



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

TUESDAY 6TH JULY 2021
AT 6.00 P.M.

PARKSIDE SUITE - PARKSIDE

MEMBERS: Councillors C.A. Hotham, J. Till, S. J. Baxter,
A. J. B. Beaumont, S. R. Colella, R. J. Deeming, R. J. Hunter,
A. D. Kriss, P. M. McDonald, C. J. Spencer and M. Thompson

AGENDA

1. Election of Chairman
2. Election of Vice-Chairman
3. Apologies for Absence and Named Substitutes
4. 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.

5. To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 26th April 2021 (Pages 1 - 10)
6. Air Quality Around Schools - Verbal Update
7. Mileage - Notice of Motion (Pages 11 - 12)
8. Motion - Waseley Hills Car Parking (to be confirmed) (Pages 13 - 14)

9. Finance and Budget Working Group - Update
10. Corporate Performance Working Group - Update
11. Task Group Updates
12. Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Update
13. Cabinet Work Programme - to follow

The next edition of the Cabinet Work Programme will be published on 1st July 2021, after the publication of the main agenda pack for this meeting. A copy of the work programme will therefore be included in an additional papers pack.

14. Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme (Pages 15 - 22)

K. DICKS
Chief Executive

Parkside
Market Street
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B61 8DA

28th June 2021

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

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GUIDANCE ON FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic Bromsgrove District Council will be holding this meeting in accordance with the relevant social distancing arrangements for holding face-to-face meetings at a local authority.

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

GUIDANCE FOR ELECTED MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS IN PERSON

In advance of the Committee meeting, Members are encouraged to consider taking a lateral flow test, which can be obtained for free from the NHS website. Should the test be positive for Covid-19 then the Member should not attend the Committee meeting, should provide their apologies to the Democratic Services team and should self-isolate in accordance with national rules.

Members and officers are encouraged to wear face masks during the Council/Committee meeting, unless exempt. Face masks should only be removed temporarily if the Councillor/ officer requires a sip of water and should be reapplied as soon as possible. Refreshments will not be provided by the venue, therefore Members and officers are encouraged to bring your own supply of water.

Hand sanitiser will be provided for Members to use throughout the meeting.

The meeting venue will be fully ventilated and Members and officers may need to consider wearing appropriate clothing in order to remain comfortable during proceedings.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting to observe. However, due to social distancing requirements to ensure the safety of participants during the Covid-19 pandemic there will be limited capacity and members of the public

will be allowed access on a first come, first served basis. Members of the public in attendance are encouraged to wear face-masks, to use the hand sanitiser that will be provided and will be required to sit in a socially distanced manner at the meetings. It should be noted that members of the public who choose to attend in person do so at their own risk.

In line with Government guidelines, any member of the public who has received a positive result in a Covid-19 test on the day of a meeting should not attend in person and should self-isolate in accordance with the national rules.

Notes:

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.



INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

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- 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

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

26TH APRIL 2021, AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors C.A. Hotham (Chairman), J. Till (Vice-Chairman), S. J. Baxter, A. J. B. Beaumont, S. R. Colella, R. J. Deeming, R. J. Hunter, A. D. Kriss, M. Thompson and H. D. N. Rone-Clarke

Observers: Councillor G. Denaro – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling

Councillor P. Thomas – Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Cultural Services and Community Safety

Officers: Mr. J. Howse, Ms J. Willis, Ms B. Houghton, Ms I. Karimi-Fini, Mrs. J. Gresham and Ms K. Somers

94/20

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Spencer and Councillor P. M. McDonald with Councillor H. Rone-Clarke as named substitute.

95/20

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor A. Kriss declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Item 4, the Community Safety Partnership – Presentation due to his responsibility as Head of the Security Community Trust for the West Midlands. It was decided that Councillor A. Kriss would not need to be exempt from the discussion (see item 4).

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

96/20

TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 29TH MARCH 2021

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 29th March 2021 were submitted for Members' consideration.

Councillor A. D. Kriss requested clarification in respect of page 4 of the minutes where it was stated, "Members enquired whether it would be possible for future surveys to separate the two Councils responses and Officers confirmed that currently it was not possible". He explained that it was his understanding that it had been requested that Officers looked into whether the Councils' survey data could be separated. Members were in agreement that the statement be amended to 'although currently survey data could not be separated, work would be carried out to see if this could be rectified in the future'.

The Democratic Services Officer present undertook to make the amendment.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 29th March 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

97/20

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - PRESENTATION

The Community Safety Manager presented the item in respect of the Community Safety Partnership and in doing so highlighted the following to Members:

- The review of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership was an annual presentation to the Board.
- That, as of 26th June 2021, West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Service would no longer be a member of the Partnership and would once again become a part of the National Probation Service.
- The Partnership provided a three-year plan, that was updated on an annual basis and was based around the priorities of the Partnership. The priorities for 2021-2024 included violence and abuse, theft and acquisitive crime, ASB, damage and nuisance and protecting vulnerable communities. A detailed description was provided regarding the protecting vulnerable communities priority and the links between County Line drug activity and modern slavery. It was confirmed to Members that these priorities were operated at a District and County level.
- The Covid-19 pandemic had had a significant impact on the number of recorded offences in North Worcestershire. Members were informed that partners were preparing for the changes in lockdown restrictions which might result in an increase of offences.

Agenda Item 5

Overview and Scrutiny Board
26th April 2021

- The delivery of Community Safety Partnership projects throughout the District had inevitably been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic however many had been adapted to ensure that delivery could take place online and some were able to take place face-to-face in a Covid safe environment. Members were informed that a wide range of projects had been carried out with young people both in group settings and in one-to-one sessions. The projects included a Listening Service, Youth Outreach Programmes and a Young Citizen's Challenge Programme.
- The Nominated Neighbour Scheme, an initiative which aimed to prevent cold-callers and rogue trader offences in the District, had been successful. Members were informed that during an evaluation process it was reported that all residents that had enrolled in the scheme had not received any cold callers since they had joined the initiative.
- The Community Safety Partnership also took part in National initiatives including the Hate Crime Awareness Week and a webinar for the 2020 Hate Crime Conference. It was confirmed that high profile guest speakers had attended the conference which included Kriss Akabusi MBE and the Rt. Hon. Stuart Lawrence, brother of Stephen Lawrence. In addition to this the Partnership had taken part in a White Ribbon Domestic Abuse Campaign, a social media campaign supported by local partners.

Following the presentation, the Chairman invited the Councillor P. Thomas, the Portfolio for Leisure and Culture to comment on the presentation and he thanked the Officers and the team for all of the work over the past year.

Some Members expressed that they were disappointed that the Community Safety Partnership presentation had not been circulated prior to the meeting. The Democratic Services Officer present explained that the scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership was a statutory function of the Board and needed to be presented before the end of the municipal year. It was reported that Officers had been given short notice to provide the presentation for this meeting and it was agreed that for future years more notice would be given in order that Members were provided with written information prior to the meeting.

During a detailed discussion the following was clarified for Members:

- Whether the progress of the Empowering Young People project was tracked as part of the evaluation process? – Members were informed that an evaluation took place at each step of the project.

Agenda Item 5

Overview and Scrutiny Board
26th April 2021

This included a pre and post evaluation with tutors and young people. It was clarified that this was not only part of the funding criteria, but it was a powerful tool to understand the impact on the young people who took part.

- That the majority of the work that took place involving young people were through local schools and that Officers worked within the school environment to deliver the programmes. This meant that the projects were driven by need rather than geography within the District. It was confirmed that the Outreach team did travel to other areas within the District as needed. The Community Safety Manager stated that if any Members felt that there was a need in any particular area within the District then the team would be more than happy to look at it and provide support where necessary.
- How were young people included in the outreach programmes? – It was confirmed that Members could contact the Community Safety Team who would be able to pick up any referrals. Officers undertook to share the contact details for the team outside of the meeting. It was further clarified that for certain programmes e.g. the Respect Programme, a referral from a school was required due to the requirement of parental consent to take part in the programme.
- How were referrals made to the Nominated Neighbour Scheme? – Officers explained that materials were available to Members regarding the scheme and undertook to circulate them outside of the meeting.
- Could Ward Members be made aware of when Officers visited a specific ward? – The Community Safety Manager explained that this would not be possible to do beforehand due to the reactive nature of each request however it would be possible to provide Members with a report to inform what activity had been taken in specific wards.

The Chairman thanked the Community Safety Manager and the team for a detailed and informative presentation.

RESOLVED that the Community Safety Partnership Presentation be noted.

98/20

MOTION - FIREWORKS

The Cultural Services and Parks Manager presented the report regarding Councillor R. Hunter's Motion regarding the use of Fireworks, which had been referred from a previous Full Council meeting.

Agenda Item 5

Overview and Scrutiny Board
26th April 2021

During consideration of this item the following Members' attention was drawn to the following:

- The types of fireworks used by the Council were being considered and a procurement process was underway to assess what products were available to provide alternative types of fireworks. The procurement process would include the consideration of quieter fireworks and understanding if their use would impact on the environment and climate change. In addition to this, different types of events were being considered such as light shows and were a possibility for future District events.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic it was still uncertain as to whether public events would take place in the District and it was dependent on the easing of lockdown restrictions.
- The Safety Advisory Group (SAG) were working alongside the Events team to mitigate any impact on residents and animals in respect of fireworks. Members were informed that all events were assessed on a monthly basis by SAG due to the impact of Covid-19 and the restrictions around holding large gatherings. It was reported to Members that the Communications Team were involved in the promotion of any Council-run event to ensure that residents were made aware in advance that an event was taking place.

Members queried whether there were any plans for a publicity campaign should any events take place during 2021. The Cultural Services and Parks Manager informed Members that there would certainly be a campaign to raise awareness of an event if and when it was to take place. Members expressed that an important part of any publicity campaign should be to raise awareness of the impact of the use of fireworks in a private setting. Officers assured Members that social media communication was a top priority in order to get messages out to as many residents as possible. It was also clarified that plans were always made to try to ensure that there were no other events taking place on the same day as a Council-run event to help mitigate the impact to residents.

Councillor S. Colella thanked Councillor R. Hunter for bringing the Motion regarding the use of fireworks and felt it important that the Council took a lead in promoting the use of quieter fireworks in both public and private settings. It was with this in mind that he suggested that a recommendation be made to Cabinet that Bromsgrove District Council support the use of lower noise impact fireworks in both public

and private displays across the District and encouraged other events, both public and private, to choose fireworks with a lower noise impact. The recommendation was seconded by Councillor R. Hunter and although Members were generally supportive of the recommendation it was felt it might be premature, particularly as the procurement process for the use of quieter fireworks was still not completed and the impact on the environment not yet fully understood. Members requested that they be updated to understand what fireworks were to be used by the Council going forward and, if appropriate, the recommendation would then be submitted to Cabinet. Officers confirmed that this would be possible, and Members agreed that the item be added to the Board's Work Programme for consideration later in the year once the procurement process was almost completed.

RESOLVED that the update regarding Fireworks Motion be noted.

99/20

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021 - REVIEW AND LESSONS LEARNT

The Chairman introduced the Overview and Scrutiny Board Annual Report 2020-2021 to Members and highlighted the important work that had been undertaken by the Board over the last municipal year. He particularly highlighted the work of the Task Groups that had been carried out and was keen to understand if there had been any lessons learnt throughout the year.

Some Members expressed that that there had been some successes regarding Task Groups, but that planning was imperative when undertaking groups like these to ensure that there were clear objectives and outcomes. In addition to this it was suggested that Task Groups should concentrate on subjects and areas where Bromsgrove District Council could influence change. During detailed debate there was discussion regarding Task Group attendance and quorum at the meetings and what the rules should be regarding this going forward. Although the example had been made regarding planning and objectives surrounding Task Groups it was clarified that these areas were also applicable to Working Groups currently in place.

It was mentioned that in previous years the Board had also been responsible for looking at performance within the Council, however it was noted that this had not been the case for the last year. Members were reminded that the Corporate Performance Working Group had been suspended to allow the Equalities Task Group to take place and

the plan was that Corporate Performance Working Group be reinstated in the new municipal year.

It was suggested that all future Task Groups and Working Group meetings be held online, and Members thought that this would certainly be something that was likely for future meetings of this type.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board Annual Report 2020-2021 be noted.

100/20

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD RECOMMENDATION TRACKER

The Chairman introduced the item regarding the Overview and Scrutiny Board Recommendation Tracker and in doing so explained that this item was regularly brought to the Board to provide an update regarding any recommendations made over previous municipal years. After consideration of the document Members agreed that all completed items (in green) be removed for the next version of the tracker. The Democratic Services Officer present undertook to do this following review of the Tracker by Members.

The Democratic Services Officer highlighted that the Apologies and Substitutes recommendation noted as Amber, had been agreed at the meeting of Full Council held 26th February 2020 and that this item would also be removed ahead of the next meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED that Overview and Scrutiny Board Recommendation Tracker be noted

101/20

FINANCE AND BUDGET WORKING GROUP - UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Mr. J. Howse, the new Executive Director of Resources to the meeting and asked that he provide a brief overview of his role. Mr. J. Howse explained his responsibilities included Section 151 Officer and that he would be working closely with the Finance and Budget Working Group, particularly in Budget setting areas and financial sustainability of the Council. He stated that he looked forward to working with the main Board and the Finance and Budget Working Group in the future.

It was noted that the Finance and Budget Working Group had not met since the last meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED that Finance and Budget Working Group Update be noted.

102/20 **TASK GROUP UPDATES**

The Chairman explained to Members that it was likely that there would be new Task Groups established in the new municipal year and Members were invited to submit a Topic Proposal form for consideration by the Board if there were any particular areas of interest.

RESOLVED that the Task Group Update be noted.

103/20 **WORCESTERSHIRE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - UPDATE**

Councillor J. Till informed Members that there had been no meetings of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and therefore no update was available.

Councillor S. Colella requested that at the next meeting of HOSC a question be submitted to Members as to when non-Covid related medical treatment, such as operations were likely to be resumed. Councillor J. Till explained that this question would be better submitted once the Committee membership for HOSC had been agreed.

RESOLVED that Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Update be noted.

104/20 **CABINET WORK PROGRAMME**

The Cabinet Work programme dated 1st May 2021 to 31st August 2021 was considered by the Board.

Councillor S. Colella suggested that the Strategic Transport Assessment discussed at the Full Council meeting held on 21st April 2021 be scrutinised by the Board in order to better understand the process, timelines and what work was due to be undertaken in respect of the assessment. The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling stated that this was Worcestershire County Council (WCC) led project and there had been long running discussions to get to this stage. Members raised questions regarding what had previously been reported to the Board and discussed whether officers should be asked to produce a report for the Board. The Executive Director of Resources undertook to clarify with Officers what the status of the assessment was and would report back to Board in due course.

Agenda Item 5

Overview and Scrutiny Board
26th April 2021

Members requested that the Board's Work Programme be updated to include the Bromsgrove Centres Manager - 2021 Action Plan item due to be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 1st June 2021.

RESOLVED that Cabinet Work Programme be noted.

105/20

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

This item was discussed as part of the previous item.

The meeting closed at 8.04 p.m.

Chairman

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NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion has been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 by Councillor P McDonald.

That this Council calls upon Overview and Scrutiny to investigate the amount of travelling expenses claimed throughout lockdown: to ensure the efficiency of working from home.

Staff Mileage Expenses

Since March 2020, the Council has been operating in line with central government guidance around working from home. The guidance has been clear that those who could work from home should do so, in order to reduce the spread of the Corona virus during the pandemic. The Corporate Management Team have, during all of the lockdowns, adhered to government guidance in order to try to protect our employees whilst continuing to deliver as many of our services as possible.

In relation to mileage data, the information below is the total mileage undertaken and the associated costs in respect of staff mileage. Years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 have been included as an indication of how years 2020/2021 have varied from a 'normal' year.

BDC Mileage (excluding WRS)

	<u>2018 – 2019</u>	<u>2019 – 2020</u>	<u>2020 – 2021</u>
Mileage	101119.4	103039.2	64301.3
Cost	£ 45,404.58	£46,656.95	£29,002.25
Essential Car User Allowance (EUCA)			
Number of employees who qualified	14	16	15
EUCA Cost	£13,482	£15,408	£14,445

Disclaimer - this information is extracted from the Chris21 payroll system, If staff put in a retrospective request for mileage claim, this would alter the figures and the report should be re-run at any given point in time. Employees are required to submit claims within 3 months.

Mileage and Expenses Policy

The Mileage policy outlines the rules and principles that apply to mileage and expenses, and the procedure that should be followed when claiming expenses.

The mileage allowances paid are designed to ensure that employees are compensated for additional expenditure genuinely incurred whilst on official business away from their work base. The Inland Revenue rates are applied as detailed in the policy.

The Essential Car Users Allowance (ECUA) is an additional payment staff received based on the old policy, whereby if employee's annual mileage was above 2500 miles per year (based on the previous years mileage claims) an additional payment of £80.25 per month would be received. The policy has recently changed following extensive formal consultation and a collective agreement reached with the Trade Unions. The Inland Revenue rate is now applied to all mileage undertaken whilst on official business. Therefore, no ECUA will be paid to employees from May 2021.

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion has been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 by Councillor P. McDonald:

The consequences of charging for parking on the Waseley Hills Country Park is that of neighbouring roads becoming congested, hindering in some cases the Emergency Services. In addition, Bromsgrove residents are being discriminated against as no other country park in the ownership of the County Council charges for parking.

Therefore, this Council calls upon

Worcestershire County Council to withdraw all parking charges from the Waseley Hills Country Park.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

WORK PROGRAMME

2021/2022

RECOMMENDATION:

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

ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Date of Meeting	Subject	Additional Information
6 th July 2021	Air Quality Around Schools	
	Mileage – Notice of Motion	It was agreed that further information be provided to the Board at the meeting held on 29 th March 2021
	Waseley Hills Motion – Cllr McDonald	Referred from Full Council
	Finance and Budget Working Group	
	Working Group Updates	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	
13 th September 2021	Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration – Land at Former Market Hall Site	This item is due to be considered at Cabinet – Not before 15 th September 2021
	Update on Open Spaces Report	It was agreed that further information be provided to the Board at the meeting held on 29 th March 2021
	Bromsgrove Centres Manager - 2021 Action Plan	This item is due to be considered at Cabinet on 15 th September 2021
	Equalities Task Group – Cabinet Response	Due to be considered at Cabinet on 7 th July 2021
	Flooding Task Group – Cabinet Response	Due to be considered at Cabinet on 7 th July 2021
	Libraries Task Group – Cabinet Response	Due to be considered at Cabinet on 7 th July 2021
	Staff Survey	It was agreed that further information be provided to the Board at the meeting held on 29 th March 2021
	Any Task Group Updates	

Agenda Item 14

	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	
	Finance and Budget Working Group	
18 th October 2021	Decarbonisation of the Council Fleet	
	Working Group Updates	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	
22 nd November 2021	Declaration of Land Surplus to Requirement – Marsh Way, Catshill South, Penshurst Road, Sideslow and Foxglove Way – pre-scrutiny	
	Working Group Updates	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	
	Working Group Updates	

2021-22 Meeting Dates

11th January 2022 - Community Safety Partnership
 14th February 2022
 28th March 2022
 25th April 2022

Items for consideration in 2021-22

- Fireworks – Motion – Follow up on progress
- Strategic Transport Assessment
- Homelessness – Post Covid (including Homelessness - The Overview and Scrutiny Board could revisit recommendations made by a previous Task Group on this subject)

Areas Identified at the Work Programme Planning Event held on 5th June 2019 and to be scheduled into meetings on an as and when basis

Potential Areas for further investigation

- 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.

Agenda Item 14

- 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.

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.

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