



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

MONDAY 17TH JANUARY 2022

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. Bromsgrove District Council Car Parks - Adoption of Cashless Payments and Operational Procedures for Recreation Road South Car Park and Churchfields Multi-Storey Car Park - pre-scrutiny

(Report to follow)

4. Levelling Up Fund - former Market Hall and Windsor St sites - pre-scrutiny

(Report to follow)

5. Finance and Budget Working Group - Update

6. Task Group Updates
7. Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Update
8. Cabinet Work Programme (Pages 1 - 6)
9. Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme (Pages 7 - 14)
10. To consider, and if considered appropriate, to pass the following resolution to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of item(s) of business containing exempt information:-

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

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraph(s)</u>	
11	3	

11. To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 22nd November 2021 (Pages 15 - 26)

K. DICKS
Chief Executive

Parkside
Market Street
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B61 8DA

7th January 2022

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

Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove, B61 8DA
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 on the day of the meeting, 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 must 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.

ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the public will still be able to access meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting 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 must wear face-masks unless exempt, 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 and for any such items.



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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CABINET LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 FEBRUARY 2022 TO 31 MAY 2022
(published as at 4th January 2022)

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, Regeneration and Strategic Partnerships
Councillor G. Denaro	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Councillor M. Sherrey	Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Community Safety
Councillor P. Thomas	Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services
Councillor M. Thompson	Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Climate Change
Councillor S. Webb	Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing and Health and Well Being

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
Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration - Land at the Dolphin Centre Key: Yes	Cabinet Not before 16th Feb 2022 Council Not before 23rd Feb 2022		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services Tel: 01527 64252 Councillor K. J. May
Council Tax Resolutions 2022/23 Key: No	Cabinet 23 Feb 2022 Council 23 Feb 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

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	Cabinet 23 Feb 2022 Council 23 Feb 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
Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 Key: No	Cabinet 23 Feb 2022 Council 23 Feb 2022		Report of the Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy	Becky Talbot, Human Resources and Development Manager Tel: 01527 64252 Councillor G. N. Denaro
Appointment of External Auditors Key: No	Council 23 Feb 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881205 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
Bromsgrove 2040 Vision Key: No	Cabinet 30 Mar 2022 Council 20 Apr 2022		Report of the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration Tel: 01562 732192 Councillor K. J. May
Equalities Strategy Key: No	Cabinet 30 Mar 2022 Council 20 Apr 2022		Report of the Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy	Rebecca Green, Policy Manager Tel: 01527 881616 Councillor G. N. Denaro
Land Drainage Watercourse Maintenance Operation Key: No	Cabinet 30 Mar 2022 Council 20 Apr 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
Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Key: No	Cabinet 30 Mar 2022 Council 20 Apr 2022		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881205 Councillor G. N. Denaro
Decarbonisation of the Council Fleet Key: No	Cabinet 1 Jun 2022 Council Not before 2nd Jun 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Kevin Hirons, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01527 881705 Councillor M. A. Sherrey

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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
17 th January 2021	Levelling Up Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration – Market Hall and Windsor Street	Due to be considered at Cabinet not before 19 th January 2022
	Adoption of Cashless Payments and Operational Procedures for Recreation Road South Car Park and Churchfields Multi-Storey Car Park - pre-scrutiny	Due to be considered at Cabinet not before 19 th January 2022
	Working Group Updates	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
14 th February 2022	Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration - Land at the Dolphin Centre - - pre-scrutiny	Due to be considered at Cabinet not before 19 th January 2022
	Mileage Benchmarking Update	
	Working Group Updates	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
28 th March 2022	Land Drainage Watercourse Maintenance Operation – pre-scrutiny	Due to be considered at Cabinet not before 30 th March 2022
	Fireworks – Motion – Follow up on progress	
	Community Safety Partnership	Annual Update
	CCTV Update	Requested at the meeting held in October 2021
	Working Group Updates	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
25 th April 2022	Housing enforcement powers and how they are used	Requested at the meeting in November 2021

Agenda Item 9

	Overview and Scrutiny Board Annual Report 2021-22	
	Overview and Scrutiny Board – Recommendation Tracker	
	Working Group Updates	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	

Items for consideration in 2021-22

- Declaration of Land Surplus to Requirement – Marsh Way, Catshill South, Penshurst Road, Sideslow and Foxglove Way – pre-scrutiny
- Decarbonisation of the Council Fleet
- 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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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

22ND NOVEMBER 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, R. J. Hunter,
A. D. Kriss, P. M. McDonald and C. J. Spencer

Observers: Councillor G. N. Denaro, Councillor M. A. Sherrey and
Councillor P. L. Thomas

Officers: Mr. J Howse, Mrs. C. Felton, Mr. G. Revans,
Mr M. Austin and J Gresham

39/21

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H. Jones with no
named substitute.

40/21

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS

The were no Declarations of Interest nor of any Party Whip.

41/21

TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER 2021

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 18th
October 2021 were submitted for Members' consideration.

Councillor P. Thomas confirmed that he was at the meeting held on 18th
October 2021. The Democratic Services Officer present undertook to
note his attendance at that meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board
meeting held on 18th October 2021 be approved.

42/21

CCTV UPDATE - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Head of Environmental Services and the Environmental Services Manager presented the CCTV Update – Environmental Services. It was explained to the Board that in addition to the briefing that had been provided as part of the agenda, Members would receive a presentation in order to highlight the work currently being undertaken by officers.

As part of the presentation the following was highlighted for Members' attention:

- Bromsgrove District Council was the Litter Authority and as result they looked after the collection of the litter. Members were informed that with the exception of hazardous litter, such as asbestos, which was removed by specialist contractors, litter was removed by the Environmental Services team at the Council. It was confirmed that Worcestershire County Council were responsible for the disposal of litter.
- There had been an increase of incidents of fly-tipping in recent years. During this time there had been an increase in advertising on social media and by word of mouth of 'man with a van' services. These services often resulted in the irresponsible disposal of items collected from the customer by the 'man with the van' who sometimes did not hold the correct licenses to dispose of waste.
- There were key areas within the District where fly-tipping occurred regularly. It was explained that the geography of Bromsgrove inevitably played a part in the instances of fly-tipping. Close links to the M5 and A38 meant that there was good access from areas outside of the District, including Birmingham. This had seemingly been exacerbated by the change in rules for the disposal of waste by Birmingham City Council.
- Clear signage had been placed various sites within the District as a deterrent to those who fly-tipped. In addition to this, mobile surveillance cameras, both real and dummy, were placed in areas where fly-tipping regularly occurred. Although this had proved to be a useful tool in deterring fly-tippers, due to the number of sites that regularly experienced fly-tipping the cameras could inevitably not always be in the right place at the right time. It was explained to Members that there was legislation in place Regulatory Investigation Powers Act (RIPA) that covered the use of surveillance cameras. Although the use of surveillance cameras was useful it was important to note that there were strict rules around the enforcement of fly-tipping. It was not enough to just

see a van looking like it was going to fly-tip. The tipping needed to be caught on the camera, unless the load of the fly-tipping vehicle was so unusual officers were able to ascertain that the load had been fly-tipped by that specific van.

- There was a backlog of enforcement cases that were still to be heard by the courts. Members were informed that the fixed penalty notice was usually between £300-£400 however there was a review of fly-tipping penalty charges underway.

Councillor M. Sherrey, who was in attendance in her role as Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services was welcomed to the meeting and commented that there had been issues with staffing due to the large number of fly-tipping incidents. However, she clarified that the number of fly-tips were significantly down compared to previous years.

Members were positive about the report and the information included contained in it however they had some questions in respect of the presentation. These were as follows:

- Were the fixed penalty charges comparable to others in District and wider area? – Officers explained that currently the fixed penalty charges were in the middle of the charges. Some councils within the County had chosen to price at the top of the scale and that this could be something that Bromsgrove District Council could look to make amendments to next year.
- How successful were the Council in recovering the fixed penalty charges? – It was confirmed that there had been successes in this area and that the risk of being taken to court had encouraged payments in good time from those who had received fixed penalty charges.
- Were the successes in the deterrent of fly-tipping promoted to the District through communications – Members were informed that this was the case, and it was hoped that this would highlight the increase in enforcement around fly-tipping in the District.

During a detailed discussion Members stated that they were encouraged by the speed in which reported fly-tips had been cleared over the past year but were keen to better understand why there had been a significant increase. Officers concluded that due to the Covid-19 many residents had undertaken DIY projects at home however when faced with the disposal of the rubbish had increasingly sought to use a 'man with a van'.

It was discussed whether work was carried out with Parish Councils as often the locations where regular fly-tips took place were in Parishes. It was confirmed that work was already carried out however, officers undertook to continue this practice for the future.

Some Members were keen to share the effectiveness of technology that existed regarding the clearing of fly-tipping and Members were made aware of nationwide app technology that was already available and was effective in the reporting of fly-tips across the country. Officers confirmed that Environmental Services were looking into launching an app where residents could report fly-tipping, garden waste and street cleansing queries.

Finally, it was queried as to how the surveillance tools could be used and keep within the RIPA legislation, as it had been reported to the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee in July 2021 that there had been no powers used under this legislation. The Environmental Services Manager confirmed that as there was clear signage used in fly-tipping hot spots this meant that although covert surveillance was used fly-tippers had been informed that this was the case and therefore it was compliant under RIPA.

RESOLVED that the CCTV Update - Environmental Services be noted.

43/21

FINANCE AND BUDGET WORKING GROUP - UPDATE

The Chairman provided an update in respect of the Finance and Budget working Group meeting which had taken place on 17th November 2021.

He informed the Board that this had been a long meeting which had involved an in-depth discussion regarding the Blue Badge Motion which had been submitted by Councillor S. Robinson at the Full Council meeting held on 3rd November 2021. During consideration of the Motion, it was explained that the Head of Environmental Services and the Environmental Services Manager attended the meeting in order to explain that should this initiative be moved forward it would potentially impact the Council's finances, potentially to as much as £30-£50k. It was explained that it would be considered further at future meetings of the Working Group however any future changes would be subject to finance implications and cost.

Members were informed that in considering the Financial Outturn report the Council seemed to be in a better position than had been anticipated and that the Covid-19 grants that had been received had seemed to help

balance the outturn final position 2020/2021. It was reported that there had inevitably been a deficit in the Leisure Services area, and it was explained that this had been experienced at a national level not just within the District.

In addition to the above, the impact of failure to increase Council Tax on a Council's finances was also briefly discussed.

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

44/21

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE WORKING GROUP - UPDATE

In considering the Corporate Performance Working Group Update, Members were reminded that at a Board meeting held in September 2021, the Terms of Reference of the Corporate Performance Working Group had been amended, so that substitute Members of the Board were able to sit on the Working Group. Members were also reminded that Councillor. J. Till had been appointed as Chairman of the Working Group at the following meeting held on 18th October 2021. At that meeting the Democratic Services Officer had undertaken to all contact Members who were eligible to sit on the group to see if they would volunteer to become a member of the working Group. It was reported that unfortunately there had been no further volunteers and therefore the membership was currently only 2 members.

The Chairman asked the Board, given the lack of membership of the group, what was the most appropriate way forward when scrutinising the Performance of the Council. Members understood the importance of scrutiny in this area and although they acknowledged that there had not been meetings for some time it was good practice for it to be considered for the future. The Chairman proposed that scrutiny of the Council's performance be considered at main Board meetings every 6 months. Members were in agreement with this and on being put to the vote it was agreed.

The Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services informed Members that currently there was an update to the Performance dashboard underway and this potentially could be the first item the Board scrutinises. It was agreed that this would be added to the Board's Work Programme for consideration in 2022.

RESOLVED that the scrutiny of the Council's performance would be considered at main Board meetings every six months and that the Board's Work Programme would be updated accordingly.

45/21

TASK GROUP UPDATES

Councillor S. Colella, in his role as Chairman of the Impact of Library Service Review Task Group informed Members that there had been a meeting of the Task Group on 4th November 2021 and that another meeting was due to take place on 29th November 2021.

RESOLVED that the Task Group Update be noted.

46/21

WORCESTERSHIRE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - UPDATE

Councillor S. Baxter, in her role as representative on the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), briefly updated the Board on the last meeting of HOSC. In doing so she highlighted that at the last meeting Members were presented with the Winter Plan and that there were issues with ambulance response and waiting times. It was reported that there the potential of a Task Group being established to investigate this further.

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

47/21

CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

During consideration of this item, Members requested the following items form the Cabinet Work Programme be included on the Board's Work Programme for future consideration:

- Levelling Up Funding – Projects and Timeframes
- Housing Enforcement Powers and how they are used
- Flooding Strategy - Cabinet report.

In respect of the above items, Members explained that they felt that it was important that all Members were aware of the projects that were being planned as a result of the Levelling Up Funding that had recently been received. It was explained by the Executive Director of Resources that a report to Cabinet was being planned and therefore could be pre-scrutinised prior to its consideration by Cabinet. The Board were keen

for all Members to be invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting where this item was to be considered.

The Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services undertook to follow-up with officers regarding when the Flooding report was likely to be considered by Cabinet and provide an update to the Board.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Work Programme be noted.

48/21

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme was considered as part of the previous item.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme be noted.

49/21

PRE-SCRUTINY - FINANCIAL UPDATE REGARDING LEISURE SERVICES

The Chairman invited Councillor P. Thomas to present the public covering report in respect of the Financial Update Regarding Leisure Services in his role as Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Community Services.

Members were informed that the purpose of the report was the following:

- To update Members on the impact of Covid-19 on the Council's contracted Leisure service and the steps taken to mitigate the financial risks presented by Covid in 2020/21 and 2021/22
- To update Members on the financial context and the financial impact
- To update Members on the legal and commercial position
- To advise Members on the options available to the Council moving forward
- To seek Cabinet support for the next steps and mitigating actions.

In addition, the following was highlighted by Councillor P. Thomas for Members' attention:

- Leisure Services nationally had been dramatically affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns. This report presented Cabinet with all possible scenarios in the hope of

mitigating the risks involved going forward. However, it was noted that there was no certainty in this space.

The Executive Director for Resources expressed that this process needed to be managed very carefully in the coming weeks and although there needed to be transparency when considering the report, it was also important that due to any negotiations that were still to take place it was important at this stage that any discussions would not prejudice these negotiations.

Some Members queried the bullet points included in paragraph 2.9 of the public report. These points were concerned with the indicative costs that would be relevant in different scenarios. It was questioned whether officers were able to provide clarification on how much the costs would be in these instances. The Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services indicated that these areas were taken from the Local Government Association guidance and at this point it was difficult to ascertain how much the indicative costs would be but that it was almost inevitable that a certain amount of indicative costs would have to be paid back in each of these areas.

The Chairman thanked the officers and the Portfolio Holder for their attendance at the meeting and for providing a clear update for the Board.

RESOLVED that the Financial Update Regarding Leisure Services report be noted.

During the consideration of this item, Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to move to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

50/21

TO CONSIDER, AND IF CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE, TO PASS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING DURING THE CONSIDERATION OF ITEM(S) OF BUSINESS CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION:-

RESOLVED: that under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of

Agenda Item 11

Overview and Scrutiny Board
22nd November 2021

Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended, the relevant paragraph of that part, in each case, being as set out below, and that it is in the public interest to do so:-

Minute Item No.	Paragraph(s)
51/21	3

51/21

PRE-SCRUTINY - FINANCIAL UPDATE REGARDING LEISURE SERVICES (EXEMPT APPENDICES)

During the consideration of this item, Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to move to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

Chairman

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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