



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 1ST AUGUST, 2007 AT 6.00 PM

COMMITTEE ROOM, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BURCOT LANE, BROMSGROVE

AGENDA

MEMBERS: Councillors R. Hollingworth (Leader), Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths (Deputy Leader), Dr. D. W. P. Booth JP, G. N. Denaro, Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., R. D. Smith, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP, M. J. A. Webb and P. J. Whittaker

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 10th July 2007 and 18th July 2007 (Pages 1 - 8)
4. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Steering Board held on 3rd July 2007 (Pages 9 - 14)
5. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Performance Management Board held on 17th July 2007 (to follow) (Pages 15 - 18)
6. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Working Party held on 19th July 2007 (Pages 19 - 20)
7. Hamilton House Supported Housing Scheme, Sidemoor (Pages 21 - 32)
 - (a) Report of the Head of Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services.
 - (b) Report of the Head of Planning and Environment Services on the Future Use of the Premises.
8. Future of Bromsgrove Museum (Pages 33 - 38)
9. Details of Progress with Leisure Centre Developments (Pages 39 - 46)
10. Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-2010 (Pages 47 - 112)

11. Bromsgrove Railway Station and Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy (Pages 113 - 122)
12. Preferred Partnering in the Delivery of Affordable Housing (Pages 123 - 128)
13. To consider any other business, details of which have been notified to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services prior to the commencement of the meeting and which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting

K. DICKS
Chief Executive

The Council House
Burcot Lane
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

26th July 2007

Agenda Item 3

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

TUESDAY, 10TH JULY, 2007 AT 6.00 P. M.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hollingworth (Executive Leader), Dr. D. W. P. Booth JP, G. N. Denaro, Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., R. D. Smith and P. J. Whittaker.

Observers: Councillors P. M. McDonald, C. B. Taylor and C. J. K. Wilson.

Officers: Mr. K. Dicks, Mr. P. Street, Mr. H. Bennett, Mr. M. Bell, Mrs. C. Felton, Mr. J. Godwin, Mr. D. Hammond, Ms. J. Pickering, Ms. J. Pitman, Ms. D. Poole, Mr. A. Coel and Ms. R. Cole.

18/07 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey J. P. and M. J. A. Webb.

19/07 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 27th June 2007 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

20/07 SCRUTINY STEERING BOARD

The Minutes of the Scrutiny Steering Board held on 12th June 2007 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting be noted.

21/07 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Minutes of the Performance Management Board held on 19th June 2007 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting be noted and the recommendation relating to the formation of an Action Plan to address issues at the Customer Service Centre be approved.

22/07 AUDIT BOARD

The Minutes of the Audit Board held on 25th June 2007 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting be noted.

23/07 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNDER THE HOMEBUY SCHEME**

The Cabinet considered a report on the Government's Homebuy Scheme which was operated in Worcestershire by the West Mercia Housing Group. The scheme allowed for the provision of a grant subsidy in the form of an equity loan to allow first time buyers to purchase a property on the open market at 75% of market value. There was a limited amount of funding from Central Government to support this scheme. There was an opportunity for the Council to participate in the Scheme by utilising funding from the Strategic Housing Capital Programme which had not been allocated for new build shared ownership schemes, should there be applicants wishing to take up the scheme after the Government funding had been exhausted. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Bromsgrove Homebuy Scheme be approved in principle, provided there is funding remaining within the Strategic Housing Capital Programme and there is a demand from applicants within the District after Government funding has been utilised; and
- (b) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Planning and Environment Services and the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing to determine specific applications.

24/07 **AMENDMENTS TO THE CAR PARKING ORDER**

Consideration was given to a report on changes to the existing Car Parking Order. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the new Car Parking Order as attached to the report be approved;
- (b) that the proposed charges set out in section 4.1 of the report be approved;
- (c) that the annual and quarterly permits be issued as set out in Schedule 4 of the proposed Order;
- (d) that Aston Road (Part) be incorporated within the Car Parking Order and managed as a non-paying car park;
- (e) that parking offenders who wish to appeal be allowed an additional 14 days in which to pay the reduced amount following the response to the appeal;
- (f) that recommendations (a) to (e) take effect from 1st October 2007;
- (g) that a full review of the car parking service be undertaken and a report submitted in 2008.

25/07 **DATA QUALITY STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to a report on a proposed Data Quality Strategy and Action Plan which it was hoped would ensure an improvement in the accuracy and quality of performance data in line with good practice.

RESOLVED: that the Data Quality Strategy and associated Action Plan be approved.

26/07 **COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2007/2008**

The Cabinet considered a report on the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment together with the new Improvement Plan for July 2007 to June 2008. As part of the discussion on the Improvement Plan reference was made to the additional areas for action listed by the Council's Improvement Director. These would need further consideration and as this is undertaken, actions would need to be agreed for incorporation into the Improvement Plan. Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment report and in particular the areas for improvement set out on page 7 of the report be noted;
- (b) that the Improvement Plan 2007/2010 be approved;
- (c) that it be noted that the Improvement Plan cross references to the recommendations contained in the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment report but also contains other actions for 2007/2008 designed to deliver the Council Plan 2007/2010;
- (d) that the changes to the Council Plan set out in section 3.4 of the report, based on the Corporate Management Team's view of the Council's capacity to deliver the Council Plan 2007/2010 be approved; and
- (e) that it be agreed that further updates to the Improvement Plan for 2007/08 may be required as determined by discussions between the Improvement Director and Corporate Management Team.

27/07 **HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK - REVISION OF LONE WORKING POLICY AND RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

The Cabinet considered a report on the revision of the Council's Lone Working and Risk Assessment Policy and Procedures. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the revised Lone Working and Risk Assessment Policy and Procedures be approved and be incorporated as part of the arrangements for Health and Safety at Work within the Council's Policy.

28/07 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME INCREASE - OAKALLS PLAY FACILITY**

The Cabinet considered a report on the request to amend the existing Capital Programme to include an additional £25,000 in respect of the provision of play facilities on the Oakalls Estate in Bromsgrove. The cost would be met by the remaining Section 106 funding from the Developer.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the payment of an additional £25,000 in respect of play facilities at the Oakalls Estate in Bromsgrove from Section 106 monies be approved; and

(b) that the Capital Programme for 2007/2008 be amended accordingly.

29/07 **TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION**

The Cabinet considered a report on the approach to be taken regarding the regeneration of Bromsgrove Town Centre. It was recognised that progress was needed as quickly as possible having regard to the legislative restraints and the requirements of the planning system. Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that a Development Partner be sought either by way of the OJEU process or other appropriate mechanisms;
- (b) that specialist expertise be obtained to assist with the project management of the regeneration of the Town Centre until March 2008 and that this be funded from the Town Centre budget; and
- (c) that authority be delegated to the appropriate Officers to issue Compulsory Purchase Orders to facilitate the redevelopment of the Town Centre in accordance with an agreed Area Action Plan.

30/07 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS - PROCEDURE**

(The Chairman agreed to the consideration of this item as a matter of urgency)

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services referred to an issue which had arisen at a previous Cabinet Meeting relating to the procedure for members of the Public to submit questions to Cabinet. The issue had now been considered further by Officers and as the Council's Constitution currently made no provision for public questions, the item had been deleted from Cabinet agendas at present. It was intended however to revisit the matter as part of the forthcoming review of the Constitution. Cabinet would then be asked to consider options for receiving questions from the public. In the meantime, information would be included on the Council's website explaining that any questions received would be directed to the relevant Member.

A number of public questions had been submitted in writing on an anonymous basis, however the member of the public concerned was present at the Meeting and The Head of Legal and Democratic Services undertook to discuss the matter with him further.

31/07 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

RESOLVED: that, under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended the public be excluded from the Meeting during the consideration of the items of business the subject of the following minutes on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended the relevant paragraphs of that part being as set out below:-

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
32/07	3
33/07	1

32/07 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME INCREASE - DOLPHIN CENTRE CATERING CONTRACT**

Following consideration of the report it was

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the payment of £45,000 in respect of the capital investment relating to the cancellation of the current catering contract at the Dolphin Centre be approved;
- (b) that the Capital Programme for 2007/2008 be amended accordingly; and
- (c) that in order to ensure the availability of catering services to customers and having regard to the income implications, the continuation of the service on site until at least 31st October 2007 be approved.

33/07 **SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE**

The Chief Executive Officer explained the background to this item and reported that he intended to submit a further report on this matter to Cabinet on 18th July 2007 together with details of any responses received at the end of the consultation period. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm

Chairman

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 18TH JULY 2007 AT 5.00 P. M.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hollingworth (Leader), Dr. D. W. P. Booth JP,
G. N. Denaro, Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., R. D. Smith and M. J. A. Webb

Officers: Mr. K. Dicks, Ms. R. Cole.

34/07 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey J. P. and P. J. Whittaker.

35/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

36/07 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

RESOLVED that, under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item of business the subject of the following minute on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended, the relevant paragraph of that part being as set out below, and that it is in the public interest to do so:-

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
37/07	1

37/07 **FUTURE SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE**

Following consideration of the report it was

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the proposed structure as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved for implementation with effect from 19th July 2007;
- (b) that the statutory function of Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer be permanently transferred from the Corporate Director (Resources) to the Head of Financial Services with immediate effect;
- (c) that the use of external recruitment consultants to recruit to the vacant Executive Director post be approved and that the recruitment costs be funded from the accumulated savings generated from the vacant Corporate Director (Resources) post;

- (d) that the increase in salaries associated with Head of Financial Services and the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services be approved and be funded in 2007/08 from the accumulated savings generated from the vacant Corporate Director (Resources) post and in future years it be factored into the review of the medium term financial plan;
- (e) that the Chief Executive be granted delegated Authority in consultation with the Leader of the Council to interview the Corporate Director (Services) in order to determine into which post he should be redeployed; and
- (f) that the Appointments Committee be informed of the need to take responsibility for the appointment of the vacant Executive Director post.

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm

Chairman

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY STEERING BOARD

TUESDAY, 3RD JULY 2007

PRESENT: Councillors P. M. McDonald (Chairman), J. T. Duddy (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. M. Bunker, R. J. Deeming, B. Lewis F.CMI, D. L. Pardoe and C. B. Taylor

Officers: K. Dicks, P. Street, Mrs. C. Felton, Mrs. S. Sellers and Ms. D. McCarthy

9/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS

No declarations of interest or whipping arrangements were made.

10/07 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Steering Board held on 12th June 2007 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

11/07 NEW TASK GROUPS

Refuse and Recycling Task Group

There was a discussion on when this particular Task Group should commence and clarification was sought on what other groups had been set up to examine similar issues in the past. It was explained that the Cabinet had set up an Advisory Group which was chaired by the Portfolio Holder but it was no longer in existence. Before the Advisory Group, there had been a Task Group which had been set up under the old scrutiny system which looked at issues surrounding the refuse and recycling collections at that time. It was suggested that rather than delaying the newly established task group, members of the Refuse and Recycling Task Group be requested to ensure they take on board what had been achieved by the previous scrutiny Task Group and Advisory Group.

The four membership forms which had been submitted were considered and Councillor Mrs. Bunker also expressed her wish to become part of the Task Group.

The scrutiny exercise scoping checklist which had been completed by the Chairman of the Refuse and Recycling Task Group, Councillor Taylor, was discussed. Members were urged to incorporate the original wording which had previously been agreed by the scrutiny proposers.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Refuse and Recycling Task Group be comprised of Councillors C. B. Taylor (Chairman), Mrs. M. Bunker, Mrs. A. E. Doyle, C. R. Scurrall, S. P. Shannon and C. J. Tidmarsh;
- (b) that additional wording be included to the scrutiny exercise scoping checklist so that it read as follows: "Identifying issues affecting the efficiency and performance of the service since the introduction of two weekly collections, highlighting the promotional aspirations of the workforce as a means of strengthening the service and make general recommendations for strengthening the service";
- (c) that subject to the additional wording in (b) above being included, the scrutiny exercise scoping checklist, which would act as the Task Group's terms of reference, be approved; and
- (d) that the Task Group be given 4 months to complete its scrutiny investigation from the date of the Task Group's first meeting.

Air Quality

The four membership forms which had been submitted and the scrutiny exercise scoping checklist which had been completed by the Chairman of the Air Quality Task Group, Councillor McDonald, was considered.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Air Quality Task Group be comprised of Councillors P. M. McDonald (Chairman), E. J. Murray, D. L. Pardoe, C. R. Scurrall and S. P. Shannon;
- (b) that the following wording be added to the scrutiny exercise scoping checklist: "To carry out a scrutiny exercise to examine air quality issues in Bromsgrove District and to identify actions which can be taken to address the issues";
- (c) that subject to the additional wording in (b) above being included, the scrutiny exercise scoping checklist, which would act as the Task Group's terms of reference, be approved; and
- (d) that the Task Group be given 4 months to complete its scrutiny investigation from the date of the Task Group's first meeting.

Public Transport - Buses

The Board was informed that a late membership form for the Public Transport - Buses Task Group had been received from Councillor Hancox which was considered with the other two membership forms received. The Chairman of the Task Group, Councillor Lewis, was concerned there were not enough members on the Task Group to ensure proper scrutiny of the issue, therefore, Councillor McDonald volunteered to become a member.

The scrutiny exercise scoping checklist, completed by the Task Group Chairman, was discussed and members were reminded that at the previous meeting of the Board, members had wanted accessibility of the bus service for disabled users to be included as an area to investigate. It was also mentioned that at a recent Disabled Users Forum, accessibility issues surrounding the taxi service for disabled users had been raised.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Public Transport - Buses Task Group be comprised of Councillors B. Lewis F.CMI (Chairman), D. Hancox, Mrs. J. D. Luck, P. M. McDonald and C. R. Scurrall;
- (b) that the following wording be added to the scrutiny exercise scoping checklist as a specific area to be scrutinised: "Accessibility and suitability of the bus service for disabled users";
- (c) that subject to the additional wording in (b) above being included, the scrutiny exercise scoping checklist, which would act as the Task Group's terms of reference, be approved;
- (d) that the Task Group be given 4 months to complete its scrutiny investigation from the date of the Task Group's first meeting; and
- (e) that all other accessibility issues for disabled users be considered as a separate issue for possible future scrutiny at the next Scrutiny Steering Board meeting on 31st July 2007.

General

It was clarified that all non-cabinet members, including members of the Scrutiny Steering Board, would need to submit a membership form if they were interested in joining a particular Task Group.

There was also a discussion relating to co-opting and it was stated that the Scrutiny Steering Board could co-opt members on to particular Task Groups if they so wished. Members were informed that this had been done previously and had worked well. It was stated that members would need to decide when it was appropriate to co-opt members on to a Task Group and when it would be more fitting to call someone as a witness. It was confirmed that witnesses could claim for expenses incurred.

Members were reminded that to try and encourage public participation in scrutiny, after any Task Group was established and its terms of reference and membership agreed, a press release would be issued requesting that anyone with any comments or suggestions for the Task Group could contact the scrutiny team.

Training

The Scrutiny Steering Board were informed that training on how to lead a Scrutiny Task Group was planned and it was recommended that the appointed Chairmen of the new Task Groups did not arrange their first meeting until the date of the training was known. Members were also informed that a facilitator would attend the first (and possibly second) meeting of the Task Groups to assist members with their scrutiny work. Newly elected Councillors were asked to liaise with the committee services officer for this Board when arranging their first Task Group meetings.

12/07 **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to the report relating to suggestions from officers for possible future scrutiny. The three suggestions given were: Older People; Climate Change; and Sense of Community and Well-being.

The report also informed members that the Council was reviewing its Community Strategy and that the ongoing consultation would conclude at the end of August. It was proposed that in order for members of the Scrutiny Steering Board to be consulted, the item be included on the agenda for the next meeting on 31st July 2007. (It was stated that if any member could not attend on that date, it might be possible for them to attend a different meeting where the Community Strategy would be discussed.)

RESOLVED:

- (a) that an agenda item on the Community Strategy be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Scrutiny Steering Board on 31st July 2007; and
- (b) that, as the suggestions put forward for scrutiny by officers were included in the Community Strategy, consideration of those suggestions be deferred until after the Scrutiny Steering Board had discussed the Community Strategy at the next meeting.

13/07 **CABINET'S FORWARD PLAN**

Members were informed that the purpose of the Forward Plan being included as an item on the Scrutiny Steering Board was to notify the Board of key decisions which were scheduled to be made over the next few months. This enabled the Board to monitor the key decisions being taken and ensure correct policy and procedure were being followed. Members were reminded that they needed to take the Forward Plan into consideration when setting their own work programme.

Clarification was sought on a couple of items on the Forward Plan. Members were also informed that if they needed to find out further details on any item, they could contact the relevant Portfolio Holder and Head of Service.

RESOLVED: that the Forward Plan be noted.

14/07 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Work Programme for the Scrutiny Steering Board was considered, specifically the scrutiny Task Group reviews scheduled.

Members were informed that since the work programme had been printed, the Culture and Community Task Group had arranged a review meeting to be held on Monday 9th July 2007 and the Consultants Task Group review meeting would be organised shortly. Other Task Groups were not due to reconvene to carry out a review until later in the municipal year.

It was clarified that only those Task Groups which had been set up under the new scrutiny system had been included, although it was known that at least three Task Groups set up prior to March 2006 had carried out a review.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that it be reported to the next meeting whether any Task Groups set up under the old ways of working had not held a review meeting; and
- (b) that the work programme be noted.

15/07 **NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CABINET**

Consideration was given to the non-confidential items on the Agenda for the Cabinet Meeting which was scheduled to be held on 10th July 2007.

Questions were asked regarding the audit of overview and scrutiny referred to in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Improvement Plan 2007/08 Report.

It was explained that the IDeA had been commissioned to work with the Council to carry out an audit on scrutiny as part of the ethical governance tool kit and this had taken place prior to the elections. It resulted in various scrutiny training sessions for members being arranged, including the general training for non-Cabinet members which had taken place at the end of May 2007. Further training was planned which included training for Scrutiny Steering Board Members on how to lead a Scrutiny Task Group and scrutiny training for the Cabinet. For the benefit of newly elected members, it was stated that the scrutiny arrangements had been altered for 2007/08 and there had been a reduction of Scrutiny Steering Board members (as recommended by the Improvement Director). It was also pointed out that for the first time the elected Chairman was a member of the opposition (which was good practice).

Questions were raised on the Department for Communities Local Government White Paper, Strong and Prosperous Communities which made proposals to strengthen overview and scrutiny, and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill which was expected to put some of the proposals into effect. It was stated that guidance was not expected until the end of 2007 at the earliest which made it difficult for officers to advise the Board on the implications. It was stated that an updated version of the report on the Local Government White Paper, Strong and Prosperous Communities which was considered by the Board in December 2006, would be resubmitted to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Steering Board. It was also suggested that a seminar covering key courses of action, such as partnership working, be held later on in the year when there was less uncertainty surrounding the impact on the work of overview and scrutiny committees.

A discussion ensued regarding the report outlining amendments to the Car Parking Order. It was suggested that officers could be requested to look at other areas which had increased the car parking charges for those who drive high polluting vehicles. However, there was concern that Bromsgrove needed to encourage people into the town centre and that an extra car parking charge

would not be useful. It was pointed out that owners of high polluting vehicles were penalised in other ways.

Members were assured that in future officers would be requested to explain all abbreviations contained within their reports to ensure clarity.

RESOLVED: that the non-confidential reports be noted.

16/07 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

RESOLVED: that under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting during the consideration of the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act, the relevant paragraph of that part, in each case, being as set out below:-

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraph(s)</u>
16	3
17	1

17/07 **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BY EXECUTIVE CABINET**

Members considered in detail the two confidential reports and in particular, the report relating to the Senior Management Restructure.

(NOTE: The Corporate Director (Services) and Head of Legal Services left the room while the Senior Management Restructure report was discussed.)

RESOLVED:

- (a) that, on behalf of the Scrutiny Steering Board, the Chairman put forward comments made regarding the Improvement Director post referred to in the Senior Management Restructure report to members of the Government Monitoring Board at its next meeting on 17th July 2007; and
- (b) that the confidential reports be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Chairman

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD

TUESDAY, 17TH JULY 2007

PRESENT: Councillors J. T. Duddy (Chairman), C. B. Taylor (Vice-Chairman),
A. N. Blagg, Mrs. M. Bunker, S. R. Colella and Mrs. C. M. McDonald

Observers: Councillor G.N. Denaro

Officers: Mr. K. Dicks, Mr. H. Bennett, Mr. A. Coel and Mr. A. Jessop

15/07 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. A. E. Doyle.

16/07 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Performance Management Board held on 19th June 2007 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

17/07 **STRATEGIC HOUSING INSPECTION ACTION PLAN**

Following the earlier report submitted to the Board in August 2006, which set out the Council's Action Plan which had been developed and approved by Cabinet to address the recommendations made by the Audit Commission in this regard, a further report was submitted giving an update on that Action Plan (as at June 2007) which outlined the progress made, with 86% of the actions having been completed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet (via the appropriate Portfolio holder) explore the possibility of carrying out a "peer review" in October 2007, in support of the aim of achieving a 1-star standard by the time of the next review, to be held in February 2008.

18/07 **IMPROVEMENT PLAN EXCEPTION REPORT - MAY 2007**

Consideration was given to the report on the Improvement Plan for May 2007, together with the corrective action being taken, as set out in the appendix to the report.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the revisions to the Improvement Plan Exception Report, together with the corrective action being taken; and
- (b) that it be noted that, from the 66 actions highlighted for May, 76% of the Plan was on target (green), 2% was one month behind (amber), and 5% was over one month behind (red) – with 18% of actions having been re-scheduled or suspended, with approval.

19/07 **COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2007-08**

A report setting out the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment, together with the Council's Improvement Plan for the period July 2007 to June 2008, was submitted. It was also reported that the Improvement Director had considered the Improvement Plan and had highlighted twelve additional points which he felt should be added, and these details, having been considered and approved at the last meeting of the Cabinet, were circulated to members.

RESOLVED that the Board notes:

- (a) the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment report, and in particular the areas for improvement set out on page 7 thereof,
- (b) the Improvement Plan for 2007-08, and that the Board concur with the view that the Plan addresses the issues raised in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment;
- (c) that the Improvement Plan 2007-08 does cross-reference to the recommendations contained in the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment report and also contains other actions for 2007-08 which are designed to deliver the Council Plan 2007-2010;
- (d) the changes to the Council Plan, as set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report, which were based on the Corporate Management Team's view of the Council's capacity to deliver the Council Plan 2007-2010;
- (e) that further updates to the Improvement Plan 2007-08 may be required, based on discussions between the Improvement Director and the Corporate Management Team: and
- (f) that, in an endeavour to track the progress of all recommendations made by the Board, and to ensure that Cabinet is being held to account, a regular quarterly report be submitted to the Board outlining the progress to date (or otherwise) of any recommendations made during the preceding quarter.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that, insofar as paragraph 63 of the Corporate Performance Assessment document was concerned (Performance Management of Corporate Projects), the Cabinet be requested to submit a briefing note on how the implementation of the Spatial Project was progressing to date, and that the appropriate Portfolio holder and relevant Head of Service be invited to address the Board at their next meeting in this regard; and

- (b) that, at future meetings, when considering a report on a relevant topic, the appropriate Portfolio holder should be invited to address the Board and be fully briefed by the appropriate officer(s).

20/07 **PERFORMANCE REPORTING - MAY 2007**

A report on the Council's performance as at 31st May 2007 (Period 2) was submitted.

RESOLVED that the Board notes

- (a) that 80% of indicators are improving or stable as at the period end, compared to 60% in the previous period;
- (b) that 66% of indicators are achieving their targets at the period end, compared to 63% in the previous period;
- (c) and celebrates the successes as outlined in Section 4.4 of the report;
- (d) the potential areas for concern set out in Section 4.5 together with the action being taken, to improve performance generally; and
- (e) that the Sickness Absence figures be examined in detail at the next meeting of the Board.

21/07 **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

A report setting out a Sustainable Community Strategy, an overarching strategic document for the future direction of the district, was submitted.

RESOLVED that consideration of this document be deferred to the next meeting, and that, in the meantime, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman prepare a draft response to be considered in tandem therewith.

The meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

Chairman

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY

THURSDAY, 19TH JULY 2007

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs. M. Bunker, S. R. Colella, Mrs. R. L. Dent,
Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., R. Hollingworth, E. J. Murray, S. R. Peters,
E. C. Tibby, P. J. Whittaker and C. J. K. Wilson

Officers: Mr. D. Hammond, Mr. M. Dunphy, Ms. R. Williams and Ms. K. Firth.

1/07 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillors Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E. and P. J. Whittaker be appointed Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Working Party respectively for the ensuing Municipal Year.

2/07 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. N. Denaro, Mrs. J. D. Luck and Mrs. M. A. Sherrey.

3/07 **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

The Chairman extended a particular welcome to those Members who were new to the Local Development Framework Working Party.

4/07 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Local Development Framework Working Party held on 28th March 2007 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

5/07 **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PROCESS**

Members received a presentation which provided an overview of the Local Development Framework (LDF) process, together with a 'Jargon Guide'. It was noted that there was much greater emphasis on effective community engagement in the LDF process than under the old Local Plan process. Particular attention was drawn to the LDF documents already produced by the Council, including the Local Development Scheme which set out the project plan for the LDF and the Statement of Community Involvement. Members were informed of the process that needed to be followed in the preparation and adoption of such documents.

A key part of the LDF process was the requirement for the Council to produce a Core Strategy. Other significant Development Plan Documents included the Longbridge Area Action Plan and Town Centre Area Action Plan. Attention was also drawn to the need for an Annual Monitoring Report, the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal and to the Planning Inspectorate's examination and 'tests of soundness' of LDF documents.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions to which officers and the Chairman responded.

6/07 **CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

Members received a report on the progress of the Issues and Options stage of the Core Strategy preparation process. The Issues and Options Report had been published in June 2005, however, this was prior to more recent Government Guidance on key areas such as Planning and Climate Change, Biodiversity and Geological Conservation and revisions to the Regional Spatial Strategy. It was therefore proposed to carry out an additional stage of consultation and to put forward new issues for consideration in order to relaunch the Issues and Option Report. The consultation newsletter was submitted.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and that the newsletter form the basis for consultation on new issues/options shaping the Bromsgrove Core Strategy.

7/07 **REDDITCH REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS STUDY**

Members' attention was drawn to the size of the provisional housing allocation figures for Redditch under the Regional Spatial Strategy options. Due to concerns about the lack of a sound rationale and robust evidence for the figures, Bromsgrove, Redditch and Worcestershire County Councils had jointly commissioned a study to carry out an independent assessment of the figures, to consider and evaluate the implications of the options for the areas surrounding Redditch and to identify broad directions for residential growth. It had been hoped that a draft report would have been available for consideration at the meeting but it had been delayed. It would therefore be brought forward to the Working Party in due course.

The meeting closed at 5.40 pm

Chairman

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

1ST AUGUST 2007

PETITION RELATING TO HAMILTON HOUSE SUPPORTED HOUSING SCHEME, SIDEMOOR

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor P. J. Whittaker
Responsible Head of Service	David Hammond

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To receive a petition relating to Hamilton House Supported Housing Scheme, Sidemoor.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of the petition and consider the accompanying report of the Head of Planning and Environment Services.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Council meeting on 18th July 2007, Councillor D. Pardoe presented a petition to the Chairman of the Council. The petition, which contained 79 names, together with a number of additional written representations received from certain of the signatories to the petition, related to incidents which had taken place at the premises and associated staffing issues. The petition was referred to the Cabinet for consideration.

- 3.2 The wording of the petition is as follows:

"Due to all the incidents over the past ten years and the most recent the one involving Drugs and Alcohol this petition is to get Hamilton house, York road, Sidemoor staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week 365 days a year or closed down."

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As detailed in the accompanying report of the Head of Planning and Environment Services.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As detailed in the accompanying report of the Head of Planning and Environment Services.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

6.1 As detailed in the accompanying report of the Head of Planning and Environment Services.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 As detailed in the accompanying report of the Head of Planning and Environment Services.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 As detailed in the accompanying report of the Head of Planning and Environment Services.

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 As detailed in the accompanying report of the Head of Planning and Environment Services.

10. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

10.1 As detailed in the accompanying report of the Head of Planning and Environment Services.

11. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

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

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	No
Corporate Director (Services)	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	No
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

12. APPENDICES

None.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition and separate written representations.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Debbie Parker-Jones
E Mail: d.parkerjones@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881411

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

1ST AUGUST 2007

**HAMILTON HOUSE SUPPORTED HOUSING SCHEME, SIDEMOOR –
FUTURE USE OF PREMISES**

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor P. Whittaker
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Planning and Environment

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Hamilton House is a supported housing scheme that is managed by Bromford Housing Group to provide temporary housing and support for single homeless people aged between 16 and 25 years of age.
- 1.2 The scheme was enabled by this authority back in 1997 when a 10 year lease of a block of four one bedroom council flats was allocated to Bromford Housing Association on a peppercorn rent, to run as supported housing to provide a service to young homeless people.
- 1.3 As the lease has now expired, this report provides members with an opportunity to review the future use of the premises which remain in the ownership of the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Council owned premises known as 15, 15a, 17 and 17a York Road no longer be leased to Bromford Housing Group for the purposes of providing a supported housing scheme for younger people and that reasonable notice be given to enable the closure of the scheme and appropriate re-location of residents currently housed at Hamilton House.**
- 2.2 **That members approve the principle of the accommodation being returned to four self contained one bedroomed flats for management by a partner RSL and allocation to general needs or homeless clients subject to a condition that no more than two units at any time may be allocated as temporary accommodation.**
- 2.3 **The Council's partner RSLs be invited to submit innovative proposals to purchase or lease the premises for management and allocation on the basis set out in 2.2 above, at a cost that would enable them to cross subsidise a scheme of bringing back into use empty flats over shops in the district for letting as**

dispersed temporary accommodation for younger homeless people .

- 2.4 That subject to a suitable scheme being proposed by an RSL, the Head of Planning & Environment and the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing be granted delegated authority to sell or transfer the dwellings at a peppercorn rent or capital receipt that represents market, below market or zero value.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Hamilton House is a supported housing scheme that is managed by Bromford Housing Group to provide temporary housing and support for single homeless people aged between 16 and 25 years of age.
- 3.2 The scheme was enabled by this authority back in 1997 when a 10 year lease of a block of four one bedroom council flats was allocated on a peppercorn rent to Bromford Housing Association, to run as supported housing to provide a service to young homeless people to whom the Council did not have a legal duty to assist under housing legislation. Over the years, the scheme has increasingly been use to house young single clients to whom the Council does have a duty.
- 3.3 The project opened in 1997 providing accommodation for up to 8 young people. Each flat was converted into two bed sitting rooms with a bathroom and kitchen being shared between two residents. Occupants are granted 6 month Assured Shorthold Tenancies and receive support from a visiting support worker.
- 3.4 The role of the support work has been to support tenants to gain the life skills and confidence that they need to live independently. Tenants are expected to participate as a condition of tenancy through regular meetings with a keyworker and referral to appropriate agencies.
- 3.5 The support work is funded through Supporting People under Bromford Housing Group's Worcestershire Floating Support Service For Younger People. This service provides support to an average of 24 young people at any one time based upon provision of 5 hours contact per client per week. Whilst Supporting People funding has in the past been ring fenced to the Hamilton House Scheme, more recently the more flexible approach under the countywide floating support scheme has allowed levels of support to be adapted to clients' individual needs with more hours per week being available when clients first enter supported housing. Support is now available to clients irrespective of where they are housed whether they are in Hamilton House or a dispersed tenancy elsewhere.

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES

- 4.1 Complaints have been made by residents of Sidemoor relating to anti social behaviour that is seen to emanate from Hamilton House. Whilst issues have been raised over the 10 year life of the scheme, the most recent incidents have culminated in a petition signed by 68 residents being submitted asking for the scheme to be closed down.
- 4.2 The complaints made cover a broad range of issues including:
- A general concern that higher levels of supervision and management are required to provide 24 hour cover at the scheme.
 - Anti social behaviour in and around the premises, especially during the evenings and at weekends including, loud music, screaming and fighting and bottles being smashed against fences.
 - Acts of vandalism, stones and rubbish being thrown into neighbouring gardens and poor management of domestic refuse at the premises
 - Unreasonable levels of people entering and leaving the premises and vehicles parking in the vicinity.
 - Inconsiderate use of the garden areas and bad language.
 - Late night parties and consumption of alcohol outside of the scheme.
- 4.3 It appears that matters may have recently been exacerbated by a large proportion of the tenants in the scheme falling in the 16 – 18yr age group. Bromford Housing Group have responded to complaints by appointing a Team Support Worker who is addressing the issues through more intensive working with tenants, the issue of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and the issue of written warnings to offending residents at the scheme. Referral procedures are being reviewed and support has been given by the Police and the Council's Community Support Officers in carrying out late night drive bys.

5. PROPOSED FUTURE USE OF THE PREMISES

- 5.1 The future of Hamilton House and alternative use of the premises has been discussed with both Bromford's Supported Housing Manager and the Supporting People Manager for Worcestershire.
- 5.2 It is jointly recognised that whilst the Hamilton House Scheme has provided a vital service for younger people over its 10 year life, it is reasonable to say that provision of supported housing in this form has possibly run its course.
- 5.3 There continues to be a high level of need for supported housing for homeless young people and accordingly the closure of Hamilton House would be a major loss to the housing options available in the District.

However, grouping together members of this client group to the density allowed at Hamilton House is now viewed as not being the best method of delivering support services to young homeless people unless higher levels of support are available. Therefore dispersal into self contained accommodation in the wider community is considered to be a more favoured option. This view has already been taken by the Council in agreeing its own strategy for re-modelling homeless hostel provision in the District. The longer term strategy for young people is being developed in conjunction with Supporting People and neighbouring authorities to provide appropriate supported housing options for younger homeless people in north Worcestershire.

- 5.4 The more flexible method by which support services are now provided to clients who live at Hamilton House would enable support to continue to be provided to the client group irrespective of where they live. Accordingly, in the event of Hamilton House ceasing to operate, support services would continue to be available wherever the tenants may be re located.
- 5.5 Members are therefore asked to consider the future use of the four Council owned dwellings that are currently operated as the Hamilton House Supported Housing Scheme. The lease to Bromford Housing Group has expired and both Bromford Housing Group and Supporting People agree the importance of reviewing the provision.
- 5.6 Members must however bear in mind the pressing need to provide both temporary and permanent accommodation for homeless clients to whom the Council has a statutory duty. The loss of 8 units of accommodation for this client group would be a loss of such provision and closure will inevitably present a higher risk to the Council of having to use Bed and Breakfast accommodation.
- 5.7 Members are asked to consider the recommendations set out at Sect 2 of this report that attempts to address the concern of local residents that Hamilton House should cease to operate whilst offering an option for the Council to offer the asset to an RSL as the possible catalyst to develop a number of dispersed dwellings for homeless people in buildings that are currently empty and in private ownership.
- 5.8 The Council is encouraged and measured against its performance in bringing empty property back into use for affordable housing. Members will be aware that usable accommodation above shops remains empty and unused. Much of this accommodation may have potential for conversion into affordable housing and suitable for occupation by single or homeless couples in preference to hostel or B&B type temporary accommodation.
- 5.9 In the past, housing associations have failed to successfully bring such accommodation back into use due to the cost of refurbishment and the lack of willingness on behalf of shop owners to grant leases of

sufficient length to warrant the refurbishment investment necessary by the RSL. The recent proposals for a Council managed Private Leasing Scheme also proved to be expensive and accordingly was not approved by the Executive Cabinet for adoption.

5.10 The recommendations set out at Sect 2 of this report propose:

- That the four flats at York Road are not re allocated for the purposes of providing a supported housing scheme.
- That the dwellings be either sold or leased to an RSL for allocation as four self contained one bedroom flats to general needs or homeless applicants from the waiting list.

It is envisaged that this action will provide a more stable community and a higher level of respect for the dwellings by the occupying tenants and accordingly provide a higher level of confidence to local residents.

However, recognising the need to replace the loss of provision for homeless and younger people at Hamilton House it is necessary to try and provide suitable accommodation elsewhere. As all opportunities for new build affordable housing are currently being pursued and the Council is already funding BDHT to buy back private flats for such use, the Council needs to further explore the use of private sector empty accommodation. Recognising that such action can be expensive, the recommendations go on to propose:

- That the Council's RSL Preferred Partners be invited to submit innovative bids to either purchase or lease the accommodation from the Council (for allocation as general needs housing) but at a discounted cost to the RSL sufficient enough to enable them to operate the four dwellings at a surplus that could be ring fenced to cross subsidise the development of a small group of privately owned empty dwellings that could be brought back into use as temporary accommodation for occupation by homeless clients.
- That the officers be granted delegated authority to lease or sell the premises to an RSL at a discounted value deemed to be appropriate to enable a scheme to be developed.

It has to be recognised that the proposals outlined above are aimed at promoting re-use of empty privately owned accommodation to supplement the lack of affordable accommodation available for rent in the District. Such a scheme is likely to be costly to provide and this proposed pilot scheme is an opportunity to investigate whether the potential exists for using an existing asset as an incentive. Members must be aware that there is no certainty that such a scheme will be viable and that in the event of failure by an RSL to submit a viable project, it may be necessary to sell or lease the four dwellings as a stand alone affordable housing scheme.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The four dwellings have an open market value that will be affected by the current condition, layout and limited garden land. Had the dwellings been transferred to BDHT in 2004 as part of the LSVT their Tenanted Market Value would have been in the region of £7,000 per dwelling.

The Council has leased the premises to Bromford Housing Group since 1997 for a peppercorn rent under which the RSL was responsible for internal and external repairs.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Provision of temporary accommodation to qualifying homeless applicants is a statutory duty of the Council under the Homeless provisions of the Housing Act 1996. The requirements of the Homelessness Act 2002 prevents local authorities from placing homeless families or expectant mothers in B&B type accommodation.

8. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

8.1 Objective 1 – Regeneration (Town Centre, Longbridge and Housing)

Improved standard of housing for homeless people and possible opportunities to bring back into use empty accommodation over shops.

8.2 Objective 2 – Improvement (Customer Service, Reputation and Performance)

Improved service to customers by the ability to provide better options for homeless clients.

8.3 Objective 3 – Sense of Community and Wellbeing (Community Influence and Community Events)

Improved forms of temporary accommodation may influence health and wellbeing.

8.4 Priority 4 – Environment – Clean District and Planning

Dispersal of homelessness younger people into the community may support better neighbourhood integration and therefore reduce negative impact upon the environment.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 There a risk that younger people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness or who are in housing need will have more limited alternative options. There is the risk that they may have to make a homeless approach and this could consequently lead to the following risks:

- Inability by the Council to meet the statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation in the District thus necessitating placement in B&B accommodation outside of the District.
- Increased B&B costs.
- Weakened performance against BV 183a (number of families placed in B&B) which is currently zero.
- Inability to reach DCLG target of reducing temporary accommodation by 50% by the year 2010

10. **CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Closure of the scheme may affect the Council's customer, by offering homeless young people less options to address their homelessness situation. However if a private empty homes scheme develops it may encourage younger people to be more independent and take responsibility for their housing situation.

11. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Procurement Issues Proposal to invite Partner RSLs to submit bids to develop a scheme as set out in the report.
Personnel Implications None
Governance/Performance Management Ability to improve performance against BVPI's on use of B&B and Hostel accommodation.
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Aims to address the community issues put forward by local residents by returning the dwellings back to self contained flats for single occupancy, thus reducing the risk of anti social behaviour in the neighbourhood.
Policy None
Environmental None
Equalities and Diversity None

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

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

Portfolio Holder	Yes.
Acting Chief Executive	Yes
Corporate Director (Services)	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	Yes

13. OTHER SUB HEADINGS

13.1 None

14.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 None

CONTACT OFFICER

Name A.M. Coel
E Mail a.coel@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel 01527 881270

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

1ST AUGUST 2007

FUTURE OF BROMSGROVE MUSEUM

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor June Griffiths
Responsible Head of Service	John Godwin

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report has been prepared to provide information and update on the progress in the implementation of the Cabinet's decision of February 2006 to close the museum.
- 1.2 Members are advised that owing to a number of adverse factors, progress regarding the completing of the transfer of the museum and its collection to a trust or arms length organisation has encountered difficulties.
- 1.3 However, Members are advised that despite the difficulties of completing the transfer, officers have secured a suitable solution allowing the transfer of Bromsgrove Museum.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the delayed progress regarding the completion of the transfer of the museum and its collection to a trust or arms length organisation, as outlined in the report, be noted.
- 2.2 That the period for the completion of the transfer be extended to 30th September 2007; and that should insufficient progress be made towards completion by this date, the museum close on 1st October 2007 and not re-open until transfer of the collection to a trust is completed.
- 2.3 That with regard to the course of action referred to in 2.2, the Portfolio holder for Culture and Community Services, the Corporate Director - Services and Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services be given delegated authority to determine whether sufficient progress has been achieved.
- 2.4 That in the event it is determined that sufficient progress has been achieved, the period for the completion of the transfer be extended to 31st December 2007.

- 2.5 That the Portfolio holder for Culture and Community Services, the Corporate Director – Services and the Section 151 Officer be given delegated authority to negotiate a price for the sale of the museum building to the museum trust

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Executive Cabinet resolved at its meeting of 27th February 2007 to ask officers to identify a suitable solution which would allow for the transfer of Bromsgrove Museum to a trust or other arms length organisation within three months.
- 3.2 Officers would suggest that they have identified a suitable solution that would allow for the transfer of the museum, but that the pace of the process of completing the transfer to a trust or an arms length organisation has encountered delays. The delays have been the result of several factors.
- 3.3 First, the guidance provided by the former portfolio holder in late March to meet with the donor of the collection to explore an offer from the donor to resume responsibility for the museum and the collection delayed actions with regard to pursuing transfer to a trust or arms length organisation.
- 3.4 Second, the once it was acknowledged that the transfer to the donor of the collection was a suitable solution a process had to be entered into that allowed the Council to explore with the donor a price for the museum building.
- 3.5 Third, the slow pace of transfer was compounded by the provision of legal advice to the Council that the Charities Act 1993 specifies that the museum collection can only be transferred to a trust or charity and not to a private individual.
- 3.6 Fourth, this led to the need to enter into negotiations with the donor regarding these conditions and last, the process slowed further by the unavailability of the donor and or their legal advisor owing to their holiday arrangements.
- 3.7 The donor remains interested in re-assuming responsibility for the collection. The donor has instructed his legal adviser on this matter and it is anticipated that a trust will be established. Unfortunately, the unavailability of the donor and their legal adviser has had the effect of delaying work on establishing the trust.
- 3.8 The process of transfer has already been slower than thought necessary. Officers are proposing that the donor be issued with a deadline. It is suggested that if the donor has not made significant progress in the establishment of the trust by 30th September 2007 the museum should be

closed and only re-opened when the process of transfer has been completed.

- 3.9 It is suggested that powers be delegated to the Culture and Community Portfolio holder, the Corporate Director – Services and the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services to determine whether sufficient progress has been achieved.
- 3.10 If it is determined sufficient progress has been achieved then Cabinet should approve a further extension of the deadline to not later than 31st December 2007. If sufficient progress has not been achieved the museum should close on 1st October 2007.
- 3.11 It is proposed that power be delegated to the Culture and Community Portfolio holder, the Corporate Director – Services and the Section 151 Officer to negotiate a price for the sale of the museum building to the museum trust.
- 3.12 On completing the sale of the property to the trust agreement should be reached on a revenue payment to the trust by the Council and plans prepared for the transfer of the Tourist Information Centre to an alternative location.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The 2007/08 budget in respect of the museum and tourist information centre equates to £65,800 including all support and capital charges and would provide funding for a financial year.
- 4.2 The valuation of the property for office accommodation places a value of £375,000 on the premises occupied by the museum. If sold at this value the capital receipt would be invested by the Council and has the potential to raise income of £20,000 pa. The receipt would not be ring fenced and could be used for capital projects in the district.
- 4.3 The Council has not made any allowance in its budget for a revenue grant to the museum. Any request for additional funds would have to be linked to the priorities of the Council and during 2007/08 would have to be self funding.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The museum collection cannot be transferred to a private individual. The Charities Act 1993 will guide the process of transfer of the collection and property.

6. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 Members need to consider the issue of the museum in relation to the Council's priorities. The Council was criticised in its CPA for not linking expenditure sufficiently to its priorities. In relation to priorities it is clear that the museum provides a service to the community and closure would impact detrimentally on customer service and its reputation. In addition disposal of the museum is also likely to positively affect performance.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The paramount risk to the District Council is that unless action is taken to address the position of the museum's management the potential exists for legal action against the council. However, the current arrangements appear unsustainable and levels of usage are currently low and may even be falling.
- 7.2 It is essential that the District Council pursued due diligence in any decisions about the future of the museum and obtains appropriate legal advice on transfer or dissolution.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Closure of the museum would remove a service to the community. However, current visit figures indicate a low level of interest in the facility.
- 8.2 The recommendation to transfer management of the museum to a trust would retain the service to the customer, reduce the financial costs to the Council and possibly inject new enthusiasm into the promotion of the facility.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues - None
Personnel Implications – Possible redundancy of museum staff
Governance/Performance Management – Remove responsibility for the management of the museum
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Policy - None
Environmental - None

Equalities and Diversity - None

10. OFFICERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Chief Executive	Yes
Corporate Director (Services)	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Phil Street
E Mail: p.street@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881202

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

1ST AUGUST 2007

DETAILS OF PROGRESS WITH LEISURE CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor Mrs June Griffiths
Responsible Head of Service	John Godwin

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details the progress with regard to the future management of the Dolphin Centre and Haybridge Sports Centre.
- 1.2 The report contains information with regard to progress on the transfer of certain aspects of the District Council's Culture and Community Service to a leisure trust.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members approve:

The continued exploration of the actions that will expedite the process of entering into a lease with a leisure trust and the transfer of the staff of the Dolphin Centre and Haybridge Sports Centre to a leisure trust.

To request Council to approve a transfer from balances of £44,000 to fund the projected costs associated with maintaining Haybridge Sports Centre until 31st March 2008.

To request Council to include a provision of £850,000 for capital works at the Dolphin Centre to up grade the fitness suite in the Capital Programme for 2007/08. The funding for the scheme will be met from existing capital receipts.

To request Council to fund the provision of £25,000 from balances to support the process of transfer in using the skills and knowledge of resources from an adjoining district Council.

3. BACKGROUND

It was resolved in February 2006, as part of the medium financial plan, that District Council would withdraw from the operation of Haybridge Sports Centre and Woodrush Sports Centre.

Members will be aware from earlier reports that owing to the receipt of a Sport England National Lottery grant in respect of facilities at Haybridge School, signed in by the County and District in 1999, any exit arrangement would require the consent of Sport England and the likelihood of the payment of a refund of the National Lottery Grant to a value of £809,000.

Subsequent to that meeting between officers of the District and County it has been said by County officials that Sport England will not approve any depreciation of the Grant and would expect the grant to be repaid in full should a signatory withdraw before the end of the 21 year agreement.

During the period that the District Council was considering the future arrangements for Haybridge and Woodrush Sports Centres exploratory discussions commenced regarding transferring some of its culture and community activities to a leisure trust. Discussions were opened with Wychavon Leisure Trust and they indicated their interest in having Haybridge transferred along with the Dolphin Centre.

The situation with regard to Haybridge had been further complicated with the school being afforded foundation status. In effect the County Council no longer own the school, but the buildings have been transferred to the Governors of the school and along with this the dual use agreement.

In the light of becoming a foundation school the head teacher and governors had expressed an interest in assuming responsibility for managing the facility. However, following recent discussions between the school, the District Council and Wychavon Leisure Trust the school has now indicated their willingness for the trust to operate the sports centre on the school site.

Bromsgrove District Council is having extensive discussions with Wychavon Leisure Trust regarding the transfer of both the Dolphin Centre and Haybridge.

Following the presentation of a report to Cabinet in January 2007 Wychavon Leisure Trust have prepared an outline business case for the transfer of the two centres to the trust. The business case indicates that there will be savings to this Council of in excess of £200,000 per year based on the up grading of the Dolphin Centre fitness suite facilities.

However, the process of preparing a detailed business case has not been completed for two reasons. First, the uncertainty regarding the re-introduction

into the capital programme of the funding for the upgrading of the fitness suite at the Dolphin Centre. Second, the requirement by the trust to receive detailed information relating to finance, human resources, legal, structural and other managerial data.

The trust have indicated that the work on the completion of the up grading of the Dolphin redevelopment needs to be completed if the maximum level of savings is to be secured and to ensure the highest quality of service to the residents of Bromsgrove.

The success of their business case and the savings to the Council are significantly influenced by the implementation of this redevelopment. The trust has stated that there are aspects of the up grading of the Dolphin Centre that they will assume responsibility such as the provision of equipment and the marketing of the facilities.

The Council will have to undertake this capital works as if it were passed to the trust there would be an adverse tax effect on the cost of the work.

The budget for the pursuit of the further upgrading of the Dolphin Centre was withdrawn from the capital programme, but without its re-introduction the trust will not be capable of securing the level of savings attractive to the Council.

The original capital programme was for £1.29m. The amount being requested to be re-introduced into the capital programme shows a reduction of at least £300,000 as the trust will provide the equipment and the marketing.

This saving of £300,000 is critical as the Council to their forward thinking in terms of replacing the Dolphin Centre with a new leisure centre. Although a structural survey, completed in 2002 concluded the building could be used for a further 20 years it is suggested that due to its lack of energy efficiency and the fact the swimming pool is supported by pillars a period of some 7 years would be more acceptable to the Council and its community's needs.

The proposed upgrading of the Dolphin Centre will be a design and build project. However, before work can commence on the design stage the Council will have to re-introduce the monies into the capital programme of £850,000. The company identified to carry out the project will not commence work on the design stage without a commitment from the Council.

If the funding is not re-introduced progress on upgrading will halt and the trust will be unable to prepare a reliable business case and may not pursue their interest. This would result in having a Dolphin Centre in its current unsatisfactory condition and continuing to have to find revenue expenditure of £500,000 per annum to maintain the Centre and its programme.

If the funding is re-introduced into the capital programme it is indicated that the Council will recover the expenditure and its loss of interest in the 7 year period projected for its future operation.

The trust are well advanced with their work on the business case. They have engaged a consultancy organisation called Matrix to look at the financial, human resource, legal and managerial dimensions of the transfer.

The financial information requested by the trust relates to budget for 2007 / 8; trends over the past five years by considering actual expenditure and income in terms of revenue and capital; income lines and categories of VAT plus any information on exceptional circumstances that affect income or expenditure over the past five years.

The human resources information requested relates to numbers and grades of employees; salary; pension; conditions of service and impact of job evaluation.

The legal issues relate to lease; transfer agreement and staffing matters related to TUPE.

The process of transfer is being pursued in the most prudent way, but this is a complicated technical and legal process and some expertise is required to support the process of transfer.

It is estimated that the cost to Wychavon District Council of transfer to a trust was close on £130,000. It is being suggested that Bromsgrove can draw on expertise that lies within Wychavon District Council in relation to transfer to a trust. However, this advice and expertise will require some expenditure.

There is not a consideration in the budget to fund this expertise. Therefore, Council is being asked to provide £25,000 from balances to obtain the necessary expertise to facilitate the process of transfer.

Furthermore, the transfer to a trust will not be completed within the projected time scale of 30th September 2007. A budget exists for the Dolphin Centre until March 31st 2008, but funding for Haybridge ceases on 30th September 2007. Cabinet are asked to extended funding for expenditure on Haybridge until 31st March 2008 at a cost of £44,000.

It is suggested that despite these recent challenges to the transfer process Council should continue to pursue transfer as this will not only result in savings for the Council, but will also secure a higher quality of service for the residents of Bromsgrove.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The capital programme for 2007/08 does not include a provision for refurbishment works at the Dolphin Centre. A request is made to include £850,000 into the capital programme 2007/08 to carry out the necessary up grading of the facilities at the Dolphin Centre. The funding for this project would have to be met from existing capital receipts. The impact of use can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1:

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
	£m	£m	£m
Opening balance	15.000	9.954	2.797
Used in year	-3.593	-7.401	-1.375
Approved c/fwd	-1.372		
Additional approval	-0.850		
Received in year	0.769	0.244	0.043
Closing balance	9.954	2.797	1.465

The funding for the provision of a resource to support the professional advice and support for transfer to a trust would have to be met from balances and repaid from future savings of transfer. A request is made for £25,000 from balances to allow for the acquisition of expertise to secure the process of transfer to a trust. In addition funding is required to maintain the Haybridge Sports Centre to 31st March 2008. The estimate of these costs equates to £44,000. The financial position on the centre will be clearer as the service continues and the final cost may reduce but it is requested that approval is obtained for the maximum of £44,000 to be funded from balances.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The 1989 Local Government Act permits this form of transfer.
- 5.2 Work will need to be carried out on the various document necessary for the securing of a transfer to a trust.

6. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 It is the intention that the transfer will improve the quality of service to the customer.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The risks include the effective monitoring of the trust and the robustness of the service level agreement drawn up with the trust. Furthermore, a careful analysis would have to take place of the of the leisure trusts business case.
- 7.2 The principal risk involved in closure of the Sports Centres will be the potential for dispute with Sport England and the County Council regards compensating for the National Lottery Grant.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The indications are that the service provided to customers by the leisure trust is of a very high standard. The leisure trust is customer sensitive and applies the adage private sector standards at public sector prices. All the evidence suggests that Wychavon Leisure Trust provides a high quality service to users.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues – Advice will sought on procurement conditions
Personnel Implications – Staff would be transferred to the trust will need to be consulted and the TUPE arrangements explained.
Governance/Performance Management – Management would be transferred to the trust
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Policy – The District Council has already transferred its housing stock to a trust so there is precedent for this action.
Environmental - none
Equalities and Diversity – There is a commitment in the trust to meet the needs of all members of the community

10. OFFICERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Acting Chief Executive	Yes
Corporate Director (Services)	Yes

Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	Yes

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Phil Street
E Mail: p.street@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881202

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

1ST AUGUST 2007

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor Roger Hollingworth, Leader of the Council
Responsible Head of Service	Hugh Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consult the Cabinet on the draft Sustainable Community Strategy (Appendix 1).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Cabinet is requested to:-

1. Consider the draft Sustainable Community Strategy and its priorities.
2. Make a response to the draft Sustainable Community Strategy.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy is the overarching strategic document for the future direction of the District. As such, the document is critical to shaping the strategic direction of the Council. The Council Plan (page 73) shows how the Strategy is at the pinnacle of the Council's performance management framework.

- 3.2 The original Community Strategy was published in 2003 and a number of key issues have taken place since that time. These include:

- The development of the Local Area Agreement (LAA).
- The requirement to rename the Community Strategy as the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- The importance of community cohesion as an integral part of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

It is therefore timely to review the plan to ensure that it becomes a sustainable strategy which aligns to the Worcestershire LAA. The Sustainable Community Strategy for Bromsgrove is the delivery

mechanism for the Bromsgrove Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), which fits with the District's needs and aspirations, and, in those parts which are relevant, contributes to the delivery of the LAA.

- 3.3 The draft Sustainable Community Strategy has 8 priorities, which reflect both national priorities and what is important to Bromsgrove District. The priorities are based on a combination of satisfying the District's local needs (as researched/evidenced by a recent analysis by Mott McDonald) as well as addressing national priorities that apply to the District. The priorities are: Fear of Crime; Environment; Town Centre redevelopment; Longbridge regeneration; Health & Well Being; Children & Young People; Older People; and Housing.
- 3.4 It is appropriate to consult on the draft Strategy to request the views of the District's residents. The consultation period commenced on 25th June and will end on 31st August 2007. The "glad or grumpy" postcard campaign was developed through the LSP Communications Group. To ensure that the consultation is as inclusive as possible, postcards have been sent out with a local newspaper, forms are available on the Council's website and at the street theatre during August, and there will be an article in the summer edition of "Together Bromsgrove". The Assistant Chief Executive and Senior Policy & Performance Officer will also be attending DMT's (Departmental Management Team) during July and August to consult with staff.
- 3.5 To ensure probity, the draft Strategy will be presented to the Equalities Forum, the Scrutiny Board, the Performance Management Board as well as Cabinet. Partner organisations will also take the Strategy through their own decision-making arrangements.
- 3.6 The results of the consultation will be collated during September and put to the LSP Board meeting on 26th September 2007, when the Strategy will be ratified. The completed Strategy will be taken to Cabinet and Full Council in November 2007 for approval.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Although the LSP is a non-statutory partnership, under the Local Government Act 2000, the Council is obliged to convene one and develop a Sustainable Community Strategy. As stated in paragraph 3.1, the Sustainable Community Strategy for Bromsgrove is the delivery mechanism for the Bromsgrove Local Strategic Partnership.

6. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The Council's priorities are aligned to the draft Sustainable Community Strategy's objectives and priorities.

7.1 RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The Bromsgrove Partnership will not be able to contribute to the national agenda if the Strategy is not produced.

8 CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The aim of the “grumpy or glad” consultation exercise is to ensure that we reach as many of the District’s residents as possible so that the final Strategy is based on the things that are important to our customers, as well as evidenced research.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Please include the following table and spell out any particular implications in the relevant box. If there are no implications under a particular heading, please state ‘None’:-

Procurement Issues - None
Personnel Issues - None
Governance/Performance Management – The LSP Terms of Reference and Governance has been revised to encompass the changes and the Strategy includes a performance management framework.
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act 1988 – None.
Policy – The Government’s White Paper “Strong and Prosperous Communities” and the Local Government Work Programme “Making it happen: The Implementation Plan” illustrate that partnerships are central to building on achievements of recent to embed them into lasting reform.
Environmental – None.
Equalities and Diversity – The Strategy will be tabled at the Equalities Forum on 2 nd August 2008.

10. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

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

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Corporate Director (Services)	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	Yes

Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

11. APPENDICES

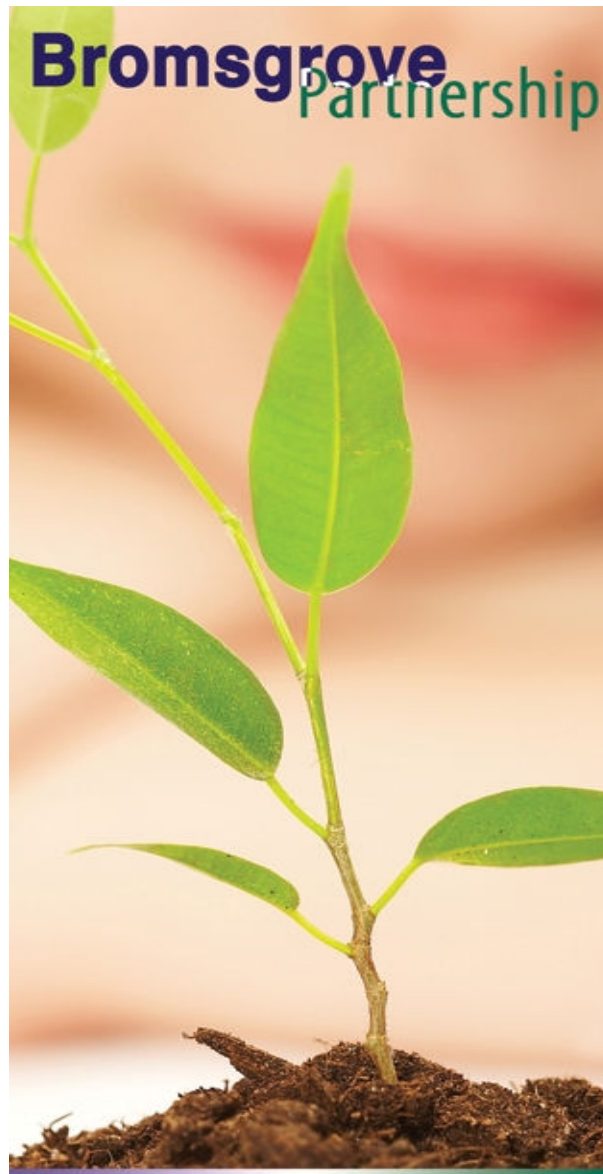
Appendix 1 Draft Sustainable Community Strategy

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Bromsgrove Evidence Report, Mott McDonald, February 2007.

Contact officer

Name: Louise Berry, Senior Policy & Performance Officer
E l.berry@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Mail:
Tel: (01527) 881412



Your **District**
Your **Future**

Bromsgrove Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2010

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

- Communities that are safe and feel safe
- A better environment for today and tomorrow
- Economic success that is shared by all
- Improving health and well being
- Meeting the needs of children and young people
- Stronger communities

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 District Councils are required to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for their area in partnership with public sector providers, private sector and voluntary and community sector. To ensure that the SCS is delivered, District Councils are expected to convene a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), bringing together local partners in order to develop a shared understanding of the particular needs and priorities of their area. The LSP in our District is known as the Bromsgrove Partnership.
- 1.2 The Bromsgrove LSP will:
- Act as the over-arching, co-ordinating partnership, ensuring that links are made between the locally themed partnerships (e.g. Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership);
 - Take responsibility for cross-cutting issues that have been identified as critical to the locality; and
 - Ensure that district-level plans such as the SCS and Local Development Framework take account of county-wide priorities and that district level priorities are considered, and where appropriate, reflected at the county level, i.e. through targets in the Local Area Agreement. (Discussed in Section 3).
- 1.3 The SCS therefore sets out a vision for the District and is concerned with addressing issues important to residents, the business community and visitors to Bromsgrove District. It is based on understanding and available evidence and focuses on the way in which services are delivered and how they can be improved for everyone's benefit. The strategy is a developmental, rolling document and the priorities identified may change over time as improvements are realised and new issues emerge. Changes will be reflected in subsequent editions of the strategy and it will be updated every three years. This is the second edition of the strategy and the next revision will be done in 2010. This period will coincide with the Government's Implementation for the White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities".
- 1.4 The strategy sets out priorities based on issues identified through consultation, Government policy, focus groups and stakeholder meetings. The aims and objectives of the SCS are to provide a co-ordinated approach to improving the quality of life for everyone in the District and is in effect a business plan for the LSP Board to manage against and be held to account on.

2. Worcestershire Partnership

- 2.1 The Worcestershire Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership for the whole of Worcestershire. Its members include all six district LSPs in the county, of which the Bromsgrove Partnership is one. Appendix 1 shows how the Worcestershire Partnership is structured. The Worcestershire Partnership has its own countywide SCS which is due to be revised later in 2007. For more details about the Worcestershire Partnership, please refer to their website:
www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk

3. Worcestershire Local Area Agreement

- 3.1 Local Area Agreements (LAA) is a Government initiative which intend to strengthen the performance management and delivery of Local Strategic Partnerships. The Worcestershire Partnership has worked with the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) on Worcestershire's LAA, which sets out the future priorities for the whole county.
- 3.2 There are 35 outcomes and approximately 90 targets in the LAA. The Bromsgrove Partnership is playing its part in the delivery of the outcomes, some of which form part of this Sustainable Community Strategy. Some of the targets also have reward available for their successful completion.
- 3.3 **How the LAA will make a difference**

A successful LAA will provide the opportunity to improve future service delivery by:

- Enabling a clear identification of needs, based on data from local communities through effective consultation.
- Focusing on key strategic priorities and measurable outcomes.
- Recognising the crosscutting nature of these outcomes and identifying how action in one area will have impact on another.
- Assisting partners to identify more clearly gaps and overlaps in provision.
- Enabling the pooling of budgets and resources leading, over the life of the LAA, to greater efficiency and effectiveness.
- Enhancing performance management in conjunction with partners thus making the process transparent and accountable.
- Simplifying delivery structures and creating clear accountability and governance arrangements.
- Improving community cohesion through greater engagement of all sectors, notably private, voluntary and community.

3.4 The second generation of LAA's will commence in 2008. The Government and the Local Government Association are making changes, for example, imposing statutory co-operation from partners.

3.5 **Worcestershire thematic blocks and outcomes**

Worcestershire's LAA is organised under the following blocks:

- A. Communities that are safe and feel safe**
- B. A better environment - for today and tomorrow**
- C. Economic success that is shared by all**
- D. Improving health and well being**
- E. Meeting the needs of children and young people**
- F. Stronger communities**

4. **The Bromsgrove LSP Contribution to the LAA**

4.1 As discussed in the introduction, all Councils are expected to convene a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), bringing together local partners in order to develop a shared understanding of the particular needs and priorities of their area, create synergies and improve the quality of life for an area's residents. The membership of the Bromsgrove Partnership Board is:

District Council (Leader of the Council)
Chief Executive of the Council
County Councillor
Education & Lifelong Learning Representative
NHS
West Mercia Police
Parish Councils Representative
Private Sector Representative
Voluntary & Community Sector Representative
Bromsgrove District Housing Trust

The Board members are supported by a Partnership Co-ordinator, and Theme/Project Group Chairpersons. Other technical support is given by an Area Co-ordinator from Worcestershire County Council, and planning and transport officers. Appendix 2 shows the structure of the LSP.

4.2 The LSP has responsibility for delivering the outcomes of the LAA. However, there are issues that are important to Bromsgrove District which fit into the blocks of the LAA but are not specifically mentioned, i.e. Town Centre regeneration and Longbridge redevelopment. There are also some areas (such as Oldington & Foley Park) which are totally irrelevant to Bromsgrove. The LSP therefore contributes to the LAA

where it is relevant to do so by pursuing the priorities for Bromsgrove.

5. Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework

- 5.1 The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced a new planning system, which at the local level, comprises the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF will be made up of a series of documents called Local Development Documents which together provide the framework for delivering the spatial planning strategy for the area. The LDF must have clear links with the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Government states that:

”The LDF should be a key component in the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy, setting out its spatial aspects where appropriate and providing a long-term spatial vision”.

- 5.2 Linkages between the Sustainable Community Strategy and the LDF are important for a number of reasons. They will help to ensure that the LDF is based on a greater understanding community involvement from early stages of development work and throughout the whole process.
- 5.3 The Government is clear that an effective relationship between the two strategies will have many benefits, including:
- Establishing an integrated approach towards future development.
 - Recognition of the LDF as a key delivery mechanism for the Sustainable Community Strategy.
 - Economies of scale in terms of working corporately and sharing resources in the preparation of Sustainable Community Strategies and LDF's.
 - The potential to resolve conflicts between local community aspirations and national/regional policy objectives by engaging a wide range of stakeholders.

6. Ten Year Vision

The Bromsgrove Partnership's Vision for the District is:-

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

To help people understand what this Vision might mean in practice, we have set out below a narrative picture of what the District might look like in 10 years' time.

A Thriving Market Town

We want a District with a thriving market town at its centre. Bromsgrove town will attract locals and visitors alike both for the shopping experience and the many other activities that the town will provide. As a thriving market town there will be regular activities like a street market, specialist markets, such as Easter markets, continental markets, farmers markets, antique fairs, the bonfire night, street theatre and so on. People will ask the question; “What is on in Bromsgrove town today?” The town will be significantly regenerated to achieve this, with a new civic heart, perhaps relocating the Council House to the town centre, a new road layout and a community focal point.

The shopping experience will be differentiated from its many neighbours by the quality and diversity of its shops and services, which will consist of small specialist shops, high street accommodation, restaurants, cafes and generally a retail mix that reflects the increasing affluence of the District. We also want a town centre that caters for the diverse needs of our communities, for example, good accessibility for people with disabilities, good toilet facilities and designing children and young people into our town centre rather than trying to design them out. In the evenings, we want to see a mix of entertainment, which caters for the young, but also for families and older people.

Housing

Currently we have an imbalance in our housing market. There is not enough affordable housing for young people to stay in the District or for young people and families to move into the District. The average house price is £241,000 with the cheapest housing being just under £100,000. It is very difficult for a household with an income of £25,000 to currently get on the housing ladder in Bromsgrove District. The Council and Bromsgrove District Housing Trust will tackle this issue by ensuring the new developments like the Longbridge site, the town centre and any future housing allocation the District has to take as a result of regional housing policy, has an appropriate mix of housing, for example, outright ownership, shared ownership schemes, low cost home ownership and rented accommodation.

Whilst ensuring we provide enough affordable housing we will also need to take increasing account of the expansion of our older population. Our over 85 population is set to expand by 128% over the next 25 years; meeting this need will require a good supply of sheltered, care at hand and extra care housing.

The need to keep our youngsters in our communities and our older people cared for within our communities applies not just to our planned big developments like Longbridge, but also our existing urban and rural communities.

We will also ensure an adequate supply of good quality temporary accommodation to ensure there is a safety net for those people made homeless through difficult circumstances.

Transport

Good transport is key to the District's future prosperity and people's quality of life. Every attempt will be made to ensure that public transport will radiate from Bromsgrove town to the District's outlying communities to strengthen the bond to our market town. Good transport links, using existing transport networks will also need to be a key feature of the regeneration of the Longbridge site. Where private sector provision does not meet the needs of a community, we will look to work together to provide public funded bus routes or community transport links.

A key development for the District will be the regeneration of Bromsgrove train station. This is likely to include at least an additional 300 car parking spaces, longer platforms to enable bigger trains to stop and collect more passengers, better access and a bus interchange linking the station to the town centre and District. This work should help "future proof" the train station against any change in transport policy in Birmingham, similar to that seen in London.

Economy

A defining characteristic of the District is that 26,000 people (29% of the total population) commute out of the District to work every day, so the transport improvements described above will be key to the continuing prosperity of the District. If the District becomes a difficult place to commute from, less people may wish to live here. Similarly, over 16,000 people commute into the District every day. The District has its own vibrant economy with low unemployment (1.7%). Maintaining this strong commercial sector through attracting inward investment, into sites like the Science and Technology Park, and developing small businesses through business start up schemes will remain important.

Environment and Climate Change

We want to ensure the Council and its partners take account of the serious issues we face on climate change. Each organisation will need to ensure it is doing its part through cutting energy consumption and increasing recycling. 90% of the District is green belt and we have some beautiful country side in the District; however, an increasing number of species are under threat, so the County and District Council who have specific responsibilities in this regard, need to work together to protect local habitats and maintain biodiversity.

Bromsgrove District Council is also in the special position of protecting the green belt south of Birmingham and stopping the urban sprawl. The rural areas will have been protected from development and traditional country life maintained. The District's villages will have been developed in line with their local communities' wishes. The more urban areas on the fringe of the District, will have been protected from encroachment by Birmingham unless the communities themselves wish to be part of the city region.

As we tackle the District's long term environment and climate change issues we will also have addressed more immediate issues that we know affect people's lives. The District will be clean and tidy so that whenever anybody enters from a neighbouring district they will know that they have arrived somewhere special. It will look immaculate at all times with roundabouts and other public areas being awash with flowers and decorative greenery. Any complaints will be responded to quickly. The District's roads will be maintained to a high standard and any reported problems dealt with quickly.

Domestic and trade waste will be collected regularly, at a preordained time, and cost effectively. The quantity of waste collected will meet all Government targets and whatever systems are needed to achieve this will have been put in place. We will have educated people in re-cycling and composting and will have reduced waste collection to a low level.

Crime

Along with the District cleanliness, low level crimes and anti-social behaviour are key drivers in determining how people feel about where they live and work. There has been a 32% reduction in headline crime in the District over the last three years; however, only 33% of residents feel the Police are doing a good job. This is a concern, so we want to continue supporting the difficult job of the Police through the Community Safety Partnership.

Residents have welcomed the Partner and Communities Together (PACT) meetings and initiatives like community officers, neighbourhood wardens, CCTV cameras and "designing out" crime through physical changes to roads, pavement and alleyways. We will build on initiatives like these, but also recognise that the majority of the population is law abiding and that being young is not a crime.

Health

Good health is the foundation for all that we do. We are fortunate that the District has high life expectancy rates and the majority of people are healthy; however, for those in need of care, the Health Service will continue to provide for them. The Bromsgrove Partnership will focus on a preventative agenda, in particular, reducing smoking and

increasing physical exercise and mental activities for our older population, so that people stay healthy for longer.

Delivery of this Vision will be underpinned by five themes:-

Excellent Customer Service

The Customer will be at the heart of everything we do and technology will play a huge part in enabling the delivery of better services for the customer through a variety of different access channels.

Community Leadership

The District Council will be the community leader and will work in partnership with others through bodies like the Bromsgrove Partnership. All councillors will be able to represent their communities strongly having been trained to a high standard.

Communication will have improved so that everyone is informed of what is happening and what is going to happen and that there is regular feedback from the general public to the Bromsgrove Partnership

There will be an excellent programme of community engagement through regular town hall meetings, area committees, parish councils, Partners and Communities Together meetings, forums for particular groups, for example, tenants, people with disabilities and early and inclusive consultation on specific issues like the town centre

Equality

We will have a District where everybody is treated equally no matter what their race, colour or religion. There will be no discrimination. We will protect and help the vulnerable and provide special services to those who need them.

Value for Money

In order to deliver the above agenda we will have paid close attention to the value for money achieved from each pound of public spending. At a strategic level, we will focus on the outcomes we want to achieve and make the best use of available delivery methods: including better technology, outsourcing to the private and voluntary sectors, shared services between councils and between other public bodies. At an operational level we monitor each pound spent carefully.

Partnership

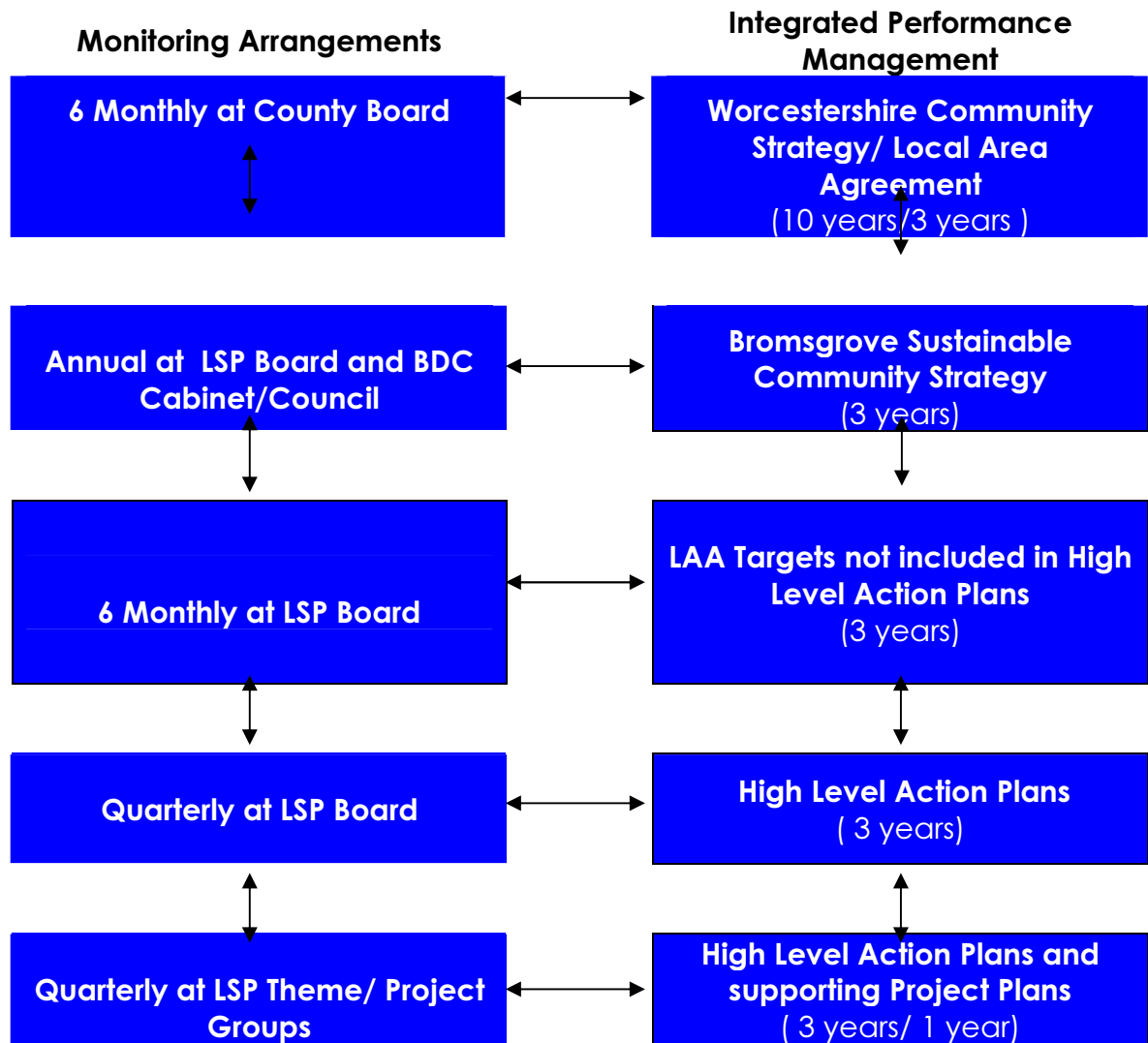
Finally, we will do all the above in partnership, working together to deliver the Vision for our District.

7. Direction and Priorities

- 7.1 The Bromsgrove Partnership has set itself 6 objectives to match those of the countywide LAA. At its awayday on 12th February 2007 the Board considered local evidence and national priorities on each of the LAA blocks, and as a result, the following priorities were determined and subsequently approved by the Board on 1st March 2007:
- Fear of crime
 - Environment
 - Town Centre redevelopment
 - Longbridge regeneration
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Children and Young People
 - Older people
 - Housing
- 7.2 Appendix 3 shows how the agreed priorities fit within the 6 blocks of the LAA. Each of the priorities will be dealt with via a Theme or Project Group. Each group has its own Action Plan and activity will be regularly reported back to the LSP Board.
- 7.3 The Bromsgrove Partnership has also developed its own Compact, which is a joint agreement between a council and the local voluntary and community sector to build trust and improve working relationships for the benefits of both parties. By working in partnership, the public and private sectors can make an exciting and unique contribution to enhancing the quality of life for the people of Bromsgrove. The public and voluntary and community sectors have distinct but complementary roles we believe that great value can be added to our communities through working together. A Compact Steering Group has been convened and an action plan developed. This plan is attached as Appendix I.
- 7.4 An action plan has also been created relating to communications. This is attached as Appendix J.
- 7.5 Section 13 looks in more detail at the 6 blocks of the LAA. Each section gives a summary of evidence for Bromsgrove District. It is recognised that the evidence is not all encompassing but represented a fair picture of the District at the time it was conducted.

8. Performance Management

8.1 The monitoring arrangements for each part of the performance management framework are detailed in the table below.



9. Focus of the LSP Board

- 9.1 The LSP Board has overall responsibility within the Partnership for understanding the particular quality of life issues that the District faces, setting strategic direction and monitoring progress. However, the Board recognises that much of the work required will continue without the Board, particularly if an operational partnership is already in place, for example, the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).
- 9.2 Where the Board can really add value is in delivering less established priorities and the actions to support them. The Board has selected the following 3 areas as its particular focus over the next three years:
- Bromsgrove town centre redevelopment;
 - Longbridge regeneration; and
 - Affordable housing.
- 9.3 The Board will continue to monitor and oversee the work of all the priorities.

10. Governance Arrangements

- 9.1 The LSP is governed by its Terms of Reference and Protocols. This document has been revised to reflect the changes that have taken place. Bromsgrove District is the accountable body for the LSP and the Leader of the Council acts as the Vice-Chairman of the Board. The Community Strategy and the LSP Annual Report are presented to Full Council and are also subject to examination by the Performance Management Board.

11. Community Engagement

- 11.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy is a document of huge importance to Bromsgrove and is about the place shaping of the District and what the Partnership aspires to achieve for the community and the District. Partners, communities and individuals have been consulted to gain their endorsement and commitment of the priorities set out in the document, and further consultation will be carried out regularly to ensure that the priorities are still relevant. This will be done through the community influence framework in place, via regular town hall meetings, Partners & Communities Together and the neighbourhood area committees.

12. Resources

- 12.1 Bromsgrove District Council funds the secretariat function of the LSP. This includes the employment of a Senior Policy & Performance Officer who acts as the LSP Co-ordinator and other technical support from the Chief Executive and Assistant Chief Executive.
- 12.2 Bromsgrove District Council has allocated £10,000 for the LSP for the financial year 2007/08. This money will be used to fund groups or projects that will contribute to the outcomes of the stated priorities. It is not an 'open access' grant scheme and commissioning arrangements will be developed as appropriate. The Partnership hopes to increase this modest fund by leveraging in more substantial funding from other partners and external funding streams.
- 12.3 As part of its community influence framework, Bromsgrove District Council will be funding two pilot area committee schemes during 2007/08 and has allocated £4,000 to each of the area committees. An evaluation will be carried out of these committees, along with other strands of the community influence framework, using funds from the regional Capacity Building programme "Learning to Deliver". This work will be co-ordinated via the LSP Communications Group.
- 12.4 The high-level action plans contain a resources column so that the issue can be considered on a case-by-case basis. If resources (i.e. funds or 'in kind' contributions) are not available to carry out a piece of work, projects should not be put forward.

13. Equality & Sustainability

- 13.1 In all development the principles of equal opportunities will be employed, ensuring individuals and groups are not discriminated against on the grounds of age, race, disability, gender, marital status, religion, sexual orientation, social and economic status or political beliefs. An impact assessment of the document will be undertaken and the Council's Equalities Forum will monitor the document.
- 13.2 Sustainability is an important issue in promoting the development and economic prosperity of the District and social progress to meet the needs of the community. Our aim, as far as possible, will be to protect the local and global environment and we will attempt to ensure that proposed actions do not directly or indirectly reduce the diversity of natural ecosystems. The Partnership will endorse careful consideration of the use of natural resources, waste production and nuisances such as noise or odour.

14. Evidence for Selection of Priorities

Communities that are safe and feel safe

The key statistics for crime and safety in the District are:

- Violence against the person offences represent the highest proportion of recorded key offences in Bromsgrove District, however, the number of such offences have decreased by 16% between 2002/03 and 2005/06.
- The number of sexual offences showed the least decline out of the six key offences – a decline of 3% between 2002/03 and 2005/06.
- 33% of Bromsgrove residents said that the police were doing a good or excellent job in 2006 - a decrease of 9% since 2005. There have been reductions in burglaries and car crime.
- The main reason given for the decrease in respondents' opinion in the police doing a good job since 2005 was a lack of perceived police presence or visibility.
- The proportion of people worried about crime declined from 86% in 2005 to 52% in 2006. Amongst those who were fearful, 80% claimed that it had some impact on their life.
- The vast majority of respondents felt safe in their neighbourhood or district during the day (97% and 94% respectively) although the latter represents a reduction since 2005.
- Around 4 in 10 respondents said they had been a victim of crime in Bromsgrove over the last 12 months, but did not report it to the police. The main reason for not reporting, mentioned by 55% of these respondents, was the feeling that the police would not have taken it seriously or would not have been interested.
- 48% of residents think that vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles is a very big or fairly big problem in their local area. (Worcs average 35%).
- 44% of residents think that people using or dealing drugs is a very big or fairly big problem in their local area. (Worcs average 27%).
- 36% of residents think that people being rowdy or drunk in public places is a very big or fairly big problem in their local area. (Worcs average 23%).

The LAA priorities for this block are:

- To reduce crime
- Reassure the public reducing the fear of crime
- Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs
- Build respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour

Analysis of Statistics

Fear of Crime has been identified as the major priority for the LSP to concentrate on and the high-level action plan (Section 14, Appendix A) has the following as the key deliverables:

- Reduce fear of crime
- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Crime reduction

A better environment for today and tomorrow

The key statistics about the environment in the District:

- There has been an improvement in the cleanliness of relevant land of highways, from 80% in 2003/04 to 90% in 2005/06.
- The percentage of household waste recycled has increased from 10% in 2003/04 to 24% in 2005/06.
- However, the amount of household waste has increased from 401kg per capita in 2003/04 to 432kg per capita in 2005/06.
- The percentage of residents satisfied with local parks and open spaces has increased from 54% in 2000/01 to 71% in 2004/05.
- 87 % of residents think that, over the past three years, parks and open spaces have got better or stayed the same.
- In Summer 2006, Bromsgrove was awarded its first Green Flag Award, for Sanders Park.
- Only 18% of land designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within Bromsgrove was found to be in favourable condition.

The LAA priorities for this block are:

- To reduce waste and increase recycling
- To have cleaner, greener and safer public spaces
- To protect and improve Worcestershire's natural environment/biodiversity
- Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs
- Build respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour

Analysis of Statistics

CO₂ emissions and biodiversity have been identified as the major priorities for the LSP to concentrate on and the high-level action plan (Section 14, Appendix B) has those headings as its key priorities.

Economic success that is shared by all

The key statistics on economic information in the District:

- 26.1% of people aged 16-74 in Bromsgrove have no qualifications, however, there are parts of Sidemoor, Charford and Marlbrook ward where the proportion is over 40%.
- 9% of working age people in Bromsgrove claim a key benefit, compared to 11% in Worcestershire.
- Almost 50% of claimants are claiming incapacity benefit, with a further 18% claiming job seeker benefits.
- 10% of job seekers allowance claimants have been out of work for more than a year (compared to 9.5% in Worcestershire).
- The proportion of claimants who are aged 16-24 has increased from 11% in 2003 to 13% in 2006, whilst the proportion of claimants aged 50 and over has decreased from 43% to 41%.
- The number of jobs in the public administration and health sector in Bromsgrove has increased by over 30% between 2003 and 2005.
- In contrast, the number of jobs in the manufacturing sector has decreased by 14% between 2003 and 2005.
- Overall, the number of employee jobs in Bromsgrove has increased by 3% between 2003 and 2006, compared to 0.4% across Worcestershire as a whole.

The LAA priorities for this block are:

- To develop a vibrant and sustainable economy
- To develop the economic infrastructure
- To improve the skills base of the local population
- To ensure access to economic benefits

Analysis of Statistics

The Town Centre Redevelopment and Longbridge Regeneration have been identified as the major priorities for the LSP to concentrate on under the heading of Economic Success. The high level action plans for each priority (Section 14, Appendix C and D) has those headings as their key priorities.

Improving health and well being

The key statistics about health and well being in the District:

- Whilst males in Bromsgrove have a higher life expectancy than males in Worcestershire or England, the percentage change in life expectancy between 2001-03 and 2003-05 was less than the equivalent change in Worcestershire and England.
- Life expectancy for females in Bromsgrove is slightly lower than that in Worcestershire as a whole.
- The mortality rate from circulatory diseases decreased by 19% between 2001-03 and 2003-05.
- The mortality rate from suicide increased by 18% between 2001-03 and 2003-05.
- Charford ward is estimated to have the highest rate of people aged 16 or over who smoke.
- Stoke Heath and Tardebigge wards are estimated to have the highest proportion of people aged 16 or over who binge drink.
- Sidemoor ward is estimated to have the highest proportion of people aged 16 or over who are obese.

The LAA priorities for this block are:

- Reduce health inequalities
- To increase life expectancy and reduce morbidity of adults
- To improve the quality of life of older people with a limiting long term illness

Analysis of Statistics

Physical activity, older people and smoking have been identified as the major priorities for the LSP to concentrate on and the high-level action plan (Section Appendix E) has those headings as its key priorities. (NB: The priority of older people will link to the Older People Group

Meeting the needs of children and young people

The key statistics about children and young people in the District:

- Primary Schools - Parkside Middle School had the highest percentage of half days missed due to authorised absence, whereas Aston Fields Middle School and Catshill Middle School had the highest proportion of unauthorised absences.
- Secondary Schools - South Bromsgrove Community High School had the highest percentage of half days missed due to authorised and unauthorised absences (7.2% and 2.5% respectively).
- At 2004, Bromsgrove had the second lowest teenage conception rate of all authorities in Worcestershire, next to Malvern Hills. The rate in Bromsgrove (22.4 conceptions per 1,000 females) is almost half that of the England average. The rate has also decreased in Bromsgrove from 26.7 in 1997, whereas some districts in the County have experienced an increase in the rate.
- The highest teenage conception rate was in Charford ward, which corresponds with the lowest proportion of boys and girls achieving 5 or more GCSEs A*-C.
- 84% of students leaving Year 11 in 2006 stayed on in full-time education, with a further 7% leaving to take up employment.
- The proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training decreased from 4.3% in June 2006 to 3.6% in November 2006

The LAA priorities for this block are:

- To improve access to and take up of integrated local preventative services
- To develop inclusive communities by increasing the level of educational attainments
- To increase participation in education and training
- To improve the life chances of vulnerable children and young people
- To enrich the experiences and development of children and young people through activity and positive contribution
- To ensure that children and young people are protected from harm
- To increase life expectancy and reduce morbidity of children and young people

Analysis of Statistics

Attainment and achievement (improving opportunities for) and Acceptance and inclusion (engagement of children and young people) have been identified as the major priorities for the LSP to concentrate and the high-level action plan (Section 14 Appendix F) has those headings as its key priorities.

Stronger Communities

The key statistics about stronger communities in the District:

- Parts of Uffdown ward are the least accessible (by road) to a GP's practice.
- Tardebigge ward and parts of Alvechurch, Hillside and Furlongs ward are the furthest from a primary school.
- Parts of Furlong ward are over 4.5km from a supermarket or convenience store.
- Parts of Alvechurch ward are over 3km from a Post Office.
- The greatest level of income deprivation affecting children is found in parts of Charford and Sidemoor ward, where over 25% of children live in families that are income deprived.
- An estimated 856 dwellings are unfit, accounting for just 2.5% of the housing stock. This compares very favourably to an unfitness rate of 4.2% nationally and 5.8% in the West Midlands (2001 EHCS).
- The priorities for improvement identified by Bromsgrove residents are road and pavements, level of crime and transport congestion

The LAA priorities for this block are:

- Empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public service delivery
- To reduce income deprivation including child and pensioner poverty
- To improve passenger transport, leading to improved accessibility and an increase in passenger numbers
- To improve access to services
- To increase opportunities for recreation, leisure and culture for all

Analysis of Statistics

Older people and housing have been identified as the major priorities for the LSP to concentrate on under the Stronger Communities block. There are high-level action plans for each of those priorities. Section 14 Appendix G, Older People, has the following key priorities: establish an Older People's Theme Group; agree three priorities for the group to deliver and some potential priorities. Section 14 Appendix H, Housing, has priorities to look at the housing market, housing/planning policy and housing migration South Housing Market Area.

15. High Level Action Plans

- 15.1 Attached as Appendices A – J are the high-level action plans for each theme or project group.

APPENDIX A: COMMUNITIES THAT ARE SAFE AND FEEL SAFE THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY:
To reduce fear of crime

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
People's perception of crime matches reality	52% of people surveyed expressed a fear of crime* <i>* 2006 fear of crime survey</i>	1% reduction in surveyed fear of crime each year* <i>* NB – new indicator being developed in LAA refresh</i>	Survey result, PACT priorities eg local policing and local reassurance, face to face surveys, campaign via GNN in place publicised with CDRPs	End April 2008 (repeat annually)	CDRP – All partners	Police	A.1.c		

APPENDIX A: COMMUNITIES THAT ARE SAFE AND FEEL SAFE THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY: To reduce fear of crime									
Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Improved safety through reduced recorded crime	WMC targets to be set April 2007	1) % crime reduction -Reduce re-offending -Increase % of arrests for domestic violence.	CDRP tasking activity POPO strategy for re-offending	End April 2008 (repeat annually)	ASB Co-ordinator (police) partners LAA funding for specific schemes If required	Police	A.1 a A 1 b		
	No reported racial incidents to Local Authority in 2005/2006	2) 5% Increase in number of Racial incidents recorded by LA 3) Action taken in 100% of racial incident cases recorded by the LA	Increased publicity/ partnership working and reporting centres	Each year to coincide with BVPI reporting	BDC resources	BDC	A 1 d		

APPENDIX B: BETTER ENVIRONMENT THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY: To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to impacts of climate change

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date March 2008	Status
Sustainable Energy Action Plan for District	HECA baseline for 05/06 is 22.68% Baseline C02 data needs to be established for district	Reduction in CO2 and improvement in Energy Efficiency	Action plan developed HECA Targets 2% increase year on year C02 figures DTI will release figures annually	Action Plan Completed by September 07 2010 a 30% improvement in EE required	Initial report EST funded, HECA funded by BDC	BDC & WEEAC	B2a B2b B2c		
Travel Plan for BDC (council only)	2005 baseline data. 87% travel in own car. 4% car share. This baseline needs to be reviewed	Travel Plan Reviewed Reduction on private car usage.	Ratified by Councilors Number of staff car sharing. Increase by 10%	November 2007 March 2009	BDC	BDC support from WCC	B2 (C)		
Travel Plan for Bromsgrove District	Figures for district need to be established	Sign up by external organisations. Reduction on private car usage.	Numbers signed up to Plan. 5% annual increase Baseline data established.	March 2008 for Travel Plan. March 2008	BDC	BDC & WCC	F5 (use of public transport) & B2		

APPENDIX B: BETTER ENVIRONMENT THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY: Reduce Waste, Increase Recycling and Ensure Cleaner Greener and Safer Public Spaces

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date March 2008	Status
Increase in tonnage of waste sent by BDC for recycling and a decrease in tonnage of residual waste sent for disposal	2005/06, 17,004 tonnes sent for recycling – 22,964 tonnes sent for disposal	Increase in BV82aii & bii	Improvement in BV82 & b monitored and reported monthly	Strategy runs until 2034. Figures are reported annually	BDC & Waste Performance efficiency grants	BDC	B3	15,862 tonnes recycled – 22,615 tonnes sent for disposal	
Clean & Safe streets	2005/06 BV199a – 26% BV199b – 6% BV199c – 1% BV199d – 4%	BV199 a,b,c & d To reduce measured levels of graffiti by 25% or more across those land use types where levels recorded in 2005/6-baseline assessment exceeded 2%, county wide, by 1 st April 2008 and improving incrementally thereafter.	Improved performance in BV199 which is monitored 3 times per year and reported annually	The output is a proposed target that will be agreed by all LA mid 2007	BDC	BDC	B1	2006/07 figures not yet available	

APPENDIX B: BETTER ENVIRONMENT THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY: Protect and Improve Natural Environment

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date March 2008	Status
<p>Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) To produce the strategic plan for the Worcestershire element of the Regional Landscapes for Living Project, incorporating biodiversity, geodiversity and landscape character</p>	<p>Baseline data is incomplete. 30% mapping has been completed</p>	<p>Review and update county plan. Ensure BDC Biodiversity strategy is include along with BDC Water Vole Strategy</p>	<p>Targets to be reported annually.</p>	<p>September 2007 for BAP 2009 for 100% mapping of county</p>	<p>WCC, Natural England, GOWM</p>	<p>WCC</p>	<p>B4</p>		

APPENDIX C: BROMSGROVE TOWN CENTRE THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN (AS AT SEPTEMBER 2007)

PRIORITY: BROMSGROVE TOWN CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Regeneration of Town Centre	No Baseline	Output measures and targets to be agreed in year 2 once baseline ascertained (relating to retail, housing with affordable housing element, transportation (including railway station redevelopment), public realm dependent on preferred options)	Y1.Consultation with public and partners on preferred options. Marketing Plan agreed. Y2 Development Partners selected. Project Plan agreed. Y3 Area Action Plan submitted to Planning Inspectorate as part of LDF. Land Assembly completed	31 May 2008 31 May 2008 31 May 2009 30 September 2009	BDC Budget £50k	BDC Head of Planning Marketing Manager BDC BDC	C1		

APPENDIX D: LONGBRIDGE THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY:
Longbridge regeneration

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Creation of employment opportunities in Cofton Centre	Current jobs ?	500 new jobs	Longbridge Area Action Plan adopted as part of LDF with employment allocation	31 March 2008	BDC budget £50k	BDC	C1/2 /3		

APPENDIX D: LONGBRIDGE THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

**PRIORITY:
Longbridge regeneration**

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Mixed Housing provision on East Works	Nil	Area Action Plan adopted with allocation of 700 new homes >35% Affordable	LDS timetable met	31 March 2008	BDC LDF budget £50k	BDC and Birmingham City Council	F1		

APPENDIX D: LONGBRIDGE THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

**PRIORITY:
Longbridge regeneration**

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Community Facilities on East Works	Nil	Area Action Plan adopted with allocation for Community facilities	LDF timetable met.	31 March 2008	BDC budget £50k	BDC	F2/4		

APPENDIX E: HEALTH AND WELL BEING THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY: Older people									
Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Increase life expectancy and improve quality of life	No ageing well scheme in Bromsgrove	15 Senior Health mentors in place by 2009 offering at least 8 different activities	5 Senior Health Mentors trained by April 2008	End April 2009	<i>No funding allocated at present</i>	PCT/ BARN/	D.2 a D.2 b D.3 a D.3 b D.3.c D. 5 d F.2 c F.2 d F.4 b F.4 c		

APPENDIX E: HEALTH AND WELL BEING THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY:

Children contributing and being included.

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Increase life expectancy and reduce morbidity	1) 24% of population smoke (national figures)	1) Reduce adult smoking rates by 3% by 2010	1) Support local businesses with smoking ban in workplace (1July)	End April 2010	BDC rec'd funding for Health & Safety Officer	BDC	D.1 a		
	2) x no. successfully quitting at 4 weeks (2006/07 figures)	2) Increase numbers successfully quitting at 4 weeks by 5% annually	2) Publicise benefits of quitting, with follow up and support. All LSP partners to support ban on premises (with support) Brief Intervention training for LSP partners for contacts with clients/patients/ customers	End April 2010		PCT	D.2 a D.2 c D.5 c D.1 a D.2 a D.2 c D.5 c		
	3) X% of population who smoke in disadvantaged areas (2006 figures)	3) Reduce the inequality in smoking rates in disadvantaged areas by 10% by 2010	3) Determine smoking rates by deprivation quintile and target specific areas	End April 2010		PCT/BDC	D.1 a D.2 a D.2 c D.5 c		

APPENDIX F: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS' THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

**PRIORITY:
Children enjoying and achieving**

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
To develop inclusive communities by increasing the lowest level of attainment.	1) Achievement levels for Bromsgrove below average schools Key Stage 2 & 4.	1) Achieve LAA targets for Primary School Key Stage 2 & Secondary Schools Key Stage 4 for schools in Bromsgrove	Monitor quarterly performance figures	March 2008	Adopt & support Worcestershire Management Board action plan for CYP	WCC	E.2		
	2) Percentage of students obtaining 5 or more GCSE grades A-C including English & mathematics for the Charford Ward	2) Improve 2005/6 performance levels by x%	Monitor quarterly performance figures	March 2010	Adopt & support Worcestershire Management Board action plan for CYP	WCC	E.2		

APPENDIX F: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS' THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY:

Children enjoying and achieving cont.

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
To develop inclusive communities by increasing the lowest level of attainment cont.	3) 2006/07 performance data for South Bromsgrove Secondary School on the numbers of half days absence.	3) Improve the performance of South Bromsgrove Secondary School by a reduction of X in the numbers of half days absence.	Monitor quarterly performance figures	March 2010	WCC	WCC	E.4 a E.4 b		

APPENDIX F: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS' THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY:
Children contributing and being included.

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
To improve access to and take up of integrated local preventative services	x percent of 5 – 16 year old children in Bromsgrove primary, middle and secondary schools participate in a minimum of 2 hours per week of high quality PE and school sports over the course of year	Increase by 3% the percentage who participate in a minimum of 2 hours per week of high quality PE and school sports over the course of year	Monitor quarterly performance figures; partners help to arrange relevant activity for children	March 2009	LDP funding All partners	WCC/ PCT	E.7 c		

APPENDIX F: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS' THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY:

Children contributing and being included.

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
To enrich the experiences and development of children & young people in Bromsgrove through activity & positive contribution	Baseline to be determined for number of children aged between 8 and 16 volunteering to work with older people	Output measures and targets to be agreed in year 2 once baseline ascertained	Carry out survey of children	Survey by April 2008	BDC/WCC	BDC			

APPENDIX G: DRAFT OLDER PERSONS THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY:

Older peoples' lifelong learning and volunteering

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Older peoples' talents and skills are valued, developed and used.	1) x no. older people engaged in lifelong learning* as at 2006	1) number of older people in formal lifelong learning increased by 5% by 2010	1) Feedback from Adult learners week, publicity and reports from annual organisations	End April 2010	Limited LSC funding, partner organisations in kind contribution £12,000	BLLN	C.3 b		
	2) Establish baseline for informal involvement in lifelong learning	2) Output measures and targets to be agreed in year 2 once baseline ascertained	2) Ask organisations to compile data for baseline from 2006 annual reports	April 2008		BARN	C.3 b		
	3) x no. older people involved in volunteering and more volunteers in older people's groups as at 2006 *both formal and informal	3) older people involved in volunteering and people involved in older people groups increased by 5% by 2010	3) person recruited to encourage volunteering among older people by May 2007	April 2010		BARN	F.4 b F.4 c F.4.d		

APPENDIX G: DRAFT OLDER PERSONS THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY:

Older people and access to services

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Older people access services more easily.	1) x older persons bus passenger journeys as at 2004/05	1) x extra older persons bus passenger journeys by 2010	1)undertake survey in the next year, to assess possible expansion	End April 2010	<i>Will any funding be earmarked for specific schemes??</i>	WCC	F.5 a		
	2) x% of older people satisfied that their enquiries were dealt with at first point of contact by Worcester hub at the Dolphin Centre	2) x% more older people satisfied that their enquiries were dealt with at first point of contact by Worcester hub at the Dolphin Centre	2)More publicity for hub and survey of older people to assess how access can be made easier	End April 2010		WCC/ BDC	D.3 a F.6 a		

APPENDIX G: DRAFT OLDER PERSONS THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY:
Older people and communication

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Older people have a greater voice	4 older people involved in older persons' forum as April 2007	1) A minimum of 60 people over 55 engaged in an Older Persons' theme group between 2007 and 2010 2) minimum of 6 group meetings per year	a) In the next year, at least 10 older people are recruited, meet, devise terms of reference and set objectives for the Older Persons' theme group b) Attendance at Age Concern fair, publicity and involvement of U3A	End April 2010	Partners' in kind contribution	BARN	D.3 a D.3 b D.3 c F.3 a F.4 b		

APPENDIX H: HOUSING THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

**PRIORITY:
Responding to housing market**

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Comprehensive understanding of the Housing Market and Housing demand/supply within Bromsgrove	Fordham Housing Needs Survey 2004	Complete Housing Demand Study for Bromsgrove District and produce new Housing Strategy	Project Plan Agreed and Funding in place Study Completed	April 2007 September 2008	BDC Budgets RSLs operating in Bromsgrove District Budgets Approximately £50k	BDC Strategic Housing Manager supported by RSLs	F1		

APPENDIX H: HOUSING THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

**PRIORITY:
Complementary housing and planning policy**

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Review of Planning Policy to support Housing demand	Current Planning and Housing Strategies	Local Planning Policy fully compliments and supports BDC priority for affordable Housing	Priority and Project Plan agreed by Council. Affordable Housing and Managing Housing SPDs adopted and supported by Core Strategy	October 2008	BDC Employees and Councillors	BDC Head of Planning	F1		

APPENDIX H: HOUSING THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY:
Housing migration – South market housing area

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Review of the work of the SHMA in respect of migration	SHMA Housing Market Survey (in progress)	Impact of migration included within Housing Demand Study	See Housing Demand Study	September 2008	SHMA/BDC	BDC Housing Strategy Manager	F1		

APPENDIX H: HOUSING THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

**PRIORITY:
Affordable housing**

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Delivery of Affordable Housing in Bromsgrove and Rural Areas	Tenure % of affordable housing BDC 11% is compared with average for the West Midlands and England and Wales of 21%, showing a minimum shortfall of 10%. (NHF Source)	240 units built (Outcome measure will be reviewed against results of Housing Demand Survey and targets set in LAA)	Support applications for affordable housing 80 units per year. (Target to be reviewed against results of Housing Demand Survey)	31 st March 2010	BDC Planning Team Partner DSL's/Social Housing Grant	BDC Strategic Housing Manager	F1		

APPENDIX H: HOUSING THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

**PRIORITY:
Affordable housing**

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
New Affordable housing in Bromsgrove Town Centre	Number of current units?	Outcome measure to be reviewed as Town Centre Area Action Plan is developed	Y1 Support allocations for affordable housing in Town Centre Area Action Plan. Y2 and 3 units per year as set out in Area Action Plan	31 st March 2010	£50k BDC budget	LSP BDC Planning Team Town Centre Theme Group	F1		

APPENDIX H: HOUSING THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

**PRIORITY:
Affordable housing**

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Affordable Housing on Longbridge Site (East Works)	No units	700 houses >35% affordable housing	Area Action Plan adopted Including allocations for affordable housing and part of final design outputs for site. 130 units per year	31 March 2008 31 March 2010	BDC Planning Team (£50k) LSP Housing Theme Group Planning Grant/Social Housing Grants	BDC Corporate Services Director	F1		

APPENDIX I: COMPACT ACTION PLAN

Outcomes	Key activities/ tasks/targets	Partner who carries out the work	Target date	Current status (delete as applicable)	Evidence (Where appropriate please include any beneficiaries, specifying the numbers and types of organisations, specify milestones hit)	Risks (Identify any events/issues which may prevent you from meeting target, and specify any actions taken to address the issues)
NETWORK & ENGAGEMENT	Launch of Compact and stakeholder event (CP6 Community Influence & CP 7 Community Events)	All partners	Nov 06	Launched 8/11/06	List of invitees Event arranged and held Press release sent out prior to event which was published Article in published in Together Bromsgrove (Spring 07)	Failure to engage all partners Organisational changes can affect whether an organisation can continue to participate
	Compact Steering Group to develop and monitor Action Plan	All partners	Ongoing	Planning to commence Jan 07	First meeting arranged for 2.3.07	Partners do not attend meetings
	Facilitate three networking opportunities	BARN	Jan/May/Sept 07	Ongoing	Agenda and minutes, attendee list	As above
	Organise and facilitate two	Bromsgrove LSP	July & Nov 07	Planning		As above

APPENDIX I: COMPACT ACTION PLAN

Outcomes	Key activities/ tasks/targets	Partner who carries out the work	Target date	Current status (delete as applicable)	Evidence (Where appropriate please include any beneficiaries, specifying the numbers and types of organisations, specify milestones hit)	Risks (Identify any events/issues which may prevent you from meeting target, and specify any actions taken to address the issues)
	stakeholder events CP6: Community Influence & CP7: Community Events					
TRAINING	Highlight training opportunities	BARN (network meeting and newsletter)	Jan/May/Sept 07	Ongoing	Agenda and minutes	Only available to attendees and those on mailing list
	Develop ways to share skills between sectors					
	Capacity Building partnership training for VCS via LSP	External trainer	Feb 07	Planning	Info circulated – 3 people invited	
EQUALITIES	Launch of Strategy	Bromsgrove District Council	September 06	Ongoing	6-weekly forum	Lack of consensus among key partners on key elements of strategy

APPENDIX I: COMPACT ACTION PLAN

Outcomes	Key activities/ tasks/targets	Partner who carries out the work	Target date	Current status (delete as applicable)	Evidence (Where appropriate please include any beneficiaries, specifying the numbers and types of organisations, specify milestones hit)	Risks (Identify any events/issues which may prevent you from meeting target, and specify any actions taken to address the issues)
	Implement strategy	Equality & Diversity Forum	Ongoing	Active	Members attending the Equality & Diversity Forum	
	Review strategy	Equality & Diversity Forum	To commence June 2009			
VOLUNTEERING (LAA F4 – Mandatory outcome)	Roll out Worcestershire Volunteering Strategy (Volunteering code of practice of Worcestershire Compact)	All partners	Nov 06	Ongoing	Agenda & minutes of the Worcestershire Infrastructure Consortium volunteering sub group	Needs to be local
	Publicise all volunteering opportunities and volunteers' requests	BARN and other partners		Ongoing	Monitor use of V-base software Article in next Together Bromsgrove? (June	Need other partners to raise awareness of volunteering opportunities

APPENDIX I: COMPACT ACTION PLAN

Outcomes	Key activities/ tasks/targets	Partner who carries out the work	Target date	Current status (delete as applicable)	Evidence (Where appropriate please include any beneficiaries, specifying the numbers and types of organisations, specify milestones hit)	Risks (Identify any events/issues which may prevent you from meeting target, and specify any actions taken to address the issues)
					2007)(CP9)	
	Support National Volunteers' Week	All partners	1-7 June 2007	Planning. Venue booked for event in Bromsgrove 6 th June		

APPENDIX I: COMPACT ACTION PLAN

Outcomes	Key activities/ tasks/targets	Partner who carries out the work	Target date	Current status (delete as applicable)	Evidence (Where appropriate please include any beneficiaries, specifying the numbers and types of organisations, specify milestones hit)	Risks (Identify any events/issues which may prevent you from meeting target, and specify any actions taken to address the issues)
RESOURCES	BARN Network meeting May 2007: National Lottery presentation re funding opportunities	BARN	15 th May 2007	Planning	Agenda and minutes of meeting	Speaker doesn't attend. Lack of BARN member attendance.
HELP, ADVICE & SIGNPOSTING	Investigate possibility of county wide bid to Advice Plus lottery fund CP8: Customer Service	To be identified	October 2007	Planning	Two exploratory meetings held and proposal drafted. Advice taken from Worcestershire Partnership Funding Manager.	Lack of buy-in for proposal. Bid was submitted to first round by other county partners which may thwart chances. If a bid is submitted, grant is not approved.
	Work with Customer Service Centre to devise a template that can be completed by VCS organisations working in the district	All	Ongoing		Template devised and put to use. CSC staff aware of VCS organisations and the services they can provide, and people signposted	Potentially a large piece of work which would need to be updated regularly. Who would carry out this task?

APPENDIX I: COMPACT ACTION PLAN

Outcomes	Key activities/ tasks/targets	Partner who carries out the work	Target date	Current status (delete as applicable)	Evidence (Where appropriate please include any beneficiaries, specifying the numbers and types of organisations, specify milestones hit)	Risks (Identify any events/issues which may prevent you from meeting target, and specify any actions taken to address the issues)
	to promote their services. CP8: Customer service				as appropriate	

APPENDIX J: COMMUNICATIONS THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

**PRIORITY:
EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Raise the profile and positive image of the area (Grumpy County Campaign)	1) General public satisfaction with area x % (BVPI survey 2006/07)	1) Improve public satisfaction with area by 1%, year on year	1) Carry out surveys with customer panels once a year	April 2009	BDC £20,000 (NB: budget for 2008/09 will not be approved until Feb 2008)	BDC	F3/4/6		
	2) Improved perception of Quality of Life	2) To be established once Quality of Life survey carried out	2) Introduce a yearly Quality of Life survey to ascertain benchmark information in relation to key QoL indicators	Baseline established by April 2008	As above	BDC	F3/4/6		

APPENDIXJ: COMMUNICATIONS THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

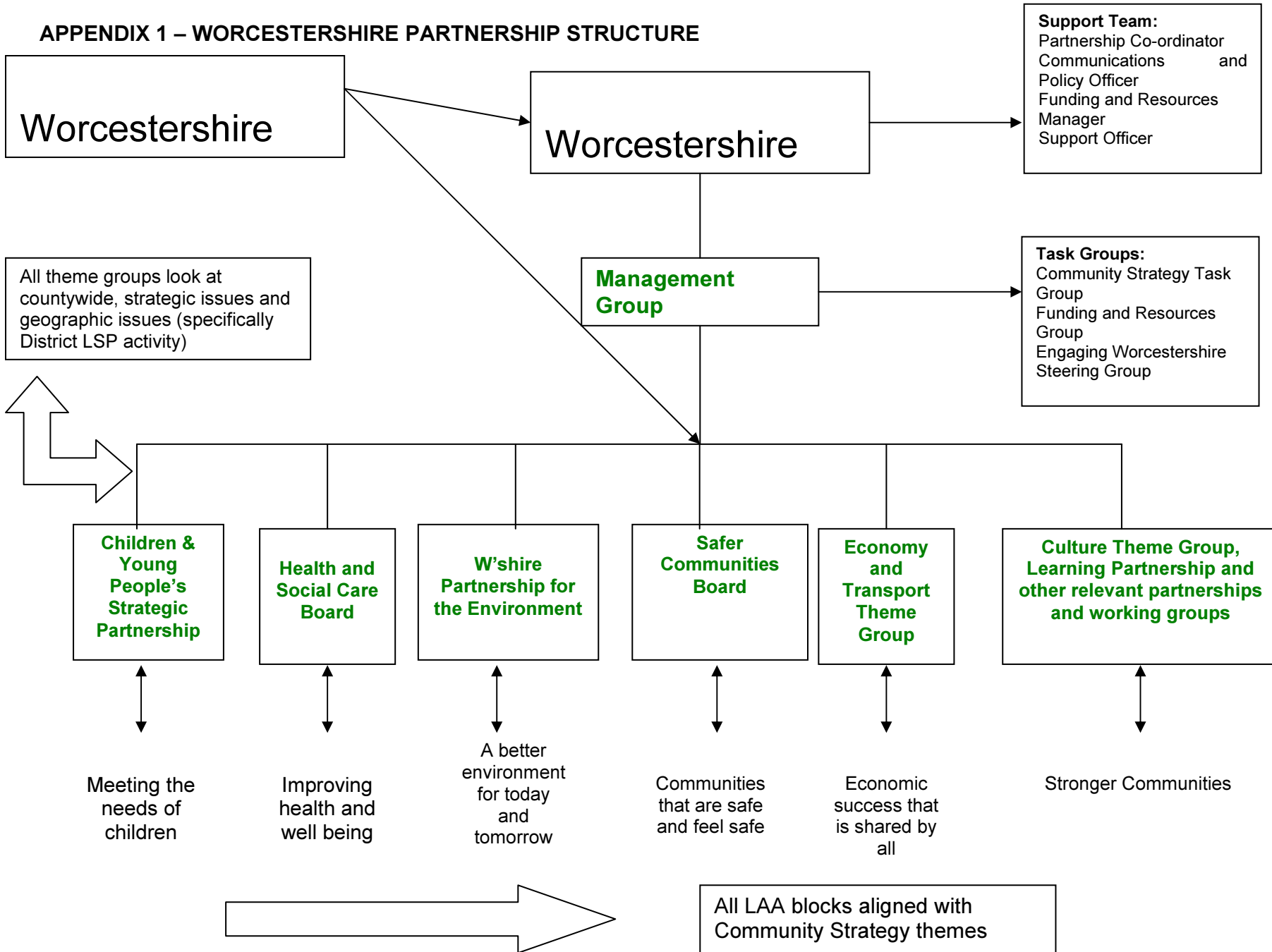
PRIORITY: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION									
Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Develop and implement a framework for effective communication and consultation *There are communication strategies for other HLAP's e.g. Fear of Crime which will be included in individual plans.	1) x% of those surveyed feel that they can influence decisions in the area (BVPI survey 2006/07) 2) None	1) Increase those who feel that they can influence decisions by x% 2) Public awareness of role of LSP	1) Pilot 2 area committees per annum and PACTS with 2 meetings per year 2) Survey to ascertain how many people are aware of the work of the LSP	31 st March 2009 (6 in total over 3 years) Survey to be completed by April 2008	BDC budget £4,000 per area committee (subject to review 2008/09 budget cycle) As part of annual QoL survey (see previous)	BDC	F3/4/6		

APPENDIX J: COMMUNICATIONS THEME GROUP HIGH LEVEL ACTION PLAN

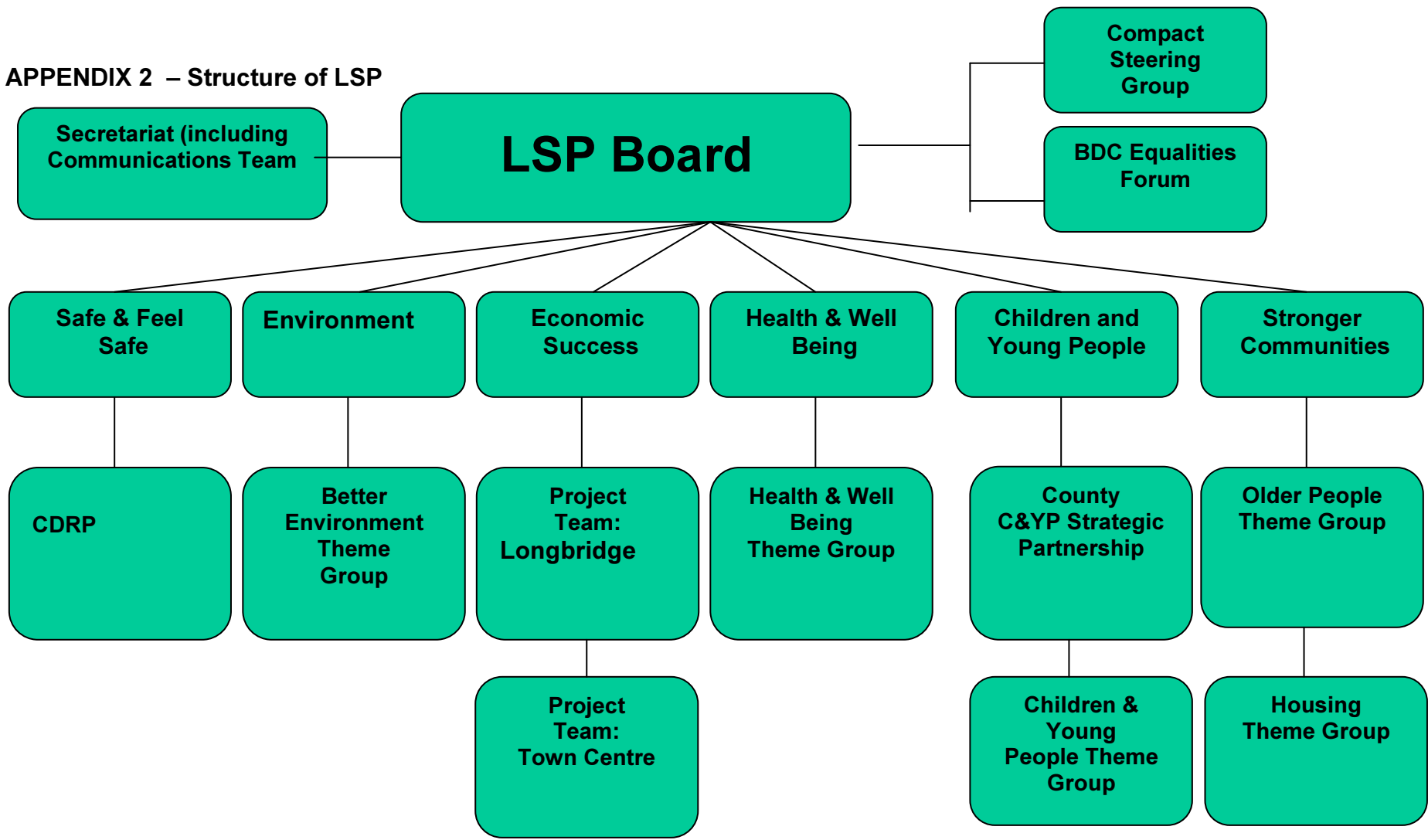
**PRIORITY:
EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.**

Key Deliverable (Outcomes)	Baseline	Outputs	How do we know we are getting there?	Completion Date	Resource	Lead Partner	LAA Link	Progress to date Sept 2007	Status
Community Strategy that reflects local need	x no. of responses to Community Strategy 2003 - 2013	Increase number of responses to consultation by 5%	Increased publicity for community strategy, use of existing and new forums to gather views (eg PACTS, customer panels, older persons' forum etc)	September 2007 Board	BDC	BDC			

APPENDIX 1 – WORCESTERSHIRE PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

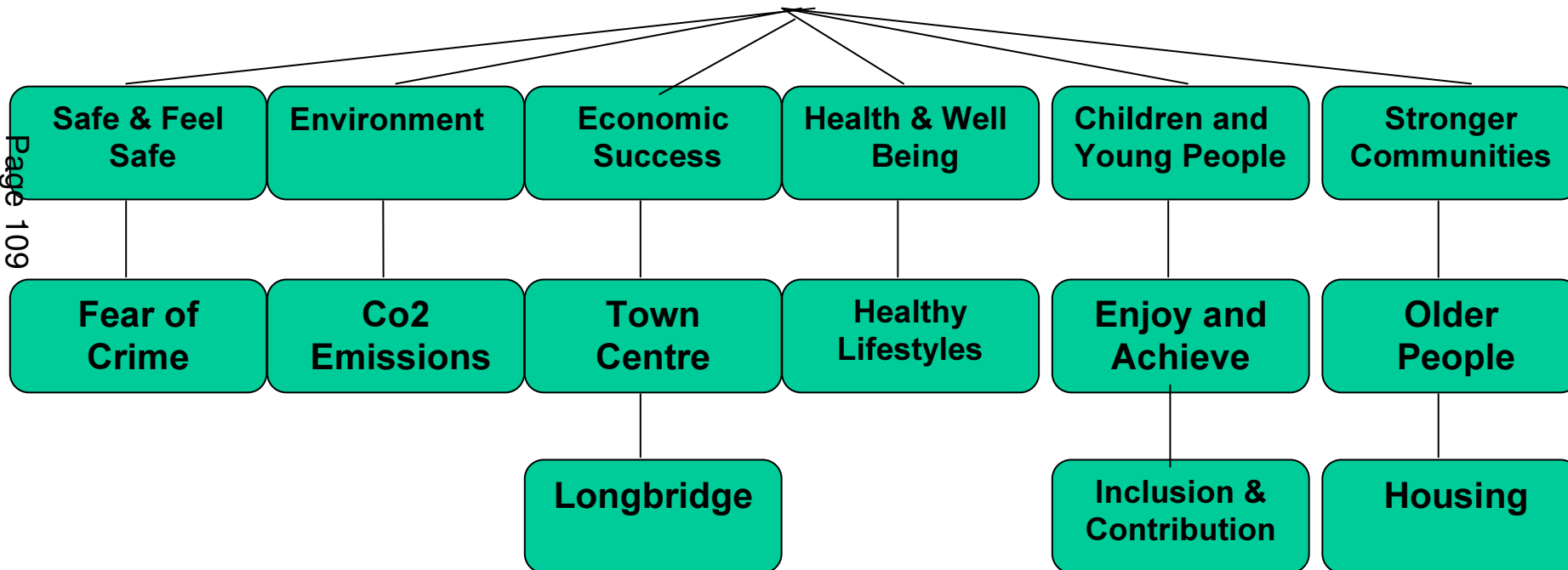


APPENDIX 2 – Structure of LSP



APPENDIX 3: HOW THE BROMSGROVE PARTNERSHIP'S PRIORITIES FIT WITHIN THE LAA

**"We will make Bromsgrove District
a better place to work, live and
visit by driving forward change"**



Appendix 4: Glossary

BDC	Bromsgrove District Council
GOWM	Government Office West Midlands
LAA	Local Area Agreement
LDF	Local Development Framework
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
PACT	Partners & Communities Together
SCS	Sustainable Community Strategy

Want to know more?

If you would like more information about the Community Strategy, contact:

Louise Berry
Senior Policy & Performance Officer/
LSP Co-ordinator
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove B60 1AA

Tel: 01527 881412

Email: l.berry@bromsgrove.gov.uk

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

1ST AUGUST 2007

BROMSGROVE RAILWAY STATION AND INTEGRATED PASSENGER TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor J. Dyer
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Planning & Environment

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To request Cabinet to release £25,000 (capital) to support the re-development of Bromsgrove Railway Station.
- 1.2 To request Cabinet formally endorse the Council's response to the Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy consultation and agree to establish a Transport Theme Group for the District under the umbrella of the Local Strategic Partnership.
- 1.3 This report will require Full Council approval, as the £25,000 capital was not approved as part of the 2007/08 Council budget.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members agree to contribute £25,000 (capital) towards stages 3 & 4 of the station re-development (see paragraphs 3.8 to 3.10).
- 2.2 That Members be aware that a further contribution may be required at later stages of the station re-development (see paragraph 3.11).
- 2.3 That Cabinet endorse the Council's response to the Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy consultation (3.14).
- 2.4 That Cabinet agree to the establishment of a Transport Theme Group for the District under the umbrella of the Local Strategic Partnership (3.15).

3. BACKGROUND

Bromsgrove Train Station

- 3.1 Over the last ten years the number of people who use Bromsgrove station has increased by 400%, the strongest growth rate in Worcestershire. Most of the people who use the station commute to work in the West Midlands

conurbation, but there are an increasing number of people using the train services from Bromsgrove for leisure trips, education, and to access health facilities.

- 3.2 Bromsgrove station is the most heavily used un-staffed station on Central Trains area. The existing Bromsgrove Railway Station facilities are extremely basic, consisting of one shelter on each platform, a stepped footbridge crossing the tracks that is unsuitable for disabled people, no booking office or waiting room, and provision for only 79 cars. Due to the platform lengths, large trains are unable to stop at Bromsgrove, limiting the number of commuter services for travellers at Bromsgrove Station. The image of the existing station offers a poor gateway into Bromsgrove District.
- 3.3 NetWork Rail and Worcestershire County Council recently funded a pre-feasibility study to consider two potential options. Firstly, enhancing the existing station with platform extensions up to 6 car lengths on both the Up and Down platforms, new ticket office and waiting facilities, step free access to the Down platform, additional 70 car parking spaces and bus interchange facilities. Secondly, the relocation of Bromsgrove Station.
- 3.4 The study confirmed that the existing station does not meet requirements in respect of platform length, passenger facilities, disabled access, and car parking. The option of enhancing the existing station was ruled out, as it would cause too much disruption to passengers. Also, the platforms at the existing station cannot be extended to accommodate more than 4 car length trains on the north platform, and no more than 6 car trains on the south platform. This limits the number of trains able to stop at the station. The outcome of the pre-feasibility study was that the most sensible option is to re-locate the station.
- 3.5 The relocated station option is situated on the former Oil Depot site, south of the existing station. There is a large amount of land available, which can be utilised for an appropriate station design layout. Additionally, an increase in car parking capacity can be considered, which given Bromsgrove's proximity to the major road network (M5, M42, A38) offers potential for a Park & Ride station, in a strategic location.
- 3.6 The options for the new station include a ticket office and waiting room, step free access to platforms, 300 car parking spaces, and bus interchange facilities. Extending the platform lengths would permit 10 car trains to pull into the station, enabling additional services as well as longer services to be considered. This would also facilitate a potential Cross City line extension, which would require a minimum 6 car platform length and a turn back facility.
- 3.7 The direct benefits a new station would bring to Bromsgrove District include enhancing the gateway into Bromsgrove District, improvements to accessibility, passenger facilities, train services, and removing parking from adjacent roads. Secondary benefits include the socio economic benefits,

opportunities for further development in Bromsgrove, linkages to Town Centre and Technology Park, and employment opportunities that the new station with improved capacity and services will offer.

3.8 Following the pre-feasibility study, the next phase of development will be stages 3 & 4: Option Selection and Single Option Development. Stages 3 & 4 will look at:

- Option identification and selection for station layout design and Up Goods Loop mitigation;
- Interface with Down Goods Loop renewal;
- Identify possession requirements and opportunities;
- Negotiations with Commercial Property reuse of former Oil Depot;
- Identify planning requirements;
- Environmental appraisal;
- Risk & Value Management; and
- Preparation of outline design for Approval in Principle.

3.9 During stages 3 & 4 Bromsgrove District Council Planning Department will be involved in looking at the options for the design of the station layout, in particular the location of the platforms, station building, car parking, road access, and bus interchange. The Council will also assist with the public consultation event planned for Autumn 2007.

3.10 £350,000 needs to be raised for stages 3 & 4. NetWork Rail, Worcestershire County Council (£100,000), Centro, and the train franchise operator are contributing funds. The rationale behind the contributions is that broadly they should be in relation to the benefits the station re-development will offer each party. It is hoped that Bromsgrove District Council will contribute £25,000 towards this phase of development, which should be completed by end of 2007.

3.11 Stages 5 & 6 (Design & Development) will follow stages 3 & 4. An estimated £10 to £12 million will need to be raised. NetWork Rail, Worcestershire County Council, Centro, and the train franchise operator are contributing funds. It is hoped that Bromsgrove District Council will also contribute funds towards this stage of development. The funding agreement for stages 5 & 6 must be in place by Autumn 2007 to avoid delays to station re-development.

3.12 Providing there are no delays with funding agreements, development on the new station should commence in Spring 2008, and the new station could be open to the public in early 2009.

Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy

3.13 Through the Members' Bulletin, a presentation by County Council officers at the Local Strategic Partnership Board and a presentation to Members, the Council has been given a number of opportunities to find out about the County consultation on the Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy.

3.14 At this stage, the Strategy is more of a method statement, setting out how the County Council, will develop specific transport plans for each District. The planning for our District is likely to start within the next 12 months. The Council's response to the consultation, approved by the Portfolio Holder (and taking into account the view of Members who have responded) is attached at **Appendix 1**. The response aimed to do a number of things:-

- provide some initial clarity about the most important transport issues in the District. Based on the draft Community Strategy, the Council Plan 2007/2010, Members views and the Equalities Forum, these appear to be:-
 - ensuring integrated transport links form a key part of the town centre regeneration, in particular, links to the planned new railway station and links to the outlying villages of the District;
 - possible ring and ride schemes to improve rural access and service people with disabilities;
 - the impact of the Longbridge redevelopment;
 - specific developments like the railway station, bus interchange in the town centre and possible expansion of the Wythall rail line; and
 - congestion on the A38 and M42.

3.15 A number of Members have an interest in transport matters, either from a ward perspective or from a general interest perspective. In addition, the Council has welcomed the support of Mike Ponsonby, the Chairman of the Bromsgrove Railway Users Group. As a result, these people, plus the Portfolio Holder and the Assistant Chief Executive have started meeting on an informal basis to share their knowledge on transport issues. Recent discussions with the County Council have highlighted that the Council should have a transport theme group within its Local Strategic Partnership. As a result, it is recommended that a formal thematic group is established. The proposed membership is set out in **Appendix 2**.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 It is hoped that Bromsgrove District Council will contribute £25,000 (capital) towards the £350,000 that needs to be raised for stages 3 & 4 of station re-development.

4.2 £10 to £12 million must be raised for stages 5 & 6 of station re-development. It is hoped that Bromsgrove District Council will make a contribution. The funding agreement must be in place by Autumn 2007 to enable stages 5 & 6 to commence early 2008.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

6.1 The railway station re-development is consistent with plans for improving Bromsgrove Town Centre. With the right integrated transport link, a new railway station will generate more people into town centre and enhance the gateway into Bromsgrove District.

6.2 The railway station re-development is also consistent with travel plans in Worcestershire County Council's Local Transport Plan (2006/2011), and Bromsgrove's Sustainable Community Strategy. Worcestershire County Council has identified improvements at Bromsgrove Railway Station as one of their top ten rail aspirations.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 None

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Council will assist with the Public Consultation event planned for Autumn 2007.

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Council response to Consultation
Appendix 2 Proposed Membership of Transport LSP Thematic Group

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Hugh Bennett (Assistant Chief Executive) and Helen Guest
(Planning Officer)
E Mail: h.bennett@bromsgrove.gov.uk and
h.guest@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527 881430) and (01527) 881323

Consultation on draft Worcestershire Integrated Passenger Strategy 2007

Comments and Questionnaire

Welcome to the consultation questionnaire for the Worcestershire Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy (IPTS) 2007. The consultation period runs from 19th March to May 2007 inclusive.

Your views on our proposals are critical to the success of the Strategy and the aim of this questionnaire is to provide a simple way for you to respond. Please complete it and let us know what you think, if you wish to make further comments you may continue on additional paper. If you provide us with contact details we will then be able to feedback the outcomes of this consultation.

Thank you for taking the time to read the document. As a key Stakeholder, your comments are valued and we look forward to reading them.

1. Is the overarching IPTS vision of the strategy appropriate? If not, how should it be modified (page 22)?

The Council supports the Vision, in particular, the desire for an “integrated passenger transport network”. The Council has regeneration plans to develop Bromsgrove into a thriving market town. Improved bus interchanges at the railway station and town centre, that connect out on a radial basis with the surrounding District is a key part of our vision for the town centre. An integrated transport approach for the regeneration of Longbridge is also a key issue for the District.

The Council also notes the word “accessible”. Rural access and access for people with disabilities are two issues that have come up through discussions with Members and our Equalities Forum. The Council welcomes the reference to accessibility and will be keen to explore how these issues can be improved, for example, through ring and ride schemes.

Although not directly reflected in the Vision statement, the Strategy also makes reference to an intelligent transport system. The Council has noted with interest the use of digital TV technology and text messaging to provide alerts for regular buses linking estates with town centres. The Council would be keen to explore this type of technology alongside our plans for the town centre redevelopment and the redevelopment of the railway station.

2. Does the IPTS vision help deliver national, regional and local policies including the Local Transport Plan 2 objectives for Worcestershire?

Yes; however, the Council notes the commentary on page 12 which refers to Regional Spatial Strategy 1 and the sub –regional focus on the regeneration of Kidderminster and Redditch. Similarly, the Council notes the focus on Worcester developing as a university city. Due to the Council's internal problems, the Council has not been well placed in the past to work in partnership on ensuring Bromsgrove District's strategic issues are appropriately reflected at a County and regional level. The Council is now improving quickly and is concerned that the potential focus on Kidderminster, Redditch and Worcester will squeeze out the required focus on Bromsgrove, when in fact, the District should be a priority given: our proximity to Birmingham, the A38, the plans for the much needed redevelopment of the town centre, the redevelopment of the train station, Longbridge, the potential impact of Regional Spatial Strategy 2 (particularly, if the District has to take some of Redditch's housing allocation) and possible plans to expand the train service to Wythall. The Council is keen to work in partnership with the County Council on these issues.

3. In seeking to deliver the Strategy objectives our partnership process cites two lead groups (The Integrated Passenger Joint Members Forum and the Worcestershire Accessibility Partnership). Do you feel that this is the best way to work with the public and stakeholders to deliver the Strategy (page 19)? If not, how can it work better?

As per our telephone conversation, we note that other councils are sending more senior officers and their portfolio holders. The Council is keen to increase its partnership working with County and will review this issue. Again, as per our telephone conversation, the Council notes that the District lacks a transport theme group for the District Local Strategic Partnership; however, the Council is currently establishing such a group and would welcome County representation on this group and any specific project groups that may be required, for example, for the train station and town centre bus interchange.

4. Are the performance monitoring measures sufficiently ambitious/specific/realistic? If not why not (page 20)?

The Council understands that the draft Strategy is designed to provide a method statement of how to develop the transport network for the County using a modular approach. As a result, the exact objectives and priorities that will flow from this modular approach are not yet known. As a result, the measures set out on page 20 provide an indication of possible measures of success, but more work will need to be done cross referencing objectives to outcome measures as the strategy develops.

As the Strategy develops, the Council would be interested in whether the overall measure of satisfaction (BVP103) could be broken down into ward specific, socio-economic and disability specific sub satisfaction scores, which may help highlight particular hot spots of dissatisfaction. The Council was also particularly interested in Appendix D, leisure access to town centres. The Council wants to develop a thriving market town for Bromsgrove and this vision involves access to arts, markets, leisure activities, as well as employment. The Council would like this to be a key indicator for the Strategy. Similarly, we would like to see something on ring and ride, but are unclear at this stage how to measure this.

The Council also notes Appendix H, Targets from Local Transport Plan 2 and the focus on the A4440. Should the A38 feature in future thinking? Also, while a responsibility of the Highways Agency, the Council is concerned about the morning rush hour flow of traffic eastbound on the M42.

Finally, the Council would suggest that as part of the user and non-user consultation we find out what drives our residents satisfaction, as these may be smaller less tangible things than the strategic measures set out on page 20.

5. Are the seven objectives of the Strategy appropriate and do they fairly reflect the challenges facing transport in Worcestershire? If not, please could you explain why (page 24)?

Yes. As per the previous question, these objectives and the commentary alongside them, provide a useful starting point for developing specific outcome measures.

6. Should the IPTS include any further objectives?

No. As per your presentation to the District's LSP and Members, the Vision and objectives are inclusive and broad in nature. A key issue, will be refining these into specific actions and measures of success through the modular approach.

7. Do you agree that our approach to produce a 'modular' strategy is the best way forward (pp 26-55)? If not, please suggest alternatives.

The Council supports the modular approach and on the basis of the initiatives set out in question 2, sees this as a priority of the District. The Council understands that the modular work is likely to start within the next 12 months.

8. Is there anything NOT listed within a module that could be added to improve the Strategy?

No.

9. Do you have any other suggestions or comments that could enhance the Strategy?

The Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Strategy and the potential to establish a theme group for the District LSP with a focus on transport. No further comments at this stage.

Thank you once again for your comments. The information you provide us with will only be used for the purposes of the consultation and research in order for us to improve our services. Anonymous results will be published on the Councils Ask Me! Consultation Planner and Finder web database. Survey results will never contain your name. If you would like to be kept up to date with the progress of the Strategy, please write in your name, organisation and address below.

Name: Hugh Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive.

Organisation: Bromsgrove District Council.

Address: Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove.

Postcode: B60 1AA

Please send your response by 30 June to the following address FREEPOST, no stamp required.

Research and Intelligence
FREEPOST SWC1253
Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2BR

Proposed Membership of Transport LSP Thematic Group

Hugh Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive (Chair)

Jill Dyer (Portfolio Holder for Planning and Environment)

Helen Guest (Planning Officer)

Steve Martin (Transport and Engineering Officer)

Gordon Selway (ward councillor)

Chris Scurrall (ward councillor)

Sean Shannon (ward councillor)

Caroline Spencer (ward councillor)

Mike Ponsonby, the Chairman of the Bromsgrove Railway Users Group

Officer from County Council

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE CABINET

1ST AUGUST 2007

PREFERRED PARTNERING IN THE DELIVERY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr Peter Whittaker
Responsible Corporate Director	Phil Street

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 In February 2007, the Executive Cabinet resolved that a Housing Partnership Review Panel of officers and Members be set up and granted delegated authority to review and approve the formalisation of new preferred partnership arrangements between the Council and Registered Social Landlords. The aim of the review is to re-establish a limited group of Registered Social Landlords who are committed to meeting local housing needs and to providing good quality housing, housing management and maintenance services that promote strong, sustainable communities and widen the choice of housing options to people in Bromsgrove.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to report back to Members upon the outcome of the review of the partnership arrangements that has been undertaken by the Review Panel and to seek formal ratification of the decisions made.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Executive Cabinet ratifies the decisions made by the Preferred Partnership Review Panel on the 8th June 2007 in the selection of the Council's RSL Preferred Partners as set out at Sections 6.1 and 6.2 of this report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Since the 1980's Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) have become the major provider of affordable housing. In the early 1990's, Bromsgrove District Council selected four RSLs to work with on a preferred partnership basis. These were Harden (now Nexus, part of West Mercia Housing Group), Bromford Housing Group, Servite Houses and Focus. Other RSLs such as Rooftop (formerly Evesham & Pershore Housing Association) have not been excluded from developing in partnership with the Council where they have demonstrated good value for money and committed their own resources to development schemes but have not been formally adopted as partners.

- 3.2 In March 2004, Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT) was established by the Council, in accordance with the results of tenant consultation to receive the transfer of its housing stock. Since its inception, the Council has worked in close partnership with BDHT on the joint commissioning of a number of affordable housing schemes and has forward allocated extensive funding for the provision of an Extra Care Scheme at Charford. BDHT has formed a development partnership with West Mercia Housing Group and has become an important contributor to the delivery of affordable housing in the District working closely with the Council, supporting the authority in projects such as the hostel de-commissioning and temporary accommodation for the homeless.
- 3.3 In February this year, having allowed for a reasonable period of re-adjustment following housing transfer, the Council decided to review the preferred partner RSLs with which it works. The aim is to re-establish a limited group of Registered Social Landlords who are committed to meeting local housing needs and to providing good quality housing, housing management and maintenance services that promote strong, sustainable communities and widen the choice of housing options for people in Bromsgrove.
- 3.4 Preferred Partners in this context can be defined as a limited group of RSLs who engage with the local authority on issues relating to the development of affordable housing in a regular forum and who are given preference in some way when sites and grants are allocated.
- 3.5 The advantages of the preferred partner joint / commissioning approach are as follows:
- It is a flexible approach that can evolve with the changing housing agenda.
 - It reduces unnecessary competition as endless 'beauty contests' are time and resource consuming.
 - Developers know who to approach.
 - It limits the opportunities for developers to "bid up" prices.
 - RSLs are more committed to the local authority area.
 - It provides a framework around which other common issues can be discussed e.g.:- Energy efficiency, Egan Compliance, Regeneration partnerships and Local strategic partnerships.
 - It can provide additional resources: e.g. if there is slippage elsewhere in grant spending, a well organised joint commissioning group with a defined forward programme can attract extra funds.
 - It provides RSLs with more security as it limits the ability of predatory RSLs to "muscle in" and it encourages partner RSLs to spend time and resources in developing longer term opportunities.
 - A longer (usually 3 year) planning cycle helps with the development of more complex, longer term projects e.g. regeneration schemes, resettlement of vulnerable needs groups.

- Streamlines the bidding process – bids are supported by all parties and a single programme supported by all key stakeholders.
- But overwhelmingly the main benefit for everyone is a more positive relationship between the partner RSLs, the local authority and the Housing Corporation – more openness, honesty and commitment – and probably most importantly delivery of an improved final product.

4. THE SELECTION PROCESS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP REVIEW PANEL

4.1 The approach approved by the Executive Cabinet in February 2007 was for a review and formalisation of the partnership arrangements already in place to ensure that the arrangements provide an appropriate supply of expertise, innovation, enthusiasm and access to resources. The chosen process was to allow for disinterested or less appropriate partners to be de-selected and new players such as BDHT, the local LSVT organisation to be included.

4.2 A two stage selection process was undertaken under which RSL's were firstly invited to submit an application and complete a 49 question questionnaire covering issues including:

- involvement in local authority strategy development,
- track record in development and in housing management,
- commitment to or experience of joint or partnership working,
- tenant participation and consultation,
- financial position,
- efficiency and programme delivery
- Performance and developmental capacity
- having appropriate customer service policies and complaints procedures
- experience of S106 agreements

4.3 The second stage of the process was for the officer / member selection panel to interview the three organisations that were prioritised from stage one of the process. The interviews consisted of a presentation from the organisation followed by a question and answer session.

5. EVALUATION OF SUBMISSIONS

5.1 The Partnership Review Panel considered both quantitative and qualitative factors to identify the most advantageous proposals for the District and marked submissions against a criteria based upon:

- Expertise in carrying out the requirements;
- Manner in which the requirements will be carried out;
- Procedures and practices which will be used to ensure quality;

- Experience, ability and suitability of staff;
- General compatibility of the RSL's submission with the Council's own strategic objectives and policies.
- Previous history in delivering affordable housing in the district.

6. THE DECISION OF THE PARTNERSHIP REVIEW PANEL

6.1 On the 8th June 2007 the Housing Partnership Review Panel agreed that the Council's RSL Preferred Partnership arrangements be set out in two separate agreements:

- i) **The Wider Preferred Partnership** under which the Council appoints Servite Houses, The West Mercia / BDHT Partnership and Bromford Housing Group as Preferred Development Partners of the District Council for the development of affordable housing on non-Council owned land where funding is independent of District Council Resources.
- ii) **The Principal Partnership** which states that within the Group of Preferred Development Partners (set out at 6.1, i) above), the West Mercia / BDHT Partnership be selected as the 'Principal Partner' with whom the Council would work in instances where Council owned land is identified for affordable housing and / or Local Authority Development Grant is made available (subject to availability) for the enablement of affordable housing up to a capped level of £350,000pa.

This second agreement will specify that the Council agrees to work with the West Mercia/BDHT Partnership as 'Principal Partners' as recipients of land and/or local authority development grant as set out above provided that the schemes developed achieve the following objectives:

- Meet housing need as identified by the Strategic Housing Section;
- Are Affordable;
- Provide good Value for money;
- Provide meaningful opportunities for tenant participation.
- Provide quality and accessible housing management
- Provide good quality standards of affordable housing.

6.2 In summary therefore, the Partnership Review Panel decided that a wider group of three RSLs be appointed as general development partners (The West Mercia/BDHT Partnership, Bromford Housing Group and Servite Houses), but that the West Mercia/BDHT partnership be offered a separate agreement that makes them 'primary partners' who will be offered up to £350k development grant pa (so long as it is available) and first chance to purchase (or otherwise if the Executive Cabinet agree to gift or sell at reduced value) land in the ownership of the Council that is identified for affordable housing.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The formulation of preferred partnering arrangements that contribute the provision of appropriate skills, expertise and access to inward investment are fundamental to improving the Council's strategic planning and development process, the allocation of Housing Corporation resources to the authority and achieving added value for money from the application of the local authority's resources.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The revised preferred partnership arrangements will be formalised through legal documentation.

9. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 9.1 The formulation of preferred partnering arrangements are fundamental to all four of the Council's objectives including the delivery of affordable housing under CO1 including the Town Centre and Longbridge, the delivery of environmental improvements under CO2, through consultation and provision of housing to assist community wellbeing under CO3 and in improving performance upon the delivery of affordable housing under CO4.

- 9.2 The Council's objectives for a Preferred Development Partnership with local RSLs include:-

- Meeting housing need as identified by the Strategic Housing Section;
- Affordability;
- Value for money;
- Providing meaningful opportunities for tenant participation.
- Improving the quality and accessibility of housing management services within the District of Bromsgrove.
- Improving quality and choice of temporary accommodation for homeless people;
- Improving standards of housing quality in the affordable housing sector.
- Making a real contribution to the development of local, sub-regional and regional housing strategies and plans.
- Joined up working with local delivery agencies.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 Risk management is a key issue in deciding upon the number of preferred partners who are included in the arrangements. A too smaller partnership could lead to the Council being constrained in its ability to deliver against its Housing Strategy if any of the organisations were to fall into financial or regulatory difficulties.

11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues Transparent process of appointing RSL partners.
Personnel Implications None.
Governance/Performance Management Delivery of affordable housing against targets.
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 None
Equalities and Diversity Consideration of the suitability of the policies of partner RSLs,

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

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

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Acting Chief Executive	Yes
Corporate Director (Services)	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	Yes

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: A.M. Coel
E Mail: a.coel@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881270