



## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2020**

**AT 6.00 P.M.**

**PARKSIDE SUITE - PARKSIDE**

**MEMBERS:** Councillors M. Thompson (Chairman), J. Till (Vice-Chairman), A. J. B. Beaumont, S. R. Colella, R. J. Deeming, M. Glass, C.A. Hotham, R. J. Hunter, A. D. Kriss, P. M. McDonald and C. J. Spencer

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence and Named Substitutes
2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Arrangements  
  
To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests.
3. To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 12th October 2020 (Pages 1 - 8)
4. Bromsgrove Market Update (Pages 9 - 10)
5. Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services to respond to questions from Members in respect of the process and policy for third party events
6. District Level Economic Recovery Framework - pre-scrutiny  
  
(Report to Follow)
7. Housing Strategy - pre-scrutiny  
  
(Report to Follow)

8. Domestic Abuse Policy - pre-scrutiny  
(Report to Follow)
9. Finance and Budget Working Group - Update
10. Task Group Updates
  - a) Equalities Task Group – Chairman, Councillor P. McDonald
  - b) Impact of Review of Library Services Task Group – Chairman, Councillor S. Colella
  - c) Impact of Flooding in the District Task Group – Chairman, Councillor R. Hunter
11. Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Update
12. Cabinet Work Programme (Pages 11 - 16)
13. Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme (Pages 17 - 24)

K. DICKS  
Chief Executive

Parkside  
Market Street  
BROMSGROVE  
Worcestershire  
B61 8DA

13th November 2020

If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact  
Jo Gresham

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## **GUIDANCE ON VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic Bromsgrove District Council will be holding this meeting in accordance with the relevant legislative arrangements for remote meetings of a local authority. For more information please refer to the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police Crime Panels meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Please note that this is a public meeting conducted remotely by Skype conferencing between invited participants and live streamed for general access via the Council's YouTube channel.

### **[Overview and Scrutiny Board Meeting - 23rd November 2020](#)**

You are able to access the livestream of the meeting from the Committee Pages of the website, alongside the agenda for the meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the agenda or attached papers please do not hesitate to contact the officer named above.

### **Notes:**

As referred to above, the virtual Skype meeting will be streamed live and accessible to view. Although this is a public meeting, there are circumstances when Council might have to move into closed session to consider exempt or confidential information. For agenda items that are exempt, the public are excluded and for any such items the live stream will be suspended and that part of the meeting will not be recorded.





## **INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC**

### **Access to Information**

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- You can attend all Council, Cabinet and Committee/Board meetings, except for any part of the meeting when the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- You can inspect agenda and public reports at least five days before the date of the meeting.
- You can inspect minutes of the Council, Cabinet and its Committees/Boards for up to six years following a meeting.
- You can have access, upon request, to the background papers on which reports are based for a period of up to six years from the date of the meeting. These are listed at the end of each report.
- An electronic register stating the names and addresses and electoral areas of all Councillors with details of the membership of all Committees etc. is available on our website.
- A reasonable number of copies of agendas and reports relating to items to be considered in public will be made available to the public attending meetings of the Council, Cabinet and its Committees/Boards.
- You have access to a list specifying those powers which the Council has delegated to its Officers indicating also the titles of the Officers concerned, as detailed in the Council’s Constitution, Scheme of Delegation.

You can access the following documents:

- Meeting Agendas
- Meeting Minutes
- The Council’s Constitution

at [www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)

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## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**12TH OCTOBER 2020, AT 6.00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillors M. Thompson (Chairman), J. Till (Vice-Chairman), A. J. B. Beaumont, R. J. Deeming, S. P. Douglas, M. Glass, C.A. Hotham, R. J. Hunter, A. D. Kriss and P. M. McDonald

Observers: Councillor K. J. May and Councillor G. N. Denaro

Officers: Mr K. Dicks, Ms. D. Poole, Ms. A. Scarce and Mrs. J. Gresham

36/20

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor S. Colella with Councillor S. Douglas as named substitute.

37/20

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS**

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

38/20

#### **TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 6TH AUGUST 2020**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 6th August 2020 were submitted for Members' consideration.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 6th August 2020 be approved as an accurate record.

39/20

#### **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL RECOVERY AND RESTORATION PLAN**

The Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy presented the report in respect of the Bromsgrove District Council Recovery and Restoration Plan and in doing so explained that this plan had been formulated in response to the Covid-19

# Agenda Item 3

Overview and Scrutiny Board  
12th October 2020

pandemic and associated lockdown. It was highlighted that local and national economies had been affected by the pandemic and that this plan was part of a County-wide recovery plan. The Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy reported to Members that the Recovery and Restoration Plan was based around the Bromsgrove District Council Plan and its five Strategic Purposes. Officers had resolved to undertake a refresh of the Council Plan in early 2021 in order to ensure that it was still relevant in a post-Covid world. Members were pleased to note that the Council Plan refresh was in the pipeline.

The Chairman invited Councillor K. May, who was in attendance in her role as Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, the Town Centre and Strategic Partnerships to comment on the proposed Plan. She thanked officers for putting together such a comprehensive report in such a short amount of time.

In respect of the Regeneration of the Town Centre, some Members questioned if it was necessary to engage external consultants rather than utilise the resources that were already available to the Council. Councillor May explained that the consultants would be involved in the preparation of the Bromsgrove Town Centre 2040 vision, which had been considered by the Board at a previous meeting in January 2020. The consultants were to be engaged in order to provide advice on a much bigger piece of work, which was a huge opportunity for the District.

There was further discussion around the Burcott Lane Development and also the importance of engagement with park home residents. Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive undertook to ask officers for further details on those areas and circulate to Members of the Board.

It was acknowledged by Members that all high streets going forward faced challenges and an innovative approach to investment was therefore required. The Bird Box was highlighted as a recent success in this area and it was noted that feedback received from residents about this project had been positive. Whilst it was acknowledged that this was set up as a temporary project, Councillor May assured Members that all options would be considered as part of the future plans.

Following discussion of the Bromsgrove District Council Recovery and Restoration Plan, the Chief Executive introduced the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge Follow-Up document which had been delayed due to the pandemic. The feedback document provided an update on the findings that were made during the peer review and



showed that the Council had made good progress on most of the recommendations. It also laid out further recommendations that would be considered by Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**RESOLVED** that the Recovery and Restoration Plan and the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge Follow-Up Report be noted.

40/20

## **REVIEW OF REMOTE MEETING PROTOCOL**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer presented the Review of Remote Meeting Protocol. This update had been requested by Members following its consideration at the Board meeting that took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. Members were asked for their comment on the protocol. For the most part Members were happy with the protocol and they hoped that the new IT equipment would enable easier access to their Outlook calendars and in particular the Skype for Business invites.

It was accepted that virtual meetings had been a learning curve for all involved and that Members must be mindful not to be complacent when participating in them and it was suggested that it would be useful for all Members to review the protocol.

**RESOLVED** that the update of the Remote Meeting Protocol be noted.

41/20

## **FINANCE AND BUDGET WORKING GROUP - UPDATE**

The Chairman introduced the Finance and Budget Working Group update in his role as Chairman of the Group. He explained that the Working Group had met twice since the last Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 6th August.

At the meeting of 24th August 2020, a work programme had been planned for the year ahead. The Group also looked closely at the Revenue Monitoring Outturn report for 2019/20 and more detail had been requested in respect of a number of areas, including the savings which had been made. The Working Group also looked at the Financial Impact - Covid-19 Pandemic report which had been considered by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and agreed to continue to review the impact of Covid-19 and associated lockdown on the finances and services of this Council.

At the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the Working Group looked at the draft Council Tax Support Scheme and considered by Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup>

# Agenda Item 3

Overview and Scrutiny Board  
12th October 2020

September 2020. A number of Members from the main Overview and Scrutiny Board were present and it was agreed that when the consultation process had been completed and prior to it being reconsidered by Cabinet in January 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Board would pre-scrutinise the Council Tax Support Scheme once again. The detailed breakdown for the Revenue Monitoring Outturn was presented at this meeting and discussed in some detail. The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling was present at both meetings in order to present the views of the Working Group to the Cabinet meetings.

**RESOLVED** that the Finance and Budget Working Group update be noted.

42/20

## **TASK GROUP UPDATES**

### Equalities Task Group – Chairman, Councillor P. McDonald

Councillor P. McDonald in his capacity as Chairman of the Equalities Task Group updated the Board with particular focus on the Terms of Reference of the group. He reported that the name of the task group had been changed from Identifying and Addressing Racial Disparities within BDC Operations Task Group to the Equalities Task Group in order to include all areas across Bromsgrove District Council that were covered by the Equalities Act 2010. Councillor McDonald also explained that the meetings would take place at 6pm and the group had agreed that if any Members missed two meetings they would be removed from the Group. It was hoped that this would encourage a consistent approach for the Task Group. The group met every two weeks and had interviewed senior officers in regard to Human Resources and Transformation. It was hoped that the Task Group would be finished within a reasonable and appropriate time frame.

### Impact of Review of Library Services Task Group – Chairman, Councillor S. Colella

The Democratic Services Officer updated the Board in respect of the Impact of Review of Library Services Task Group and in doing so highlighted to Members that the group had met once since the last meeting of the Board.

### Impact of Flooding in the District Task Group – Chairman, Councillor R. Hunter

Councillor R. Hunter, in his capacity of Chairman on the Impact of Flooding in the District Task Group informed the Board that the group had met three times. During these meetings they had interviewed officers from Bromsgrove District Council and North Worcestershire Water Management. The group were now looking to interview officers from the wider partners including Worcestershire County Council Highways and Severn Trent. The Chairman of the Task Group reported good progress had been made and that work towards the recommendations were underway.

**RESOLVED** that the verbal updates in respect of the Task Groups be noted.

43/20

## **WORCESTERSHIRE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - UPDATE**

Councillor J. Till presented the update from the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and in doing so highlighted that the last meeting of the Committee had taken place on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020. She explained that there had been speakers from the following organisations:

- Healthcare Trust
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire CCGs and NHS Trusts
- Healthwatch
- Public Health England

The organisations provided updates on each of their services and of the success of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust exiting special measures. Councillor Till added that there had been a request that anyone wanting to attend the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) that a call be made to 111 prior to attendance.

Councillor Till undertook to circulate to the Board any information or minutes received.

**RESOLVED** that the verbal update in respect of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

44/20

## **CABINET WORK PROGRAMME**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer presented the Cabinet Work Programme. She highlighted that a number of items had already been picked up including the following:

# Agenda Item 3

Overview and Scrutiny Board  
12th October 2020

- District Level Economic Recovery Framework (November meeting)
- Domestic Abuse Policy (November meeting)
- Fees and Charges - this item was to be included in the Finance and Budget Working Group work programme and would be brought to the main Overview and Scrutiny Board if there was anything that needed to be further scrutinised.

Councillor C. Hotham raised with the Board that he wished to see an item placed on the Board's Work Programme for the next meeting regarding the decision for the Alvechurch Mop to take place on the previous weekend. He questioned whether there was an opportunity to receive a report from officers regarding the decision-making and risk-assessment process undertaken that allowed the event to take place.

The Chairman queried with the Senior Democratic Services Officer whether this was an area that could be scrutinised by the Board and it was agreed that, if Members were in agreement that the Senior Democratic Services Officer would undertake to making enquiries as to whether this would be possible.

Councillor R. Hunter also requested assurance that the Safer Roads Partnership would be in attendance in the January 2021 meeting.

Councillor A. Kriss was pleased that the CCTV item was due to be scrutinised by the Board and enquired whether a visit to the Monitoring Centre would be possible once the lockdown had been lifted. It was confirmed that this had happened previously and would be available again at an appropriate time. He also questioned whether it would be possible to look at the Fair that took place on the Recreation Ground. After a short debate it was agreed that this and the Alvechurch Mop item could be part of a wider item rather than looking at specific events.

**RESOLVED** that subject to the preamble above the Cabinet Work Programme be noted and that the Overview and Scrutiny Board's Work Programme for 2020-21, be updated to include the items discussed and agreed during the course of the meeting.

45/20

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME**

This item was discussed as part of the previous item.

# Agenda Item 3

Overview and Scrutiny Board  
12th October 2020

The meeting closed at 6.58 p.m.

Chairman

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## Overview and Scrutiny Board Meeting

### Bromsgrove District Council

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

#### Bromsgrove Market Update

##### Briefing Note

- Bromsgrove Market was closed during the Covid 19 lockdown and like all businesses was financially impacted, however upon its reopening on 2nd June, the traders were supported by the Council during lockdown with discounted rents and the addition of the Government Discretionary Business Grant Scheme.
- Regular traders were offered support up to July 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 in order to give them time to access the Government Discretionary Business Grant Scheme. The above support along with our proactive partnership with market traders, have worked very well in not only supporting our current regular and casual traders but also by encouraging new traders from other markets to consider using Bromsgrove Market as an alternative option in where to trade.
- Ahead of re-opening in June, our market procedures and risk assessments were reviewed and updated in partnership with our Health & Safety officer. All Government guidelines were followed with support from WRS, to ensure that Bromsgrove Market could re-open and continue safely.
- During October we relaunched the Bromsgrove Better Markets branding by having new canopies/sheets for the existing gazebos which will improve the appearance of the market and better protect traders from the weather and hopefully encourage new traders.
- Improvement works on the Market power supplies in the High Street also commenced this year – this included an inspection of all underground sockets to ensure they were safe and in working order. Sockets deemed unsafe have been decommissioned until further repair works can be carried out.

##### November Lockdown

- Another lockdown has been announced for November and rather than completely shutting down the Market (some authorities have), it was decided we should support those traders that can continue to trade. During this period we have reduced rents once again and are hopeful the government scheme will continue as before for those who cannot trade. We continue to follow the Govt Guidelines with the support from WRS

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# CABINET LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

**1 DECEMBER 2020 TO 31 MARCH 2021**  
**(published as at 2 November 2020)**

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

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

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

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

The Cabinet's meetings are normally held every four weeks at 6pm on Wednesday evenings at Parkside. They are open to the public, except when confidential information is being discussed. If you wish to attend for a particular matter, it is advisable to check with the Democratic Services Team on (01527 881443) to make sure it is going ahead as planned. If you have any queries Democratic Services Officers will be happy to advise you. The full Council meets in accordance with the Councils Calendar of Meetings. Meetings commence at 6pm.

## CABINET MEMBERSHIP

Councillor K J May	Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, the Town Centre and Strategic Partnerships
Councillor A. Kent	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services (including Governance/Policy and Performance/HR)
Councillor S Webb	Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing and Health and Well Being
Councillor G. N. Denaro	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling
Councillor M Sherrey	Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services
Councillor P Thomas	Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Cultural Services and Community

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Council Tax Base 2021/22 <b>Key: No</b>	Cabinet Not before 13th Jan 2021		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673  Councillor G. N. Denaro
Final Council Tax Support Scheme <b>Key: No</b>	Cabinet 13 Jan 2021 Council 20 Jan 2021		Report of the Head of Financial and Customer Services	David Riley, Revenue Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252  Councillor G. N. Denaro
Homelessness, Flexible Homelessness Support and Homelessness Reduction Grants 2020/21 <b>Key: No</b>	Cabinet 13 Jan 2021		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Amanda Delahunty, Strategic Housing Officer Tel: 01527 881269  Councillor S. A. Webb
Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25 - Update Report <b>Key: No</b>	Cabinet Not before 13th Jan 2021		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
				Councillor G. N. Denaro
Worcester Birmingham Canal Revised Conservation Area Appraisal Adoption <b>Key: No</b>  Page 13	Cabinet 13 Jan 2021  Council 20 Jan 2021		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Tel: 01527 881325  Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services  Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services
Solihull Local Plan Draft Submission Version <b>Key: No</b>	Cabinet 13 Jan 2021  Council 20 Jan 2021		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Tel: 01527 881325  Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services  Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning and

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
				Regulatory Services
Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25 (including the Capital Programme) <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet Not before 10th Feb 2021  Council Not before 24th Feb 2021		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673  Councillor G. N. Denaro
Council Tax Resolutions <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet Not before 10th Feb 2021  Council Not before 24th Feb 2021		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673  Councillor G. N. Denaro
Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet Not before 10th Feb 2021  Council Not before 24th Feb 2021		Report of the Executive Director of Finance Resources	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673  Councillor G. N. Denaro

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Finance Monitoring 2020/21 - Quarter 3 Report <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet Not before 31st Mar 2021		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673  Councillor G. N. Denaro
Treasury Management and Investment Strategy <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 31 Mar 2021  Council 21 Apr 2021		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673  Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling (including Governance/Poicy and Performance/HR)  Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling (including Governance/Poicy and Performance/HR)

Page 15

## Agenda Item 12

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

### WORK PROGRAMME

2020/21

#### RECOMMENDATION:

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

#### ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020	Bromsgrove Market Update	Update agreed would be received 12 months' time - schedule in for meeting in June 2020 (delayed due to COVID-19)
	District Level Recovery Framework	
	Third Party Events	Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services to respond to questions from Members in respect of the process and policy for third party events
	Housing Strategy	
	Domestic Abuse Policy	
	Working Group Updates	
	Finance and Budget Working Group	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader's Work Programme	
Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme		
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Council Tax Support Scheme	
	Homelessness Grants 2021-22	
	Staff Survey	Following presentation at the February 2020 meeting it was agreed that a further update would be received work programme in September 2020
	Speeding – The Overview and Scrutiny Board to call in representatives of the Safer Roads Partnership to discuss issues with speeding	Delayed from March 2020 meeting. Officers to contact Safer Road Partnership
	Finance and Budget Working Group	
	Any Task Group Updates	

	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Working Group Updates	
	Budget Update 20-21	
	Finance and Budget Working Group	
	Equalities Task Group	
	Impact of Libraries Review Task Group	
	Impact of Flooding Task Group	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Working Group Updates	
	Finance and Budget Working Group	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	

**Areas Identified at the Work Programme Planning Event held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and to be scheduled in to meetings on an as and when basis**

**Potential Task Groups**

- Public Transport / Bus Routes / Community Transport - Members agreed that this subject should be reviewed by a Task Group. The review could focus on public transport provision in rural areas and would require Members to consult with both the bus companies, Worcestershire County Council and BURT.
- Affordable and Social Housing Task Group - This review could focus on the accommodation provided by social housing organisations, planning enforcement and housing development controls and the impact of planning on the green belt.
- WCC LPT4 – It was agreed at the O & S meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019, that this would not be considered by the Strategic Planning Steering Group. Councillor Colella had made the proposal and he had felt that it merited having a Task Group and that it would be positive for newly elected Members to be involved in this Task Group. The Board considered this matter again at the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 after Cllr Colella provided a topic proposal. It was decided by the Board that it was still not appropriate to action.



## **Potential Items for Board discussion**

- Protecting Local Shops – Members concluded that this was not a suitable subject for scrutiny as stated. However, Members agreed that the relevant Portfolio holder and the Town Centres Manager could be invited to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board to answer questions about town centre economic development. Members agreed that the focus should be on how to increase footfall in the town centres.
- Removal of Early Morning Bus Passes - Members expressed concerns that early morning bus passes had been removed impacting on those travelling to work. Members noted that there was an ongoing review of public transport and consultation was being held over the summer of 2019. Members concluded that they could revisit the subject of bus passes after this consultation has been completed.

## **Previous Task Groups to be revisited**

- Pavement Parking – The Overview and Scrutiny Board to receive an update on the recommendations arising from previous reviews of car parking.
- Anti-Social Behaviour and CCTV – the Overview and Scrutiny Board to receive an update on the recommendations arising from the previous review of CCTV.
- Air quality – The Overview and Scrutiny Board to receive an update on the recommendations arising from the previous review of air quality.
- Homelessness - The Overview and Scrutiny Board could revisit recommendations made by a previous Task Group on this subject.

## **Outstanding Items and Potential Items for pre-scrutiny**

- Demonstration of modern.gov on an iPad together with data regarding paperless agendas.
- Corporate Dashboard – Demonstration (requested at the Overview & Scrutiny Board meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020).

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



**Run & grow a successful business**

**What does this mean to me?**

Businesses choose to come to Bromsgrove & grow here, providing services & jobs.

Further development enhances the town & district centres as places that people want to visit.

Improved connectivity makes life easier, whether that's on the roads or online.

**Why?**

As an entrepreneurial area, supporting business is incredibly important for the District. Through North Worcestershire Economic Development & Regeneration we will continue to support new businesses. We will also work with established companies within the District to help them grow & flourish.

We are committed to making the Town & district centres places that residents & visitors can enjoy & that attract a variety of businesses.

*Celebrating the rising stars of North Worcestershire*



**Priority: Economic development & regeneration**

**We will:**

Consult businesses to understand current needs & growth plans, working with partners to support business growth.

**How we will measure it:**

- Number of businesses engaged through the consultation
- Number of existing businesses supported to grow & develop

## Work & financial independence



### *What does this mean to me?*

There are more opportunities for young people, with the right skills for local businesses.

Money management support will help to reduce debt & increase financial confidence.

People get the benefits they are entitled to, when they need them.

### *Why?*

The economic picture for Bromsgrove District is positive, with consistently low unemployment. However, the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (specifically income, employment & education indicators) show there were issues, particularly in parts of Charford & Sidemoor.

We will support our residents to access work opportunities in new industries, focusing on the skills agenda. We will also work with residents to help them manage their money & access the right benefits.



### **Priority: Skills for the future**

#### **We will:**

Undertake a skills audit with partners & work together with them to address any gaps.

#### **How we will measure it:**

- Number engaged through the skills audit.



**Live independent,  
active & healthy lives**

**What does this  
mean to me?**

People are supported to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Communities & individuals feel less isolated.

There are more positive things to do through improved access to sport & cultural activities.

**Why?**

Whilst the health of people in Bromsgrove District is generally good, health priorities include improving mental well-being, increasing physical activity & ageing well. Increasing numbers of people living with reduced mobility, dementia & diabetes are an issue for the District. Through the Bromsgrove Partnership, Bromsgrove District Council will continue to play its part in addressing these issues.

We also want to enhance sport & cultural opportunities in the District, which will have health & social benefits.



**Priority: Improving  
health & well-being**

**We will:**

Support targeted activities for healthy lifestyles.

**How we will measure it:**

- Number of people accessing targeted activities
- Number of people with diabetes
- Number of people who have had a stroke

## Affordable & sustainable homes



### *What does this mean to me?*

More affordable & appropriate homes become available.

Private tenants have homes which are safe & tenancies which are secure & affordable.

Homes can adapt to changes in circumstances & are increasingly energy efficient.

### *Why?*

Bromsgrove has the highest level of home ownership in Worcestershire, & the smallest private rented sector in the county; demand for housing within the district has had a significant impact on property prices.

Access to affordable housing is recognised as an issue, as is ensuring homes are sustainable into the future.



### **Priority: A balanced housing market**

#### **We will:**

Develop & implement a District Housing Strategy.

#### **How we will measure it:**

- Number of affordable homes (commitments & completions)

## Communities which are safe, well-maintained & green



### What does this mean to me?

Crime & anti-social behaviour reduces even further & the fear of crime also starts to decrease.

The district is well-maintained & people feel involved in keeping it clean.

It's easier to recycle more & reduce waste going to landfill.

### Why?

Bromsgrove District Council has committed to playing its part in addressing the impact of climate change; from work to increase recycling to support to reduce fuel poverty, a **green thread** runs throughout this Council Plan.

It is important to ensure that Bromsgrove remains attractive for everyone, & our Place Teams, in partnership with local communities, provide a strong service across the District.

The District is a low crime area; through the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership we continue to work hard to address the causes of crime & anti-social behaviour & to support victims.



### Priority: Reducing crime & disorder

#### We will:

Target the causes of crime affecting the night-time economy.

#### How we will measure it:

- Anti-social behaviour reports in the Town & district centres
- Crimes in the Town & district centres