

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH 2023 AT 6.00 P.M.

PARKSIDE SUITE - PARKSIDE

MEMBERS: Councillors C.A. Hotham (Chairman), J. Till (Vice-Chairman), S. J. Baxter, A. J. B. Beaumont, S. R. Colella, R. J. Deeming, R. J. Hunter, H. J. Jones, A. D. Kriss and C. J. Spencer

<u>AGENDA</u>

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 8th February 2023

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 8th February 2023 will be published in a Supplementary Papers pack.

- 4. **Provision of Street Name Plates** (Pages 7 10)
- 5. Fly Tipping and Environmental Enforcement Update (Pages 11 14)
- 6. Electric Vehicle Charging Update (Pages 15 20)
- 7. **Cabinet Work Programme** (Pages 21 26)
- 8. **Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme** (Pages 27 28)

K. DICKS Chief Executive

Parkside Market Street BROMSGROVE Worcestershire B61 8DA

21st March 2023

If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact Mat Sliwinski

Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove, B61 8DA Tel: (01527) 64252 Ext: 3095 Email: mateusz.sliwinski@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

<u>GUIDANCE ON FACE-TO-FACE</u> <u>MEETINGS</u>

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.

GUIDANCE FOR ELECTED MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS IN PERSON

Members and Officers 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 if they have common cold symptoms or 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.

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

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Members of the public will be able to access the meeting if they wish to do so. Seating will be placed in such a way as to achieve as much space as possible for social distancing to help protect meeting participants. It should be noted that members of the public who choose to attend in person do so at their own risk.

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:

Although this is a public meeting, there are circumstances when Council might have to move into closed session to consider exempt or confidential information. For agenda items that are exempt, the public are excluded.



INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

Access to Information

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

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

You can access the following documents:

- Meeting Agendas
- Meeting Minutes
- > The Council's Constitution

at www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD 29 March 2023

PROVISION OF STREET NAME PLATES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Margaret Sherrey	
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes	
Relevant Head of Service		Guy Revans - Head of Environmental	
		and Housing Property Services	
Report Author:	Job Title:	Engineering Technician	
Viv Banes	Contact e	email:	
viv.banes		s@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk	
	Contact Tel: 64252 Ext: 3991		
Wards Affected		All	
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		No	
Relevant Strategic Purpose		Communities which are safe, well	
		maintained and green	
Key Decision: No			

1. <u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>

1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to note the Report.

2. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

- 2.1 The Council is responsible for the repair and maintenance of Street Name Plates (SNPs) on adopted roads, and replacement, when necessary, either due to accidental damage, vandalism or normal wear and tear. In the case of a new development however, the developer is required to provide and erect the initial SNPs. These are purchased to the Council's specification and the costs are covered by the developer.
- 2.2 It is of course necessary for the continuing need to maintain a good standard of SNPs and to improve existing standards where necessary. This being essential for the efficient functioning of the Postal and Emergency Services as well as for the convenience and safety of the general public. It should be remembered that street names need to be legible by night as well as by day, therefore they should be illuminated from existing street lamps where at all possible.
- 2.3 SNPs are positioned usually at the rear of the adopted footway and as near to street corners so that they can be easily read by drivers and pedestrians alike. There are other various specific recommendations for installation which are of course followed, but obviously variances are necessary where individual site restrictions apply.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD 29 March 2023

- 3.1 The current annual budget for SNPs is £3.9k, with the average cost for each plate being £75 £100, depending on size required together with added features such as a 'T' symbol denoting a cul-de-sac. The budget is quickly exhausted as there is always a waiting list.
- 3.2 Currently, the SNP manufacturer is Nibra Signs Ltd of Bristol, but this contract ends this financial year. Consequently, a quotation exercise will be undertaken shortly to ascertain an approved manufacturer for the next three years. It is of course anticipated that supply costs will rise due to the current financial climate.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The relevant powers for local authorities are contained in Section 19 of the Public Health Act 1925:

Indication of name of street: (1) The urban authority shall cause the name of every street to be painted, or otherwise marked, in a conspicuous position on any house, building or erection in or near the street, and shall from time to time alter or renew such inscription of the name of any street, if and when the name of the street is altered or the inscription become illegible. (2) If any person pulls down any inscription of the name of a street which has lawfully been set up, or sets up in any street any name different from the name lawfully given to the street, or places or affixes any notice or advertisement within twelve inches of any name of street marked on a house, building, or erection in pursuance of this section, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £200 and to a daily penalty not exceeding £1.

4.2 Obviously, in instances where damage has occurred to a street name plate as a result of a collision by a motor vehicle, and details are known of the driver in question, then of course reimbursement charges are levied against the driver concerned. Unfortunately, in these times, drivers are often reluctant to report such accidents when they are able to drive away unnoticed.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

5.1 Communities which are Safe, Well Maintained and Green – covered by item 2.2.
<u>Climate Change Implications</u>

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5.2 There are no Climate Change implications.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.1 There are no Equalities and Diversity Implications

Operational Implications

- 6.2 Damage to SNPs are usually reported by the general public or Members through the Council's website or verbally to the Officer responsible. After a site inspection to determine what remedial works are required, it may be added to the order for the supply of a new SNP. If safety measures are required e.g., removal of the damaged SNP, these will be undertaken immediately.
- 6.3 Obviously, through lockdown due to COVID, there was a backlog of replacing SNPs that steadily built up over this period, which took some time with manufacturing delays to catch up with.
- 6.4 The SNPs are ordered in bulk as it is more cost effective with the saving on delivery costs. The manufacturer taking some 6 weeks to complete the order.
- 6.5 It should be noted that the Minor Works' Team who undertakes all works associated with SNPs for both Council's have, for the last year, been understaffed, which caused some unfortunate delays. This has now been resolved, and therefore installation of new SNPs in the future can be undertaken soon after they are delivered.

7. <u>RISK MANAGEMENT</u>

7.1 Covered by item 6.2.

8. <u>APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS</u>

None

Briefing Note – Environmental Enforcement Update Bromsgrove Overview and Scrutiny Board

Wednesday 29 March 2023

Purpose

This briefing note has been compiled to update the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Environmental Enforcement and Fly-Tipping in Bromsgrove District.

Context

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes certain duty bodies legally responsible for keeping land which is under their control, and to which the public has access, clear of litter and refuse and their highways must be kept clean, as far as is practicable.

Bromsgrove District Council is the principal litter authority under the Act, and Worcestershire County Council are the Waste Disposal Authority responsible for arranging disposal of any waste collected by BDC as litter or fly tipping under this duty.

Residents and Businesses have a legal Duty of Care to ensure their waste is disposed of responsibly, and are liable if their waste is not managed this way and they can't evidence that they have taken reasonable steps to ensure it will be. However, Fly Tipping is a national problem that has a significant cost for local authorities to deal with, requiring significant time and resources to manage each year.

Our Current Position

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Apr	114	248	199	135	182	102
Мау	155	170	215	239	112	85
Jun	91	203	164	297	131	119
Jul	88	213	216	202	102	96
Aug	190	168	96	231	147	98
Sep	62	173	101	237	103	109
Oct	79	93	89	202	56	94
Nov	85	208	62	92	76	89
Dec	113	129	59	120	84	66
Jan	181	164	101	155	75	105
Feb	135	263	106	148	85	
Mar	178	192	86	240	125	
Total for Year	1471	2224	1494	2298	1278	963

Below are the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by Bromsgrove District Council over the last 6 years:

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We have had fly-tipping on 530 different locations during the 2022/23 financial year so far, and have seen a reduction in the number of issues and associated cost on previous years, with an expectation that this year will see the lowest number of fly-tips in the last eight years.

Over the last two years, the service has significantly increased the use of warning signs across the district, and invested in more advanced camera systems to improve our evidence gathering capabilities given the high number of fly-tips occurring in our District.

Since then, we have seen changing behaviour that we believe is linked to our increased visibility on fly-tipping issues across the District, which has seen a reduction in the total number of fly-tips across the District, but also an increase in the number of locations where fly-tipping is occurring; potentially as a result of our signage diverting some fly-tippers to new locations rather than deterring them completely.

During the last year, 30% of these fly-tips have been at locations that have had a single fly-tip. 30% of them have been at sites receiving between two and five fly-tips, and a further 13% have occurred at locations with between 6 and 10 fly tips.

This accounts for nearly three quarters of our total fly-tips that have taken place with little to no identifiable pattern at frequencies that make it extremely difficult to detect and prevent across our rural district.

As such, our enforcement monitoring has been primarily targeted at the locations with the highest numbers of fly-tipping, as 27% of the fly-tips have occurred on 18 roads within the District.

Cameras have been primarily deployed across 9 of these locations over the last year, and captured three instances where we were unable to identify the vehicle for enforcement action, and 2 instances that are currently being followed up as active cases. In addition to this, we have had one instance of our encrypted equipment being stolen from site despite being installed covertly.

In addition to this, we currently have two Fixed Penalty Notices that have been issued and are awaiting payment, and one Community Protection Warning that is being considered for escalation to a Community Protection Notice for noncompliance.

Plans for 2023

The service has been looking at using fully covert surveillance without signage to highlight the potential presence of cameras in 2023, and is now represented on the Council's RIPA group, which oversees the use of Covert surveillance in compliance with national legislation¹.

The service will now apply for authority under RIPA legislation to escalate our actions in regard to our main hot spots, as we require evidence of having taken reasonable steps through other means available to us to address criminal activity before using fully covert surveillance, and the evidence we have for these locations over the last couple of years will support our application to take this step during 2023. This will be limited to defined areas, as it is not possible to seek a District Wide order to support the use of covert cameras.

Through the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership, we are working with Wyre Forest and the Police Crime Commissioner on an initiative to support private landowners with fly tipping, which has been running for about 12 months now.

This has struggled to get engagement from private landowners, although we have signposted some of those that we have had dealings with towards our colleagues in Wyre Forest who are leading on the use of additional CCTV cameras.

Further meetings are expected regarding this in the coming months to support additional publicity and provision of resources to advise landowners on what can be done to safeguard against this occurring on their land, and this will continue to be linked with our wider work across the District on Fly Tipping.

Under the "We don't buy crime" initiative by West Mercia Police, funding was identified to support the purchase of smart water kits in 2022, and engage with local garages to tackle the issue of car tyres being fly tipped.

This has had a number of garages across Bromsgrove and neighbouring authorities sign up to the scheme, and we continue to check for tyres when they are dumped in our area to see if they can be traced back to a local origin.

Although this has not produced any results so far, this will continue to be checked during 2023, and is a good partnership project with West Mercia Police.

Projects such as this, and our successful enforcement actions will be publicised as regularly as possible during 2023, and we are working with our Enforcement Officer and Communications Team to ensure that there will be a steady stream of messaging to raise the profile of Environmental Crime and everyone's responsibilities in order to deter issues such as this in future.

¹ RIPA – Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act ²⁰Page 13



Bromsgrove District Council Electric Vehicle Charging Update



Future Charging point Installations

As you are aware we are looking to extend the number of charging points within the District providing 'Off-Street' charging facilities for residents who don't have access to their own charge point. To this end we have undertaken an Expressions of Interest consultation through the Crown Commercial Framework, and followed this with a full tender exercise.

We received 4 detailed responses from the tender exercise and we are currently evaluating the tenders before we can award the contract.

Bromsgrove District Council www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Overview and Scrutiny meeting

When we originally looked at installing additional charging infrastructure it was necessary to apply for grant funding obtain match funding and provide our own investment.

What we have seen in the responses received as part of the expressions of interest exercise is that there are numerous companies that are prepared to self fund the installation of chargers and look after any necessary maintenance and replacement in the future, thereby removing the need for the authority to pump prime the project and go through the lengthy grant application process.



What we have to bring to the table in this partnership arrangement would be the available land on which to locate these chargers.

We have provided the contractors with a selection of locations some that do not have chargers and others that may only have one. Giving the contractor a number of locations to initially investigate and propose the number of points to install. The thought is that once we have engaged with a contractor we can discuss additional possible locations.



Initial locations suggested to the contractor to Investigate

Recreation road car park Aston Fields Car Park Windsor Street Car Park Parkside Car Park Taynard Land car Park Alvechurch Catshill Car Park Princess of Wales Hospital Hagley Webbs, Kidderminster Road) Barnt Green PC Commuters car park **Bromsgrove Council House Parkside** Aston Fields Depot Bromsgrove Sports and Leisure Centre Sanders Park Churchfields MS (currently closed) Woodrush Leisure Centre, Wythall St Johns Car Park Bromsgrove Aston Fields Recreation, Stoke Road

King George V Playing Field, Sidemoor Lickey End Recreation, Alcester Road Braces Lane Recreation, Marlbrook The Oakhalls Open Space and Parklands Round Hill. Marlbrook Watt Close Allotments (Rr Sanders Park) **Rigby Lane, Bromsgrove allotments** Stoke Road, Aston Fields allotments Stourbridge Road allotments Pool Furlong allotments Stoneybridge, Fairfield allotments Newton Road, Stoke Works allotments Penmanor Playing Field, Finstall Sanders Park/Watt Close pitches - to school (WCC) Kidderminster Road (Sanders Park) Victoria Ground Football Pitches Lye Meadow, Alvechurch **Barnsley Hall Football pitches**



Questions?

Agenda Item 6



CABINET LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 JULY 2023 (published as at 1st March 2023)

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;

+ you wish to make representations on the proposed decision you are encouraged to get in touch with the relevant report author as soon as ⇒ ossible 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: <u>democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</u>

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, Regulatory Services and Climate Change
Councillor S. Webb	Portfolio Holder for Health and Well Being, Strategic Housing and Leisure and Culture

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration - Land at the Dolphin Centre and at Windsor Street Key: Yes	Cabinet Not before 1st Jun 2023		Report of the Chief Executive	Kevin Dicks, Joint Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3250 Councillor K. J. May
Gouncil response to Local Plan Consultations; Birmingham Development Nan, South Staffordshire Local Plan and South Worcestershire Development Plan Key: No	Cabinet Not before 1st Jun 2023 Council Not before 1st Jun 2023		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Tel: 01527 881325 Councillor P. L. Thomas
District Heat Network Revisions Key: Yes	Cabinet Not before 1st Jun 2023		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3284 Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance, 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
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 Key: Yes	Council Not before 1st Jun 2023		Report of the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	Joanne Gresham, Senior Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01527 64252 Councillor C. A. Hotham
႕)laying Pitch Strategy မွို (ey: No စ ည	Cabinet Not before 1st Jun 2023		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Jonathan Cochrane, Development Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252 Councillor S. A. Webb
Quarterly Risk Update Key: No	Cabinet Not before 1st Jun 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer 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
Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2040 Key: No	Cabinet Not before 1st Jun 2023 Council Not before 1st Jun 2023		Report of the Chief Executive	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3284 Councillor S. A. Webb
✿ Decarbonisation of the Council Fleet Key: No	Cabinet Not before 1st Jul 2023 Council Not before 1st Jul 2023		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Kevin Hirons, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01527 881705 Councillor M. A. Sherrey
Parking Enforcement Service Level Agreement Key: Yes	Cabinet Not before 1st Jul 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
Carbon Reduction Strategy - Annual Review Key: No	Cabinet Not before 1st Sep 2023 Council Not before 1st Sep 2023		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3284 Councillor P. Thomas
Prvironment Act - Changes to Waste Services - Implications Key: No	Cabinet Not before 1st Sep 2023 Council Not before 1st Sep 2023		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

Agenda Item 8

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

WORK PROGRAMME

<u>2022-2023</u>

RECOMMENDATION:

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

ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Date of Meeting	Subject	Additional Information
29 th March 2023 (Wed)	Enforcement – Fly tipping – overview item	Guy Revans, Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services
	Electric Chargers in the District – overview item	Guy Revans, Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services
	Replacement Street Signs – overview item	Kevin Hirons, Environmental Services Manager Pete Liddington, Engineering Team Leader
	Working Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader's Work Programme	
17 th April 2023	Overview and Scrutiny Board – Annual Report 2022-2023	Democratic Services – Councillor Hotham
	Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker - review	Democratic Services / Councillor Hotham
	Working Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader's Work Programme	
June/July 2023	Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration - Land at the Dolphin Centre – pre-scrutiny	Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive Officer
	Grass Verge Maintenance – pre-scrutiny	Matthew Austin, Environmental Services Manager

Outstanding items for 2023 – 2024 with no assigned date

2022/2023

- Decarbonisation of the Council Fleet due for consideration not before April 2023
- Strategic Transport Assessment