



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

MONDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2021

AT 6.00 P.M.

PARKSIDE SUITE - PARKSIDE

MEMBERS: Councillors C.A. Hotham (Chairman), J. Till, S. J. Baxter, A. J. B. Beaumont, S. R. Colella, R. J. Deeming, R. J. Hunter, H. J. Jones, 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 13th September 2021 (Pages 1 - 10)
4. Staff Survey (Pages 11 - 12)
5. Budget Framework Report

(Report to follow).
6. Libraries Task Group - Cabinet Response (Pages 13 - 14)
7. Finance and Budget Working Group - Update

8. Corporate Performance Working Group - Update
9. Task Group Updates
10. Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Update
11. Cabinet Work Programme (Pages 15 - 26)
12. Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme (Pages 27 - 34)

K. DICKS
Chief Executive

Parkside
Market Street
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B61 8DA

8th October 2021

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

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Tel: (01527) 64252 Ext: 3031
Email: joanne.gresham@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

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 strongly 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 strongly encouraged to wear face masks during the Overview and Scrutiny Board 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.

GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the public will still be able to access meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Board in person if they wish to do so. 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 strongly 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.



INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

Access to Information

The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 widened the rights of press and public to attend Local Authority meetings and to see certain documents. Recently the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has further broadened these rights, and limited exemptions under the 1985 Act.

- 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

13TH SEPTEMBER 2021, AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors C.A. Hotham (Chairman), J. Till, S. J. Baxter, A. J. B. Beaumont, S. R. Colella, R. J. Deeming, M. Glass (substitute for Councillor Kriss), R. J. Hunter and C. J. Spencer

Observers: Councillor K. May – Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, the Town Centre and Strategic Partnerships

Officers: Mr. J. Howse, Mrs. R. Bamford, Mr. O. Paparega and Mrs. J Gresham.

15/21 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P. McDonald and Councillor A. Kriss with Councillor M. Glass in attendance as named substitute.

16/21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS**

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

17/21 **TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 6TH JULY 2021**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 6th July 2021 were submitted for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 6th July 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

18/21 **ADOPTION OF LAND BY BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL AND THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMUTED SUMS FOR OFF-SITE PROVISION**

Agenda Item 3

Overview and Scrutiny Board
13th September 2021

The Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services presented the Adoption of land by Bromsgrove District Council and the Management of Commuted Sums for Off-Site Provision report.

Members were informed that when a new development was planned which included open space provision, that open space would need to be managed appropriately by a developer or other management body in perpetuity. It was explained that there were various types of open space provision on a new development including sports pitches, equipped and unequipped open spaces and off-site open spaces.

The Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services clarified to Members of the Board that it was not compulsory for developers to offer any open space for adoption by the Council, or any other management body, and that they could choose to manage it themselves. However, it was noted that if the land was adopted by the Council the developer would have to provide the cost of on-going maintenance to the Council in perpetuity, which in this case would be for 30 years.

During a detailed discussion the Board agreed that this report was necessary in order to maintain open spaces now and in the future. Councillor R. Hunter noted that, although the policy was a good one, it needed to go further in order to provide clarity on the objectives of the Council in relation to this matter.

There was a robust discussion regarding whether it would be possible to use Council Tax collected from houses on new developments in order to provide the upkeep of any new open spaces. The Executive Director of Resources explained that although this would seem like a possibility, Council Tax was not all allocated to Bromsgrove District Council and that County Council received a high percentage of the Council Tax collected. It was also noted that it would not be good for financial sustainability for a Local Authority to commit to such long-term funding on a potentially variable or non-recurring income.

After a detailed debate Councillor R. Hunter proposed the following recommendation:

'that the wording within the 'Objectives' section of the policy be amended, and that the word 'preference' be included to read '***it is the preference and the intention of the Council***'.

In addition to this Councillor. R. Hunter wished to include an additional paragraph in the main Officer report as follows:

'Bromsgrove District Council believe that the optimal outcome for the residents and the wider community is for a local, democratically and publicly elected body to adopt the land.'

Although there was a general agreement from Members that these two recommendations would be useful in clarifying the Council's position in this matter, the Board were reminded that, it was within the Officer's gift to write their own report without it being amended and if an additional paragraph needed to be added it should be within the policy not the officer's report.

Therefore, the Board agreed that both recommendations, from Councillor R. Hunter be included in the 'Objectives' section of the policy.

Councillor J. Till suggested that it was important to reflect within the second recommendation that developers were not obliged to offer the land to the Council or any other party to manage. Therefore, it was agreed that 'if offered' be included at the end of the second recommendation.

On being put to the vote both recommendations were agreed.

The Chairman thanked Officers for a detailed presentation and noted that Councillor A. Kent had been invited to attend the Board meeting however, he had not been able to attend and had sent his apologies.

RECOMMENDED that

- a) that the wording within the 'Objectives' section of the policy be amended, and that the word 'preference' be included to read '***it is the preference and the intention of the Council*** and;
- b) that an additional paragraph be included in the policy at the beginning of the 'Objectives' section which states the following: 'Bromsgrove District Council believe that the optimal outcome for the residents and the wider community is for a local, democratically and publicly elected body to adopt the land, if offered'.

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Overview and Scrutiny Board
13th September 2021

The Chairman invited Councillor K. May who was present in her role as Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, the Town Centre and Strategic Partnerships to introduce the Bromsgrove Centres Action Plan 2021-2022. During the introduction Councillor May explained that it had not been possible to recruit to the role of Town Centres Manager and therefore the Council had engaged an events management company, Blackberry Productions, to provide a full events programme in the District over the coming months. Members were assured that the recruitment process for the Bromsgrove Town Centres Manager role would continue and once completed, the long-term strategy would be for the new Bromsgrove Town Centres Manager to go back out to key local centres and consult with key local stakeholders

The Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration reported that a Business Support Advisor had been recruited in the interim to cover some of the work previously undertaken by the Bromsgrove Town Centres Manager. It was explained that this would include working with local businesses in order to help them to reopen after the pandemic in a safe and resilient way. It was planned that the Business Support Advisor would be available to assist with local businesses across all sectors. The Board was informed that, during the pandemic, consumer behaviours had changed, and online shopping had hugely increased. He confirmed to Members that work in this area would be particularly important over the coming months for the Business Support Advisor.

Councillor S. Baxter queried the plan in respect of the consultation that had already taken place within the local centres. Councillor Baxter stated that she was not aware of any engagement that had taken place in Wythall which was one of the largest centres in the District. It was felt that going back out to local centres was an important part of the Action Plan and needed to be carried out as soon as possible. The Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure stated that she would be happy to meet with Members to discuss future opportunities within the key local centres and undertook to arrange a meeting.

Some Members were concerned with the condition of a number of the empty shops in Bromsgrove Town Centre and of the pavement along the High Street. There was agreement that more needed to be done in this respect to attract local spend. It was suggested that pop-up shops could be established to help with this. Councillor K. May explained that these kinds of plans were constantly being explored. However, it was reported some private shop owners did not want their vacant properties used in this way.

The Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration stated that there was still confidence in Bromsgrove Town Centre, and this was apparent with the recent investment at the former St. John's Wine Rooms.

After lengthy debate Councillor S. Baxter proposed that a recommendation be made to Cabinet as follows:

'that the Cabinet resolves to adopt the Bromsgrove Town Management Strategy – 2021 Action Plan and at the earliest opportunity that the relevant officers revisit the Town Centres to update the plan and offer support'

On being put to the vote this recommendation was agreed.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet resolves to adopt the Bromsgrove Town Management Strategy – 2021 Action Plan and at the earliest opportunity that the relevant officers revisit the Town Centres to update the plan and offer support.

20/21

EQUALITIES TASK GROUP - CABINET RESPONSE

The Chairman introduced the Cabinet Response to the Equalities Task Group in Councillor. P. McDonald's absence. It was clarified that the response had been discussed at Cabinet and Council and the consideration of the report by the Board was mainly procedural and for completeness.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Response to the Equalities Task Group be noted.

21/21

FLOODING TASK GROUP - CABINET RESPONSE

The Chairman invited Councillor R. Hunter to present the Cabinet response in respect of the Flooding Task Group.

It was explained that, as with the previous item, this report had been discussed extensively at both Cabinet and Council meetings held in July 2021. Councillor R. Hunter expressed his disappointment at the Cabinet response. In particular, that during the Task Group no mention had been made in respect of the maintenance plan that was currently being undertaken by North Worcestershire Water Management regarding Council owned assets and partners' assets which was due to be considered by Cabinet on its completion at the end of September.

The Chairman suggested that once the maintenance plan had been completed it would be useful for the Flooding Task Group to reconvene and scrutinise the plan prior to its consideration at Cabinet. It was agreed that this would take place and the Democratic Services Officer present explained that, once the plan was available, she would facilitate the process for the Task Group to reconvene.

Councillor K. May wished to clarify that the report had not been commissioned by the Cabinet and that the piece of work was being undertaken by North Worcestershire Water Management separately.

Some members expressed their disappointment that none of the recommendations from the Task Group had been accepted by the Cabinet, as this type of investigation was time consuming from a Member and Officer perspective.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Response to the Flooding Task Group be noted.

22/21

TASK GROUP UPDATES - TERMS OF REFERENCE

During consideration of the item, it was noted that there was one proposed change to the Terms of Reference for the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group and one proposed change to the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Performance Working Group.

These were as follows:

Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group

- Named substitute Members may be invited to join the Working Group, however it should be chaired by a permanent Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Corporate Performance Working Group

- Named substitute Members may be invited to join the Working Group, however it should be chaired by a permanent Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, and:
- The Working Group will meet on a quarterly basis throughout the municipal year.

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13th September 2021

The changes were proposed by Councillor C. Hotham and seconded by Councillor J. Till. On being put to the vote the proposals were agreed.

RESOLVED that the changes to the Terms of Reference of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group and Corporate Performance Working Group as detailed in the preamble above be agreed.

23/21

FINANCE AND BUDGET WORKING GROUP - UPDATE

Councillor C. Hotham presented the Finance and Budget Working Group Update for Members' consideration.

He reported that a meeting had taken place on 2nd September 2021 and at that meeting the following items were discussed:

- The Enterprise Resource System
- The Aged Debtors Summary
- The Financial Outturn Report
- Covid-19 Grants

Members were informed that the Aged Debtors Summary was being managed appropriately. In addition to this, Councillor Hotham confirmed that approximately £37m in Government grants had been received during the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdown. Due to the strict guidelines regarding these grants, which were set out by Central Government, approximately £34.5m had been distributed to those businesses who fulfilled the strict criteria. Councillor Hotham explained that a further £1.4m had been received from Government, however it was noted that the funding was time limited and again, was subject to prescriptive and strict guidelines.

RESOLVED that the Finance and Budget Working Group Update be noted.

24/21

WORCESTERSHIRE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - UPDATE

Councillor J. Till presented the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) update to the Board and explained that she had attended the last meeting in July 2021. During that meeting there had been discussion regarding the recovery from Covid-19 which was progressing well. Councillor Till also stated that the minutes from each HOSC meeting were available on the Worcestershire County Council

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Overview and Scrutiny Board
13th September 2021

website. The Democratic Services Officer present undertook to circulate the relevant minutes to the Board.

It was reported that, at the last meeting of the Board on 6th July 2021, Councillor J. Till had indicated that she wished to step down as HOSC representative for the remainder of the municipal year.

Councillor S. Baxter volunteered for the role and her nomination was proposed by Councillor C. Hotham and seconded by Councillor J Till.

On being put to the vote Councillor S. Baxter's appointment was agreed.

RESOLVED that

- a) the HOSC update be noted and;
- b) Councillor. S Baxter be appointed as Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) representative for the remainder of the municipal year.

25/21

CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the most recent Cabinet Work Programme and in doing so the following items were added to the Board's work Programme in order to pre-scrutinise at the next meeting.

The items identified were as follows:

- Bromsgrove District Council's Duty to Co-operate Statement with Solihull
- Bromsgrove District Council's Approach to the Draft Black Country Plan
- Financial Update Regarding Leisure Services

The Chairman noted that due to the addition of the above items the meeting may be longer than usual, and Members accepted that this might be the case.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Work Programme – 1st October 2021 to 31st January 2022 be noted and items added subject to the preamble above.

26/21

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Board's Work Programme was presented for consideration by Members. In addition to the items that had been identified during the previous item it was agreed that the Fireworks – Notice of Motion would be postponed until later in the municipal year.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board's Work Programme be noted, and any additional items be added.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

Chairman

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Overview & Scrutiny

18th October 2021

Introduction

This paper provides an update in respect the planned approach for the next corporate staff survey.

It was originally the intention for the Staff Survey to be undertaken in the Summer of 2020, however, due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the associated additional work being undertaken across the organisation in respect of other surveys to employees, the timing of the staff survey was delayed.

As a result of the changes in working practices brought about by the pandemic, including closing some of our buildings to staff, working remotely and the extended use of technology, the decision was taken to carry out a number of smaller surveys to gauge the employee experience during these unprecedented times. Specifically, surveys have been undertaken to explore the effectiveness of communications during this time and another focusing on working arrangements, the surveys were referenced in the last report to O&S.

Staff Survey

The next full Staff Survey will take place over the last week in November 2021 and the first week in December. This will be preceded by a three-week communication campaign launched in the Chief Executive's November Team Brief and aimed at increasing response rates.

We are engaging with the same provider previously used to undertake the staff survey. The provider was previously engaged following a workforce project conducted by the Local Government Association. The Councils will be using Martin Reddington Associates (MRA). This company is an expert in the field of employee engagement using a bespoke methodology referred to as The Employment Deal Diagnostic (TEDD). The TEDD[®] tool has now been enhanced by Culture FITT[®] - effectively developing a new 'lenses' on the data to show different organisational climates.

Martin Reddington Associates (MRA) will be conducting the survey on our behalf through the Local Government Association. As far as possible staff will be encouraged to complete the survey on-line either via a PC, laptop or smart phone. Only where this is not possible will paper copies of the survey be issued. Our experience has shown that response rates with paper surveys are much lower than for the on-line version and generally are more expensive to use.

The questions used in the main body of survey will be the same as those asked in the previous staff survey. However, since this last survey was undertaken, MRA have further developed their analytic tools to enable them to map responses against stated organisational values. This allows them to report on how aligned actual behaviours are to these values. Although the format of the reports will be different MRA have reassured us

Agenda Item 4

that we will still be able to compare the results of the two surveys, something we are keen to be able to do.

The provider produces the survey using their bespoke methodology. Whilst there is limited opportunity to modify the questions too much, it is possible to add a small number of questions to the survey to ensure there is some organisation specific focus. However, it is essential that the majority of the questions are replicated from the first survey to enable like for like comparison as much as possible. Therefore, additional questions will be developed in conjunction with CMT.

The provider will analyse and interprets the data, providing reports by service area and supporting the organisation in interpreting the findings. The initial corporate results will be made available to CMT before the Christmas break and the full analysis will follow early in the New Year.

Cabinet Response to the Overview and Scrutiny Impact of Library Service Changes Task Group

Introduction

At the Cabinet meeting on 15th July 2021, consideration was given to the report of the Impact of Library Service Changes Task Group. The Leader welcomed Councillor S. Colella, as Chairman of the Task Group, to the meeting and thanked him for being present to provide clarification on any matters raised by Cabinet Members. Councillor Colella outlined the work which had been undertaken by the Task Group and thanked Members and officers for their contributions.

The Cabinet then discussed and considered each of the recommendations of the Task Group in detail.

Response to recommendations

Please find below responses to the recommendations contained within the scrutiny report:

Recommendation 1

That all Members continue to receive up to date information in relation to any proposed changes to libraries in their Wards.

Cabinet Response

It was noted that this recommendation would represent continuation of existing practice as Worcestershire County Council currently provide updates to Members in relation to any proposed library changes in their wards.

This recommendation was rejected.

Recommendation 2

That all Members be consulted when any proposed changes are to be made to the Strategic Libraries in the District.

Cabinet Response

It is a statutory process that is followed by Worcestershire County Council to inform local residents when any proposed changes are made to strategic libraries in the District. Therefore, in terms of consulting with residents about any such changes, Members will continue to be consulted in their capacity as local residents.

This recommendation was rejected.

Recommendation 3

That a publicity campaign be undertaken to promote the facilities available at Libraries.

Cabinet Response

This recommendation could be brought to the attention of Worcestershire County Council however Bromsgrove District Council could not make this decision on behalf of the County Council whether they should undertake a publicity campaign.

This recommendation was rejected.

Recommendation 4

That Worcestershire County Council ensure that any grant funding received is distributed to Libraries accordingly.

Cabinet Response

As Worcestershire County Council receive the funding its distribution or allocation needs to be determined by Worcestershire County Council and Bromsgrove District Council could not influence the matter.

This recommendation was rejected.

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

CABINET LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 NOVEMBER 2021 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2022
(published as at 1st October 2021)

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

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 |
| Councillor M Thompson | Portfolio Holder for Climate Change |

| 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 |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Presentation - Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2024/25 - Update Key: No | Cabinet 8 Nov 2021 | | Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources | James Howse, Executive Director Finance, Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881205, Tel: 01527 881673 Councillor G. N. Denaro |
| Financial Outturn 2020/21 Report Key: No | Cabinet 8 Nov 2021 Council 1 Dec 2021 | | Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources | Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services, James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881673, Tel: 01527 881205 Councillor G. N. Denaro |

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|--|--|---|--|--|
| Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Key: No | Cabinet 8 Nov 2021 Council 1 Dec 2021 | | Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services | James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881205 Councillor G. N. Denaro |
| 2022/23 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan - Update Key: No | Cabinet 24 Nov 2021 | | Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources | Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services, James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881673, Tel: 01527 881205 Councillor G. N. Denaro |

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|--|---|---|---|--|
| Bromsgrove District Council's response to the South Worcestershire Development plan Key: No | Cabinet 24 Nov 2021 Council 1 Dec 2021 | | Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services | Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Tel: 01527 881325 Councillor A. D. Kent |
| Declaration of Land Surplus to Requirement - Marsh Way, Catshill South, Penshurst Road, Sideslow and Foxglove Way, Norton Key: Yes | Cabinet 24 Nov 2021 | | Report of the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services | Guy Revans, Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3292 Councillor K. J. May |

| 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 Report 2021/22 Key: No | Cabinet 24 Nov 2021 Council 1 Dec 2021 | | Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources | Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services, James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881673, Tel: 01527 881205 Councillor G. N. Denaro |
| Financial Update Regarding Leisure Services Key: No | Cabinet 24 Nov 2021 Council 1 Dec 2021 | This report will contain exempt information. | Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources | Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services, Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services, James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881673, Tel: 01527 881429, Tel: 01527 881205 Councillor G. N. Denaro |

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| 2022/23 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan - Update Key: No | Cabinet 19 Jan 2022 | | Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources | James Howse, Executive Director Finance, Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881205, Tel: 01527 881673 Councillor G. N. Denaro |
| Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration - Land at the Dolphin Centre Key: Yes | Cabinet Not before 19th Jan 2022 Council Not before 26th Jan 2022 | | Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services | Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration Tel: 01562 732192 Councillor K. J. May |

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|--|--|---|---|--|
| Bromsgrove Town Centre - Market Hall and Windsor Street sites Key: Yes | Cabinet Not before 19th Jan 2022 | | Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services | Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration Tel: 01562 732192 Councillor A. D. Kent |
| Council Tax Base 2022/23 Key: No | Cabinet 19 Jan 2022 Council 26 Jan 2022 | | Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Service | 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 |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| Fees and Charges 2022/23 Key: No Page 22 | Cabinet 19 Jan 2022 Council 26 Jan 2022 | | Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources | Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services, James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881673, Tel: 01527 881205 Councillor G. N. Denaro |
| Flexible Homelessness Support Grant and Homelessness Reduction Grant 2022/23 Key: No | Cabinet 19 Jan 2022 | | Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services | Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3284 Councillor S. A. Webb |

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|---|--|---|---|--|
| Finance Monitoring Quarter 2 2021/22 Key: No | Cabinet 19 Jan 2022 Council 26 Jan 2022 | | Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources | Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services, James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881673, Tel: 01527 881205 Councillor G. N. Denaro |
| Growth Options for Garden Waste Service Key: No | Cabinet 19 Jan 2022 | | Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services | Matthew Austin, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01572 882537 Councillor M. A. Sherrey |
| Independent Remuneration Panel Report 2022/23 Key: No | Council 26 Jan 2022 | | Report of the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services | Darren Whitney, Electoral Services Manager Tel: 01527 881650 Councillor G. N. Denaro |

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|--|--|---|---|--|
| Council Tax Resolutions 2022/23 Key: No | Cabinet 16 Feb 2022 Council 23 Feb 2022 | | Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources | James Howse, Executive Director Finance, Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881205, Tel: 01527 881673 Councillor G. N. Denaro |
| Decarbonisation of the Council Fleet Key: No | Cabinet 16 Feb 2022 Council 23 Feb 2022 | | Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services | Kevin Hirons, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01527 881705 Councillor M. A. Sherrey |

| 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 |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| 2022/23 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (including Capital Programme) Key: No Page 25 | Cabinet 16 Feb 2022 Council 23 Feb 2022 | | Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources | James Howse, Executive Director Finance, Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881205, Tel: 01527 881673 Councillor G. N. Denaro |
| Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 Key: No | Cabinet 16 Feb 2022 Council 23 Feb 2022 | | Report of the Human Resources and Development Manager | Becky Talbot, Human Resources and Development Manager Tel: 01527 64252 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 |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| Appointment of External Auditors Key: No | Council 23 Feb 2022 | | Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources | James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881205 Councillor G. N. Denaro |
| Financial Monitoring Report 2021/22 Quarter 3 Key: No | Cabinet 30 Mar 2022 Council 20 Apr 2022 | | Report of the Executive Director of Resources | Kate Goldey, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881208 Councillor G. N. Denaro |

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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 |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 18 th October 2021 | Staff Survey | It was agreed that further information be provided to the Board at the meeting held on 29 th March 2021 |
| | Budget Framework Report | Due to be considered at Cabinet on 20 th October 2021 |
| | Libraries Task Group – Cabinet Response | Considered at Cabinet on 15 th September 2021 |
| | 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 | Due to be considered at Cabinet on 24 th November 2021 |
| | Financial Update Regarding Leisure Services | Due to be considered at Cabinet on 24 th November 2021 |
| | 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 | |
| 17 th January 2021 | Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration - Land at the Dolphin Centre | Due to be considered at Cabinet not before 19 th January 2022 |
| | Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration – Market Hall and Windsor Street | Due to be considered at Cabinet not before 19 th January 2022 |
| | Community Safety Partnership | |
| | Working Group Updates | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | Any Task Group Updates | |
| | WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative | |
| | Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme | |

2021-22 Meeting Dates

14th February 2022 - Decarbonisation of the Council Fleet
 28th March 2022 - Fireworks – Motion – Follow up on progress
 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.
- 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

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