating the matter further. Members also suggested that it would be useful for the Task Group to consider the impact of increasing fees on the ability of sports groups and clubs to meet in Bromsgrove district.

37/15

ACTION LIST

Officers explained that there were two outstanding items listed on the Board's Action List. One of these items concerned the proposed changes to the Quarterly Monitoring of Write Offs report, which would be resolved once the next report had been presented for the consideration of the Board.

38/15

CABINET WORK PROGRAMME 1ST SEPTEMBER TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015

The Board was advised that the Update on the Lease at Sherwood Road Industrial Estate would be considered at the meeting of Cabinet in September, not in October as had been recorded in the Work Programme. However, Members would still have an opportunity to consider this item as the report would need to be referred to Council.

39/15

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Board noted that a date needed to be selected for consideration of further information about the disposal of Burcot Lodge. Members took into account that a report on this subject was scheduled for the consideration of Cabinet in December. For this reason and, due to the length of the agenda scheduled for the September meeting of the Board, Members agreed that this item should be revisited in October 2015.

There was general consensus that the Fees and Charges report should be considered by the Board in the form of pre-scrutiny prior to consideration by

Agenda Item 4

Overview and Scrutiny Board
24th August 2015

Cabinet. The Chairman assured Members that, whilst not listed on the Board's Work Programme, this item would be addressed as part of the budget scrutiny process in 2015/16. However, Officers commented that in order to ensure that Officers had sufficient time to present the content of this report for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Board prior to Cabinet this item might need to be postponed until later in the year.

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

Chairman

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CABINET

7th October 2015

NHB COMMUNITY GRANTS PANEL

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Geoff Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering, Executive Director Finance & Resources
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to allow Cabinet to consider the findings and recommendations of the NHB Community Grants Panel.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Cabinet agree the grants, as detailed in the Summary of NHB Grants Panel Recommendations attached at appendix 1;**
- 2.2 **that the remaining balance of the £87,000 earmarked for the Grants Panel be carried over for 2016/17 HNB Grants process; and**
- 2.3 **Cabinet give consideration as part of the budget process to earmarking funds for the 2016/17 NHB Community Grants Scheme with a view to a further round of NHB Community Grants to take place in 2016.**

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Following a petition to Council in April 2014 in relation to use of the funding received from the New Homes Bonus (NHB) Grant a NHB Working Group was established which included the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council, the Finance Portfolio Holder, the Labour Group Leader and the Leader of the Independent Alliance. The Group was requested to review the NHB funding, consider options for its use and seek input from the public into their review, before report back to Cabinet and Council on their final proposals.
- 3.2 The NHB Working Group presented a report to Cabinet at its meeting on 7th January 2015 when consideration was given to a draft scheme with a request for the approval of a percentage of the additional New Homes Bonus grant received in 2015/16 to be used with an appropriate percentage/amount of New Homes Bonus to be allocated to the

CABINET

7th October 2015

scheme as part of the budget setting process to be considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan process.

- 3.3 From the scheme the grants were broken down into 2 categories, those of £4,999 and under and those between £5,000 and £17,400 (which was the maximum for any one application). Appropriate applications were designed and full detailed placed on the Council's website.
- 3.4 Applications were invited over the period from 7th April to 29th May 2015, with the NHB Community Grants Panel meeting on 27th July 2015 to consider the applications at a public meeting. A summary of each application to be considered was provided and published in an agenda, together with a timetable of when each application would be considered. The applicants were given the opportunity to present their applications and respond to questions from the Panel. The Panel Members were provided with a scoring matrix form to complete for each applicant. Following the public meeting the Panel Members met in private to consider the applications in detail and review the process.
- 3.5 The applicants were informed of the NHB Community Grants Panel's recommendations on 1st September 2015 with those recommendations also being published on the Council's website. A summary of each applications scoring matrix (as completed by the Panel Members) was included within that summary of the recommendations.

Financial Implications

- 3.6 As detailed in Appendix 1 £63,160 of grants has been recommended by the Panel to be approved by Members. This results in a balance of £23,840 to be made available. The proposal is that this be utilised to support a New Homes Bonus Grants Scheme in 2017/18. At the present time there is no other funding that has been identified for 2016/17 and it is assumed this will be addressed as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan review.

Legal Implications

- 3.7 There are no direct legal implications as a result of the grants being approved.

Service / Operational Implications

CABINET

7th October 2015

- 3.8 The allocation of funding will support the provision of projects within local communities and do not impact on the operational services provided by the Council.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.9 The scheme allows all communities that are affected by growth to apply for a grant.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The annual scheme based on the additional funding received from NHB for each financial year mitigates the impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan and ensures that should NHB be revised in the future there is no future commitment from the Council.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Summary of NHB Grants Panel Recommendations
Appendix 2 - Summary of Scoring Matrix for Applications Over £5k
Appendix 3 – Summary of Scoring Matrix for Applications under £5k

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NHB Grants Scheme and FAQs

7. KEY

None

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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NEW HOMES BONUS COMMUNITY GRANTS PANEL

GRANTS SUMMARY

App No	Application Details	Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount of Grant to be Recommended
£4,999 and under				
1	Installation of 5 Painted Steel Benches	Cofton Hackett Parish Council	£4,999	£2,000
2	New chairs	Cofton Village Hall	£4,800	£2,000
3	4 New Planters	Cofton Hackett Parish Council	£4,800	£1,100
4	New Junior Cricket Ground	Bromsgrove Cricket Club	£1,500	£1,500
5	Replacement Bus Shelter	Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council	£4,900	£3,500
6	Improvements/Replacement/Repairs to Scout Hut	6 th Bromsgrove Scouts	£4,500	£3,000
7	Catshill Village Meadow Multi Use Facility	North West Ward Association	£2,560	£2,560
8	Assistance with Opening Further units	Walton District Guides	£4,999	Nil
9	Improvements to Toilet Facilities	Belbroughton Recreation Centre	£4,999	£2,500
10	Hopwood Community Centre Improvements	Alvechurch Parish Council	£2,500	Nil
11	Artificial Wicket	Belbroughton Cricket Club	£4,700	£2,500
TOTAL				£20,660
Between £5,000 and £17,400				
1	Club House Enhancement	Hagley Cricket Club	£17,400	£10,000
2	A Modern Catering Style Kitchen	Belbroughton Church Hall	£17,400	Nil
3	Improvements to Club Facilities (Phase 1)	Hagley Lawn Tennis Club	£17,400	£15,000
4	Alterations to new venue for youth activities.	Alvechurch Communities Together	£17,400	£12,500

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5	Supply and installation of Solar Panels	Catshill Village Hall	£10,000	Nil
6	New Footway Lighting	Wythall Parish Council	£7,381	Nil
7	Refurbishment of Two Rooms to Provide Further Patient Access	Hollyoaks Medical Centre	£15,000	£5,000
8	New Scout Hut	Hagley Ramblers Scout Group	£17,400	Nil
TOTAL				£42,500

TOTAL OF AMOUNTS AWARDED = £63,160

Agenda Item 5

NHB Community Grants Scheme 2015/6

Scoring Matrix – Grants £4,999 and under

SUMMARY of Panel comments & Scores from Individual Matrix Forms

Application 1

PROJECT NAME:	The installation of 5 steel benches
Organisation:	Cofton Hackett Parish Council
Amount of Funding Requested:	£4,999
Aim of Project:	To provide seating throughout the parish due to the increased number of residents walking in the area.
Location of Project:	Various locations in the parish.

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	YES
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£2,000
The Panel agreed to recommend the funding for 2 benches with the proviso that the Parish Council committed to fund the other 3 over the next 3 years and to cover the cost of on-going maintenance.	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	Yes Details provided on the form. Verbal details provided.	16
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	None given on form, but verbally provided. Provide good things for me to do see and visit.	6
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	Verbal Comply with health & safety Needs of wider community	12

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4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	Some colloquial evidence Photo evidence of damaged benches	14
5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	None Clarity as to who will maintain Cost to cover installation	14
Total Score out of 150		62

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SUMMARY of Panel comments & Scores from Individual Matrix Forms

Application 2

PROJECT NAME:	Chairs
Organisation:	Cofton
Amount of Funding Requested:	£4,800
Aim of Project:	To provide setting in the Village Hall
Location of Project:	Cofton Village Hall

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	YES
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£2,000
<p>Following discussion the Panel were happy to recommend a contribution of this amount towards a number of Chairs for the Village Hall, with the suggestion that the Parish Council also be approached with a view to funding from balances.</p>	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	None 700 planned 200 already Village has doubled?	13
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	Good things to do see and visit Keep my place safe and looking good None on form Verbally	8
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	Chairs currently old Verbally info provided	13
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	Hall well used No Chairs are 35 years old	13

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5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	No other funding Buy as and when funds are available No exploration of other funding	9
Total Score out of 150		56

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SUMMARY of Panel comments & Scores from Individual Matrix Forms

Application 3

PROJECT NAME:	New Planters
Organisation:	Cofton Hackett Parish Council
Amount of Funding Requested:	£4,800
Aim of Project:	To provide 4 new planters (and plants) in and around the estate
Location of Project:	In and around the estate

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	YES
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£1,100
The Panel agree to recommend the funding of 2 planters with the proviso that the flowers be provided by the Parish Council or from the Ward Members Fund and maintained by the Parish Council to a satisfactory standard.	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	None on application 200 already occupied	14
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	Provide good things to do see and visit	10
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	Look good	15
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	Not as such Anecdotal	11

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5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Parish Council to sustain Limited funding available	14
Total Score out of 150		64

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SUMMARY of Panel comments & Scores from Individual Matrix Forms

Application 4

PROJECT NAME:	New Junior Cricket Ground
Organisation:	Bromsgrove Cricket, Hockey and Tennis Club
Amount of Funding Requested:	£1,500
Aim of Project:	To allow players from additional age groups 9-14 years to play additional mid week and weekends without impacting on senior members.
Location of Project:	Land adjacent to existing site

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	YES
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£1,500
The Panel were happy to recommend the funding of the full amount of this application.	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	Yes No one in attendance at the meeting to respond to questions.	19
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	Provide good things to do see and visit	20
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	Detailed written application	18
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	Detailed written application	18

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5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Not asking for whole funding	17
Total Score out of 150		92

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SUMMARY of Panel comments & Scores from Individual Matrix Forms

Application 5

PROJECT NAME:	Replacement Bus Shelter
Organisation:	Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council
Amount of Funding Requested:	£4,900
Aim of Project:	To provide smart more modern bus shelters for waiting passengers and to encourage use of public transport and to improve the perception of the surrounding area.
Location of Project:	Adjacent to MuiMui Takeaway on A38

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	YES
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£3,500
<p>Following discussion, the Panel agreed to recommend the funding of this project, however it was believed that the provision of a bus shelter through Bromsgrove District Council would be more cost effective estimated at £3,500 and the recommendation is based on the Council providing and installing the bus shelter.</p>	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	Yes	17
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	Keep my place safe and looking good	19
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	Encourage the public to use public transport	16
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	Self evident Photos provided with application	16

Agenda Item 5

5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Query costs 4 shelters in total would take 8 years for Parish to fund.	14
Total Score out of 150		82

Agenda Item 5

SUMMARY of Panel comments & Scores from Individual Matrix Forms

Application 6

PROJECT NAME:	Improvements/Replacement to Scout Hut
Organisation:	6 th Bromsgrove Scout Group Catshill
Amount of Funding Requested:	£4,500
Aim of Project:	Improvements/repairs to Scout Hut and store room and replace/acquire a substantial amount of equipment due to increased membership of group,
Location of Project:	Lingfield Walk

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	YES
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£3,000
The Panel agreed to recommend that the improvements/repairs to the Scout Hut be funded through the NHB Grants Scheme together with a contribution towards the equipment.	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	Yes	18
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	Provide good things for me to do see and visit	18
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	As per application	15
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	Membership increasing	14

Agenda Item 5

5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Fund raising committee set up to continue to raise funds	13
Total Score out of 150		78

Agenda Item 5

SUMMARY of Panel comments & Scores from Individual Matrix Forms

Application 7

PROJECT NAME:	Catshill Village Meadow Multi Use Facility
Organisation:	North West Ward Association
Amount of Funding Requested:	£2,560
Aim of Project:	In order for the building to be used to its full potential to support the community users (including football teams and parish council) further equipment needs to be installed/purchased.
Location of Project:	Catshill

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	YES
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£2,560
The Panel were happy to recommend the full funding for this project as the Group had already raised a substantial amount of funding themselves for the new building.	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	The Marshes development No one in attendance at the meeting to respond to questions.	12
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	Provide good things to do see and visit	17
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	As per application form	7
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	Detailed application	10

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5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Balances of £20,000 all committed.	11
Total Score out of 150		57

Agenda Item 5

SUMMARY of Panel comments & Scores from Individual Matrix Forms

Application 8

PROJECT NAME:	Funding to open further units
Organisation:	Walton District Guides
Amount of Funding Requested:	£4,999
Aim of Project:	Sufficient funds to open further units and provide equipment to cover the increased number of girls attending.
Location of Project:	None stated

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	NO
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£nil
<p>The Panel felt that this application was aimed at the general running costs of the Guides group and therefore did not meet all the criteria detailed within the Scheme and did not therefore score sufficient points to be awarded a grant from the Scheme.</p>	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	No one in attendance at the meeting to respond to questions.	8
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	Not provided	6
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	Increased membership should generate increased income.	6
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?		6

Agenda Item 5

5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Not sustainable	5
Total Score out of 150		23

Agenda Item 5

SUMMARY of Panel comments & Scores from Individual Matrix Forms

Application 9

PROJECT NAME:	Upgrade of toilet block/kitchen facilities
Organisation:	Belbroughton Recreation Centre
Amount of Funding Requested:	£4,999
Aim of Project:	Upgrade toilet block and kitchen facilities to benefit residents who use the facilities, including junior football, keep fit classes and annual events such as the Scarecrow Weekend.
Location of Project:	Blebroughton

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	YES
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£2,500
The Panel were happy to recommend a contribution of £2,500 towards this project with the proviso that they also applied for funding through the Parish Council and Worcestershire County Council.	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	-	16
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	-	14
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	-	15
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	-	6

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5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	-	10
Total Score out of 150		61

Agenda Item 5

SUMMARY of Panel comments & Scores from Individual Matrix Forms

Application 10

PROJECT NAME:	Hopwood Community Centre Improvements
Organisation:	Alvechurch Parish Council
Amount of Funding Requested:	£2,500
Aim of Project:	Enhanced facilities of those with disabilities, improved security and safety facilities and post improvement internal decoration.
Location of Project:	Hopwood Village

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	NO
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£Nil
<p>The Panel agreed that this application was in respect of enhancement to the facilities which should be carried out as a matter of course, as owners of the building. This was not the aim of the scheme. It was also noted that the Parish Council had significant balances within their accounts.</p>	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	-	17
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	Provide good things to see do and visit. Help me to live independently	16
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	Owned by PC disabled facilities should be done as a matter of course.	7
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	Anecdotal info for hearing loop.	9

Agenda Item 5

5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Security work has already been done. Significant balances. Parish building.	5
Total Score out of 150		54

Agenda Item 5

SUMMARY of Panel comments & Scores from Individual Matrix Forms

Application 11

PROJECT NAME:	Artificial Wicket
Organisation:	Belbroughton Cricket Club
Amount of Funding Requested:	£4,700
Aim of Project:	By installing a new artificial practice wicket it will create sufficient space to address the increased number of people wishing to participate in the sport.
Location of Project:	Belbroughton

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	YES
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£2,500
<p>The Panel were happy to recommend a contribution towards the funding of this project as the Group had secured funding from other sources. It was suggested that the shortfall be met from balances or the Parish Council be approached to make a contribution as it was understood that they had significant funds within balances available.</p>	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	Yes	13
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	Provide good things to do see and visit Youth work	12
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	-	10

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4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	Weekend Teams Youth Teams Need to upgrade to be sustainable.	14
5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Other funding England and Wales Cricket Board Clent Parish Council	11
Total Score out of 150		60

Agenda Item 5

NHB Community Grants Scheme 2015/6

Scoring Matrix Grants between £5,000 and £17,400

SUMMARY of Panel Comments & Scores from individual Matrix Forms

Application 1

PROJECT NAME:	Clubhouse Enhancement
Organisation:	Hagley Cricket Club
Amount of Funding Requested:	£17,400
Aim of Project:	To improve the clubhouse facilities (club room, kitchen, bar and storage areas) to bring up to current requirements and standards, including improving access for the disabled.
Location of Project:	Grounds of Hagley Hall, Hagley Park

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	YES
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£10,000
The Panel agreed to recommend the part funding of this project. This amount will cover the refurbishment of the kitchen area and enable the organisation to have more modern facilities with the aim to increase revenue.	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	Yes	17
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	Provide good things to so do and visit	18
3. Aims and objectives of the project?		17
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	Increase in junior members	13

Agenda Item 5

5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?		12
Total Score out of 150		77

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SUMMARY of Panel Comments & Scores from individual Matrix Forms

Application 2

PROJECT NAME:	A modern catering style kitchen
Organisation:	Belbroughton Church Hall
Amount of Funding Requested:	£17,400
Aim of Project:	To provide a catering style kitchen which is hygienic and fit for everyday use including outside caterers and ensuring floors and surfaces can be easily cleaned and maintained and meet HSE standards.
Location of Project:	Belbroughton

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	NO
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£Nil
<p>the Panel agreed that as the Church Hall had substantial balances of £150,000 the Panel agreed to recommend that no funding would be provided for this project.</p>	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	-	18
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	More of a commercial venture	6
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	Sufficient monies in reserves	10
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	-	12

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5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Could do it themselves – just received additional funding of £150,000	4
Total Score out of 150		50

Agenda Item 5

SUMMARY of Panel Comments & Scores from individual Matrix Forms

Application 3

PROJECT NAME:	Improvements to Hagley Lawn Tennis Club Facility (Phase 1)
Organisation:	Hagley Lawn Tennis Club
Amount of Funding Requested:	£17,400
Aim of Project:	The funding from BDC will enable the Tennis Club to address the most urgent and essential aspects of the improvements proposed; toilet/washroom facilities, installation of electricity supply and new nets and posts.
Location of Project:	Hagley Catholic School (Academy)

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	YES
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£15,000
The Panel agreed to recommend funding of £15,000 for the new toilet block, with the assurance that within 12 months other funding is secured, planning permission has been granted a new lease of at least 10 years has been secured on the courts.	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	-	18
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	-	15
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	-	14
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	Membership does not seem to be increasing	12

Agenda Item 5

5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Applied to Sports England Issues around ownership	11
Total Score out of 150		70

Agenda Item 5

SUMMARY of Panel Comments & Scores from individual Matrix Forms

Application 4

PROJECT NAME:	New Facilities
Organisation:	Alvechurch Communities Together (ACT)
Amount of Funding Requested:	£17,400
Aim of Project:	To carry out alterations to a bar area to be used for the young people, including access to toilet area, foyer partitions, alternations to main room and games room and alternations to outbuilding for storage.
Location of Project:	Alvechurch Sports & Social Club

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	YES
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£12,500
<p>The Panel agreed to recommend a contribution towards the funding for this project, subject to having the relevant lease agreement in place for the building and funding from both the County Council Divisional funds and Parish Council also be explored to cover the remaining costs.</p>	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	No one in attendance at the meeting to respond to questions.	16
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	-	8
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	Lack of clarity as to purpose	14
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	60 youngsters currently attend.	15

Agenda Item 5

5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Balances of £19,000 Could be some tenancy issues.	13
Total Score out of 150		66

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SUMMARY of Panel Comments & Scores from individual Matrix Forms

Application 5

PROJECT NAME:	Supply and installation of Solar Paenls
Organisation:	Catshill Village Hall Trust
Amount of Funding Requested:	£10,000
Aim of Project:	In order to reduce the long term running costs the project consist of installation of 16 solar panels on the roof of the hall to generate electricity to supply the hall's consumption and any surplus to create income.
Location of Project:	Catshill Village Hall

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	NO
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£Nil
The Panel felt that this application was aimed at the general running costs of the Village Hall and not specifically linked to additional demand and therefore did not meet all the criteria detailed within the scheme.	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	-	17
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	-	3
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	Unclear as to link of population to expenditure	8
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	-	8

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5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Numbers questionable	11
Total Score out of 150		47

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SUMMARY of Panel Comments & Scores from individual Matrix Forms

Application 6

PROJECT NAME:	New footway Lighting
Organisation:	Wythall Parish Council
Amount of Funding Requested:	£7,381
Aim of Project:	To install two new footway lighting columns on Tilehouse Lane, Majors Green between its junction and Haslucks Green Road/Peterbrook Road and the Solihull boundary at Whitlocks End.
Location of Project:	Tilehouse Lane, Majors Green

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	YES
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£NIL
This application received insufficient points to warrant a grant being recommended.	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	2-3 miles away from station Not nearest station	7
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	Keep me safe Not on application	3
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	Clear Keep pedestrians safe	12
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	Only one person complained	4

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5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Funding from County – not approached P.C. reserves No contribution from P.C.	7
Total Score out of 150		33

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SUMMARY of Panel Comments & Scores from individual Matrix Forms

Application 7

PROJECT NAME:	Refurbishment of two rooms to provide further patient
Organisation:	Hollyoaks Medical Centre
Amount of Funding Requested:	£15,000
Aim of Project:	The refurbishment will include the renewal of flooring and redecoration and provision of suitable equipment in order to meet the CQC requirements and standards.
Location of Project:	Hollyoaks Medical Centre, Wythall

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	NO
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£5,000
The Panel agreed that a contribution would be made towards this project with the condition that other funding sources which were available should be explored as soon as possible in order for the work to be carried out.	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?	-	15
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?	-	7
3. Aims and objectives of the project?	-	9
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?	Patient numbers increased	15

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5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?	Private business Can secure additional revenue Should have accessed S106 monies	8
Total Score out of 150		54

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SUMMARY of Panel Comments & Scores from individual Matrix Forms

Application 8

PROJECT NAME:	Scout Hut Improvements/ Replacement Phase 1
Organisation:	Hagley Ramblers Scouts Group
Amount of Funding Requested:	£17,400
Aim of Project:	This grant would be used for the initial phase of the project which will involve the removal of the existing Scout Hut which has an asbestos roof. The cost of removing the roof and demolishing the Hut is approximately £20,000.
Location of Project:	Scout Hut, Hagley

GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED (If no reasons why not)	NO
AMOUNT OF GRANT TO BE RECOMMENDED	£Nil
<p>The Panel agreed that no funding would be recommended at this stage, as no further funding towards the £350,000 required had been identified or sought at present.</p> <p>Whilst the Panel supported the project in principal it was felt that the application was not sufficiently planned for them to be able to score it fairly.</p>	

Category	Comments from Panel	Points /30
1. Evidence that growth has occurred in the area?		
2. Which Council Strategic Purpose does it meet?		
3. Aims and objectives of the project?		
4. Evidence Project meets local need and has local support?		

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5. Evidence that the Project is sustainable and has other funding streams?		
Total Score out of 150		Nil

CABINET

7th October 2015

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION STRATEGY

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Margaret Sherrey, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis, Head of Community Services
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To endorse the County- wide Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy 2015–2017, and to consider how the Council can contribute to its achievement.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Worcestershire Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2015-2017 and the Council’s contribution as outlined in section 3.12 is endorsed.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The Council’s contribution to the Strategy will be met within existing budget provisions.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 There is a duty on local authorities under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 to make arrangements to promote co-operation to improve the wellbeing of all children in the authority’s area.
- 3.3 A range of individual organisations and professionals working with children and families have specific statutory duties to promote the welfare of children and ensure they are protected from harm. In addition Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on District Councils that provide children’s and other types of services including housing, sport, culture and leisure services, licensing authorities and youth services.

CABINET

7th October 2015

- 3.4 Safeguarding people is everyone's responsibility and as a District Council we have a duty to ensure that all children and young people are safeguarded from all types of harm and this clearly includes CSE.
- 3.5 In respect of the role of Worcestershire Regulatory Services and in particular around licensed premises and taxi licencing, the Strategy is to be presented to a meeting of their Joint Committee.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.6 In Worcestershire the main response to CSE has been led through the Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and individual agencies have also acted according to their service responsibilities.
- 3.7 CSE is defined in the Strategy as:

'The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.'

Child sexual exploitation can occur through use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones with no immediate payment or gain. In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.'

- 3.8 By endorsing the Strategy the Council supports and accepts as its own principles the four points set out in Louise Casey's report 'Reflections on CSE (March 2015). These are set out in full in section 5 of the Strategy and in summary are **that CSE: is child abuse and is a crime; the victims are children; it is squarely a community safety issue; and the failure is not in the existence of CSE but in not recognising it and taking appropriate action.**
- 3.9 To date, the evidence suggests that CSE exists in Worcestershire on a relatively small and generally individualised scale, and until recently there was no evidence of a link to gangs, organised crime or any specific minority ethnic group. Within the last couple of months there has been one reported incident of possible organised CSE activity in Worcestershire. The men were arrested and police enquiries are ongoing. There is also no indication that disclosures or reporting have been ignored as was the case in Rotherham.

CABINET

7th October 2015

- 3.10 The WCSB has undertaken a great deal of work to develop the pathway for CSE referrals. The pathway is unique in that it allows for non-child specific concerns to be logged with the Access Centre e.g. Concerns about a commercial premises.
- 3.11 The Worcestershire Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy, which incorporates a multi-agency action plan, is attached as Appendix 1. This has been developed by the WCSB and there are four overarching priorities against which key target areas for action have been identified:
- 1. Prevention and Education.**
 - 2. Recognition and Identification**
 - 3. Intervention and Support**
 - 4. Pursue and Disrupt**
- 3.12 As with any safeguarding matter, the Council has a duty to contribute to preventing and responding to CSE. To help fulfil this duty the following work is being undertaken/proposed:
1. District Council Officer Representation at the WCSB, the CSE Strategy Group and the CSE Panel (representation is via the Chief Executive and the Head of Community Services).
 2. A Lead Professional for CSE has been identified as the Head of Community Services with the Head of Leisure & Cultural Services as Deputy Lead.
 3. Training on identifying low level non-child specific concerns and training on CSE and use of the Worcestershire Screen Tool to be provided to identified teams within the Council. This work has commenced and will be completed by the end of 2015.
 4. From May 2015 Members safeguarding training has incorporated a section on CSE. In addition Licensing Committee Members are to receive additional training in respect of their role in safeguarding against CSE in determining licences.
 5. The Council's Safeguarding Policy has been updated to include CSE.
 6. CSE Raising Awareness to all staff via internal communications, including team brief and posters and support provided to the WCSB publicity campaigns.
 7. Through the Bromsgrove Partnership CSE awareness raising with partner agencies, including the voluntary sector.
 8. Through the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership and Tasking Group, to receive CSE intelligence and implement a partnership response to identified 'hot spots'.
 9. The annual Community Safety Partnership Plan has been updated to incorporate CSE responsibilities.
 10. To support WRS in undertaking a CSE awareness raising campaign with licenced premises via the Community Safety Tasking Group.

CABINET

7th October 2015

11. To assist the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership in developing and implementing CSE guidance for bed and breakfast providers, hostels and HMO licencing.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.13 Endorsement of the Strategy and the proposed proactive contribution by the Council as detailed in the report, will support that children and young people are kept safe.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

Endorsement of the Strategy and the proposed proactive contribution by the Council as detailed in the report, will enable the Council to achieve its statutory duties in respect of safeguarding.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – WCSB Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2015-2017

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Children Act 2004

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Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2015 - 2017

**Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board's
strategic commitment to tackle child sexual
exploitation**



April 2015

Building upon the effective work undertaken in developing and delivering the CSE Pathway, WSCB is committed to further developing knowledge of the prevalence of Child Sexual Exploitation across the county and building a robust strategic framework to tackle the problem and keep children safe. This strategy sets out how multi-agency partners will continually be encouraged to work together pro-actively to safeguard children and young people at risk.

Foreword

This strategy sets out the commitment of Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) to undertake all actions possible to tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE), and to safeguard children and young people experiencing and/or at risk of this form of child abuse. WSCB acknowledges that this is a very complex and challenging area of our work and that it is only possible to tackle CSE through a co-ordinated multi-agency approach, where victims/potential victims are identified and safeguarded and perpetrators are disrupted and prosecuted.

This strategy has been written to support, and be supported by, the West Mercia Child Protection Procedures and the Worcestershire Thresholds Guidance. When practitioners become aware of children who are affected by, or at risk of, sexual exploitation they have a duty to comply with the West Mercia Child Protection Procedures, with specific regard for section 7.2 which relates specifically to the process to be followed in Worcestershire:

http://westmerciaconsortium.proceduresonline.com/chapters/g_step_by_step_respond_cse.html

The strategy outlines WSCB's strategic principles as the basis for its approach in tackling CSE. It also states its key priorities under the four main headings of Prevention and Education; Recognition and Identification; Intervention and Support; and Pursue and Disrupt. An action plan to deliver the key target areas for each of those priorities is included, and the delivery of this will be closely monitored and reported to WSCB. All partners own and take responsibility for the effectiveness of its outcomes and will measure the difference it makes in tackling CSE in Worcestershire

Diana Fulbrook
Independent Chair
Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board

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1. Introduction

In line with national guidance, HM Government (2009) Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation, Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board seeks to develop locally a prevention, protection and investigation strategy to

- identify those at risk of being sexually exploited
- take action to safeguard and promote the welfare of particular children and young people who are being, or may be, sexually exploited, and
- Take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people in this way.

This document should be read in conjunction with HM Government (2009) Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation, HM Government (2015) Working Together to Safeguard Children, WSCB (2009) Safeguarding Children Who May Have Been Trafficked, and West Mercia Joint Runaway and Missing From Home and Care Protocol (Revised 2015).

2. Definition

Child Sexual Exploitation Definition

The National Working Group on Child Sexual Exploitation has developed the following definition which is utilised in UK government guidance and policy, including the Department for Education 2009, and is the definition of CSE that Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board have adopted:

'The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation can occur through use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones with no immediate payment or gain. In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.'

The National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People (2008)

3. National Context

"The Government deplores the sexual exploitation of children, and will not tolerate failure at any level to prevent harm....."

"Tackling child sexual exploitation must be a shared effort. Government can lead the national response. Local authorities, police, children's and health services have a statutory duty to work together to identify and stamp it out in their area."

"Dealing with Child Sexual Exploitation" (2015)

(Appendix 1)

The recently revised Working Together March 2015 states that *"LSCBs should conduct regular assessments on the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to child sexual exploitation and include in the [Annual] report information on the outcome of these assessments. This should include an analysis of how the LSCB partners have used their data to promote service improvement for vulnerable children and families, including in respect of sexual abuse. The report should also include appropriate data on children missing from care, and how the LSCB is addressing the issue."*

(Working Together 2015 Chapter 3 para 18)

4. Local Context

In Worcestershire the main response to CSE has been led through the Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) although individual agencies have also acted according to their own drivers.

WSCB launched the Child Sexual Exploitation Pathway in August 2013. This sets out a clear pathway for referrals and response to child specific concerns with operational oversight delivered through a monthly multi-agency panel.

Targeted training of staff to raise awareness and to ensure understanding of the pathway and procedures has also taken place. WSCB also makes available an e-learning module for all agencies. The WSCB Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group has responsibility for the strategic oversight of child sexual exploitation and produced its first CSE Report for the Board in November 2014

WSCB is required to both be assured and to provide assurance that large scale and organised CSE is not present in Worcestershire and that the mechanisms are in place to identify, support and protect potential victims from further harm. A great deal of work has been undertaken to develop the pathway for CSE referrals and whilst the numbers of identified victims is relatively low (as opposed to the numbers of children and young people about whom there have been concerns), we do not, however, know what we do not know as the identification of actual victims is not easy. Taking a broader view, it is clear that the focus of co-ordinated multi-agency activity has been predominantly on protection and that prevention and the pursuit of perpetrator activities are both also in need of development. This strategy therefore focuses on how WSCB progresses this work with partner agencies.

*Child sexual exploitation is not exclusive to any single community, race or religion.
There is no culture in which sexual abuse is not a serious crime*

(HM Government, 2015:4)

WSCB is committed to raising awareness of child sexual exploitation locally. As such the WSCB Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group is working to incorporate a national and regionally accepted dataset within performance management data to capture and collate the existing CSE picture in Worcestershire. To date, the evidence suggests that CSE exists in Worcestershire on a relatively small and generally individualised scale, with no evidence of a link to gangs, organised crime or any specific minority ethnic group. There is also no indication that disclosures or reporting have been ignored as was the case in Rotherham.

5. Strategic Principles

This strategy fully supports and accepts as our own principles the four points set out in Louise Casey's report 'Reflections on Child Sexual Exploitation' (March 2015), these being:

That **CSE is child abuse and is a crime**, and our efforts need to be directed towards perpetrators in order to detect, prevent and disrupt that abuse at the earliest stages as well as the prosecution of individual perpetrators to ensure that they face the full force of the criminal justice system for their crimes. These are not mutually exclusive activities.

That **the victims are children**, however they present themselves. They cannot consent to their abuse, all the more given that grooming itself removes any real sense of self determination from these children. There should be no scenarios in which victims are viewed as young women or as making choices.

Thirdly that **CSE is squarely a community safety issue** and local government working with police and others need to make use of community safety tactics and action to keep children safe. The regulatory and enforcement functions of the local authority are vital in preventing and disrupting CSE and in building intelligence which can help with prosecutions. Those in upper tier authorities and district authorities where responsibilities for children's social care and community safety lie in different tiers, have additional partnership challenges, but these can not be insurmountable.

Finally, that local government and the police should not fear seeking out and shining a light on sexual exploitation for fear they may be held to account for what they find. **The failure is not in the existence of CSE but in not recognising it and taking appropriate action.**

WSCB's aim is to deliver an effective system and infrastructure to address Child Sexual Exploitation across the children's partnership underpinned by the following principles:

- CSE is a form of child abuse which can involve the sexual, physical and emotional abuse of children as well as neglect
- Children do not make informed choices to enter into or remain within sexually exploitative situations, as they do so via coercion, manipulation, grooming and/or other forms of enticement
- Children under 16 years cannot consent to sexual activity with an adult, and sexual activity with a child aged less than 13 years is statutory rape
- Children who are sexually exploited will experience difficulty and/or confusion around their autonomy to make choices, and their understanding around sex, sexuality and the sexual activity into which they have been coerced
- Sexually exploited children must be treated as victims of child abuse, and not as offenders
- Help and support to families should be tailored to their individual needs and circumstances, taking into account sexuality, gender, physical disability or learning disabilities, those from ethnic communities, and those with additional language needs
- Law enforcement efforts must involve disruption of sexually exploitative activity, and target offenders as sexual abusers, who may be adult, but could also be the child's peers and/or other young people. CSE is one of those problems where silo working is actively harmful to the protection of children and stopping offenders
- It is essential that the 'voice of the child' is heard and agencies actively engage with children and young people to provide them with the opportunity to tell their own story, to seek to understand the child/young person's perspective, experience and the impact of this upon them.

6. Key Priorities

WSCB recognises the requirement to understand the scale of child sexual exploitation in the local area and to continue to develop a local 'problem profile'. In line with this WSCB's key priorities are as follows:

Prevention and Education

Overarching priority: Increasing knowledge and understanding of CSE, including the development of protective factors, across children and young people (to include victim focus), the children and young people's workforce and local communities

Key target areas:

- Undertake a public awareness campaign
- All schools to deliver a CSE awareness programme to children and young people, tailored to their age
- All staff to receive awareness training
- Develop a means of evaluating the effectiveness of the staff training programme

Recognition and Identification

Overarching priority: Providing information and tools to support the identification of potential indicators of CSE; providing and publishing agreed models of assessment; and agreed protocols for the effective sharing of information across the multi-agency partnership

Key target areas:

- Identify vulnerable children for potential sexual exploitation and develop a risk assessment framework and pathway to protect them
- Develop professional curiosity amongst front line staff to ensure they look for and act on signs of potential CSE (particularly social workers, Health workers and school staff)
- Identification of vulnerable children who have the potential to become perpetrators
- Promote the crucial importance of effective information sharing

Intervention and Support

Overarching priority: Drawing on models of recognised good practice to develop local responses; tailoring intervention and support to individuals; and mapping and publicising a range of available intervention/support services

Key target areas:

- Develop different methods/casework suited to CSE
- Develop victim and family specialised support
- Develop community safety, regulatory and taxi licensing functions (consider a Partnership Enforcement Team)

Pursue and Disrupt

Overarching priority: Being pro-active across multi agency partnerships to identify, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of child sexual exploitation through criminal or civil means

Key target areas:

- Align cross-border arrangements with neighbouring areas/regions
- Develop an ongoing problem profile, mapping hot spots and keep relevant agencies informed
- Use criminal and civil powers wherever possible to bring to justice perpetrators who exploit and abuse children

Appendix 2 outlines how these priorities will be met.

7. Governance and Accountability

WSCB has statutory responsibility for co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in each partner agency and collectively. It will therefore hold partners to account for their individual arrangements and challenge any silo working to ensure children are properly protected from CSE and perpetrators are stopped. Full ownership and responsibility for the effective delivery of this strategy lies with individual agencies and with Board members collectively. More specifically, the Board will:

- ensure that the needs of children and young people who have been or may be sexually exploited, and their families, have been considered when planning and commissioning local services
- provide analysed and reconciled data that is shared with relevant agencies, building a composite picture of CSE in Worcestershire over time
- routinely seek assurance of the effectiveness of the CSE strategy, building its implementation into its operational planning and reporting mechanisms
- undertake regular assessments on the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to CSE and include the outcomes in its Annual Report
- monitor the sharing of information protocol to ensure this is not a barrier to effective working in CSE cases
- work with other local partnerships to co-ordinate any CSE activity, particularly Community Safety Partnerships
- work with other regional/national groups to develop a co-ordinated approach and learn from best practice
- ensure its governance structure has clear lines of accountability for CSE (see Appendix X for proposed arrangements)
- ensure that delivery of the strategy is properly supported
- provide external assurance as appropriate that CSE is being properly tackled and managed in Worcestershire

8. Monitoring and Review

The implementation of this strategy will initially be overseen by the Strategic CSE Group and then by the Vulnerable Children Sub-Group with regular reporting to WSCB. Key measures of its effectiveness will include evidence of:

Agenda Item 6

- Prevention being managed through staff awareness of CSE – knowing how to spot it and taking appropriate action
- Knowledge of the perpetrators and hot-spots
- Responding to CSE victims in a timely and suitable manner to meet their needs and wishes

The strategy will be reviewed annually by WSCB, or updated more frequently if required, to ensure it is making a difference to the children and young people of Worcestershire involved in CSE

Appendix 1

Policy and Legislation

1. "Dealing with Child Sexual Exploitation" March 2015 Government Response

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation--2>

2. HM Government (2009) *Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation* 2009

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278849/Safeguarding_Children_and_Young_People_from_Sexual_Exploitation.pdf

3. HM Government (2015) *Working Together to Safeguard Children*

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf

4. HM Government (2003) *Sexual Offences Act* 2003

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/section/3>

5. WSCB Safeguarding Children Who May have been Trafficked 2009:

http://westmerciaconsortium.proceduresonline.com/chapters/g_sg_trafficked.html

6. Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board Guidance, Policy and Procedures:

<http://westmerciaconsortium.proceduresonline.com/>

7. Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-police-bill>

WSCB Guidance for Practitioners *Child Sexual Exploitation*

Practitioner guidance can be found at:

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/550/practitioner_guidance_august_2013

Appendix 2

WSCB Action Plan for Implementation

Key Priority 1 Prevention and Education Overarching priority: Increasing knowledge and understanding of CSE, including the development of protective factors, across children and young people (to include victim focus), the children and young people's workforce and local communities				
Key Target Areas/Objectives				
1.1 Undertake a public awareness campaign				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable body	Timeframe
1.1.1 Commission a communications / publicity campaign based on best practice across the region, including the publicising of helplines and support centres	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People/Head of Corporate Communications – West Mercia Police	Options report to Board and decision made	West Mercia Police	End November 2015
1.1.2 Draw up a timed action plan including media engagement	WSCB Business Support Team	Timed action plan produced	Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board	End November 2015

1.1.3 Undertake the campaign and evaluate it	WSCB Business Support Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase in levels of awareness •Increase in CSE referrals received 	Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board	Campaign : January 2016 Evaluation : March 2016
1.2 All schools to deliver a CSE awareness programme to children and young people, tailored to their age				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable body	Timeframe
1.2.1 The Board to develop and endorse a 'whole school' model for raising CSE awareness, in line with the Children's Commissioner's report: 'If only someone had listened' (Nov 2013), and to evaluate its impact. This will include the production of a menu of resources for use in schools.	WSCB Head Teacher Reps	Numbers of schools implementing Whole School Approach. (Including academies, post 16, and independent schools)	WSCB Head Teacher's Group	December 2015
1.2.2 WSCB to seek assurance that schools and FE colleges are raising awareness of CSE within their own organisation.	Chair of the Monitoring Effectiveness Group	Percentage of schools evidencing they have a robust programme in place for raising awareness	Monitoring Effectiveness Sub Group	July 2016

1.3 All staff to receive training in line with their role and responsibilities.				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
<p>1.3.1 Review existing CSE training strategy and refresh in line with CSE Strategy 2015-2017.</p> <p>To include training pathway, suite of training materials and evaluation framework.</p>	Chair of WSCB Workforce Development Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training strategy covers all elements of the CSE Strategy 2015-18 • Practitioners and managers have a clear understanding of their training requirements • Staff are trained at the appropriate level for their role and responsibilities. 	Improving Frontline Practice Sub Group	November 2015
<p>1.3.2 Ensure that commissioners of services to children young people and their families make CSE training a requirement within their contracting processes from a given date</p>	Individual agencies (TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSE training is a requirement for all commissioned services • Assurance is provided through the S11 Audit undertaken by WSCB 	Monitoring Effectiveness Sub Group	January 2016
<p>1.3.3 Evaluate effectiveness of training strategy through the WSCB annual audit of training and workforce development</p>	Chair of the Monitoring Effectiveness Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of agencies providing assurance that all staff are trained at the appropriate level • Increased awareness/ 	Monitoring Effectiveness Sub Group	End March 2016

		confidence levels		
Key Priority 2				
Recognition and Identification				
Overarching priority: Providing information and tools to support the identification of potential indicators of CSE; providing and publishing agreed models of assessment; and agreed protocols for the effective sharing of information across the multi-agency partnership				
Key Target Areas/Objectives				
2.1 Identify vulnerable children for potential sexual exploitation and develop a risk assessment framework and pathway to protect them				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
2.1.1 All key statutory partners to devise a flagging protocol for those deemed to be at risk of child sexual exploitation; NHS, GPs, Sexual Health, CAMHS.	Missing, CSE and Trafficking Subgroup Chair	Establishment of flagging process within each agency, and numbers of children identified as at risk.	CSE Strategic Group	September - December 2015
2.1.2 Work with pharmacies to develop a checklist for identifying those at risk of CSE to improve early identification of risk, and	Chair of Missing, CSE and Trafficking Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Checklist developed •Increase in numbers of children flagged to MASH 	CSE Strategic Group	30 September 2015

information sharing. To include GP dispensing surgeries and school nurses.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase in risk assessments undertaken 		
2.1.3 Identification of care providers within Worcestershire to create closer links (see 2.1.2)	Missing Person Co-ordinator within the Police/ Chair of Missing, CSE and Trafficking Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •List of care providers maintained within Children's social care – including 16+ and independent providers •Increase in numbers of children flagged to MASH •Increase in risk assessments undertaken. 	CSE Strategic Group	End October 2015
2.1.4 Embed widely existing screening tool to support the assessment and management of risk (links with 1.3.1) Develop and embed risk indicator toolkit for professionals	Chair of Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percentage of referrals where screening tool has been completed •Risk indicator toolkit available for professionals 	CSE Strategic Group	November 2015 November 2015
2.1.5 Complete full review of existing CSE Pathway to align with CSE Strategy 2015-18	Chair of Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group	Refreshed pathway in place	CSE Strategic Group	July 2015

2.2 Develop professional curiosity amongst front line staff to ensure they look for and act on signs of potential CSE (particularly social workers, Health workers and school staff)				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
2.2.1 Ensure CSE Training Strategy and materials include specific reference to learning about the need to exercise professional curiosity.(Links to 2.1.1)	Chair of Workforce Development Group	Increased reporting of CSE concerns across all key partners.	Improving Frontline Practice Sub Group	November 2015
2.3 Identification of vulnerable children who have the potential to become perpetrators				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
2.3.1 Scope national good practice in the emerging field of understanding children who have the potential to become perpetrators.	YOS within Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group	Scoping completed within time scale	Vulnerable Children Sub Group	November 2015
2.3.2 Review toolkit to assist professionals to identify children who have the potential to become perpetrators.	YOS within Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group	Toolkit produced and promoted through WSCB website.	Vulnerable Children Sub Group	January 2016

2.4 Promote the crucial importance of effective information sharing				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
2.4.1 Develop an information sharing agreement between all partners which differentiates between different levels of information required and the processes for sharing information	Chair of MASH Operational Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Establishment of internal information sharing pathways within and between agencies re CSE •Increase in numbers of children flagged to Access Centre •Increase in numbers of children flagged to MASH •Increase in risk assessments undertaken 	CSE Strategic Group	September 2015
Key Priority 3				
Intervention and Support				
Overarching priority: Drawing on models of recognised good practice to develop local responses ; tailoring intervention and support to individuals; and mapping and publicising a range of available intervention/support services				
Key Target Areas/Objectives				
3.1 Develop different methods/casework suited to CSE				

Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
3.1.1 Each child or young person identified at risk of CSE or experiencing CSE has a completed CSE risk assessment and management of risk plan	Chair of Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group /Chair of CSE Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Proportion of completed assessments and risk management plans •Repeat MACFA findings demonstrate robust risk management plans 	CSE Strategic Group	November 2015
3.1.2 Develop links with adult safeguarding to ensure transition for those young adults still at risk of exploitation.	Independent Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Adult safeguarding representative on Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group; MASH •Transition protocol for those from children's social care to adult social care updated to refer to CSE •Providers for 16+ have clear pathway written for CSE safeguarding for client. 	Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board	December 2015
3.1.3 Develop CSE Communication strategy for a range of media and audiences (Links with 1.1)	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People/Head of Corporate Communications – West Mercia Police	CSE Communications Strategy in place	CSE Strategic Group	October 2015

3.1.4 Develop protocol for information sharing and management of risk re CSE with care providers to include the flagging of CSE concerns when children are placed in or outside of county.	Head of Assessment and Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Protocol established and embedded •Increase in children flagged as being at risk of CSE •Evidence that risk management plans are in place. 	CSE Strategic Group	November 2015
3.2 Develop victim and family specialised support				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
3.2.1 Undertake a needs assessment to map existing support services and to identify gaps in provision for children at risk of CSE (To include research into established good practice)	Designated Nurse/Strategic Lead for Early Help and Partnerships	Assurance that appropriate services are in place	CSE Strategic Group	December 2015
3.2.2 Ensure West Mercia SARC has adopted training, facilities and pathways to address the needs of sexually exploited children and young people in Worcestershire.	The Glade management reporting through Missing children, CSE and Trafficking Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assurance that SARC links directly with CSE pathway •Documented evidence of CSE provision for staff within the SARC. 	CSE Strategic Group	September 2015

3.3 Develop community safety, regulatory and taxi licensing functions (consider a Partnership Enforcement Team)				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
3.3.1 District Community Safety Partnerships Tasking Groups to receive CSE intelligence and implement a partnership response to identified 'hot spots' in consultation with the Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group	Community Safety Partnership (North and South)	CSP multi-agency action plan in place for each identified 'hot spot'.	Safer Communities Board	October 2015
3.3.2 Community Safety Partnerships to encourage links with existing prevention and disruption strategies, e.g. Nightsafe and Street Pastor initiatives	Community Safety Partnership (North and South)	Completion of actions contained within CSP Partnership Plan (North and South)	Safer Communities Board	March 2016
3.3.3 Community Safety Partnerships to develop and incorporate CSE responsibilities within their annual Partnership Plan, taking a proactive approach to identification, risk assessment and evidence	Community Safety Partnership (North and South)	CSE responsibilities clearly set and monitored as part of the North and South Partnership Plan.	Safer Communities Board	December 2015

gathering				
3.3.4 Undertake a CSE awareness raising campaign with Hackney carriage and private hire licenced drivers/operators	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Guidance issued to all licence holders upon annual renewal of licences •CSE awareness raising rolled out through district taxi forums and liaison meetings 	WRS Joint Committee (WRS Board from April 2016)	From July 2015 (review in 6 months)
3.3.5 Undertake a CSE awareness raising campaign with licenced premises in in partnership with the CSP District Tasking Groups, e.g. Nightsafe in Worcester Pub Watch in Redditch and Bromsgrove town centres	Worcestershire Regulatory Services and Community Safety Partnerships	Issuing and dissemination of information to licenced premises with a focus on 'hotspot' areas	WRS Board	December 2015
3.3.6 District Council Licence Committee Members to be made aware of CSE responsibilities	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	CSE awareness training is incorporated into Licence Committee Member inductions	WRS Joint Committee & Partner Licensing Committees (WRS Board from April 2016)	September 2015

3.3.7 Develop CSE guidance for Bed and Breakfast providers, hostels and HMO Licencing	District Council Strategic Housing Officers	Guidance developed and disseminated.	Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership (WSHP)	January 2016
3.3.8 Review the need for a partnership enforcement team following refreshed problem profile and increased awareness raising	Chair of CSE Strategic Group	Review completed and decision made.	CSE Strategic Group	March 2016
<p>Key Priority 4</p> <p>Pursue and Disrupt:</p> <p>Overarching priority: Being pro-active across multi agency partnerships to identify, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of child sexual exploitation through criminal or civil means</p>				
<p>Key Target Areas/Objectives</p> <p>4.1 Align cross-border arrangements with neighbouring areas/regions</p>				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
4.1.1 To ensure that appropriate intelligence is shared regionally with partners	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, West Mercia Police	Evidence of sharing at regional level	Police Strategic CSE Group	November 2015

4.1.2 To ensure relevant intelligence from areas other than Worcestershire is shared with partners to maximise safeguarding	Operational Lead for CSE, Police	Effective CSE problem profile incorporating multi-agency information and regional threats and intelligence	CSE Strategic Group	November 2015
4.1.3 Embed PPRC (People Presenting a Risk to Children) information sharing within agencies to ensure that those who perpetrate CSE within statutory and collaborating agencies are identified and managed accordingly (Links to 2.4.1)	Chair of Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group	PPRC information guidance published on WSCB website.	CSE Strategic Group	30 September 2015
4.2 Develop an ongoing problem profile, mapping hot spots and keep relevant agencies informed				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
4.2.1 Production of an annually refreshed Alliance CSE problem profile, to be informed by data from police and other partners	Head of Head of Protecting Vulnerable People– West Mercia Police /Chair of CSE Strategic Group	Document to be made available annually to the LSCB.	CSE Strategic Group	31 October 2015
4.2.2 LSCB to agree a				

common dataset for CSE in line with national good practice	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, Police/Chair of CSE Strategic Group	Dataset agreed and implemented	CSE Strategic Group	30 September 2015
4.3 Use criminal and civil powers wherever possible to bring to justice perpetrators who exploit and abuse children				
Actions	Action Owner	Measure		Timeframe
4.3.1 Utilise ancillary and civil orders to maximum effect to assist investigation, restrict and manage offenders and support victims	Police/YOS/Probation/CRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Data showing numbers and type of orders obtained •Number of breaches of orders •Number of abduction notices served 	CSE Strategic Group	November 2015
4.3.2 CSE investigations are driven by appropriately accredited staff	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, Police	Numbers of SC Abuse Investigation Development Programme and Achieving Best Evidence accredited investigators	CSE Strategic Group	Nov 2015
4.3.3 Adoption of appropriate screening tool to assist in identification of CSE	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, Police	Increase in numbers of children identified	CSE Strategic Group	30 September 2015
4.3.4 Maximise potential for forensic recovery with appropriate investigative strategies and training for	Head of Protecting	Compliance with HMIC child protection recommendations and delivery of Alliance CSE	CSE Strategic	31 March 2016

officers	Vulnerable People, Police	Action Plan	Group	
4.3.5 Establish a proper framework to investigate on-line CSE, appropriately resourced, with the necessary skill set	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Utilise a Nationally accredited risk assessment tool for on-line CSE •Toolkit for officers for on-line CSE 	CSE Strategic Group	September 2015
4.3.6 Ensure that hi-tech capabilities are keeping pace with new and emerging patterns of offending and able to meet increasing demand	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, Police	Sufficient resources within the Hi-tech capability and equipment to meet demand	CSE Strategic Group	1 January 2016

Appendix 3

Child Sexual Exploitation Useful Resources:

1. "Research into gang-associated sexual exploitation and sexual violence; Interim Report", Beckett, H et al (2012) pub: University of Bedfordshire

http://www.beds.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/215873/GASV_Interim.pdf

2. "If only someone had listened", Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, Final Report (November 2013) Sue Berelowitz, et al

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_743

3. Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation

<http://www.paceuk.info/>

4. National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day:

<http://www.stop-cse.org/national-child-exploitation-awareness-day/>

5. National Working Group Network for Child Sexual Exploitation

<http://www.nwgnetwork.org/>

6. Just Whistle (no date) *Prevention Protection and Investigation* (on line)

<http://www.justwhistle.org.uk/index.php/home/whats-on/prevention-protection-and-investigation>

7. National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People (2008) *Sexual Exploitation Intervention Diagram* (on line)

<http://www.nationalworkinggroup.org/what-is-child-sexual-exploitation/sexual-exploitation-intervention-diagram>

Appendix 4

Models of Grooming and exploitation

Grooming

Grooming may take place face to face and can occur over a long period of time or relatively quickly. Grooming using the internet and mobile technology is increasingly common. Along with the significant risk in the use of mobile phones, including Bluetooth technology, perpetrators target children and young people through online sites, games and through picture messaging and texting.

Child sexual exploitation can occur in a variety of settings and may involve one or more person. Barnados has identified three different sexual exploitation abuse models . Examples of quotes from young people are also included below.

Abuse model 1

Inappropriate Relationships

This usually involves one abuser who has inappropriate power – physical, emotional or financial - or control over a young person. The young person may believe that they have a genuine friendship or loving relationship with the abuser.

Abuse model 2

Boyfriend model and Peer exploitation, also known as party model

The abuser grooms the victim by striking up a normal relationship with them, giving them gifts and meeting in cafes/fast food outlets or shopping centres. A seemingly consensual sexual relationship develops but later turns abusive.

Victims are required to attend parties and sleep with multiple men and threatened with violence if they try to seek help. They may also be required to introduce their friends as new victims.

Abuse Model 3

Organised exploitation and trafficking

Young people are passed through networks, possibly over geographical distances, between towns and cities where they may be forced/coerced into sexual activity with multiple men. Often this occurs at 'sex parties' and young people who are involved

may be used as agents to recruit others into the network. Some of this activity is described as serious organised crime and can involve the organised buying and selling of young people by perpetrators.

Organised exploitation varies from spontaneous networking between groups of perpetrators to more serious organised crime where young people are effectively 'sold'. These activities are described as 'internal trafficking' or 'trafficking for child sexual exploitation.'

Victims of sexual exploitation may also be used as agents to recruit other children and young people and in some cases a young person may be both a perpetrator and a victim of CSE.

Sexual exploitation can be group and gang associated. Group associated exploitation refers to the number of perpetrators involved.

Gang Associated CSE

Research undertaken by Beckett et al (2012) outlined key features of gang-associated sexual violence and exploitation that are unique to, or exacerbated by, the gang environment:

- Using sex as a means of initiating young people into a gang;
- Sexual activity in return for (perceived) status or protection;
- Young women 'setting up' people in other gangs;
- Establishing a relationship with, or feigning sexual interest in, a rival gang member as a means of entrapment; and
- Sexual assault as a weapon in conflict.

*"Research into gang-associated sexual exploitation and sexual violence,"
(2012)*

Examples of quotes from young people

1. 'I was 12 maybe a wee bit older, and I remember my mummy run out of drink and she says to me, there was fellas in the house and she says to one of them to take me up the stairs and she got me to go with this man for a bottle of vodka for her.'
(Beckett 2011)

2. 'There was a guy running parties for sex. What was described to me was someone initially looking after you, taking you out, buying you clothes, looking after you, giving you lots of emotion and care. Then there were parties where other girls were there and it became a going upstairs with one person type of thing, but then it

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came down to being the only girl with four or five men and it became quite frightening. There was also a separate pornography side to it, and they were getting pulled in to that as well.' (Beckett 2011)

3. 'We have a young woman at the moment who is Eastern European and was trafficked here and continues to be exploited by people. She lives with her parents but we reckon she is being sold on a regular basis. Well, she says she lives with her parents but we aren't entirely sure if they are her parents. She is saying she is 17, but we suspect she's more like 14.' (Beckett 2011)

4. Sexual exploitation that involves one or multiple perpetrators who are themselves gang associated and where the CSE takes place as a form of introduction or inter-gang related violence. (Office of Children's Commissioner 2012)



Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

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DISPOSAL OF COUNCIL ASSETS AT HANOVER STREET CAR PARK AND GEORGE HOUSE

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Rita Dent
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Kevin Dicks
Wards Affected	Sanders Park
Ward Councillor Consulted	Yes

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 Members will recall that following a selection process a decision was taken on 03 June 2015 for the Council to dispose of this site to the preferred developers Hinton Properties. This report will update Members in relation to the contract negotiations since June 2015 and give details of the revised delivery programme which has been proposed by the developer. Members are asked to consider the current proposals and give authority for the sale to proceed taking into account the matters set out in this report.
- 1.2 This report sets out the information which can be made available publically. Financial details and information that is commercially sensitive to the Council / developer cannot be reported on publically and that information will be available to Members separately in an exempt report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of this report.
- 2.2 That Members confirm the approval of the freehold disposal of the Site to Hinton Properties as the preferred developer.
- 2.3 That subject to Council approving the inclusion of the phased capital receipt and consequential impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan, members approve the revised delivery programme proposed by Hinton Properties consisting of a two phased approach for the capital sum to be paid and for the land to be drawn down as set out in this report
- 2.4 That Members note that the revised delivery programme provides for the car park to be operated by the Council.

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- 2.5 That Members agree to the Council taking on the operation of the car park and give approval to the Council entering into a lease back arrangement for the car park with the preferred developer (or any successor body to which the preferred developer disposes their interest in the land)
- 2.6 That Cabinet recommend to Council that the capital receipt be approved for inclusion in the Medium Term Financial Plan on the phased basis as outlined in paragraph 3.1
- 2.7 That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director for Finance and Resources to agree the final terms for the disposal of the Site, the lease back of the car park with the preferred developer and any resulting changes in fees and charges for car parking on this site
- 2.8 That delegated authority be granted to Head of Legal Equalities and Democratic Services to enter into the legal documents required for the purposes of implementing the recommendations 2.2 to 2.7

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.2 As the current financial plan includes £650k as per the capital receipt proposed under the previous development there will be no material financial impact on the medium term financial plan as a result of the phasing.
- 3.3 Members will recall that previously it had been intended that the developer would build out and manage the car parking provision on the site and that the Council would as a consequence need to make a provision within its medium term financial plan for the loss of income.
- 3.4 The Hanover Street car park with 121 spaces, has an estimated budget of £119k (actual receipts amount to £107K)
- 3.5 Members are advised that during the contract negotiations it has become clear that the title issues that exist on the site are interfering with the developer's ability to proceed within the agreed timescales.
- 3.6 It would be possible to mitigate the risks associated with this issue by entering into a lease back arrangement with the developer where by on completion of Phase One the Council leases the car park back on and then undertakes the management and maintenance of the same. It

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would of course be necessary for the Council to retain the income of this car park in order to offset the maintenance, running and enforcement costs and it would be obliged to pay the developer an annual rental for the same together with the income associated with the tenant reimbursement.

- 3.7 A proposal along these lines for the Council to operate the car park under a lease back arrangement has been put forward by the developer. Evaluation of the financial implications has been carried out by the Council and the Council's independent consultants. Further, although the report quotes occupancy rates of between 80% and 100% for the purposes of giving advice to members the section 151 officer has based her view on more cautious occupancy rates of 60 to 65 %.
- 3.8 As detailed in 3.4 the car park income budget is £119k. To calculate the net profit that would need to be generated from the site the associated costs have been taken into account and offset against the shortfall of £119k.
- 3.9 Members are therefore being asked to consider a lease back arrangement of the car park on completion of the first phase on the terms proposed within the main body of this report. Members will note that at 2.6 a delegation is sought to allow officers to finalise the terms of the car parking agreement, subject to the proviso that the Council's position will not be adversely affected by the leaseback arrangements.
- 3.10 The Council is under an obligation to dispose of its assets at best value (under section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972). In broad terms this means for the best consideration as reasonably obtainable.
- 3.12 In considering best value for this site the Council carried out a detailed selection process of the bids received as set out in the main body of the report.
- 3.14 Moving to the proposed phasing arrangement officers have sought an independent financial appraisal of the proposals in order to ascertain whether the phasing would adversely affect the Councils ability to ensure that it meets its obligations under the 1972 Act.
- 3.15 Members will note from the advice received in this regard that in the current market conditions affecting Bromsgrove the phased approach does not adversely affect the value of the site although this has to be seen in the context of the fact that the site is and will continue to remain as valuable as the development that can be achieved on it.
- 3.16 In addition the report would suggest that under the phased proposal the Council continues to satisfy its wider 'Well Being' duties in the

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context of the Town Centre redevelopment and the need to ensure that the site satisfies the planning uses identified in the Town Centre Area Action Plan.

Legal Implications

- 3.17 Bromsgrove District Council owns the freehold interest in the Site.
- 3.18 Bromsgrove District Council's freehold interest in the Site will be transferred to the preferred developer in two tranches
- 3.19 The disposal of the Site will be subject to planning permission being granted for the proposed development.
- 3.20 At completion of Phase One the Council will enter into a lease back arrangement for the provision and maintenance of the car park.
- 3.22 It remains necessary that a strip of land owned by the Council adjacent to the highway along Hanover Street from the existing exit from the car park to the junction with Worcester Road may be needed to be dedicated as highway land to facilitate improvements and increase the capacity of the road network that will service the new development.
- 3.23 The Site continues to be subject to rights of way across the Site to provide access to the rear of Worcester Road properties.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.26 The Site is situated on the junction of Hanover Street and Birmingham Road and covers approximately 1.78 acres.
- 3.27 The Site currently includes a pay and display car park and a vacant building known as George House.
- 3.28 The District Plan has identified this Site for retail led mixed use development.
- 3.29 In December 2014, Cabinet agreed to re-market the Site. Re-marketing was undertaken by commercial property consultant, John Dillon of GJS Dillon Property Consultants.
- 3.30 As a result of the marketing exercise, 16 expressions of interest were received.

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- 3.31 The 7 developers offering the highest price were shortlisted and invited to attend on 4 and 5 February to present their offer for the Site and proposed development plans for the Site to an assessment panel.
- 3.33 With the assistance of the professional advice received pursuant to 3.32, each proposal was scored by the assessment panel using the scoring matrix shown at Appendix 3.
- 3.34 The assessment panel consisted of:
- Cllr Margaret Sherrey, Leader of the Council
 - Cllr Rita Dent, Portfolio Holder
 - Cllr Kit Taylor
 - John Dillon, GJS Dillon Property Consultants
 - Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning Manager
- 3.35 The two highest scoring proposals were both invited to answer further questions in respect of their proposals and to give their best and final offer for the Site. This round of questions was led by the Council's professional advisers, consisting of John Dillon of GJS Dillon Commercial Property Consultants, the District Valuer and James Walsh, Associate Director of Turner and Townsend Cost Management Limited. The two developers were also asked to submit written answers to specific questions raised to assess the planning merits of their proposals (the 'Planning Assessment').
- 3.36 The assessment panel reconvened on 5 March, and in light of expert advice and information in the Planning Assessment the two highest scoring developers were scored again using the scoring matrix shown as Appendix 3.
- 3.37 The highest scoring proposal was submitted by the preferred developer with a proposal for a retail led development. The preferred developer has named potential tenants as part of their bid and there was evidence of interest from major high street retailers, but the final tenant mix will be a matter for the preferred developer.
- 3.39 The Bromsgrove District Plan is currently undergoing formal examination in the public stage and whilst it is not yet an adopted document, the policies which guide the redevelopment of the town centre have gone largely unchallenged. It is against the National Planning Policy Framework and these emerging policies that proposals for the Site will be judged when planning permission is considered for this Site. The proposed development by Hinton Properties accords

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with the emerging policies and the design will provide a street frontage visible from the town centre and the roads surrounding the Site will be designed in line with the requirements of the planning.

- 3.40 As previously reported the proposal would also provide jobs both in relation to the construction of the Site and once the development of the Site is completed and is operational.
- 3.41 Following the decision to select Hinton Properties as the preferred developer further detailed discussions took place to negotiate Heads of Terms and the current position in relation to the disposal of the site is as follows.
- 3.42 The previous decision to dispose for a mixed use scheme has not changed but given the current economic market affecting Bromsgrove as clarified in the report. It has been necessary for the developer to request that the scheme be delivered in two phases.

Analysis

- 3.46 Members will be conscious that as a Local Authority we are obliged to ensure that the Council continues to obtain best value for the site notwithstanding the introduction of phasing, and that this obligation sits alongside the Council's wider duty to promote the economic and well-being of residents and business within the town/ District and the social well-being of residents.
- 3.47 As members will appreciate the value of a site is dependent on the development that can be achieved on the site and the current value has been assessed as being achievable as a result of the developer having secured the covenant of a reputable anchor tenant, namely Waitrose
- 3.48 The Council is advised that the developer has provided written evidence that Board approval has been obtained from Waitrose and that as a consequence the development that will enable the completion of Phase One is in commercial terms a secure as can be achieved outside of a contractually binding environment.
- 3.50 Advice would suggest that without being able to develop in two phases the scheme would not be viable for any developer while providing the Council with the same land value (particularly given that many of the original bids relied on the same tenants of the delivery of the scheme).

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Furthermore we are advised that the two phased scheme insofar as it is possible in the current retail conditions affecting Bromsgrove continues to represent best value and continues to align with the Councils duties to provide economic and social well-being.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.51 The regeneration of Bromsgrove town centre has been a priority raised by the community for a number of years. This Site is a gateway to the town and as such is regarded as a catalyst for the development of surrounding sites, an increase in footfall and the general improvement of the local area.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 As learnt from the previous abortive disposal of this Site, and given the current retail conditions affecting Bromsgrove as reported, there is a risk that the proposed disposal of the Site to the preferred developer may not go ahead. The proposed phasing of the scheme and the robustness of the Councils initial selection process mitigates this.

4.2 There is a risk when entering into an agreement for a phased development that at any point the deal may be aborted and the Council may be forced to re-evaluate its position at that time. It is for this reason that the Council has sought to obtain independent commercial advice in respect of such a scenario. Whilst there can never be any guarantees in this regard as any commercial deal is as vulnerable as the market in which it is being negotiated there are strong commercial indications that the proposals within the phasing are equally balanced in terms of the risks to the Council and to the Developer.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 3 – Scoring Matrix

Appendix 6 – Site Plan showing location of proposed units and re-configuration of the car park

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

December Cabinet report – 'Update Report re Disposal of Council Held Assets at Hanover Street Car Park and George House.'

June 2015 Cabinet report – "Disposal of Council assets at Hanover Street Car Park and George House"

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7. KEY

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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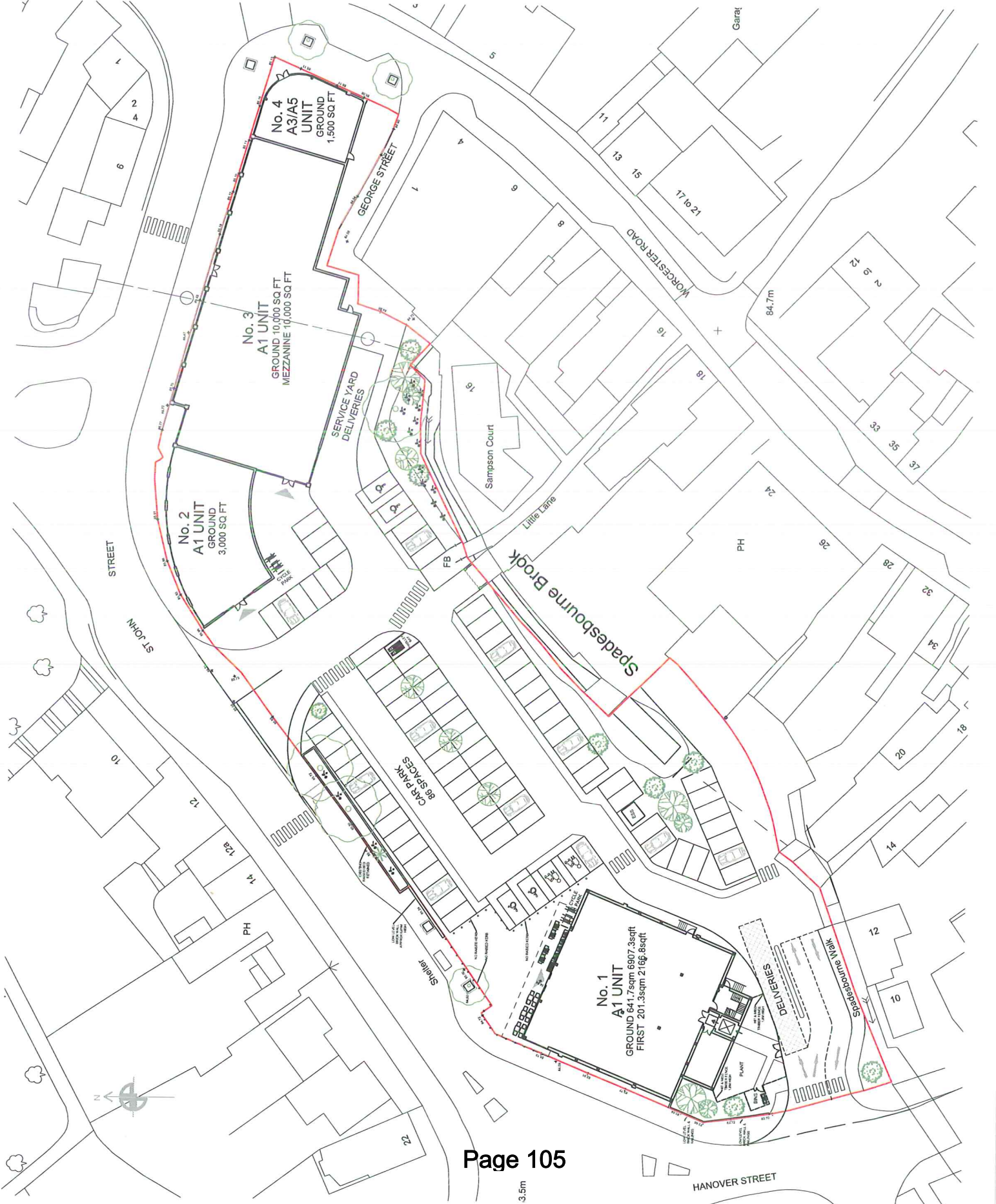
FORMER MARKET HALL SITE, BROMSGROVE - SCORING MATRIX

NAME:				
		Considerations	%	
			Weighting	Score
BEST VALUE	ACHIEVABLE PRICE (scored by John Dillon/DV in conjunction with reports prepared by Turner & Townsend)	Price	50	
		Proposal		
		Development Appraisal/ Building costs		
		Conditions		
	DELIVERABILITY (John Dillon)	Financial Standing/Ability to Finance	20	
		Professional team/advisers		
		Track Record		
		Timescales		
	PLANNING (Dale Birch & Mike Dunphy)	Compliance with the local plan	20	
		Design Proposal		
BENEFITS FOR BROMSGROVE (Members)	Naturalisation of the Brook	10		
	Links with the High Street			
	Proposal makes Bromsgrove more attractive for visitors			
	Benefit to community			
TOTAL			100	

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REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD
A	15/05/16	ISSUED FOR PERMIT	HP	HP
B	15/05/16	REVISIONS TO PERMIT	HP	HP
C	15/05/16	REVISIONS TO PERMIT	HP	HP
D	15/05/16	REVISIONS TO PERMIT	HP	HP
E	15/05/16	REVISIONS TO PERMIT	HP	HP
F	15/05/16	REVISIONS TO PERMIT	HP	HP
G	15/05/16	REVISIONS TO PERMIT	HP	HP
H	15/05/16	REVISIONS TO PERMIT	HP	HP
I	15/05/16	REVISIONS TO PERMIT	HP	HP
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