



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

MONDAY 25TH APRIL 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. To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 28th March 2022 (Pages 1 - 8)**
- 4. Scrutiny of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (Pages 9 - 68)**
- 5. CCTV Update (Pages 69 - 78)**
- 6. Fireworks Motion (Pages 79 - 82)**
- 7. Overview and Scrutiny Board Annual Report 2021-22 (Pages 83 - 106)**

8. **Overview and Scrutiny Board - Recommendation Tracker**
(Report to follow).
9. **Finance and Budget Working Group - Update**
10. **Task Group Updates**
11. **Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Update**
12. **Cabinet Work Programme (Pages 107 - 128)**
13. **Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme (Pages 129 - 136)**

K. DICKS
Chief Executive

Parkside
Market Street
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B61 8DA

13th April 2022

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

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At the current time, seating at the meeting will be placed in such a way as to achieve as much space as possible for social distancing to help protect meeting participants.

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

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Members of the public who still have access to lateral flow tests (LFTs) are encouraged to take a test on the day of the meeting. Meeting attendees who do not have access to LFTs are encouraged not to attend a Committee if they have any of the following common symptoms of Covid-19 on the day of the meeting; a high temperature, a new and continuous cough or a loss of smell and / or taste.

Notes:

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

28TH MARCH 2022, AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors C.A. Hotham (Chairman), J. Till, S. J. Baxter, S. R. Colella, R. J. Hunter, H. J. Jones, A. D. Kriss, M. Middleton and C. J. Spencer

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

Officers: Mrs. S. Hanley, Ms. D. Poole, Mr. G. Revans, Mr. K. Hirons and Ms. F. McIntosh, Mrs. P. Ross

73/21 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A. Beaumont with Councillor M. Middleton in attendance as named substitute. Apologies for absence were also received from Councillor R. Deeming and Councillor P. McDonald with no named substitutes.

74/21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS**

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

75/21 **TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2022**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 15th February 2022 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 15th February 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

76/21 **LAND DRAINAGE WATERCOURSE MAINTENANCE OPERATION - PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Chairman welcomed the Senior Water Management Officer from North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) to the meeting who

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gave a detailed presentation regarding the Land Drainage Watercourse Maintenance Operations. During the presentation Members' attention was drawn to the following:

- Bromsgrove District Council owned just under 8km of watercourses, primarily through recreation grounds. The Council was considered a riparian owner and under the Land Drainage Act 1991 was legally required to maintain the flow of water in a channel. Officers reported that it was important for the Council to lead by example with managing the flood risk particularly in respect of private landowners to mitigate any issues on private land. Historically, the Parks and Place team carried out maintenance of the watercourses on an ad-hoc basis, however it was reported that delays were sometimes experienced due to the capacity of the team or if there was a greater need experienced in other areas of their workload.
- The importance of maintenance best practice was highlighted to the Board, and it was explained that vegetation was a natural part of a healthy watercourse as it provided shade, bank stability, a source of food and filtered sediment. Aesthetics were not the main reasons for watercourse maintenance it was more to do with flood risk and maintenance of the ecology. This was particularly important in light of the recent discovery of water voles by officers in some watercourses in the district. These animals were listed as critically endangered in England and they and their habitats were protected by law. It was noted that Environmental Services Operatives were provided with training in order to identify evidence of water voles' presence at any watercourse.
- Himalayan Balsam was an invasive non-native plant that caused many problems across watercourses throughout the UK. The management of Himalayan Balsam was labour and time intensive.
- Although most of the work undertaken by the Place and Parks team was carried out to a high standard an example was presented to the Board outlining an instance when best practice guidelines had not been followed by operatives. This had resulted in further work, extra expenditure and engagement of an external contractor. It was hoped that this schedule of works would help to avoid instances like this in the future.

After the presentation, Councillor R. Hunter was invited to speak as the Chairman of the Impact of Flooding in the District Task Group. He stated that this report was welcomed, however, he expressed concern regarding the engagement of an external contractor rather than creating

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an opportunity to carry out the maintenance work in-house. He noted that this way forward would not only create extra roles within the Council but would ensure greater control of any maintenance. Councillor R. Hunter proposed an additional recommendation regarding the potential of carrying out the work in-house. The proposal was not seconded.

In response to this, Councillor M. Sherrey who was in attendance as the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Community Safety commented that recommendations contained within the report provided a more cost effective way of ensuring that the watercourses were maintained regularly. In addition to this, the engagement of an external contractor would ensure flexibility in carrying out the works. The Board were informed that this was to be considered as a pilot scheme and could be reviewed after the first year had been completed. It was with this in mind that the Chairman requested that a verbal update item be placed on the Board's work programme for consideration once the first year of the contract had been completed in order to ascertain the success of the maintenance.

Members asked some questions regarding the maintenance of specific watercourses in the district including Sanders Park and the Balancing Pond on the Oakalls. Officers undertook to provide this information to the Board. Other queries from Members included whether the external contractor would be assessed accordingly to ensure they had not provided unsatisfactory work to the Council previously. Members were reassured that the procurement process was currently underway and was robust. The Board were also interested in understanding the process of enforcement taken in respect of private landowners who did not maintain their watercourse thus impacting on the surrounding area. It was reported that officers always tried to work with landowners before commencing enforcement proceedings. However, if this was not successful a formal enforcement process could be initiated.

RESOLVED that the Land Drainage Watercourse Maintenance Operations be noted.

77/21

EQUALITY ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

The Head of Transformation & Organisational Development presented the Equality Annual Report 2021-2022 and reported that this was the first report of its kind and was as a result of a recommendation made by the Equalities Task Group investigation.

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

- The report outlined the key achievements and progress in 2021, undertaken by the Council, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, it was clarified that the information provided was not an exhaustive list of the activities undertaken during this period.
- Partnership working had been successful during the Covid-19 pandemic and support had been provided to those residents that had been identified as most in need. Several new events had taken place during this period including Bromsgrove's first Pride event.
- Initiatives that had also taken place within Council operations and were included as part of the report; had included Mental Health Awareness training, Time to Talk and the establishment of a Health and Wellbeing Group.
- Census information was included within the report. However, the Head of Transformation & Organisational Development acknowledged that this data was almost 10 years old, and officers would look to use the new census data as soon as it was available towards the end of 2022. Members felt that this would be a very useful exercise and would provide the most up to date information of the demographic within Bromsgrove which would then enable targeted support to those who needed it most.

Councillor G. Denaro, who was in attendance as the relevant Portfolio Holder, reported that he was extremely pleased with this report as it provided a clear picture of the many activities that officers were undertaking in this area.

Some Members questioned the data in respect of Shopmobility and the drop in usage during the Covid-19 pandemic. Officers explained that there had been a drop in use of the service, however it seemed that the numbers were increasing once more. It was requested that further information be provided in this area and officers undertook to provide additional data to Members.

There was further discussion regarding health inequalities in the district and it was reported that this was an area not covered by the Equalities Act 2010 but covered by the Council Plan which was due to be refreshed in June 2022.

The Chairman reiterated that this was an excellent report, and it was encouraging to see how much work was being carried out in this space. Further information in respect of services offered to care-leavers was requested by the Chairman and the Head of Transformation & Organisational Development undertook to contact the relevant officers to provide information to Members.

RESOLVED that the Equality Annual Report 2021-2022 be noted.

78/21

FIREWORKS - MOTION - FOLLOW UP ON PROGRESS - BRIEFING NOTE

This item was deferred, and it was confirmed that the update would be considered at the next meeting of the Board on 25th April 2022.

79/21

PLANNING DETERMINATION TIMESCALES - VERBAL UPDATE

The Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services presented the verbal update in respect of Planning Determination Timescales. In doing so the following was highlighted for Members' attention:

- There were no particular concerns in respect of planning application determination timelines. Currently the data suggested that 100% of the applications received within the last quarter had been considered within the agreed timeframe which was set by central government or in agreement with the applicant in certain instances. Members were informed that the timescales for some categories of larger applications was consideration by 16 weeks and some were 13 weeks. Smaller applications had and 8 week timescale for determination
- The planning officers worked proactively with developers, particularly in respect of larger applications, to ensure that, if necessary, an extension of time agreement was put in place.
- Timescale data was submitted on a quarterly basis and central government provided an average over a two year period,

In order to better understand the data that had been provided, Members were interested in how many major applications had been received in the previous quarter. Officers undertook to provide this information.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services for her attendance at the meeting and queried the number of vacancies currently within the planning team. It was reported that there

were currently vacancies for 1-2 officers but that this was being looked at and it was hoped that these vacancies would be filled very soon.

RESOLVED that Planning Determination Timescales Verbal Update be noted.

80/21

TASK GROUP UPDATES

The Chairman invited Councillor S. Colella to present the Task Group update which provided an update on the Impact of the Review of Library Services Task Group. In doing so, he highlighted the outcome of the presentation of the recommendations to Cabinet, and as a result of them not being agreed it was thought that they should be revisited to see if any amendments could be made, with the view to presenting these amendments to Cabinet for further consideration again.

Members were informed that the task group was reconvened late in 2021 and that Councillors K. May and P. Thomas had been invited to discuss potential amendments. After this meeting it was decided by task group members that there would not be any amendments made to the original recommendations as it seemed likely that the Cabinet's response would remain unchanged.

In conclusion, Councillor S. Colella stated that this had still been a worthwhile investigation, established with good intentions, which had resulted in a good report that confirmed that libraries would continue to receive the funding they deserved.

RESOLVED that Task Group Updates be noted.

81/21

TOPIC PROPOSAL - FUEL POVERTY

Councillor R. Hunter presented the Topic Proposal form in respect of establishing a Fuel Poverty Task Group. It was explained that residents were facing an unprecedented rising level in the cost of living and that it was important that the Council provided as much support as possible to those residents identified as in need.

Although all Members recognised that this was a difficult time and that residents did need support, some of the Board were interested in publicising the large number of services already provided by the Council. It was noted that it was important as elected Members to increase communication around these services in order that residents became more aware of grants and initiatives that were available to them.

There was some discussion regarding the option of inviting an officer to present further detailed information on what services were available to residents therefore avoiding the establishment of a longer task group process. This could result in the information being made available quicker and therefore cascaded to residents more efficiently.

Following a robust debate whereby Members discussed the usefulness of having all of the information available to residents in one place, such as information on access to Disability Facility grants, District Heat Network and more partnership working with Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT) Members resolved the following:

RESOLVED that

- a) the topic be included on the work programme and a Task Group be established to undertake a more in-depth investigation, appoint a Chairman for the Task Group and set a time scale for completion of the investigation; and
- b) Councillor R. Hunter be appointed as Chairman of the task group.

82/21

FINANCE AND BUDGET WORKING GROUP - UPDATE

The Chairman explained that the Finance and Budget Working Group had not taken place since the last meeting of the Board. However, Members were informed that a meeting was due to take place in April 2022.

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

83/21

WORCESTERSHIRE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - UPDATE

Councillor S. Baxter provided the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) update and explained to Members that the minutes of the meeting would be circulated to the Board for information.

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

84/21

CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The content of the Cabinet Work Programme for the period 1st April to 31st July 2022 was considered by the Board.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Work Programme be noted.

85/21

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the Overview and Scrutiny Board work programme. Officers undertook to make any necessary changes highlighted during the course of the meeting.

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

The meeting closed at 7.46 p.m.

Chairman



Overview and Scrutiny Board

To: Overview and Scrutiny Board

From: Bev Houghton
Dept: Community Safety
Contact Info: 01527 534187

CC: Cllr Margaret Sherrey - Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Community Safety
Sue Hanley – Deputy Chief Executive & Chair of NWCSP
Judith Willis – Head of Housing & Community Services

Review of the work of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2021-22

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) for the financial year 2021-22.

2. Background

2.1 NWCSP has been in existence since May 2013, following the merger of the three district CSPs in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest. The Community Safety Teams that support and administer the Partnership continue to sit within the respective local authorities.

2.2 Local authority representation on NWCSP is fulfilled through a number of positions. Bromsgrove District Council's Elected Member representative is the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Community Safety, Councillor Margaret Sherrey. Sue Hanley, the Council's Deputy Chief Executive is Chair of NWCSP and Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services is Bromsgrove District Council's Responsible Authority representative on the Partnership. The Council's Community Safety Manager, Bev Houghton provides support to NWCSP and manages the Council's Community Safety Service.

2.3 Scrutiny arrangements for the CSP remain unchanged with local authorities having a statutory duty to scrutinise the work of its local CSP, under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

2.4 Alongside the relationship the Council has with the CSP, there is also a direct role in holding the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to account through the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel (PCP). Bromsgrove District Council's representative on the PCP is Cllr Adam Kent. The most

recent West Mercia PCP meeting was held on 4th February and the public papers can be accessed here: [West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Friday 4th February 2022](#)

3. Current Position

3.1 North Worcestershire CSP Plan 2021-24

NWCSP has a statutory duty to produce a three year rolling plan outlining how the Partnership intends to address key crime and community safety priorities, as identified through its annual strategic assessment.

The strategic assessment gathers research, evidence and intelligence from national and regional sources, as well as drawing on professional expertise of those working locally. It is designed to be a point of reference and guidance to resource community safety initiatives among partner agencies across the area.

Informed by the strategic assessment, the Community Safety Partnership Plan sets out the priorities that the CSP will focus on for a 3 year period. Due to the disruption of Covid-19 and partner agencies prioritisation of community support during the pandemic, the Community Safety Partnership Plan was delayed slightly and has since been agreed for 2021-24.

The North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership plan focuses on the following priorities for the year as follows: -

- I. **Reducing Violence and Abuse:** including violence in public places, sexual offending, domestic abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- II. **Reducing Theft and Acquisitive crime:** including shoplifting, thefts and burglaries
- III. **Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour, Damage and Nuisance:** including criminal damage, environmental issues and deliberate fires/arson
- IV. **Protecting vulnerable communities:** including reducing targeted harassment and threatening behaviour motivated by Hate
- V. **Reducing Offending and Reducing the Harm caused by Drug and Alcohol Misuse** are cross cutting themes which impact on all priorities

The North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Plan 2021-24 can be found at **Appendix 1**

3.2 John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

John Campion was first elected as West Mercia PCC in May 2016 and, following the postponement of national elections due to the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020, was re-elected for a second term in May 2021.

The PCC has a duty to co-operate with all CSPs in his geographical area to reduce crime and disorder. There is also a reciprocal duty on CSPs to collaborate with the PCC and both bodies must have due regard for each other's priorities within their respective plans. The PCC closed his public consultation on his Safer West Mercia Plan 2021 – 2025 on the 1st November 2021 and the final plan can be read here: - [Safer West Mercia Plan \(westmercia-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk)

Tracey Onslow is the Deputy PCC appointed in July 2016 and in November 2021 the Commissioner also appointed two Assistant PCCs, Paul Middlebrough and Nicola Lowery - [Assistant PCC's Will Reflect The Voice of Communities - West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner](#) Together, the team will work to represent the PCC within communities across West Mercia, with a portfolio that includes rural, business and cyber-crime, victims' services and commissioning.

CSPs work closely with the Deputy and Assistant PCCs as the West Mercia PCC commissioning models continue to develop. Commissioning areas already established include CCTV improvements, the collation of funding for Data Analysis support and consolidation of funding for Integrated Offender Management funding. Most recently the PCC has released a tender for delivery of a Hate Crime Support service across West Mercia and released a Fly Tipping fund that CSPs could bid into. These commissioning reviews have led to funding being provided at a West Mercia force level to deliver activities in these key thematic areas.

PCC's CCTV Capital Fund: In 2017-18 the PCC allocated significant funding to develop and upgrade CCTV across the West Mercia force area. NWCSP first received an allocation of £195,000 of grant funding for improvements to the area's CCTV scheme. The CSP, on behalf of the three Local Authorities, used this capital contribution to modernise the CCTV infrastructure that serves the three district areas. This upgrade introduced Internet Protocol Recording with greatly improved technological capabilities for digital processing. The whole CCTV scheme now has enhanced digital capability, improved image quality and a greater capacity to expand the scheme and/or link up to other digital systems across the region.

The funding amounts involved made this project the most ambitious undertaken by the CSP and the project was also match funded by the three District Councils with additional revenue, capital and in-kind support. A total amount of £339,000 of CSP funding was allocated to the project up to March 2020.

In 2020-21 the PCC allocated an additional amount of £65k capital funding towards CCTV and a further 65k of capital funding was awarded to NWCSP in 2021-22. The Project Team has implemented spending proposals agreed by the CSP which have continued to enhance the capability and capacity of the CCTV Monitoring Scheme and improve the technological aspects of the Monitoring Centre and cameras which will have benefits for years to come. Details of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 allocations can be found in **Appendix 2**.

PCC's Fly Tipping Fund: In Sept 2021 the PCC released a £100K grant fund available over 2 years in order to work with CSPs to address the problem of fly-tipping on private land. The grant fund was launched with a closing date for applications on the 4th October. The PCC's Office approved 5 applications – one for North Worcestershire, one for South Worcestershire, one for Telford & Wrekin, one for Herefordshire and one West Mercia wide (for a SmartWater tyre tagging scheme) allocating the total £100K funding pot - [West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner to invest £100k to tackle fly-tippers and introduce tyre-tagging scheme - The Bromsgrove Standard](#)

The NWCSP allocation of £22k is supporting the work of a new NW District Council Fly Tipping Prevention Group and the grant funding is being managed by the three district council environmental services teams to: -

- a) Develop a land owners' charter across North Worcestershire reflecting guidance of best practice amongst land owners as set out by the National Flytipping Prevention Group (NFPG).
- b) Introduce a co-ordinated prevention and enforcement scheme which will include:
 - the use of covert CCTV (to be managed by the Councils)
 - signage
 - target hardening advice from the Councils
 - following up on any evidence gathered from fly tipped waste and/or captured on CCTV and issue Fixed Penalty Notices or prosecute.
- c) Establish and manage a network of landowners who are signed up to the charter where best practice, convictions and information can be shared.

3.3 CSP core grant funding from the PCC 2021-22

In addition to the CCTV Capital Grant and the Fly Tipping Fund, NWCSP is allocated an annual ring-fenced amount from the PCC. Due to the disruptions of COVID-19 there was an underspend against certain projects during 2020-21. However, the PCC allocated the same ring-fenced amount of £139,250 for 2021-22 and details of the CSPs agreed project spend can be found in **Appendix 2** alongside details of other grant funding drawn down by the Council Community Safety Team on behalf of Safer Bromsgrove.

The progress of these grant funded projects is reported quarterly to the PCC and other grant funders and at the end of the financial year there is a requirement to provide a comprehensive evaluation of all the funded projects. This includes a full breakdown of project expenditure and the outputs/outcomes that the funding has achieved.

3.4 Local Delivery, Key Projects and Progress

Local delivery of community safety projects and initiatives falls under the remit of the Community Safety Operational Groups. The Safer Bromsgrove group is chaired by the Council's Community Safety Project Officers and the Community Safety Team also provide the administrative support for the group.

The Council's Community Safety Team also monitor and respond to district community safety issues, co-ordinating local operational delivery with wider partners. The team is often a first point of contact for residents and partners with concerns about local crime and community safety issues and our officers are able to call upon other community safety partners when local concerns require a multi-agency response.

Bromsgrove Community Safety Project Officers

Community Safety Project Officers David Rischmiller and Sarah McIntosh work on behalf of the Council and the CSP, delivering a variety of community safety projects and initiatives across the Borough. The wider team are also available to provide information, support and guidance to residents, council colleagues, external partners and elected members on a variety of crime prevention and community safety concerns and issues. **Appendix 2** provides an update on some of the key community safety project activity that has taken place in 2021-22.

3.5 ASB, Problem Solving and Partner Engagement

ASB in Bromsgrove

Following the presentation of the Council's updated ASB Policy in June 2020, Elected Members requested that an update on activity to address ASB issues be presented at the annual Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

Working with our partner agencies there are a number of tools and remedies available when dealing with cases of ASB and support is provided throughout each process with referrals to other organisations made as and when it is appropriate.

Attached at **Appendix 3** is a brief overview of reported ASB in North Worcestershire and Bromsgrove to date. Data for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 has been included for comparison to provide an accurate picture of ASB reports to the Police across the district, taking into consideration the impact of Coronavirus restrictions on reporting during 2020/21.

Use of ASB Tools and Powers

Agreements, Warnings and formal Notices - The Council, the Police and Social Landlords can issue verbal and written warnings to address unacceptable behaviour and reinforce that ASB will not be tolerated in our communities. The Police, Council services and Social Landlords can also issue Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) to remind residents of their obligations under their tenancy/lease or the rule of law and the warnings set out the specific clauses, conditions or legislation that has been breached. When issuing warnings, partners clarify the issue, advise the individual that their behaviour is being monitored and warn the individual or business that further enforcement action will be taken if their anti-social behaviour continues.

To date **2** CPWs have been issued by council services to address the issue of waste deposited or accumulated on land. One of these warnings was not complied with and this led to a more formal Community Protection Notice being served; breach of which is a criminal offence. This resolved the issue and no further enforcement action was required.

Community Trigger/ASB Case Review - A Community Trigger/ASB Case Review is a process that was introduced as part of the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 and provides a facility for victims of ASB to request a review of their reported case, if they feel that no action has been taken. Relevant agencies have to come together to review their responses to the reported problem and identify if there is any further action that can be taken. The process is owned by NWCSP and is administered by the Council's Community Safety Team.

In 2021-22, the team has received **2** Community Trigger applications in Bromsgrove for issues relating to disruptive neighbour nuisance. The Community Trigger/ASB Case review process as laid out in the 2014 Act has a number of timescales that need to be met to ensure that the applicants receive timely responses to their concerns.

Alongside use of the ASB Tools and Powers, the Council's Environmental Services team also utilise their powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for a variety of Environmental issues. In 2021-22 the team issued **5** FPNs for Fly Tipping, **7** FPNs for Waste offences and **1** for a Litter offence.

The Community Safety team keeps an overview of local ASB activity and provides advice and guidance on ASB Enforcement to various services and partners with enforcement capabilities. The team coordinates and funds membership of a nationally recognised consultancy network which provides access to a leading ASB Barrister to ensure that any information and guidance shared is accurate and up to date with current legislation and practice.

Alongside this, the Community Safety Team receives a number of calls for advice and assistance from other council service areas and partner agencies requiring expertise in crime & ASB prevention, problem solving or community safety interventions to assist in resolving complex issues and cases.

Requests for support and information are also received from members of the public, Elected Members, voluntary and community groups and other external agencies. Requests for help include complaints about neighbourhood issues, concerns around domestic abuse, use of illegal substances, home and personal security and environmental crime concerns.

3.6 Communications and Social Media Campaigns

The Community Safety Team has supported various national and local campaigns throughout 2021-22 to promote key safety messages and the work of NWCSP.

Projects led by the Community Safety Team such as Nominated Neighbour, the Respect Programme and Hate Incident Reporting were regularly promoted and in addition, annual national campaigns such as Hate Crime Awareness Week and the Domestic Abuse White Ribbon campaign were supported, as shown in **Appendix 2**.

A number of other campaigns were also supported throughout the year, including:

Ask for Angela - [National Pubwatch NTE Safety Campaign](#)

Ask for Ani - [Domestic Abuse Codeword Scheme](#)

National Safeguarding Week

Loan Shark Awareness

Drowning Prevention Week

Don't Drink and Drown Campaign

Anti-Slavery Day

ASB Awareness Week

CSE Awareness Day

Mental Health Awareness Week

The main social media platform used by Bromsgrove Community Safety is Twitter using **@SaferBromsgrove** for local issues, **@nworccsp** (across North Worcestershire) and **@NWHateIncident** (for hate crime awareness projects and campaigns).

The **@SaferBromsgrove** Twitter account has 611 followers to date and throughout the year the Twitter posts promoting the campaigns listed above were seen by 18,647 people and with 2,915 direct engagements across North Worcestershire.

Alongside these campaigns, the team also raises awareness of wider community safety issues and keeps residents informed of work delivered by our partners such as the Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub, Starting Well Partnership, Worcestershire Children First GET SAFE, Pubwatch, Women's Aid, HW Fire & Rescue Service and West Mercia Police.

Community Safety awareness messages and projects are also promoted via the District Council's Facebook page and up-to-date information about Community Safety projects and general crime prevention work is available on the BDC website and on NWCSP website at [North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership \(nwcsp.org\)](http://North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (nwcsp.org))

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That the progress made by the North Worcestershire CSP be noted.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1: NWCSP Plan 2021-24

Appendix 2: NWCSP Project Review 2020-21 Presentation

Appendix 3: ASB in Bromsgrove Data Comparison Report 2021-22

6. Background Papers

West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - [Committee details - West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

PCC's Safer West Mercia Plan 2021-25 - [Safer West Mercia Plan \(westmercia-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)

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Partnership Plan 2021-24

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to present North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership's (NWCSP) Community Safety Plan for 2021-24. It outlines our priorities over the next three years and the actions we will take to address them.

NWCSP is committed to building on the progress made in recent years and will continue to drive down crime and disorder across Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest. Our partnership is innovative and full of people who are passionate about creating a safe environment for our communities.

Our aim for this plan is to continue to build safer, stronger and more confident communities whilst navigating and adapting to the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 global pandemic.

We will do this by working together to decrease crime, improve community safety and address the threats, harms and risks associated with criminality; and at the same time implementing and responding to the requirements and regulations necessary to support our communities to move toward post-Covid recovery.

In the following pages, we have captured the areas of work that we will focus on as a partnership and the actions we will take to achieve our aims. I hope by reading this plan, you will see how NWCSP works together toward these aims, for the benefit of all who live, work in and visit our towns and villages.

Sue Hanley
Chair of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership

INTRODUCTION

This partnership plan has been prepared by NWCSP to help set out its community safety objectives and aims for 2021-24 in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Since the first national lockdown implemented in March 2020 Covid-19 has continued to pose significant challenges to public agencies, local businesses and voluntary & community sector organisations as they work to support, protect and maintain services to our local residents.

Our partners continue to meet the ongoing challenges of redesigning processes and altering ways of working to provide services that are Covid-safe for both customers and employees alike and this has meant significant change, at an extraordinarily quick pace. Despite this, there also remains a consistent level of customer service and support offered by all partner agencies whilst adapting to and working within the various restrictions and requirements of national Coronavirus policy and regulation.

Both individually and collectively, Community Safety Partnership members are managing the effects of this unprecedented situation, constantly adapting service delivery and working practices in order to continue to support customers and clients, many of whom have been deeply affected by the many and sometimes life-changing consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

Whilst the long term effect Covid-19 will have on crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour is unknown; this Partnership Plan is intended to inform residents, parish and town councils, and other stakeholders including the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner of the specific community safety actions NWCSP will carry out during the forthcoming years.

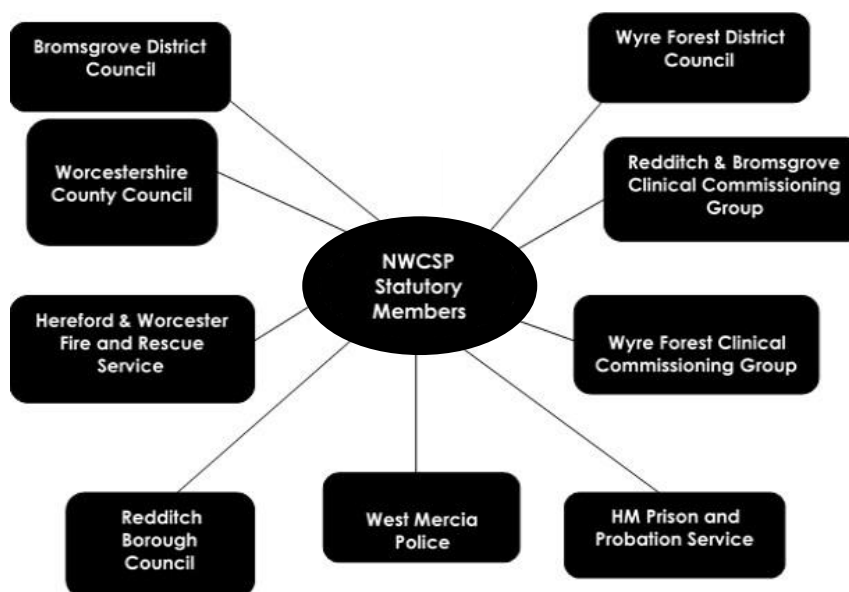
The Partnership vision for North Worcestershire is: -

‘to keep North Worcestershire a safe place to live, work and visit’.

NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (NWCSP)

NWCSP is a strategic partnership, bringing agencies together to reduce crime and offending in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The Partnership is made up of the following statutory organisations, together with a wider range of local agencies such as victim support services, housing associations and voluntary & community sector organisations. NWCSP aims to provide added value to the individual partnership agencies' day to day functions; working together to reduce the risks and harms associated with crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.



NWCSP could not achieve its objectives without help from the public. It is the responsibility of everyone to play their part in helping to make themselves and their communities safer. Anyone can contribute to crime reduction and prevention by reporting crime and disorder when it happens; supporting criminal justice agencies by providing information and intelligence about offences that have taken place; and by taking responsibility for personal safety and the safety of others, particularly the most vulnerable in society.

For ideas on other ways to get involved, please visit www.nwcsp.org

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER

The Partnership has a statutory duty to produce an annual Strategic Assessment which provides the data and evidence for proposed community safety activities and actions, as set out in the Partnership Plan. The Strategic Assessment also provides the framework for the CSP to measure performance and progress towards meeting its agreed outcomes for each of the community safety priorities.

Usually the Strategic Assessment collates the latest information and data, detailing recent levels of crime and ASB. This allows the CSP to consider the current position and assess any changing circumstances or emerging issues that could require multi-agency approaches or interventions. However, this year Covid-19 has had a significant effect on crime figures and data reporting.

Following a report by the Office for National Statistics Centre for Crime and Justice (ONS) released on 3rd Feb 2021, statisticians stated that:

“The coronavirus pandemic and related lockdown restrictions have resulted in fluctuations in the level of crime experienced in England and Wales. Data from the survey [Telephone operated Crime Survey for England and Wales 2020] showed decreases in crime at the start of the pandemic, with rises seen over the summer months, specifically in theft, following the easing of lockdown measures, with overall crime now back at pre-lockdown levels of January to March 2020. There were also fluctuations in police recorded crime, but total recorded offences for July to September 2020 were below that seen in the same period in 2019.”

[ONS - Crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2020](#)

In light of the challenge of 2020/21 crime data, the Partnership has also utilised Strategic Assessments and other CSP data products from previous years to inform priority setting for the refreshed Partnership plan. Alongside this, certain other considerations are also taken into account, such as:

- Level of harm – the impact offences have on victims and wider communities.

- Community concern – the level of priority that local residents attribute to a particular offence.
- Partnership added value – the extent to which multi-agency working can enhance the ability of agencies to tackle a particular pattern of offending behaviour.

This year's priority setting has also been developed with due regard to:

- Existing and emerging national priorities
- NWCSP's statutory duties and obligations
- West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Plan – Safer West Mercia
- Policing priorities included in the West Mercia Force Control Strategy
- Worcestershire Safer Communities Board's Community Safety Agreement

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

John Champion was re-elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia on 6th May 2021. Mr Champion's focus will be on increasing the number of police officers on the streets and ensuring they are visible and accessible to communities. He has also prioritised the fight to reduce crime, bring criminals to justice and spend the public's money on efficient and effective policing. The PCC will be producing a new Police and Crime Plan, which will set out the strategic aims and priorities for his second term in office.

The PCC has a duty to co-operate with CSPs to reduce crime and disorder and there is a reciprocal duty on CSPs to collaborate with the PCC. The PCC and the CSP must also have regard for each other's priorities within their respective plans. PCC's vision has focused on four key areas:

- Building a More Secure West Mercia
- Reassuring West Mercia's Communities
- Putting Victims and Witnesses First
- Reforming West Mercia

This North Worcestershire CSP Plan has been developed to ensure that it aligns with the PCC's vision for policing across West Mercia and will continue to support the aims and objectives of the next West Mercia Police and Crime Plan.

Serious Violence Statutory Duty

In July 2019, the Government announced plans for a new legal duty on public bodies to prevent and tackle serious violence. The new 'public health duty' will cover the police, local councils, local health bodies such as NHS Trusts, education representatives and youth offending services.

The Home Office's intention is that the duty will ensure that relevant services work together to share data, intelligence and knowledge to understand and address the root causes of serious violence including knife crime. It will also allow those services to target their interventions to prevent and stop violence altogether.

The Government intends to amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships, by making sure they have a strategy in place to tackle violent crime.

At the time of writing, NWCSP is still waiting for further information about what this new duty will mean in practice for the Partnership and will respond accordingly to any requirements emerging from the government's Serious Violence Strategy and any related legislation.

Delivering the Partnership Plan

The key to delivering North Worcestershire's priorities is effective and strong partnership working, as no individual agency alone can deliver the objectives of the CSP.

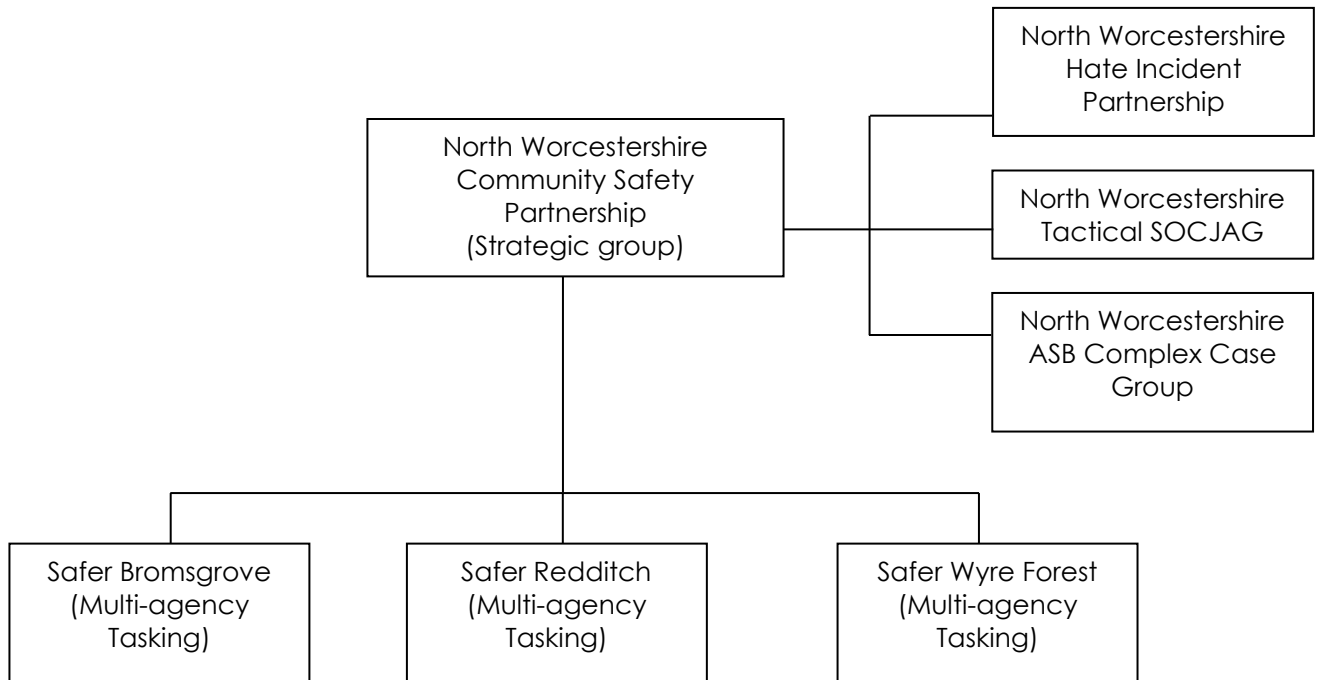
As a partnership we will set and monitor performance indicators that reflect the priorities, in order to measure progress toward the Partnership's delivery outcomes. We will measure and assess our activities a minimum of four times a year to check that we are achieving positive outcomes and making progress toward the aims of the plan.

Effective crime reduction relies on understanding what and where our problems are. This enables us to direct partnership resources efficiently and effectively – to the right place at the right time. Crime trends and patterns are regularly monitored and NWCSP receives regular reports from key officers to enable collective monitoring of actions, performance and outcomes.

The Partnership consists of senior managers from the statutory Responsible Authorities alongside co-operating organisations and the Elected Councillors with responsibility for community safety, from each of the member Local Authorities. To provide oversight of the work of the Partnership, Elected Councillors hold community safety specific scrutiny committees which inspect the Partnership's performance. West Mercia's PCC is the public's elected representative for all policing matters and as such Community Safety Partnerships and the PCC have a duty to collaborate and pay due regard to each other's action plans. In fulfilling this duty, the PCC maintains strong links with each of the Community Safety Partnerships within the West Mercia force area.

Operational delivery of the partnership plan is carried out by a number of community safety sub-groups and forums. Safer Groups in each of the district areas are the core delivery arm of the CSP, where much of the on-the-ground activity is developed and undertaken. These groups co-ordinate partnership activity at an operational district level to solve current and emerging local problems.

NWCSP Structure



OUR PRIORITIES

Partners use the Strategic Assessment and other sources to assess and prioritise the key crime and disorder issues that require multi-agency action within the Partnership's area of focus. When setting and reviewing CSP priorities consideration is also given to the local Policing objectives in the area. Partnership priorities are reviewed regularly and refreshed annually to ensure the CSP is always focused on addressing the issues that affect local communities the most.

The following priorities have been agreed by partners for 2021/22:

Priority	Aim: To Reduce/Prevent
Violence and Abuse	Public Place Violence
	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
	Child Sexual Exploitation
Theft and Acquisitive Crime	Theft from Stores
	Burglary, Doorstep Crimes & Scams
	Rural & Business Crime
ASB, Damage and Nuisance	Neighbourhood Nuisance
	Criminal Damage
	Environmental Problems and Deliberate Fires
Protecting Vulnerable Communities	Hate Crime & Targeted Harassment
	Criminal Exploitation, County Lines & Modern Slavery
	Violent Extremism
Reducing the Harm Caused by Drugs & Alcohol	
Reducing Reoffending	

A summary of the type of activity the Partnership will undertake to address these priorities is provided below.

Priority: To Reduce Violence and Abuse

Public Place Violence - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Work with local businesses, regulatory services and public health to develop further understanding and intelligence around public place violence; particularly related to the Night-time Economy as town centres and licensed premises move toward post Covid recovery.
- Respond to and implement any requirements emerging from the government's Serious Violence Strategy and any related legislation.
- District Safer Groups to develop and co-ordinate specific actions and initiatives in response to local public place violence issues.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Through MARAC and commissioned Domestic Abuse services, continue to develop and improve agency responses to high risk victims.
- Work with Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence support services to develop and promote initiatives that focus on increasing reporting, early help and education.
- Increase and promote training opportunities to ensure all services are able to identify and offer support to customers at risk of or experiencing Domestic Abuse or Sexual Violence.
- Work with services to ensure all victims are able to access the right support to meet their needs, including male victims, victims from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and victims of historical sexual violence.
- Through Drive, the Worcestershire Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme work with services to reduce offending and prevent risk and harm.
- Respond to any legislative requirements emerging from the Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 and the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2021-2024.
- Implement learning and recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews

Child Sexual Exploitation - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Support and expand the community safety Respect Programme in partnership with local schools to continue to provide therapeutic support to young people at risk of exploitation.
- Promote and deliver training and awareness raising to ensure parents, support workers and service providers are able to identify and support young people vulnerable to exploitation.
- Through work with schools, the local Respect Programme and other providers, to ensure children and young people have access to education on healthy relationships.
- Work with the Children's Safeguarding Partnership to promote Get Safe, the countywide safeguarding approach to addressing issues of Child Exploitation. [GET SAFE = **G**angs, **S**exual **E**xploitation, **T**rafficking, **M**odern Day **S**lavery **A**bsent or **M**issing, **F**orced Marriage, **C**riminal **E**xploitation]

Priority: To Reduce theft and acquisitive crime

Theft from Stores - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Work with partners such as the North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWEDR) Unit, business networks and retail partnerships to identify opportunities for crime prevention, improving store security and improved data collection and analysis.
- Work with Integrated Offender Management (IOM) partners in the criminal justice system, to ensure prolific and persistent offenders are brought to justice.
- Work with commissioned Drug and Alcohol services and IOM to promote support options and interventions to reduce reliance on theft to support addictions.

Burglary, Doorstep Crimes and Scams - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Raise awareness of criminality and provide residents with the tools and information to protect their homes and property.
- Offer support, information and advice to Burglary victims to reduce the risk of re-victimisation.
- Promote and expand the CSP's Nominated Neighbour scheme to encourage residents to look out for and protect the most vulnerable members of their local communities.
- Promote the PCC's SmartWater Village Scheme and the Police We Don't Buy Crime initiative to support a co-ordinated approach to protecting local rural areas.
- Raise awareness of scams, fraud and cyber-crime, focusing on the most vulnerable and those most at risk of being targeted.
- Deliver seasonal initiatives to raising awareness and provide advice to the public on how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of these crimes.
- Targeted joint-agency work to engage with and raise the awareness of residents/communities in areas where issues such as scams and distraction burglary are more prevalent (e.g. elderly residents).

Rural and Business Crime - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Promote the PCC's SmartWater Scheme and the Police We Don't Buy Crime initiative to support a co-ordinated approach to protecting local businesses communities and rural areas.
- Support and promote business community and rural area networks, such as Farm Watches and Business Links, providing crime prevention information and sharing intelligence to prevent victimisation.
- Support West Mercia PCCs Business and Rural crime strategies and work with local affected communities to understand and address the issues they are facing.

Priority: To reduce antisocial behaviour (ASB), damage and nuisance

Neighbour Nuisance - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Promote and utilise the powers and legislation available to the Police, Councils and other partners to tackle ASB and nuisance.
- Raise awareness of support services and provide residents with pathways to raise concerns and request action i.e. Tenancy Panels, Complaints processes, Community Trigger/ASB Case Review etc.
- Offer support, information and advice to vulnerable victims of ASB victims to reduce the risk of continued re-victimisation or escalation.
- Respond to any legislative requirements emerging from the Social Housing White Paper 2020 in relation to ASB and Safer Homes & Neighbourhoods.
- North Worcestershire ASB Complex Case Group to develop and co-ordinate specific actions and initiatives in response to local concerns about ASB issues.

Criminal Damage - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Utilise improved CCTV capabilities across North Worcestershire to identify and take action against perpetrators.
- Utilise and support the work of established Detached Youth Work teams in each district area to engage with young people in local neighbourhoods at risk of becoming involved in ASB and criminality.
- Make use of opportunities for community resolution and restorative justice with offenders to repair damage in public spaces.

Environmental Problems and Deliberate Fires - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Promote and utilise the powers and legislation available to the Councils, Regulatory Services and other partners to tackle environmental problems and crimes.
- Publicise environmental crime prosecutions and enforcement action taken against offenders in order to prevent and deter further offending.

- Work with partners to improve data collection and shared intelligence around environmental problems and deliberate fires in order to identify patterns of behaviour and target resources more effectively.
- Raising awareness of the dangers of fire raising and deliver fire safety messages within local communities.

Priority: Protecting Vulnerable Communities

Reducing Hate Crime and Targeted Harassment - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Through North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership continue to raise awareness of hate crime in all its forms, providing appropriate support information and increasing opportunities to report incidents securely and safely.
- Offer support, information and interventions to vulnerable victims of Hate Incidents/crimes to reduce the risk of continued re-victimisation or escalation.
- Increase and promote training opportunities to ensure all services are able to identify and offer support to customers at risk of or experiencing Hate Crime and Targeted Harassment.

Reducing Criminal Exploitation, County Lines & Modern Slavery - Summary of CSP Activity:

- Through North Worcestershire Serious Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOCJAG) continue to raise awareness of organised crime and exploitation across agencies and with the public.
- Support and engage with the SOCJAG and MATE processes to identify areas of concern, share intelligence and take joint action to disrupt Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) operating in our areas.
- Further develop our knowledge and understanding of criminal exploitation, county lines and modern slavery locally, including areas and communities that may be more vulnerable to targeting by criminals.
- Raise awareness and provide support and information to services, businesses and organisations likely to come into contact with those vulnerable to exploitation.

Preventing Violent Extremism- Summary of CSP Activity:

- Through Worcestershire Prevent Strategy Group to raise awareness of Prevent and organisations statutory duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (as amended)
- Support and engage with the Channel Process and ensure that support is available for young people and vulnerable adults at risk of radicalisation. SOCJAG and MATE processes to identify areas of concern, share intelligence and take joint action to disrupt Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) operating in our areas.
- Further develop our knowledge and understanding of terrorism and risks of radicalisation locally, including areas or communities that may be more vulnerable to targeting by extremists.

Cross Cutting Themes

Reducing the Harm caused by Drugs and Alcohol and Reducing Re-offending remain cross cutting areas of work for partners that impact on all CSP priorities. NWCSP works closely with Public Health and Commissioned Drug and Alcohol Services and is also represented on the Worcestershire Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group.

NWCSP activity in these areas as part of the plan will include:

- Support and encourage joint Police and Licensing Team visits to licensed premises in North Worcestershire to ensure adherence to licensing conditions and to encourage the responsible sale of alcohol as premises move toward post Covid recovery.
- Support and facilitate the referral of vulnerable individuals at risk of exploitation to local support services to safeguard them against harm e.g. risk of cuckooing of a vulnerable tenant's property due to substance dependency.
- Use of enforcement powers e.g. Criminal Behaviour Order, to take action against identified persistent offenders engaging in ASB where behaviour is alcohol-related.
- Support and resource targeted outreach work delivered by youth workers to engage with young people at risk of drug or alcohol-related ASB.

Agenda Item 4

- Promote use of Dispersal Orders and Community Protection Warning letters/Notices for those individuals repeatedly involved alcohol or drug-related crime.
- Continue work with Integrated Offender Management (IOM) partners in the criminal justice system, to ensure offenders are brought to justice.
- Seek to publicise prosecutions and enforcement action taken against offenders, where appropriate, in order to prevent and deter further offending.
- Make full use of both permanent and deployable CCTV camera systems in our district areas to deter offending behaviour, capture evidence and improve public safety.
- Share intelligence through the district Safer Groups and other CSP sub-groups to help bring offenders to justice.

CONTACT DETAILS

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership
www.nwcsp.org.uk

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

West Mercia Police non-emergency number 101
www.westmercia.police.uk

Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Service
www.hwfire.org.uk

Bromsgrove District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Redditch Borough Council
www.redditch.gov.uk

Wyre Forest District Council
www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Worcestershire County Council
www.worcestershire.gov.uk

NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group
www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk

NHS Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group
www.wyreforestccg.nhs.uk

HM Prison and Probation Service
www.gov.uk

Warwickshire and West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company
www.westmerciaprobation.org.uk

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North Worcestershire **Community Safety Partnership**

Review of the work of the Community Safety Partnership in 2021/22

Bev Houghton
Community Safety Manager
April 2022

NWCSP Responsible Authorities

- West Mercia Police
- Bromsgrove District Council
- Redditch Borough Council
- Wyre Forest District Council
- Worcestershire County Council
- Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service
- The Probation Service
- Redditch & Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group
- Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group

NWCSP Priorities

The following priorities were agreed by partners for 2021-22

Priority	Aim: To Reduce/Prevent
Violence and Abuse	Public Place Violence
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	Violent Extremism
Reducing the Harm Caused by Drugs & Alcohol	
Reducing Reoffending	

CCTV - Additional PCC Funding 2020 to 2022

Allocation	PCC Grant
Install 1 x new camera and pole in Sanders Park and upgrade of 9 cameras in Bromsgrove District	£32,135.57
1 additional camera on Town Hall roof and upgrade of 24 cameras in Redditch Borough	£48,403.41
Upgrade of various cameras in Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport	£36,458.00
Monitoring centre equipment and signage for the benefit of Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest areas	£12,766.60
Total Grant Allocation	£130,000.00

NWCSP has been allocated a further £20,000 capital for CCTV for 2021-22 and proposals are being developed by the CCTV Project Team

Allocation of NWCSP Core Funding - 2021/22

Area of Benefit	PCC Grant
West Mercia CSP Analyst Team (Top Sliced)	£20,000.00
West Mercia Integrated Offender Mgt. (Top Sliced)	£ 5,000.00
Bromsgrove Projects	£29,084.22
Redditch Projects	£31,083.55
Wyre Forest Projects	£33,083.23
North Worcestershire Projects	£21,000.00
Total	£139,250.00

NWCSP has been allocated a further allocation of £139,250 (with additional top-sliced amounts) for project delivery in 2022-23 and funding proposals are currently being developed by partners for final agreement by NWCSP responsible authority agencies.

Community Safety Project Updates

2021-22

The Respect Programme provides community safety awareness sessions as part of school PHSE drop down days and bespoke classroom sessions on a number of subjects such as recognising and reporting hate crime, understanding healthy relationships/domestic abuse, the dangers of substance misuse and promoting respect and community responsibility.

The programme also provides a therapeutic mentoring scheme which provides weekly support and guidance sessions to young people at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of crime.

2021-22 saw the Respect programme return to providing face to face sessions in all schools and this year also saw the largest growth in the referrals to the service. The team received between **30 to 60 referrals each half term** with our team of mentors holding around **135 open cases** at any time.

The referrals into the programme continue to increase in complexity with support required for young people who are at a high level of need and are at risk of becoming involved in criminality, both as potential victims and potential perpetrators.



The Empowering Young People Programme

This CSP funded project provides an 11-week programme of arts and crafts, issue-based activities and interactive workshops addressing issues such as life skills, confidence building and self-esteem work.

The project is now entering its fifth year and goes from strength to strength with tailored sessions delivered to groups of young people based on their specific needs. Content delivered over the year has included a focus on ASB, County Lines, CSE, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Misuse and Hate Crime Awareness

Over the year (2021/22) **8** Empowering Young People programmes have been delivered, taking place in both school and community settings.

The Youth Hub

The Bromsgrove Youth Hub was established as a partnership project led by the Community Safety Team, the YMCA and Bromsgrove Churches Together.

The Hub is now an independent Community Interest Company (CIC) in its own right and provides support and activities for young people, offering a space to socialise safely.

The Hub also offers a tailored programme of sessions such as mental health support, open access youth club and free music and art therapy classes. It also provides signposting and ad-hoc support as part of its drop-in and outreach work.

Community Safety has been working very closely with The Hub to support young people during the transition out of the Covid restrictions. The Community Safety Team supports the Hub in responding to reports of youth ASB and provides funding and guidance to put processes in place in order to support young people facing additional challenges due to the effects of the pandemic.



Enhanced Youth Support Worker

The Community Safety Team were successful in obtaining a 3-year Public Health grant of £33k pa from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF).

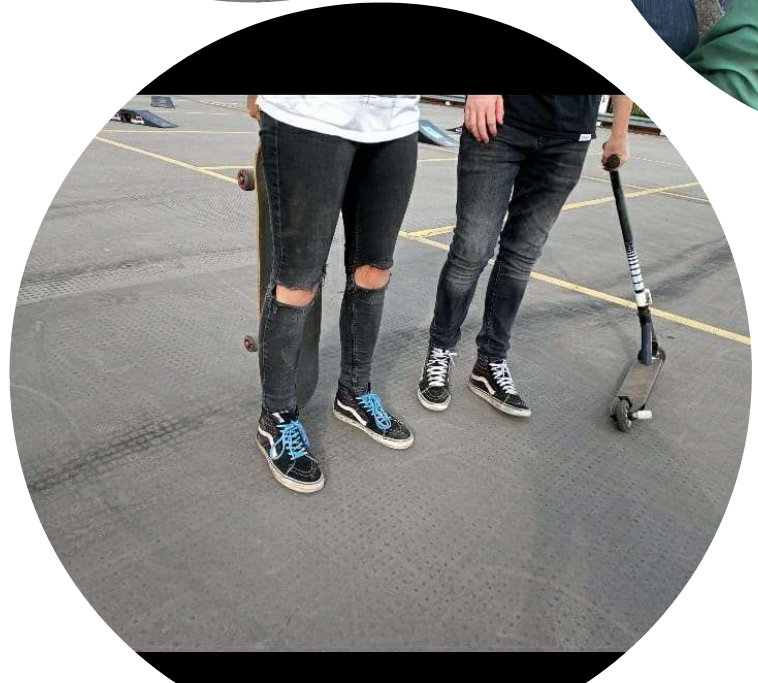
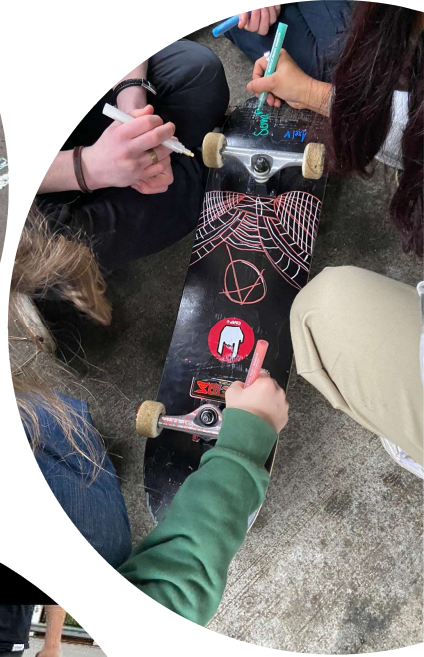
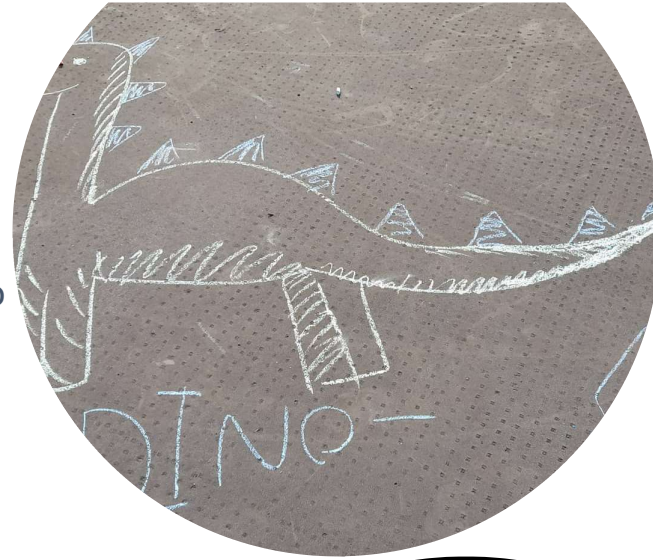
In partnership with Bromsgrove Youth Hub, a part-time youth worker has been recruited to provide a long-term focus on youth outreach, empowering young people and one to one mentoring for young people negatively affected by the pandemic.



Asda Car Park Project

Ahead of summer 2021, the Community Safety Team, worked with the Youth Hub and Reach Out Bromsgrove to bid for funding from Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The funding was used to provide a programme of multi-sport sessions at the Asda car park following ongoing reports of ASB at the location and concerns raised around drug use, grooming and other risks to community safety. Police incidents had been recorded and a number of resident complaints had been submitted.

The project utilised the top level of the car park, installing removable skate and bike ramps one night a week to engage with the young people regularly gathering there. The project was successful in building on-going relationships with the groups, with some young people reporting that they had reduced their use of alcohol and cannabis after discussions with the youth workers. Some young people also reported that they had started to take better care of their own health by attending the local gym and taking up swimming sessions. The rapport built up with the young people during this project allowed a number of individuals to move into one-to-one mentoring support.





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Friday Night Diversionary Sessions

The ASDA Car Park Project ended after the October half term, due to the change in weather and light conditions. At the time there was a cohort of 50 young people engaged with the project and the young people began to move to the Youth Hub on a Friday night, showing a really desire for the work that had been started with the ASDA project to continue. A suitable indoor venue was identified and further funding was found to support additional staffing. This allowed youth workers to continue to divert this high risk group of young people off the streets where they were in danger of being drawn into unsafe and criminal activity.

Some young people opened up to youth workers about their home lives and one of the key issues identified was the amount of food and energy poverty they and their families experienced. Therefore, a hot meal has now been built into these diversionary sessions, alongside access to food parcels to try and address this need and prevent the young people turning to criminal activity to obtain money or food.



Youth Outreach

The Youth Hub and Outreach Bromsgrove have joined together and work closely with the Community Safety Youth Workers to deliver outreach and detached sessions across the district.

The youth teams patrol two to three times a week depending on the weather, and this successful engagement work with young people in the community has led to two diversionary sessions being established, one on a Thursday and one on a Friday night.

At the height of the summer the Outreach workers were engaged with between 600 – 800 hundred young people per month.

The teams are now seen as a model of best practice across the county and discussions are being held to reshape the delivery of youth provision as a result of the achievements of these youth workers.



Bromsgrove Listening Service



The Community Safety Team has worked with the Anglican Churches to establish a volunteer Listening Service for young people requiring lower level support and interventions. The Listening Service is now in its fifth year and has been able to maintain its support for young people throughout the pandemic. The service is well established in Bromsgrove High schools and there are currently 13 young people being supported.

With the lifting of restrictions in schools, the team is looking to expand the Listening Service into middle schools from September 2022 and are currently going through a recruitment process for new listeners. Originally volunteers for the service were primarily local church members however we are now starting to see other community members come forward to support the project.



YOUNG CITIZEN'S CHALLENGE

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Due to Covid restrictions, the May 2021 project was again delivered via an interactive online package made available to all Year 6 students in North Worcestershire middle schools.

The Safe Zone package, developed by the Fire Service, is an educational website created to provide the key community safety messages that would normally be covered during the Young Citizen's Challenge week: <https://www.safe-zone.uk>.

In 2022, Young Citizen's Challenge will return to being delivered face to face and held at the Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station from 23rd - 27th May and key partners such as Community Safety, Police, Fire, Safer Roads, SARA (Water Safety) and Western Power will be in attendance to get those key safety messages across to students.

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Virtual Decisions Knife Crime Project

Delivered by Round Midnight Ltd, a Birmingham based theatre in education company

Virtual_Decisions is a one-of-a-kind, innovative, exciting VR in Education program that is helping to support thousands of young people who are at risk of criminal exploitation.

By wearing a VR headset, each participant is placed in a real world scenario where they are faced with multiple dilemmas in which they must make a choice. Each choice results in various outcomes, showing that every action has a consequence. The production uses real world actors aged 14 – 25 to give authenticity to the piece.

Following the immersive 8 minute VR film, a creative arts workshop then explores the issues raised in more depth. Through discussions and drama exercises the young people are able to reflect on their own personal journey within the VR and compare it to that of others, making it a user led – and user shared – experience.



[Virtual Decisions - Round Midnight](#)

During 2021-22, the Community Safety Team has supported a number of Youth & Community Voluntary groups with funding applications. This is with a view to securing the future of some of the local support projects most needed by young people in our communities.

- Helped Reach Out Bromsgrove secure of £24,000 worth of funding from Youth to continue their Outreach/Music sessions with some of our hardest to reach young people.
- £800 secured from the Grantham Yorke Trust to help maintain delivery of youth outreach in the District and a further £750 has also been secured through the All Churches Foundation to support outreach delivery across the district.
- The Youth Hub was granted £10,000 of Big Lottery funding to support the ongoing work of the youth centre.
- Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire which funded the Asda Car Park project with a grant for £4,755, has provided a second grant for £7,200 to fund the continuation work of the Friday night diversionary session.
- The Hub has been chosen to be the Bromsgrove Co-op's local charity for this year. The money is raised by customers choosing the charity which donates money while they shop. The final amount raised by this will be known in September and all funds will go towards providing youth activity sessions.
- £500 has been secured from the Tesco Carrier Bag Fund which will support young people locally to access trips and excursions they wouldn't normally be able to attend.
- The Postcode Lottery has provided funding for the Empowering Young People Programme where The Hub received £17,640 to deliver support sessions.

Tibberton Court

Following a site visit by the Community Safety Team and Ward Member Cllr Michael Thompson, this confined location within Charford was identified as a prime location to implement a partnership estate improvement project. Community Safety, Environmental Services and the BDC Community Team have worked with local partners from the Police, BDHT and the local church to address multiple environmental factors that were facilitating ASB and negatively impacting on community cohesion.

Following delays caused by Covid restrictions, the project progressed through 2021 with substantial changes being made to the built environment using the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). The project will continue through the first half of 2022 and is entering a phase of community engagement using the principles of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). Project partners, YMCA are working with the local councillor on the provision of positive youth diversion and engagement opportunities in the wider area.

It is envisaged that the experience of this project will provide a small area improvement model that can be transferred to other similar locations.

Bromsgrove Town Centre Management Group

Dave Rischmiller is an active member of the Town Centre Management Group and a routinely attends the Bromsgrove Pub-watch meeting. Using his previous Policing and Licensing legislation experience, Dave is able to offer expertise and advice to both groups and has supported the Town Centres Managers in initiatives and problem solving. Examples include advising on the DISC communications system, Safe Night Out and White Ribbon Domestic Abuse campaigns specifically for Licensed Premises. Dave also supports and advises the Street Pastors and provides occasional training for that team.



Nominated Neighbour Scheme

The Nominated Neighbour scheme, which aims to protect vulnerable residents from door step crime and rogue trader offences, continues to be a successful local initiative.

For example, the team were contacted by the son of an elderly lady in Fairfield who as a result of a cold call had fallen victim to individuals who were over charging for gardening work and had targeted the resident as a source of repeat income. A home visits was carried out and the scheme implemented. Additionally the County Trading Standards team were alerted who initiated enquiries into the offenders. The team also monitors and circulates information on current scams targeting residents, the most recent being an insulation scam highlighted by the Private Sector Housing Team.



Planning Consultation



Community Safety Project Officers Dave Rischmiller and Sarah McIntosh are qualified, College of Policing trained Designing Out Crime Officers (DOCO) and can review planning applications to make appropriate crime prevention and security recommendations, with the aim of making future developments less vulnerable to crime and disorder

In 2021-22 officers examined 34 applications across Bromsgrove and Redditch, totalling 1052 residential units, 10 Commercial Units and 1961 Sqm of commercial development.

Of these, 11 applications related to Bromsgrove covering 364 residential units and 9 commercial units.

For example, DOCO advice was provided regarding the Council's own development on the Old Council House site on Burcot Lane, together with a recommendation that the development pursues a Secured by Design Gold Award which has been agreed. Advice has also been provided for BDHT developments on old lock-up garage sites in the Rock Hill area. These sites have previously been a significant source of demand on Police and Council resources.



Chaired by David Rischmiller, Community Safety Project Officer the group brings together a range of partners who deal with ASB including police, housing associations, private housing providers, environmental officers and planning enforcement. The aim of the forum is to encourage and support professionals in tackling complex ASB issues and to share national and local good practice.

During 2021-22, the group moved to a more responsive model whereby referrals or hard to resolve ASB problems result in a targeted professionals meeting to consider the issues and identify actions. One such focus group took place in December 2021, to address persistent ASB problems in a social housing complex in the Wythall area.

Using the Community Safety Team's experience and knowledge of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 legislation service areas such as Planning and Environmental Services have been assisted in addressing community issues. Partner agencies including the police and social housing providers have also been supported. For example, following advice successful action was taken by Environmental officers to enforce the removal of waste from a vacant premises on the High Street. ASB action was taken against a private care home in respect of nuisance to residents in Lowes Hill and advice was provided to police colleagues regarding the use of ASB measures in a licensing context. Support is also given to our main social housing provider in respect of neighbourhood nuisance affecting local residents.

Hate Crime Awareness Week

Hate Crime Awareness Week in 2021 was held between the 9th and 16th October. The Community Safety Team supported this with a Social Media Campaign.

In addition to its Hate Crime Awareness campaign, the Team works with a range of partners to monitor hate crime and hate incident reporting and reviews reports to ensure they are actively investigated. Partner agencies and those reporting are advised and supported to try to achieve a resolution and prevent further incidents. In 2021 such incidents included Swastika graffiti, neighbour conflict, refugee support and a dispute in a care facility.



White Ribbon Domestic Abuse Campaign Nov - Dec 2020

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*It happened at a young age when he hurt me it was scary.
I said sorry it wasn't enough though 'cause apologies
aren't enough.*

*Chorus: I'm not invisible anymore 'cause I let you hurt me.
He has got the same size fist as my heart.*

*He hit me one time and I could have got away,
He wouldn't let me go so I tried to not go
Because my pain is so hard.*

#WhiteRibbonDay #NoExcuseForAbuse



The 2021-22 was again delivered as a Social Media campaign, with the 16 Days of Action being supported by our partners and the local press.

[Bromsgrove District Housing Trust backing White Ribbon campaign against domestic abuse - The Bromsgrove Standard](#)

[Domestic abuse campaign launches in Bromsgrove | Bromsgrove Advertiser](#)

[Wear a ribbon: speak out against domestic abuse - bromsgrove.gov.uk](#)

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West Mercia Police North Worcestershire ASB

March 2022

Purpose

To provide intelligence on ASB in the Bromsgrove District of North Worcestershire from 1 April 2018 – 28 February 2022.

Owner: Redditch and Bromsgrove County Council
Author: George Stephens, Partnership Analyst
Review Date:
URN: SPI/2022/071

Handling Instructions:
This document is for core representatives of the CSP only.
The document and information must be handled and stored according to the Government Security Classifications guidance.
Neither the document nor any of its contents may be disseminated further without the prior consent of the Information Asset Owner.

Protecting
people
from harm



Data and Methodology

Data

Type

All offences, crimed incidents and incidents of ASB.

Location

North Worcestershire

Period

1 April 2018 to 31 Jan 2022

Source

Crimed Incidents SAAB SAFE, OIS

Extraction

BI4.2

Caveats

SAFE and OIS are not structured the same in their data fields and therefore there is room for error when mixing data.

SAFE does not require the data entry of Street Separate to the full address. We have mitigated this issue by using the most common addresses as a guide, using those to identify all offences containing the same street name. This means that identifying streets with repeat incidents is much harder and leaves more room for inaccuracy.

OIS does not provide Ward Data. Therefore a mapping program has been used to plot data and export it based on Ward. This may affect data quality and accuracy.

Data has been obtained from OIS for incidents recorded up until 1 July 2020. Incident data has been obtained from SAFE for all incidents recorded after this date.

This product reports on ASB by financial year. Where 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 are referenced then this refers to financial years starting on 1 April and ending on 31 March.

Data for the financial year 2021-2022 is incomplete, ending 28 February 2022, to ensure fair comparison the below approaches have been used to understand change :

- Comparison with the same incomplete time period the previous year: 1 April 2020 – 28 Feb 2021 vs. 1 April 2021 – 31 January 2022
- Twelve month estimates for 2021-2022, calculated using a daily average, of the fiscal year, and using this to estimate values for March 2022.
- Daily rates, calculated by dividing volume of reported incidents by the number of days within the time period.

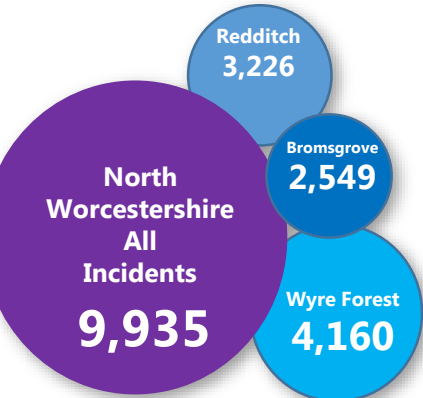
Incidents have been analysed including geographic and trend analysis. Inferences were drawn from analysis.

Assessments of certainty have been written using the 'probability yardstick', as defined by the Professional Head of Intelligence Assessment or PHIA, to ensure consistency across different threats and themes when assessing probability. The following defines the probability ranges considered when such language is used:

Qualitative Statement	Remote Chance	Highly Unlikely	Unlikely	Realistic Possibility	Likely or Probable	Highly Likely	Almost Certain
Probability Range	0-5%	10-20%	25-35%	40-50%	55-75%	80-90%	95-100%

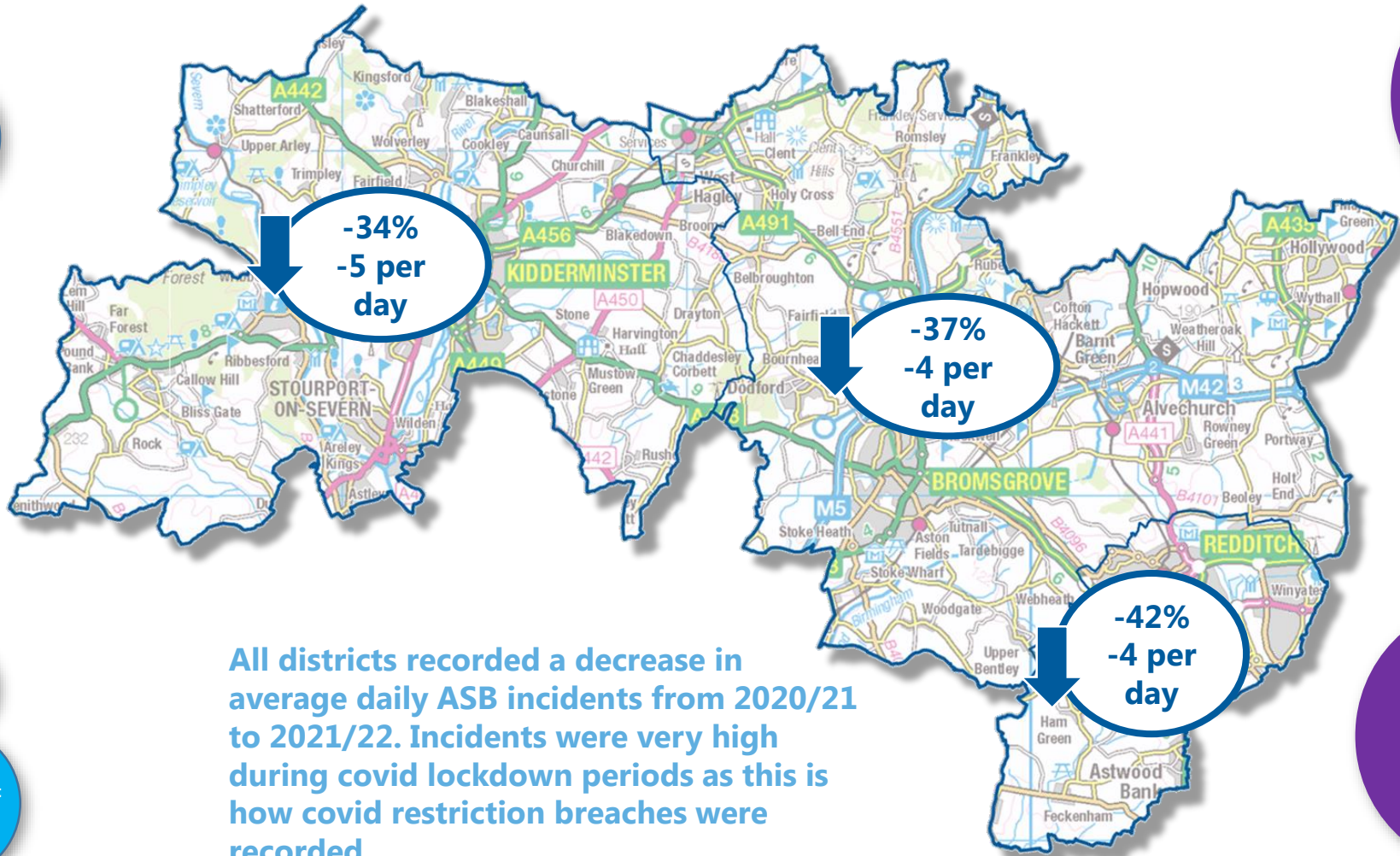
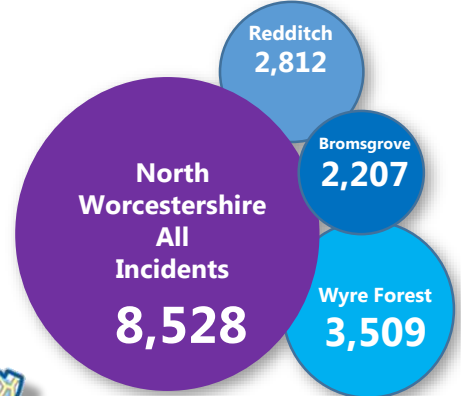
North Worcestershire and Districts

1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019



There were 35% fewer incidents of antisocial behaviour recorded across North Worcestershire between 1 April 2021 and 28 Feb 2022 than during the same period the previous year (n=4,425). This period has been used as the current financial period has not finished.

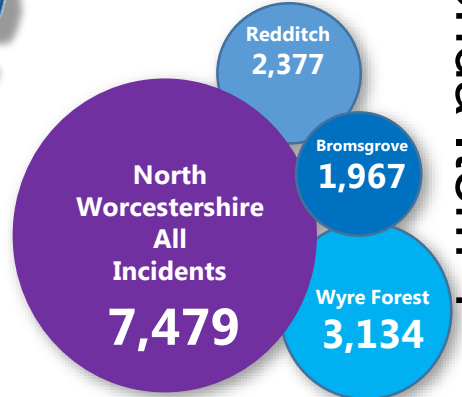
1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020



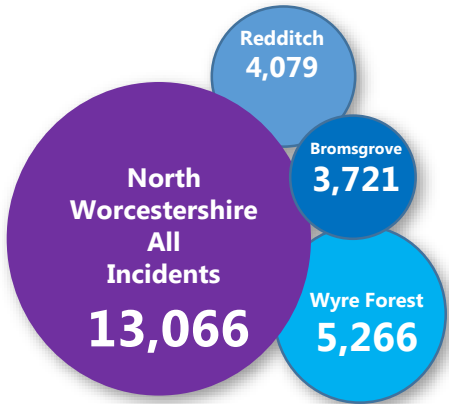
All districts recorded a decrease in average daily ASB incidents from 2020/21 to 2021/22. Incidents were very high during covid lockdown periods as this is how covid restriction breaches were recorded.

Key Difference between average daily rates 2020/21 and 2021/22

1 April to 28 February 2022

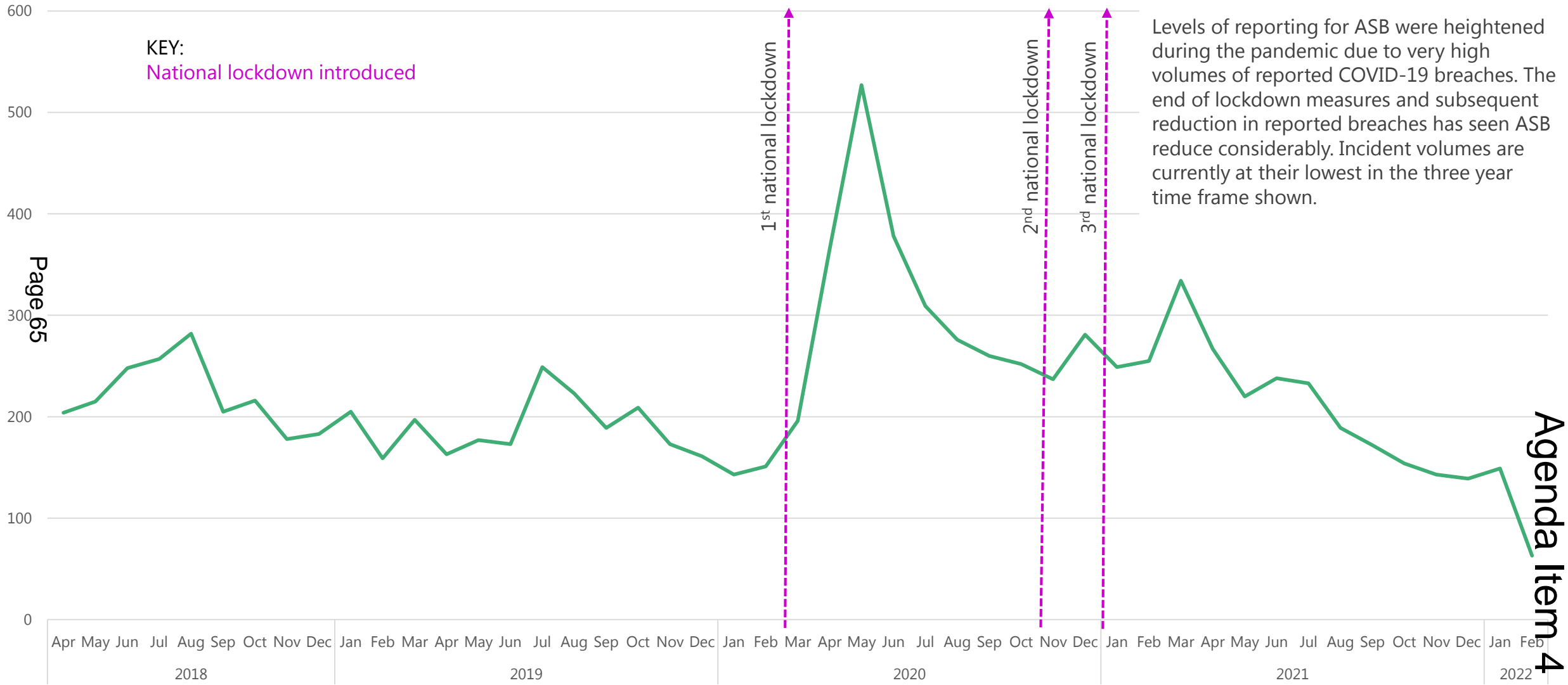


1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021



Bromsgrove Seasonal Distribution

Antisocial Behaviour in Bromsgrove District between 1st April 2018 to 28th February 2022



Bromsgrove and Wards

Antisocial Behaviour between 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022

Ward Name	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	1 April 2021 to 28 February 2022	Projected Total 2021/22	Difference 2020/21 – 2021/22	Projected Percentage Change
Alvechurch South Ward	49	56	65	44	48	-17	-26%
Alvechurch Village Ward	89	33	74	46	50	-24	-32%
Aston Fields Ward	99	82	119	79	86	-33	-27%
Avoncroft Ward	65	68	122	60	66	-56	-46%
Barnt Green & Hopwood Ward	55	60	149	76	83	-66	-44%
Belbroughton & Romsley Ward	150	110	245	119	130	-115	-47%
Bromsgrove Central Ward	60	73	86	63	69	-17	-20%
Catshill North Ward	85	102	159	79	86	-73	-46%
Catshill South Ward	125	90	152	94	103	-49	-32%
Charford Ward	225	211	248	145	158	-90	-36%
Cofton Ward	68	74	176	84	92	-84	-48%
Drakes Cross Ward	99	50	168	110	120	-48	-28%
Hagley East Ward	51	52	100	53	58	-42	-42%
Hagley West Ward	48	56	104	38	42	-62	-60%
Hill Top Ward	52	38	57	44	48	-9	-16%
Hollywood Ward	31	27	46	26	28	-18	-38%
Lickey Hills Ward	22	17	30	16	17	-13	-42%
Lowes Hill Ward	122	103	154	84	92	-62	-40%
Marlbrook Ward	31	43	80	30	33	-47	-59%
Norton Ward	39	51	92	29	32	-60	-66%

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Bromsgrove and Wards

Antisocial Behaviour between 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022

Ward Name	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	1 April 2021 to 28 February 2022	Projected Total 2021/22	Difference 2020/21 – 2021/22	Projected Percentage Change
Perryfields Ward	48	42	113	54	59	-54	-48%
Rock Hill Ward	70	87	146	54	59	-87	-60%
Rubery North Ward	36	23	53	32	35	-18	-34%
Rubery South Ward	97	88	173	81	89	-84	-49%
Sanders Park Ward	360	288	286	206	225	-61	-21%
Sidemoor Ward	125	117	147	74	81	-66	-45%
Slideslow Ward	45	26	50	23	25	-25	-50%
Tardebigge Ward	72	53	138	37	40	-98	-71%
Wythall East Ward	53	40	95	38	42	-53	-56%
Wythall West Ward	76	45	86	49	54	-32	-38%
Grand Total	2,547	2,205	3,722	1,967	2,150	-1,572	-42%

Activity decreased by **1,572 (42%)** incidents between 2020/21 and projections for 2021/22 financial year.

The largest projected decreases from 2020/21 to 2021/22 were observed in **Belbroughton and Romsley** (n=115), **Charford** (n=90) and **Rock Hill** (n=97) wards.

The biggest projected percentage decrease over the same period was seen in **Tardebigge** (71%), **Norton** (66%) wards.

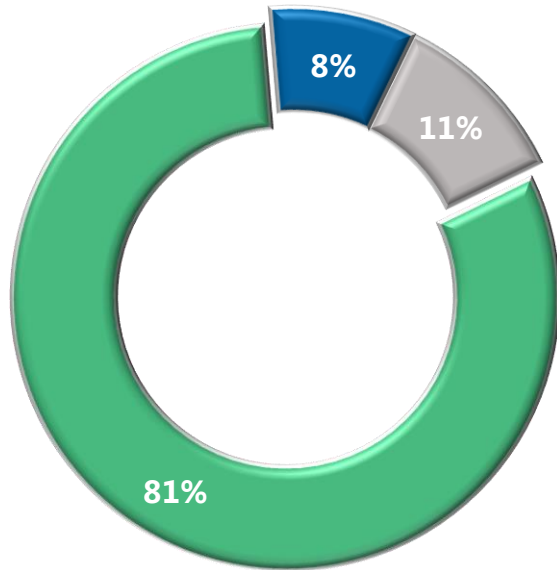
Bromsgrove Incident Types

Antisocial Behaviour in Bromsgrove between 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2022

Final Incident Class	2019 - 2020	2020 – 2021	2021-2022 year to date 1 April – 31 Jan	Projected volume 2021-2022*	Volume change 2020-21 to est. 2021-22	Projected Volume Change %	3 Year Mean
AS Environmental	113	561	167	183	379	67%	280
AS Nuisance	1887	2927	1613	1763	1164	40%	2142
AS Personal	207	287	187	204	83	29%	227

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Mean Annual Volumes as percentages



AS Environmental AS Nuisance AS Personal

*To enable comparison between financial years, an estimate has been produced for anticipated ASB volume during 2021-2022. See methodology for details.

Antisocial Behaviour has three main headings according to the type of behaviour committed:

- **Personal** - when a person targets a specific individual or group e.g. Trespassing.
- **Nuisance** - when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community e.g. Nuisance Neighbours.
- **Environmental** - when a person’s actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings e.g. Littering.

West Mercia Police, 2021 www.westmercia.police.uk

Agenda Item 4

Bromsgrove District Council Overview and Scrutiny Board - Briefing Note

Bromsgrove District Council CCTV Scheme, Static and Re-deployable Cameras.

Report of: Rachel Nicholls, CCTV and Telecare Manager

Camera locations

Bromsgrove District Council CCTV scheme contains the following cameras:

Bromsgrove Town Center

<u>Camera name</u>	<u>Camera location</u>	<u>Postcode</u>	
1	School Drive Carpark	B60 1AY	Digital
2	Bromsgrove/Stourbridge Road C/P	B61 0AB	Analogue
3	Bromsgrove/Parkside Car Park	B61 8DA	Digital
4	Bromsgrove/Asda Car Park	B61 8DA	Digital
5	Bromsgrove/Recreation Road C/P	B61 8DT	Digital
6	Bromsgrove/Windsor Street C/P	B60 2BN	Digital
7	Bromsgrove/New Road C/P Golden X	B60 2JQ	Digital
8	Bromsgrove/Market St C/P Waitrose	B61 8QU	Digital
9	Bromsgrove/ Zebra X Worcester Rd	B61 7AE	Digital
10	Bromsgrove/57 Monkeys	B61 7AE	Digital
11	Bromsgrove/Golden X	B61 7AB	Digital
12	Bromsgrove/High St/New Rd Barrier	B61 8AJ	Digital
13	Bromsgrove/Pound land High mount	B61 8AJ	Digital
14	Bromsgrove/High Street/Church St	B61 8HD	Digital
15	Bromsgrove/High Street/Mill Lane	B61 8AQ	Digital
16	Bromsgrove/Chapel Street	B61 8EZ	Digital
17	Bromsgrove/High Street Old Post Office	B61 8ES	Digital
18	Bromsgrove/The Strand	B61 8AB	Digital
19	Bromsgrove/Bus Station	B61 8AQ	Digital
20	Bromsgrove/Cleggs Entry	B61 8DJ	Digital

Brook Road Park

<u>Camera name</u>	<u>Camera location</u>	<u>Postcode</u>	
43	Rubery/Brook Road Park	B45 9UH	Analogue
44	Rubery/Brook Road Park	B45 9UH	Analogue

Hagley

<u>Camera name</u>	<u>Camera location</u>	<u>Postcode</u>	
49	A456 Worcester Road	DY9 ONG	Digital
50	Worcester Road/Chapel St	DY9 ONG	Digital
51	Worcester Road/Chapel St	DY9 ONA	Digital
52	Hagley/ Worcester Road Car Park	DY9 ONW	Digital
61	Hagley/ Rec & Car Park	DY9 ONW	Analogue
62	Hagley/Recreation Ground	DY9 ONW	Analogue

Hagley Railway Station

<u>camera name</u>	<u>Camera location</u>	<u>Postcode</u>
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53	Station Car Park	DY9 0NX
54	Station/Platform	DY9 0NX

Rubery

<u>Camera name</u>	<u>Camera location</u>	<u>Postcode</u>	
24	Rubery/Whetty Lane	B45 9DR	Digital
25	Rubery/New Road	B45 9JA	Digital
26	Rubery/Car Park & Bowling Green	B45 9JA	Digital
27	Rubery/Park Entrance	B45 9JA	Digital
28	Rubery/St Chads Road	B45 9HY	Digital
29	Rubery/Library Way	B45 9JT	Digital
30	Rubery/Subway South Side	B45 9JT	Digital
31	Rubery/South Subway	B45 9JT	Digital
32	Rubery/Subway North Side	B45 9JT	Digital
33	Rubery/Footpath to Callowbridge	B45 9JW	Digital
34	Rubery/Beverley Road	B45 9JN	Digital
35	Rubery/North Subway	B45 9DR	Digital
36	Rubery/North Subway	B45 9DR	Digital
91	Rubery/St Chads Park	B45 9JA	Digital
42	Rubery/St Chads Park	B45 9JA	Digital

Sanders Park

<u>Camera name</u>	<u>Camera location</u>	<u>Postcode</u>	
21	Sanders Park/ Car Park	B61 7JP	Digital
22	Bromsgrove Pavilion	B61 7JP	Digital
23	Sander Park Skate Park	B61 7JP	Digital

Wythall

<u>Camera name</u>	<u>Camera location</u>	<u>Postcode</u>	
92	Darkes Cross	B47 5HD	Analogue
93	Shawhurst Lane	B47 5JW	Analogue
94	May Lane	B47 5PA	Analogue
95	Station Road	B47 6EY	Analogue
96	Wythall/Station	B47 6BY	Analogue

Alvechurch

<u>Camera name</u>	<u>Camera location</u>	<u>Postcode</u>	
37	Alvechurch/Tanyard Lane	B48 7LG	Analogue
38	Alvechurch/Red Lion P H	B48 7LG	Analogue
39	Alvechurch/Red Lion Street	B48 7LA	Digital
40	Alvechurch/The Square	B48 7LA	Digital
41	Alvechurch/Bear Hill	B48 7JX	Analogue

Aston Fields

<u>Camera name</u>	<u>Camera location</u>	<u>Postcode</u>	
55	Aston Fields/Ladybird Public House	B60 2DZ	Digital

Barnt Green

<u>Camera name</u>	<u>Camera location</u>	<u>Postcode</u>	
45	Victoria Car Park	B45 8NW	Digital
46	Hewell Road/Sandhills Road	B45 8NL	Analogue

47	Hewell Road /Station Approach	B45 8NE	Analogue
48	Station Car Park	B45 8PA	Analogue

Plus 26 analogue cameras at the Multi-Storey Car park off Crabb Tree Lane

To view maps of all locations please click <https://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/keeping-safe/cctv/cctv-locations.aspx>

Scheme Review

An external review of the CCTV scheme was carried out in 2018. It was determined that much of the CCTV system equipment was obsolete, old technology. There was no possibility of expansion of the scheme and maintaining it was becoming harder and more costly. A Members task and finish group also undertook a review of the service and considered how the scheme could be improved. This coincided with 5 years of Police Crime Commissioner Grant funding at £65K per annum, to be spent on CCTV across North Worcestershire. Technical advice was sought, and it was decided the need to:

- Increase capacity for additional cameras
- Improve quality images day and night
- Upgrade the Monitoring Centre control Desk and digital operating system, to ensure Health and safety compliance.
- Future proof for advancing technology such as biometrics
- Improve police access
- More screens viewable at one time
- Improve logging and reporting system
- Enhance playback and faster evidence production
- Add additional re-deployable cameras to the scheme.

An infrastructure digital upgrade was agreed as the starting point, followed by a capital bid to replace many of the old analogue cameras with modern high-definition cameras. This was agreed and the project started in 2019/2020.

Changes following the upgrade plan

The grant from the PCC and capital funds allocated by BDC allowed the following up-grades to be made:

- Every transmission point was assessed to establish if it could be turned into a wireless link, beaming digital images by line of sight, from camera to camera. This was particularly suitable in Bromsgrove Town centre, Rubery and Hagley, where camera poles are in close proximity. BT links were removed making a revenue cost saving. Where a line of sight network was not possible, each analogue transmission BT fibre was compared to its digital upgrade cost and a decision made to either upgrade or retain an analogue fibre, based upon doing the highest number of upgrades with the available funds. Analogue fibre costs are based upon distance so in some cases it was better value for money to upgrade a fibre to digital, in some cases it was cost prohibitive.

Benefit –

- Revenue saving

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- Additional cameras can now be added (no longer at capacity)
- More resilience less maintenance issues.
- Once the network was upgraded the cameras were replaced with digital HD camera where the connection was digital.

Benefit-

- Excellent image quality day and night
 - Superior zoom capability
 - Improved operator control
 - Easy to apply Privacy zones
 - Programable tours and pre-set positions
- Where transmission remains analogue the camera heads were replaced with a new high-tech, hybrid, camera head that can be switched between analogue and digital settings. This means that should an opportunity arise to upgrade a fibre from analogue to digital the camera we already have in place will be suitable.

Benefit –

- Future proofed for further upgrades
 - Improved image quality
 - Superior zoom capability
 - Improved operator control
 - Easy to apply Privacy zones
 - Programable tours
- The Control system, monitor wall and recording platform were replaced with the latest equipment.

Benefit –

- Video wall transformable to any number of viewable screens
 - Easy and fast play back functionality.
 - Hot spot areas easily highlighted and enlarged on monitor wall.
- The Monitor Centre was restyled, and desks were replaced with industry standard health and safety compliant equipment.

Benefit –

- Rise and fall desks to improve shift work and operator alertness.

- A fourth CCTV workstation was added into the centre

Benefit -

- To increase capacity for proactive monitoring. We now have 4 CCTV operators between 10am and 4pm, instead of 3.
- The digital system can allow remote access, so we added a further workstation at our disaster recovery site at Parkside, Bromsgrove.

Benefit -

- Increases resilience should we be unable to access to Town Hall site at Redditch, (e.g. evacuation of building)
- Secondary viewing platform to monitor a significant incident such as an emergency plan event, where third party access is required.

- Digital Link to Police Head Quarters

Benefit –

- Clear images
- Send live view or playback images.

- Additional Camera at Sanders Park.

Benefit

- New coverage of hot spot area.

Locality Information and camera data summary

Cameras are a tool to reduce the fear of crime, as well as detect crime.

CCTV success is difficult to evaluate as it is impossible to quantify what may have happened if CCTV was not present, or if the crime has taken place in location not covered by CCTV.

A positive indicator of CCTV success is the reduced number of incidents at Sanders Park since the installation of a camera at the skate park incidents in 20/21 were 13 (during lock down), incidents 21/22 were 3.

Often incidents reported to us happen beyond the geographical area of camera coverage so these incidents will be logged against the nearest area. For example, looking for a stolen car that may or may not travel through an area.

Below provides a locality summary of available data from 01.05.21 to 01.04.22 (11 months from the installation of the new incident logging system).

Location	Number of incidents recorded	Number of reviews requested	Location summary
Alvechurch	9	8	All of these incidents were requests to look for person or vehicle passing through Alvechurch. On 4 of the 9 occasions, we were able to provide some positive information.
Astonfields	12	6	The incidents vary, including traffic collisions, missing people, incidents at the train station and Co-op, and requests to look for people/vehicles passing through. For 5 of the 12 incidents, we were able to provide some positive information.
Barnt Green	2	2	Both incidents were vehicle collisions neither incident was captured on CCTV footage.

Agenda Item 5

Multi-storey Carpark	33	6	Most incident captured are anti-social behaviour or criminal damage. Operators have requested emergency services to attend on 6 occasions. Of the 6 review we have been able to provide some positive information on 3 occasions.
Brook Road Park	4	2	Incidents logged include ASB and a sexual assault. The 2 reviews did not provide evidence on this occasion.
Hagley	18	14	Of the 14 reviews completed, we were able to provide some positive information on 6 occasions. Incident types varies from criminal damage, assault, ASB and traffic collisions.
Rubery	22	11	There are 12 occasions where we have been able to provide some positive information. Incident types include assault, criminal damage, drugs, ASB, theft and robbery.
Sanders Park	3	1	Incidents were ASB and vehicle damage. Positive information was provided on 2 occasions.
Wythall	13	9	Positive information was provided on 2 occasions. Incident types are varied, include theft, ASB, Robbery, Road traffic collision,
Bromsgrove Town Centre	246	82	Of the 246 incidents in Bromsgrove town centre 86 were initiated by CCTV operators spotting something and reporting it (proactive monitoring), there were 40 incident that were raised through the pub/shop watch radio. Of the recorded incidents we were able to provide some positive information on 190 occasions.

Note: Positive information includes identifying suspicious activity, identifying criminal activity, locating wanted or missing people, calling emergency services to attend, reviewing footage to find evidence or provide useful information.

Viewing and Seizure of evidence

The viewing and subsequent copying/seizure of recorded images can act as an indicator to support the effectiveness of the scheme in obtaining meaningful evidence. However we are unable to ascertain from police records whether the images viewed have been used as evidence to obtain a conviction at court, assisted in any other clearance process or been used for intelligence purposes. Whilst officers complete a log when they receive footage, the audit trail is difficult to trace from this point. This is the case with most CCTV schemes across the country. The CCTV manager is part of the Public CCTV Managers Association (PCMA), a network of Local Authority CCTV Managers who operate a forum to share best practice, problem solve and ask/give advice and guidance and the topic of Police feedback is widely agreed to be difficult.

During 2020/2021 there were 167 reviews carried out on Bromsgrove area CCTV, resulting in 38 seizures. This is an indication that the system is being used by the end user.

Police Liaison

Through the pandemic police contact was less. Once the country returned to normal, we carried out an exercise to promote and encourage contact with the monitoring centre. We produced a Police briefing note that has been shared amongst officers and police staff, detailing how to contact the centre, promoting our 24/7 availability, advising of camera locations, the live link to police HQ, what CCTV operators need to know, what the cameras/staff/scheme can do, i.e. the tours, pre-set, footage retention, low light capability, review requests, and limitations. We hope that this will encourage even more police communication. We have invited officers to spend time in the monitoring centre and these visits have been successful.

It must be recognised that CCTV is not an enforcement agency and is a service used by other organisations to respond to crime. CCTV is keen to support police and other agencies but alone cannot enforce the law or investigate crime.

The infrastructure digital upgrade will enable us to change the current method for seizure to a faster remote service. Currently Officers collect footage in person. At the time of the upgrade West Mercia Police were unable to resource the required changes for remote access, due to their own upgrade project. However, with input from Information Management and when the Police are ready, we would be keen to revisit a project that would enable footage to be uploaded to a secure evidence locker and down loaded by a named officer.

Wythall Pilot

Last summer (2021) an issue was raised that not all incidents being reported to the police were being passed over to the Monitoring Centre. This was causing frustration and distress to local businesses and causing CCTV to appear under-utilised.

The CCTV Team and Community safety officers worked on a pilot scheme where each business premises in the locality were visited. Each outlet was advised they could submit their contact details to the monitoring centre to be retained on the call handling system. Then should there be a crime, ASB or suspicious incident the premises could ring a dedicated number and the details of the premises would be displayed to the operator, giving them details of who is calling, which camera to select whilst the caller relays the incident details to the operator.

The shop visits were undertaken by a member of the Community Safety team, who explained in detail how the system would work and the importance for the business to still reporting incidents to the police. He was able to reassure them CCTV was working and monitored. He left each organisation with a leaflet detailing how to register their organisation details. 3 businesses registered with us. Records show that one of the registered businesses have made contact with us, on one occasion.

Redeployable project overview

Part of the funding from the PCC was used to purchase 3 re-deployable cameras that can be used within the District.

The key objectives of the mobile cameras are to:

- Assist in the detection of crime by providing evidence in criminal proceedings.
- Deter crime, improve public safety and enhance the general public's perception of safety.
- Assist in the prevention and reduction of public disorder and anti-social behaviour.
- Assist the tracking and apprehension of persons who are suspected of having committed a criminal offence.
- Assist in identifying witnesses.
- Promote the aim of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership with regard to 'Keeping North Worcestershire a safer place to live, work and visit'.

There is a procedure detailing how the cameras may be deployed and an application form available from the CCTV manager.

Prior to making the decision to deploy a camera an assessment will need to be conducted. The location must be deemed (technically) suitable and installation physically possible. It should be confirmed that CCTV is a proportionate response to the identified issue(s) having considered, tried and/or ruled out other crime reduction methods. The installation must also consider privacy issues and adhere to the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Code of Practice and Data Protection legislation. When completing an application, please note the following:

- CCTV cameras need to be fixed 5-6 meters above ground level.
- CCTV Cameras need an electricity supply nearby that can be used.
- Permission will need to be obtained from the land/building/street furniture owner.
- Where use of a lighting column is proposed an independent structural test will be completed.
- There must be 4G mobile coverage in the area.
- In an area where the camera could be vandalised or stolen there may be a requirement for 2+ cameras for additional security of the equipment.
- All local residents within the surveillance area will be consulted about the camera installation.
- The safety/security of residents must be considered when a camera is located on a dwelling. The occupant must be fully informed of the risks and understand the potential for identification should evidence be required in court.

Camera deployment will usually last for 6 weeks, and no longer than 12 weeks.

This pilot scheme, also operates in Redditch and Wyre Forest areas. It is a new development for the team as you may remember prior to the digital upgrade the scheme was at capacity so new camera locations could not be considered.

There have been many lessons learned regarding suitable locations, speed of deployment, reactions from members of the public, quality of and reasons for applications, and data protection issues.

In the Bromsgrove District we have made deployments in

- Morris Walk, Charford,
- Breakback, Rd Rock Hill,
- King George Recreation Car Park, Sidemoor,
- Tibberton Court (pending due to access issues)
- Collis Close/Austin Rd Garages, Charford.
- Shawfield, Wythall.

The images from these locations are streamed over 4G and are available to the monitoring centre for responsive and proactive monitoring. All images are recorded and available for review post incident. There have been no incidents reported to the monitoring centre during the time period (12 weeks each location), and no incident spotted when proactively monitoring. It appears that CCTV acted as a deterrent during the deployment.

Surveillance Camera Commissioners Code of Practice

The CCTV Scheme underwent a full external audit late 2021. The team were found to be compliant in all areas.

Staff training following recruitment and new system installation

Many CCTV staff left in 2019 resulting in several new recruits in a short space of time. The Digital upgrade coincided with the beginning of the pandemic early 2022. At this time social distancing measures made training difficult. Training was delivered via Teams. However, as soon as was practical, we delivered one to one CCTV training to all 20+ staff, detailing all aspects of the new system. This year new employees have also completed a 4 day CCTV training course, which includes an examination. The team are fully competent and confident in the use of the CCTV equipment.

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Overview & Scrutiny Board

17th March 2022

Briefing Note – Motion in respect of Fireworks

1. *Ensure our annual Bonfire Night event and all other public firework displays within the district are advertised well in advance, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.*

- The Events Team has reviewed the option for providing a quieter firework display at Sanders Park through its procurement process. The tender responses from the Pyrotechnic companies highlighted the complexity for a quieter display and provided the following information:

Noise Levels

The accepted maximum noise level for fireworks is 120dB at a viewing distance of 50 metres. The majority of professional display fireworks are designed to perform at this level.

It is possible to determine the variation of sound level with distance, using the formula: $L(2) = L(1) - 20 \cdot \log(R1/R2)$

*Where $L(1)$ = Loudness at radial distance $R1$ from Source
 $L(2)$ = Loudness at radial distance $R2$ from Source*

The following table shows the variation in sound level with distance, assuming that fireworks emit 120dB at 50 metres.

<i>Distance (m)</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>250</i>
<i>Sound Level (dB)</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>106</i>

A sound level analysis is provided in a supplementary document, as part of the show design.

The perceived impact is presented as follows:

<i>dB Range</i>	<i>Noise Level Perception</i>
<i>< = 115</i>	<i>LOW</i>
<i>> 115 < 120</i>	<i>MEDIUM</i>
<i>> = 120</i>	<i>HIGH</i>

*The firework content of each display has been selected so that 45% lies within the 'Low Level' noise range. **Experience has shown that a display based entirely on low-noise effects lacks drama and***

impact and is not recommended for seasonal events where a large audience is expected.

- The Events team has also investigated concerns raised with regard to climate change and CO₂ emissions and has received the following estimated calculations:

Fireworks

- Typically, a **15 minute** firework show would have a net explosive content of 150 kg.
- The CO₂ + CO emissions are approximately 40kg
- This is equivalent to an average car travelling for 320km
- It is also equivalent to a 60kVA generator running for 63 minutes. (It is worth remembering that generators running the lighting towers and funfair for several hours would contribute far more to carbon emissions than a short fireworks display).
- To offset the carbon emission for the **display**, you would need to plant 0.2 trees.
- Pro-rata for a **12 minute** display the CO₂ + CO emissions are approximately 33kg (the difference between 12 minutes and 15 minutes is not really significant in the overall scheme of things).

Spectator / parking contribution etc.

- This is more difficult to estimate as precise information is not available. I have **estimated** that 3000 people travel an average distance of 3km to the park, by car. This generates a CO₂ + CO emission of around **400kg**.

The estimate for the total CO₂/CO emission produced by the event is approximately 440kg. This includes the fireworks display and the spectator 'contribution'. It excludes contribution from the bonfire (wood burning) and other aspects - particularly generator running for funfair, lights etc. One 60kVA generator running for 4 hours will exceed the emissions produced by the fireworks and spectators!

- The Events Team is currently reviewing the events programme, based on the evidence above, to provide a light/illumination event, with music choreography to replicate the firework display event but without the emissions, noise and climate impact.
With the uncertainty around COVID-19 and to ensure the management of crowds the lights show will be held over two evenings.

Agenda Item 6

- The Events team will continue to ensure communication is clear with the residents of Bromsgrove District and work with the Council's communications team.
- The Events Team will continue to work with the SAG (Safety Advisory Group) which includes the emergency services, to work together on a public awareness campaigns of the lights/illumination event.

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Overview and Scrutiny **Annual Report**

2021-2022



Bromsgrove
District Council

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

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DRAFT

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

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FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to Bromsgrove District Councils Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2021/22.

The Board's role is to act as a critical friend to the Council, providing check and balance to the decision making process with a view of maximising service provision to residents.

The Board is cross party and functions in an impartial, independent and non-political manner.

Since the easing of Covid restrictions in May 2021 the Board has met in person which has been a welcome return to normality.

It has been a busy year for the Board and many areas of the Council's work have been scrutinised, the details of which are included in the bulk of this report.

A particular concern of the Board has been the financial position the Council finds itself in. The continued use of reserves to prop up the day to day running of the Council is not sustainable. A longer term funding solution must be found if the Council is to continue in its present form.

Three task groups have had their recommendations considered by Cabinet and Council with varying degrees of success in influencing policy change:

- Equalities task group
- Flooding task group
- Libraries task group

A new task group has recently been formed focussing on Fuel Poverty.

The Finance and Budget Working Group continues to meet regularly. However, the Corporate Performance Working Group has ceased, and its role is now within the remit of the main board.

I would like to thank all those members who Chaired and contributed to these task and working groups over the last year. I would also like to thank all Board members for their hard work throughout the year and our Vice Chairman, Councillor Jo Till. My appreciation also goes to the members of the Council and Cabinet for their regular attendance.

The Board couldn't function without the many reports and presentations provided by Officers of the Council, and I would like to express my gratitude to all of them and in particular Jo Gresham, the Board's excellent Democratic Services Officer.

Councillor Charles Hotham
Chairman

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report which outlines our work during 2021-2022 (this covers the municipal year from May 2021 to April 2022) and provides general information on the overview and scrutiny processes at Bromsgrove District Council.

Overview and Scrutiny is a key part of the democratic decision-making process in local Councils, where elected Councillors outside of the Cabinet can contribute to shaping Council policy, community well-being and accountability. This is done by reviewing Council services and policies, community issues and key decisions and making recommendations for improvement.

The four key principles of Overview and Scrutiny, as defined by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) the lead organisation supporting Overview and Scrutiny in the country, are:

- provide constructive “critical friend” challenge;
- amplify the voice and concerns of the public
- be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role
- drive improvement in public services.

The Members of the Board consider these principles when selecting topics to investigate whether it is holding the Cabinet to account, reviewing policies, policy development or scrutiny of external bodies.

Agenda Item 7

MEMBERSHIP (The Board is made up of 11 Members)



Councillor Charles Hotham
Chairman



Councillor Jo-Anne Till
Vice-Chairman



Councillor Sue Baxter



Councillor Andrew
Beaumont



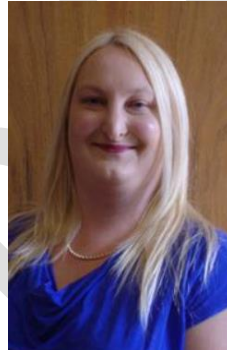
Councillor Steve
Colella



Councillor Richard
Deeming



Councillor Rob Hunter



Councillor Helen Jones
from November 2021



Councillor Adrian Kriss



Councillor Peter McDonald



Councillor Caroline Spencer



Councillor Michael Thompson
until July 2021

THE ROLE OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Overview and Scrutiny is a key part of the Council's political structure, and it plays a vital role in improving the services that people of the District use, whether as a resident, employed here or just visiting. It does not just look at the way the Council carries out its services, it can look at anything which affects the lives of people within the District, and it allows citizens to have a greater say in Council matters.

Overview and Scrutiny allows Councillors to review and scrutinise decisions, look at existing practices and make recommendations to help ensure the residents of Bromsgrove District receive excellent services. The aim is to ensure Overview and Scrutiny adds value to the Council's decision-making process and makes a positive contribution towards policy development.

The detailed terms of reference and procedure rules for the Overview and Scrutiny Board can be found at Part 5 and Part 12 of the Council's Constitution. The Council's Constitution can be accessed by using the following link.

[Link to the Constitution of Bromsgrove District Council](#)

(Please click on the latest date to access the most recent version of the Council's constitution).

Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to have a significant impact on Council operations. In May 2021 the Government removed the temporary legislation that allowed local authorities to hold public meetings virtually. This meant that Overview and Scrutiny Board meetings were once again held in person after May 7th, 2021. Meetings are live streamed if there is significant local interest in the items being considered at Overview and Scrutiny Board meetings. Meetings of scrutiny Task Groups and Working Groups continue to be held remotely, since these meetings are private and are not live streamed.

REPORTS CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD

The Board continues to receive updates in order to monitor the progress of recommendations it has made, through the Recommendation Tracker. This contains both recommendations put forward by Task Groups and accepted by the Cabinet, together with recommendations put forward by the Board itself. In respect of Task Groups, the Board does, where necessary, receive an update report 12 months following acceptance of its recommendations.

During the course of the year the Board received a number of reports and made a number of recommendations. There has been continued support from the relevant Portfolio Holders this year, with regular attendance from a number of them when a report which relates to their portfolio has been presented to the Board. This has given them an opportunity to hear first-hand the debate and ideas that the Board has put forward. On a number of occasions, whilst the Board has not made any recommendations in respect of an item, it has endorsed and supported recommendations which would be considered by Cabinet at its meeting.

6th July 2021

Air Quality Report – Worcestershire Regulatory Services

Members of the Board requested an update of Air Quality in the District for their meeting held on the 6th July 2022. During this update Members were informed that there were currently three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) identified within Bromsgrove District, however it was confirmed that during monitoring over the last municipal year no exceedances of the national average of elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide was identified in any of these AQMAs.

During a detailed presentation Members were informed that the responsibility of active travel plans lay with Worcestershire County Council (WCC). In addition to this it was confirmed that currently there was an improving picture emerging in respect of air-quality across the District.

At this meeting the Board agreed that an item in respect of Air Quality would be added to the Board's work programme for consideration on an annual basis.

Staff Mileage

This update in respect of Staff Mileage had been requested by the Board in order to provide clarification on the amount of staff mileage claimed over the previous municipal year. It was confirmed that there had been a decrease in the amount of mileage claimed during the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdown and that this had continued a trend which had been seen over the previous municipal years.

Members were keen to further understand whether the data had been bench-marked against other similar sized Councils within Worcestershire. It was confirmed that a bench-marking exercise would be undertaken, and the results reported back to Members later in the municipal year (see 15th February 2022).

Waseley Hill – Notice of Motion

Councillor P. McDonald submitted a Motion regarding Waseley Hills Car Parking to full Council at the meeting held on 21st April 2021.

After a detailed discussion regarding concerns in car parking charges at Waseley Hills Country Park and the potential of schemes being implemented it was agreed that it seemed more equitable if all visitors, no matter where they had travelled from, were permitted to use the car parking for free.

As the charges for car parking at Waseley Hills Country Park were administered by Worcestershire County Council (WCC) it was agreed by the Board that a letter be written on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Board to the relevant Portfolio Holder at WCC expressing the Board's concerns. At the time of writing this report no response had been received from WCC however the Board will look to include a discussion on this as part of their Work Programme in the new municipal year.

13th September 2021

Adoption of land by Bromsgrove District Council and the management of Commuted Sums for off-site provision

It was requested that this report be pre-scrutinised by the Board prior to its consideration at Cabinet on 15th September 2022. The Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services presented the report and 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 bodies in perpetuity.

There was a detailed discussion by Members on complex issues that could potentially impact residents across the District.

Bromsgrove Town Centre Management Strategy - 2021 Action Plan

During consideration of this report Councillor K. May, who was present in her role as Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, the Town Centre and Strategic Partnerships explained, that an events management company had been engaged to provide a full events programme in the District over the forthcoming months. It was also reported that the recruitment of a Business Support Advisor was currently underway in order to help businesses reopen after the Covid-19 pandemic in a safe and resilient way.

Some Members queried the consultation that had taken place outside of the main town centre and 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. As a result of this the following recommendation was agreed by the Board:

'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'.

This recommendation was agreed as presented at the Cabinet meeting held on 15th September 2021.

Equalities Task Group - Cabinet Response

The Cabinet response in respect of the Equalities Task Group was discussed at Cabinet and Council meetings held in July 2021. Consideration of the Cabinet response by the Board is mainly procedural and for completeness.

The Board were informed that Cabinet had made some amendments to the recommendations during consideration at their meeting held on 7th July 2021. These were as follows:

Amendment to Recommendation 1

That an annual Equalities Report be prepared for 2021 and annually thereafter.

Amendment to Recommendation 2

The Contractors' Questionnaire should be updated to be as robust as possible in respect of equalities issues.

Amendment to Recommendation 4

- a) *Clear guidelines are put in place in respect of the secondment process and made available to all staff; and*
- b) *Guidance on the benefits of staff development and progression be put in place and accessible to all staff.*

These recommendations would be tracked and updated as part of the Recommendation Tracker item that was due to be considered at the end of the municipal year.

Flooding Task Group - Cabinet Response

The Cabinet response in respect of the Flooding Task Group was also discussed at this meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and it was confirmed that this report had been discussed at both Cabinet and Council meetings held in July 2021.

At the Cabinet meeting it was clarified that a maintenance plan was currently being undertaken by North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) regarding Council owned assets and partners' assets. This report was due to be considered by Cabinet later in the municipal year.

As this report would be of particular interest to the Flooding Task Group there was the potential for the task group to reconvene and scrutinise the plan prior to its consideration at Cabinet.

This final report was pre-scrutinised at the main Board meeting held on 28th March 2022 (see details below).

Councillor R. Hunter, as Chairman of the task group expressed his disappointment that none of the recommendations made as part of this investigation were agreed by the Cabinet and he hoped that the NWWM report would be helpful in mitigating future flood events in the District.

18th October 2021

Staff Survey

The Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy and the Human Resources & Development Manager provided information to the Board in respect of the Staff Survey during the Covid-19 pandemic. During the update there was detailed discussion regarding the following:

- Some delays had been experienced for the full Staff Survey however a number of smaller surveys had been carried out over the course of 2021.
- The Staff Survey would be administered and analysed by an external provider through the Local Government Association (LGA).

During the consideration of this item Members were interested in the cost of the Staff Survey. As a result of this the following recommendation was made to the Cabinet by the Board

'the Cabinet are fully informed of the higher and lower cost of the Staff Survey.'

On being put to the vote the recommendation was agreed.

This recommendation was resolved by the Cabinet at their meeting held on 24th November 2021.

Budget Framework

As part of the update in respect of the Budget Framework it was noted that the Budget for 2022 was complex. In order to mitigate any issues workshops would be offered to all Members in order to help them further understand Local Government finance and

any potential changes to funding in the future. These workshops took place online on 10th November 2021 with all Members invited to attend.

Libraires Task Group - Cabinet Response

Councillor S. Colella presented this report and expressed that he and other task group members were disappointed with the response from the Cabinet in respect of the findings and recommendations of the task group. It was with this in mind that the task group was reconvened, and the relevant Portfolio Holders invited to attend the meeting in order to discuss the Cabinet response in more detail.

22nd November 2021

CCTV Update – Environmental Services

Members were keen to be provided with an update in respect of the use of CCTV. At this meeting the Head of Environmental Services and the Environmental Services Manager presented the CCTV Update.

During a detailed presentation, a number of areas were discussed including incidents of fly-tipping and deterrents utilised including Regulatory Investigation Powers Act (RIPA) powers. It was clear from the report that the number of incidences of fly-tipping were significantly down compared to previous years which Members felt was a positive outcome for the residents of Bromsgrove.

Financial Update Regarding Leisure Services

During the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns Leisure Services nationally had been dramatically affected. As part of this item Members were updated 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-19 in 2020/21 and 2021/22. In addition to this, the options available to the Council moving forward were also discussed.

17th January 2022

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

This report was presented to Cabinet at their meeting on 19th January 2022 and the Board were keen to pre-scrutinise prior to its consideration at that meeting. The report recommended that all Pay and Display car parks within the Town Centre should adopt a cashless payment system. Members were informed that although cashless machines would be adopted, all car parks, with the exception of Churchfields Multi-storey Car Park would still retain one cash payment machine.

During consideration of the report a numbers of areas were highlighted by officers including the introduction of the Mi Permit app within the Town's car parks in 2021, the

Equality Impact Assessment that had been undertaken by the Council and the benefit of the introduction of cashless payments for Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) within the District to undertake more of their normal enforcement duties.

Some concerns were expressed by the Board regarding the Churchfields Multi-Storey Car Park and the potential of keeping a cash payment option at this site. However, Officers confirmed that this proposal would increase costs at the Churchfields site. In addition to this, any resulting costs of the installation of two machines would be higher due to the ongoing maintenance or if one or both machines were subject to vandalism.

During the debate heritage street lighting within the Town Centre was discussed and it was decided that this subject would be discussed at a Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group meeting later in the municipal year.

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

In December 2021 it was announced that £14.5m had been awarded from the Government's Levelling Up fund. At this meeting of the Board Members were informed that some of the funding was to be utilised to develop a cultural and creative hub in Bromsgrove town centre on the Market Hall site. In respect of the Windsor Street site, it was proposed that the project at this site would be pre-development i.e., preparing the site in readiness for development and that a feasibility study was currently underway regarding the clearance of the Windsor Street site.

The delivery timescales of the projects were reported as March 2025 and a detailed risk register was in place to ensure that the projects were monitored closely.

It was widely acknowledged that this was an exciting great opportunity for the District and might help to alleviate revenue pressures on the Council.

At this meeting the Board agreed that an item in respect of the Levelling Up Funding be added to the Board's work programme for consideration every six months.

15th February 2022

Mileage Benchmarking Update

This item was provided as a follow up as requested by the Board at their meeting held on 6th July 2021. Once again, the Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy and the Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager attended the meeting and the report provided data for similar local authorities to Bromsgrove District Council, primarily Malvern Hills District Council and Wychavon District Council.

The data appeared to show a continuing trend in terms of mileage claims falling for Council staff and this reflected the flexibility of the different ways of working that had emerged during the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in respect of the use of different types of technology and of officers working remotely.

Sustainable Warmth Funding - Pre-Scrutiny

The Head of Community and Housing Services presented a report on the subject of the Council's receipt of a £429,000 Sustainable Warmth Funding grant. The grant is designed to help fund actions that could be taken to improve the energy efficiency of properties in the District with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating D – G.

This was a detailed report that outlined the components to the funding of up to £25,000 in Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) grants for eligible households and the average Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 3 grants of £10,000.

It was explained that the deadlines for expenditure of the grant funding was 31st March 2023, and that the Council was aiming to target low-income households as funding recipients.

The Council's 2022/23 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2024/25 Draft - Pre-scrutiny

At this meeting the Executive Director of Resources presented the Draft 2022/23 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2024/25 for the Board's consideration. This report had also been pre-scrutinised at a meeting of the Finance and Budget Working Group. The budget and Medium Term Financial Plan had been developed in challenging financial circumstances for local government. It was reported that savings and income opportunities had been identified in some areas and these had been incorporated into the budget.

As part of consideration of this report Members were advised that there were actions that could be taken, including making efficiency savings and introducing additional income to help alleviate budget pressures. However, it was clear that some difficult decisions might also need to be made by Members.

The format of the report, which was different to the style that had been adopted in previous years, saw Members commenting that the content was clearer than it had been in previous years and Members thanked officers for making these changes.

28th March 2022

Land Drainage Watercourse Maintenance Operations - Pre-Scrutiny

The Board were keen to pre-scrutinise this report as it was hoped that it would provide some clarification on discussions that had taken place as a result of the Impact of Flooding in the District Task Group earlier on in the municipal year. During consideration of this item a detailed presentation was delivered to Members. This provided information on what measures were to be taken in order to mitigate future flooding events in the district.

It was hoped that the schedule of maintenance works, which, it was proposed, would be carried out by an external contractor, would ensure that works were carried out on a more regular basis.

The first year of the contract was to be considered as a pilot scheme and could be reviewed after the first year had been completed. An update on the scheme was added to the Board's work programme for consideration after the first year of works had been carried out.

Equality Annual Report 2021-2022

The Head of Transformation & Organisational Development presented the Equality Annual Report 2021-2022 and highlighted that it was the first report of its kind and was as a result of a recommendation made by the Equalities Task Group investigation.

This report was very well received by Members who were pleased to see the large amount of work undertaken by officers in this area.

Planning Determination Timescales - Verbal Update

During this verbal update Members were informed that there were no particular concerns in respect of planning application determination timelines and that 100% of the applications received within the last quarter had been considered within the agreed timeframe which was set by central government or in certain instances in agreement with the applicant.

Planning Officers worked proactively with developers and if necessary, an extension of time agreement was put in place.

There were discussions at this meeting regarding the data that was presented to the Board and how timescales were measured.

Task Group Updates

At this meeting Councillor S. Colella presented an update on the Impact of the Review of Library Services Task Group. Members were informed that the task group was reconvened late in 2021 and that Councillors K. May and P. Thomas had been invited to discuss potential amendments. Although no amendments to the recommendations were made it was noted that the investigation had been worthwhile and had resulted in a good report that confirmed that libraries would continue to receive the funding they deserved.

Topic Proposal - Fuel Poverty

Councillor R. Hunter presented the Topic Proposal form to establish a Fuel Poverty Task Group. As residents were facing an unprecedented rising level in the cost of

living, he explained that it was important that the Council provided as much support as possible to those residents identified as in need.

During a very detailed and robust debate some Members discussed the potential of inviting an officer to present further detailed information on what services were available to residents. This approach, it was felt, would mean that residents would be quickly signposted to any initiatives or grants available to them. However, on being put to the vote it was agreed to establish a Fuel Poverty Task Group and Councillor R. Hunter be appointed as Chairman of the task group.

25th April 2022

To be completed after the meeting on 25th April 2022

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WORCESTERSHIRE HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (HOSC)

The Council's representative on this Committee must be a Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and is required to provide the Board with regular updates on the work being carried out.

The Board's representative for the start of the municipal year was Councillor J. Till, however at the Board meeting held on 6th July 2021, Councillor Till indicated that she wished to step down from her role as HOSC representative. At this same meeting a nomination was received for Councillor S. Baxter and on being put to the vote it was agreed that Councillor S. Baxter be elected as HOSC representative for the remainder of the municipal year.

During the year Councillor Baxter highlighted the following areas and responded to questions from Members:

- Mental Health provision in Worcestershire
- Maternity Services in the Worcestershire
- Community ambulances and Primary Care (GP) Access within Worcestershire
- Integrated Cares Systems (ICS)
- Winter Plan 2021-2022.

WORKING GROUPS – UPDATE

Background to Working Groups

Following the review of the work of the Board at the April 2016 meeting, a number of areas of improvement were discussed. One of these was its role in scrutinising the budget and the other was the role of performance monitoring. It was agreed that for 2016/17 the Board would set up a Finance and Budget Working Group and a Measures Dashboard Working Group. This would enable a dedicated group of Members to consider these areas in both more detail and in a timelier manner. This would enable Members to feed through any recommendations to Cabinet more promptly. In the first year of its implementation the Measures Dashboard Working Group was re-named the Corporate Performance Working Group.

The terms of reference for each Working Group were agreed by the Board and were regularly reviewed to ensure that the work being carried out remained relevant. Historically this review has formed part of the April meeting of the Board when it considers the annual report and looks back over the work carried out and discusses any improvements that could be made in the coming year to ensure the Board runs effectively and efficiently.

The Terms of Reference for the Working Groups were updated during the municipal year 2021-2022. The updates 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.*

Finance & Budget Working Group

Membership: Councillors C. A. Hotham (Chairman June 2021 – April 2022), Councillors S. R. Colella, R. Hunter, A. D. Kriss and J. Till

This Group met on six occasions this year and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling has attended the majority of meetings, together with the Executive Director of Resources and the Head of Finance and Customer Services.

Heads of Service were also invited on a number of occasions in order to provide further information on their service areas, particularly in respect of Fees and Charges.

The list below contains some of the reports which the Working Group has considered and gives an insight into the work that has been carried out:

- 2022/23 Budget
- Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2024/25
- Enterprise Resource System
- The Aged Debtors Summary
- The Financial Outturn Report
- Covid-19 Grants
- Blue Badge Motion which had been submitted by Councillor S. Robinson at the Full Council meeting held on 3rd November 2021
- Council Tax Empty Homes Discounts and Premiums report
- Fees and Charges

Once again, by being able to consider a number of reports in more detail and prior to their consideration at Cabinet, this has allowed Members of the Board via the Working Group to play an increased part in the budget setting process.

Corporate Performance Working Group

During the municipal year 2021-2022 nominations were received for the election of the Chairman of this working group. Councillor Till was nominated at the Board meeting held on 18th October 2021, and efforts were made by the Democratic Services team to arrange for volunteer Members as per the new Terms of Reference. Only two Councillors volunteered to be members of this group for the next municipal year however the Terms of Reference state that the group should consist of a maximum of 5 Members with a quorum of 3.

It was with this in mind, given the lack of membership of the group, that the most appropriate way forward when scrutinising the Performance of the Council would be to consider an item at the main Board meetings every 6 months.

This first item in the municipal year 2022-2023 will be the Performance Dashboard Update and would be included on the Board's work programme for consideration on 30th May 2022.

TASK GROUP INVESTIGATIONS & SHORT, SHARP REVIEWS CARRIED OUT

The detailed final reports of all these investigations can be found on the Council's website within the Overview and Scrutiny section.

Equalities Task Group

Membership: Councillors P. McDonald, A.B Beaumont, M. Glass, H. Jones, A. Kriss, H. Rone-Clarke, C. Spencer and J. Till

The outcome on the Equalities Task Group investigation can be found earlier in this report.

Impact of Review of Libraries in the District Task Group

Membership: Councillors S. R. Colella, S. Douglas, J. King, A. Kriss, M. Middleton and C. Spencer

The outcome on the Impact of Review of Libraries in the District investigation can be found earlier in this report.

Review of Services to Prevent Flooding Task Group

Membership: Councillors R. Hunter, A.B. Beaumont, S. R. Colella, H. Rone-Clarke and C. Spencer

The outcome on the Review of Services to Prevent Flooding Task Group investigation can be found earlier in this report.

Conclusion

The return to in-person meetings at the beginning of this municipal year has meant that once again Members can consider reports in person. A significant amount of pre-scrutiny work has been carried out by the Board throughout the year. In addition to this the work of the the Budget Scrutiny Working Group has been useful in providing Members with an opportunity to look at complex finance reports in some considerable detail. The conclusion of three task groups meant that 2021-2022 was a very busy and constructive year in scrutiny, whereby matters that were really important to the residents of Bromsgrove have been considered.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Overview and Scrutiny Board Meetings

Overview and Scrutiny Board meetings are open to the public. To find out more visit our website at <http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/council/the-council/overview-and-scrutiny.aspx> or telephone 01527 881288 and ask to speak to the Democratic Services Officer.

Public Involvement

If you would like to have your say on issues being considered by Overview and Scrutiny or to suggest a topic for consideration you can email scrutiny@bromsgrove.gov.uk or complete the form on the Council's website at <http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/council/the-council/overview-and-scrutiny/public-participation.aspx>

Giving Evidence

Members of the public or organisations with a special interest or knowledge about a particular topic being considered by Overview and Scrutiny can put forward evidence to a Committee or appear as a witness to give evidence for an investigation. If you think you or your organisation might be able to participate in an issue currently under review, please contact us.

If you have a personal issue with a Council service you may find it more useful to contact your local ward Councillor who can help you decide the best way to take it forward.

Contact Overview and Scrutiny

If you would like to find out more about any aspect of the Overview and Scrutiny Board then you can email scrutiny@bromsgrove.gov.uk or telephone 01527 881288 and ask to speak to the Democratic Services Officer.

Overview and Scrutiny

Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services

Bromsgrove District Council

Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove B61 8DA

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CABINET LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 MAY 2022 TO 31 AUGUST 2022
(published as at 1st April 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, Democratic and Property 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 64252 ext 3031) 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 Enabling
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 Health and Well Being and Strategic Housing

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
Financial Monitoring Report 2021/22 Key: No	Cabinet 3 May 2022 Council 22 Jun 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Councillor G. N. Denaro
Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Key: No	Cabinet 3 May 2022 Council 22 Jun 2022		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	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 Not before 1st Jun 2022 Council Not before 22nd Jun 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
Financial Outturn Report 2021/22 Key: No	Cabinet 1 Jun 2022 Council 22 Jun 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

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
Financial Monitoring Report Key: No	Cabinet 1 Jun 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Council Plan (Including Restoration and Recovery Plan) Key: No	Cabinet 1 Jun 2022 Council 22 Jun 2022		Report of the Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy	Deb Poole, Head of Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Services Tel: 01527 881256 Councillor G. N. Denaro
Council Tax Support Scheme - Update Key: No	Cabinet 1 Jun 2022		Report of the Interim Head of Finance and Customer Services	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance 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
Digital Strategy Key: No	Cabinet 1 Jun 2022 Council 22 Jun 2022		Report of the Head of Business Transformation and Organisational Development	Deb Poole, Head of Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Services Tel: 01527 881256 Councillor G. N. Denaro
Staff Survey Key: No	Cabinet 1 Jun 2022		Report of the Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy	Deb Poole, Head of Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Services Tel: 01527 881256 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
Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2040 Key: No	Cabinet 1 Jun 2022 Council 22 Jun 2022		Report of the Chief Executive	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3284 Councillor S. A. Webb
Audit, Standards and Governance Committee's Annual Report 2021/22 Key: No	Council 22 Jun 2022		Report of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee	Joanne Gresham, Senior Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01527 64252 Councillor L. C. R. Mallett
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22 Key: No	Council 22 Jun 2022		Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Joanne Gresham, Senior Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01527 64252 Councillor C. A. Hotham

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
Climate Change Strategy Key: No	Cabinet 6 Jul 2022 Council 20 Jul 2022		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services and Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Guy Revans, Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services, Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3292, Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3284 Councillor M. Thompson
Quarterly Risk Update Key: No	Cabinet 6 Jul 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

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
Financial Monitoring Report Key: No	Cabinet 6 Jul 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Parking Enforcement Service Level Agreement Key: Yes	Cabinet Not before 6th Jul 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Kevin Hirons, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01527 881705 Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Community Safety
Financial Monitoring Report Key: No	Cabinet 6 Jul 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

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
Asset Strategy Key: No	Cabinet Not before 14th Sep 2022 Council Not before 21st Sep 2022		Report of the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services Tel: 01527 881429 Councillor G. N. Denaro
Financial Monitoring Report Key: No	Cabinet 14 Sep 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

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
Worcestershire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Key: No	Cabinet 14 Sep 2022 Council 21 Sep 2022		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Amanda Delahunty, Strategic Housing Officer Tel: 01527 881269 Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing and Health and Well Being
Budget Framework 2023/24 Key: Yes	Cabinet 14 Sep 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

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
Draft Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24 Key: No	Cabinet 14 Sep 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration - Land at the Dolphin Centre Key: No	Cabinet Not before 14th Sep 2022 Council Not before 21st Sep 2022		Report of the Chief Executive	Kevin Dicks, Joint Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3250 Councillor K. J. May
HR and Organisational Development / People Strategy Key: No	Cabinet Not before 14th Sep 2022		Report of the Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy	Deb Poole, Head of Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Services Tel: 01527 881256 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
Leisure Strategy Key: No	Cabinet Not before 14th Sep 2022 Council Not before 21st Sep 2022		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services Tel: 01527 64252 Councillor M. Thompson
Environment Act - Changes to Waste Services - Implications Key: No	Cabinet Not before 26th Oct 2022 Council Not before 2nd Nov 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Guy Revans, Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3292 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
Financial Monitoring Report Key: No	Cabinet 26 Oct 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2025/26 - Update Key: No	Cabinet 26 Oct 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Quarterly Risk Update Key: No	Cabinet 26 Oct 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

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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 2023/24 Key: No	Cabinet 26 Oct 2022 Council 2 Nov 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Bromsgrove Centres Strategy Key: Yes	Cabinet 23 Nov 2022		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Lyndsey Berry, Bromsgrove Centres Manager Tel: (01527) 881221 Councillor K. J. May
Treasury Management Report - Six Month Update Key: No	Cabinet 23 Nov 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

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
Financial Monitoring Report Key: No	Cabinet 23 Nov 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2025/26 - Update Key: Yes	Cabinet 23 Nov 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Homelessness Prevention Grant 2023/24 Key: Yes	Cabinet 18 Jan 2023		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Amanda Delahunty, Strategic Housing Officer Tel: 01527 881269 Councillor S. A. Webb

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
Final Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24 Key: No	Cabinet 18 Jan 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Financial Monitoring Report Key: No	Cabinet 18 Jan 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

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
Levelling Up Fund LUF Market Hall Site Development Proposal Key: Yes	Cabinet Not before 18th Jan 2023 Council Not before 25th Jan 2023		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
Council Tax Base 2023/24 Key: No	Cabinet 18 Jan 2023 Council 25 Jan 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

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
Quarterly Risk Update Key: No	Cabinet 18 Jan 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2025/25 - Update Key: No	Cabinet 18 Jan 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Decarbonisation of the Council Fleet Key: No	Cabinet 15 Feb 2023 Council 22 Feb 2023		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
Financial Monitoring Report Key: No	Cabinet 15 Feb 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Council Tax Resolutions 2023/24 Key: No	Cabinet 15 Feb 2023 Council 22 Feb 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

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
2023/24 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2025/26 (Including Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Programme) Key: No	Cabinet 15 Feb 2023 Council 22 Feb 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 Key: No	Cabinet 15 Feb 2023 Council 22 Feb 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Becky Talbot, Human Resources and Development Manager Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

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
Financial Monitoring Report Key: No	Cabinet 15 Mar 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Quarterly Risk Update Key: No	Cabinet 15 Mar 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy S151 - Finance Tel: 01527 64252 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

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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
25 th April 2022	Community Safety Partnership	Annual Scrutiny
	CCTV Update	
	Fireworks Motion	
	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	
30 th May 2022	Council Plan (including Recovery and Restoration Plan)	
	Housing enforcement powers and how they are used	Requested at the meeting in November 2021
	Corporate Performance Update - Performance dashboard	
	Working Group Updates	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
5 th July 2022	Air Quality Update	Annual Update requested at the meeting on 6 th July 2021
	Levelling Up Funding Update	
	Electric Chargers in the District	
	Working Group Updates	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
12 th September 2022	Working Group Updates	
	Any Task Group Updates	

Agenda Item 13

	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
24 th October 2022	Working Group Updates	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
21 st November 2022	Working Group Updates	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	

Items for consideration in 2022 - 2023

September 2022

Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration - Land at the Dolphin Centre - pre-scrutiny

2022/2023

- Decarbonisation of the Council Fleet – due for consideration not before April 2023
- 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)

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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