

# Public Document Pack



## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024**

**AT 6.00 P.M.**

**PARKSIDE SUITE - PARKSIDE**

**MEMBERS:** Councillors P. M. McDonald (Chairman), S. T. Nock (Vice-Chairman), A. Bailes, R. Bailes, A. M. Dale, E. M. S. Gray, R. J. Hunter, B. Kumar, S. A. Robinson, H. D. N. Rone-Clarke and J. D. Stanley

### **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 16th January 2024**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting which was held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 will be published in a Supplementary Papers pack.

4. **Libraries Provision - Worcestershire County Council Presentation** (Pages 7 - 10)
5. **Governance Systems Review - Implementation Progress Update**  
(Report to follow)  
  
This report will be published in a Supplementary Papers Pack.
6. **Playing Pitch Strategy - pre-scrutiny**  
  
(Report to follow). This report will be published in a Supplementary Papers Pack once the report has been published for consideration of the Cabinet (due to be published on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February).
7. **Notice of Motion - Request to Investigate - Actions against the impact of Impending Heatwaves** (Pages 11 - 14)
8. **Finance and Budget Working Group - Update**
9. **Task Group Updates**
10. **Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Update**
11. **Cabinet Work Programme** (Pages 15 - 20)
12. **Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme** (Pages 21 - 22)
13. **To consider, and if considered appropriate, to pass the following resolution to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of item(s) of business containing exempt information:-**  
  
"**RESOLVED**: that under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended, the relevant paragraph of that part, in each case, being as set out below, and that it is in the public interest to do so:-  
  

<u>Item No</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
14	3
15	3, 4
14. **Levelling Up Funding Update**

(Report to follow). This report will be published in a Supplementary Papers Pack (currently due to be published on Tuesday 6th February).

15. **Termination of Shared Service Arrangement: North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration - pre-scrutiny**

(Report to follow). This report will be published in a Supplementary Papers Pack once the report has been published for consideration of the Cabinet (due to be published on Tuesday 6th February).

Sue Hanley  
Chief Executive (Interim)

Parkside  
Market Street  
BROMSGROVE  
Worcestershire  
B61 8DA

2nd February 2024

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](mailto:mateusz.sliwinski@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

## **GUIDANCE ON FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS**

Please note that this is a public meeting.

You are able to see the meeting in person. Agenda for the meeting is available to view from the Committee Pages of the Council's website.

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 AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING MEETINGS IN PERSON**

Meeting attendees and members of the public are encouraged not to attend a Committee if they have if they have common cold symptoms or any of the following common symptoms of flu or 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](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)

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### LIBRARIES PROVISION (INCLUDING LIBRARIES UNLOCKED) PRESENTATION

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Steven Colella, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Climate Change
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Head of Service		Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic & Property Services
Report Author: Mat Sliwinski	Job Title: Democratic Services Officer Contact email: <a href="mailto:mateusz.sliwinski@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">mateusz.sliwinski@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a>	
Wards Affected		All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)		N/A
Non-Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

#### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

**The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to RESOLVE that the report and the associated presentation delivered to Members at the meeting be noted.**

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board have debated in what form to investigate the topic regarding future of library provision within the District. This discussion took place at an Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023. This discussion took place following a request for investigation after a Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor H. D. N. Rone-Clarke at the Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 as follows:

“There is a threat to the future of our libraries and the way in which they are to be managed. It is proposed that Bromsgrove, Rubery and Wythall Libraries will be the first in the County to become ‘unmanned.’ There will be serious consequences associated with such changes both for staff and users of this service. Therefore, we call upon the Overview and Scrutiny Board to investigate the consequences of such action.”

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD 2024**

12<sup>th</sup> February

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- 2.2 At the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023, it was resolved by the Overview and Scrutiny Board that the matter be discussed as soon as possible at one of the regular Overview and Scrutiny meetings.
- 2.3 It was requested that the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities (including Libraries) from Worcestershire County Council be invited to attend this meeting of Overview and Scrutiny alongside relevant officers from the County Council, to assist with answering Members' queries on the subject of library provision.
- 2.4 The Cabinet Member and Officers from Worcestershire County Council are due to attend this meeting

### **3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

- 3.1 A request from full Council has been made to investigate the consequences of proposed changes to the library provision in the District.
- 3.2 The Board decided that it would be appropriate to invite the Portfolio Holder and Officers from Worcestershire County Council to this meeting to provide more information on the subject.
- 3.3 It is noted that based on the outcome of meeting discussions, the Board could request that further investigation needs to be undertaken, or that no further action is required at this point.
- 3.5 It is noted that the Review of Libraries Task Group was last carried out in 2021, and that Members had scrutinised the recommendations of that Task Group at a previous Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting.

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly relating to this report, however, if there are any proposals recommended by Overview and Scrutiny which are subsequently agreed for implementation by Council's decision-making committees, there could be potential financial implications.

### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications directly relating to this report, however, if there are any proposals recommended by Overview and Scrutiny, these would potentially have legal implications that needed to be considered.



**6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS**

**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 6.1 Governance underpins all of Council's strategic purposes.

**Climate Change Implications**

- 6.2 There are no climate change implications at this stage. The green thread runs through the Council plan.

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.3 There are no equalities implications at this stage.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 Not applicable at this stage as this report is to note that a presentation on the subject of libraries will be provided to Members at the meeting.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix 1 – Presentation about libraries provision (to follow)

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**SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION PROPOSAL – IMPACT OF HEATWAVES ON THE DISTRICT**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Steven Colella, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Climate Change
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic & Property Services
Report Author: Mat Sliwinski	Job Title: Democratic Services Officer Contact email: <a href="mailto:mateusz.sliwinski@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">mateusz.sliwinski@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a>
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	N/A
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to consider if the request for scrutiny investigation as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of this report is agreed:**

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board are requested to investigate the future as a short, sharp review investigation. This follows a Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor M. Marshall and agreed at the Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The Motion agreed reads as follows:

“That the Overview and Scrutiny be asked to undertake a review of how to take immediate action to educate and equip residents for impending heatwaves made more likely by climate change. This will include awareness campaigns, distributing guidelines and establishing cooling centres to ensure the community’s safety and well-being during future extreme temperature events.”

**3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

- 3.1 A request from full Council has been made to investigate how to undertake action to assist residents in the face of impending heatwaves made more likely by climate change.
- 3.2 If the Board decides that it does wish to investigate this topic further, it then needs to decide whether it is appropriate for the Board itself to undertake the investigation at its regular meetings or whether a more in-depth investigation or review is required, for example in the form of a short-sharp review.
- 3.3 Another option is for the Board to request further information on the topic from a relevant source to assist Members to decide whether an investigation is required.
- 3.4 Alternatively, the Board could decide that it is not a topic it wishes to investigate, in which case no further action would be required.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly relating to this report, however, if the proposal is accepted, any implications would be considered as part of the subsequent investigation undertaken.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications directly relating to this report, however, if the proposal is accepted, any implications would be considered as part of the subsequent investigation undertaken.

#### **6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 6.1 Communities which are safe, well-maintained and green.

##### **Climate Change Implications**

- 6.2 This request relates directly to climate change implications. The green thread runs through the Council plan.

##### **Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.3 There are no equalities implications at this stage.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD  
2024**

12<sup>th</sup> February

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- 7.1 Not applicable at this stage as this report is asking to consider the various options relating to the investigation of the Notice of Motion.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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# CABINET LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

**1 MARCH 2024 TO 30 JUNE 2024**  
**(published as at 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024)**

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](mailto: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 Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships
Councillor s. Baxter	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration
Councillor S. Colella	Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Climate Change
Councillor C. Hotham	Cabinet Member for Finance and Enabling
Councillor K. Taylor	Cabinet Member for Planning, Licensing and Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Councillor S. Webb	Cabinet Member for Health and Well Being and Strategic Housing
Councillor P. Whittaker	Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Community Safety

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 Centres Action Plan Review 2024/25 <b>Key:</b> Yes	Cabinet 13 Mar 2024		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Lyndsey Berry, Bromsgrove Centres Manager Tel: (01527) 881221  Councillor S. J. Baxter, Councillor K. J. May
Bromsgrove Play Audit and Investment Strategy <b>Key:</b> Yes	Cabinet 13 Mar 2024		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ishrat Karimi Fini, Cultural Services and Parks Manager Tel: 07713 085872  Councillor S. R. Colella
Cost of Living Funding Proposal <b>Key:</b> Yes	Cabinet Not before 13th Mar 2024		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3284  Councillor S. A. Webb, Councillor K. J. May

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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
Council response to Local Plan Consultations; Birmingham Development Plan, South Staffordshire Local Plan and South Worcestershire Development Plan <b>Key: No</b>	Cabinet 13 Mar 2024  Council 15 May 2024		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Tel: 01527 881325  Councillor K. Taylor
District Heat Network Revisions <b>Key: Yes</b>	Cabinet 13 Mar 2024		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3284  Councillor C. A. Hotham, Councillor P. J. Whittaker

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Finance and Performance Quarter 3 Monitoring Report 2023/24 <b>Key: Yes</b>	Cabinet 13 Mar 2024  Council 15 May 2024	This report may contain exempt information which would need to be considered in private session.	Report of the Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252  Councillor C. A. Hotham
Finance and Performance Outturn Report 2023/24 <b>Key: No</b>	Cabinet Not before 1st Jun 2024  Council Not before 1st Jun 2024		Report of the Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252  Councillor C. A. Hotham

## **Explanation of items on the Cabinet Forward Plan**

### **1. Bromsgrove Centres Action Plan Review 2024-25**

The review of the action plan on managing the eight Bromsgrove District town/village centres. The Bromsgrove Centres Strategy and Action Plan for 2023-2026 was approved in January 2023 and 2024 is the first review year.

### **2. Bromsgrove Play Audit and Investment Strategy**

A review of all play areas in the District, including an accessibility assessment and identification of gaps in provision. The play audit will consider how future play provision could be designed to improve the overall accessibility of play provision and address any gaps.

### **3. Cost of Living Funding Proposal**

To consider a pot of money sat in earmarked reserves to be used towards a Cost-of-Living initiative. This would be to support residents who need extra support to manage with the recent increases in daily costs including food, rents, mortgages and utility costs.

Please note that an initial report for this item will go to Cabinet Working Group as a strategic item in the first instance, and then to the Leaders Group, for a decision on whether this report will be brought forward as a Cabinet report.

### **4. Council response to Local Plan Consultations; Birmingham Development Plan, South Staffordshire Local Plan and South Worcestershire Development Plan**

The Council's response to consultations on the local plans (development plans) of Birmingham, South Staffordshire and South Worcestershire authorities.

### **5. District Heat Network Revisions**

Due to technological changes to how District Heat Networks operate, to consider a revised delivery model to that initially agreed by Council.

### **6. Finance and Performance Quarter 3 Monitoring Report 2023/24**

To provide a current financial position in relation to Revenue and Capital Budgets for the period October to December 2023 (2023-24). The report also provides a position on the organisational performance measures, as of Quarter 3 (up to end of December 2023).

### **7. Finance and Performance Outturn Report 2023/24**

The report to update members on the Council's 2023/24 outturn (achieved) financial and performance position in 2023-24.

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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

### WORK PROGRAMME

2023-2024

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board considers and agrees the updated work programme.

#### ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Governance Systems Review – Implementation Progress Update (Standing Item)	
	Task and Working Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
	Notice of Motion – Request for Overview and Scrutiny to Investigate – Impact of Heatwaves	Councillor M. Marshall
	Playing Pitch Strategy – pre-scrutiny	Jonathan Cochrane, Development Services Manager
	Levelling Up Funding Update – pre-scrutiny	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy Chief Executive & Section 151 Officer
	Termination of Shared Service Arrangement: North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration – pre-scrutiny	Guy Revans, Executive Director (Interim)
	Libraries Unlocked – Worcestershire County Council Presentation	Carol Brown, Head of Libraries and Archives, Worcestershire County Council
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Task and Working Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
	6-month Review of Progress in Implementation of Hybrid Leader and Cabinet Governance System	Chairman of the Board Monitoring Officer
	Bromsgrove Play Audit and Investment Strategy – pre-scrutiny	Ishrat Karimi-Fini, Cultural Services and Parks Manager
	North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership – Annual Review of Work in 2022-23	Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager

# Agenda Item 12

	Bromsgrove Centres Action Plan Review 2024/25 – pre-scrutiny	Lyndsey Berry, Bromsgrove Centres Manager
15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Overview and Scrutiny Board – Recommendation Tracker for 2023-24	Chairman of the Board
	Overview and Scrutiny Board – Annual Report 2023-2024	Chairman of the Board
	Governance Systems Review – Implementation Progress Update (Standing Item)	
	Task and Working Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
	Council’s Biodiversity Policy – including auditing arrangements	Officer TBC
TBC	Cost of Living Funding Proposal – pre-scrutiny	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services
Scheduled for discussion on 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	<p>Notice of Motion agreed by Full Council on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024</p> <p><i>That the Overview and Scrutiny be asked to undertake a review of how to take immediate action to educate and equip residents for impending heatwaves made more likely by climate change. This will include awareness campaigns, distributing guidelines and establishing cooling centres to ensure the community’s safety and well-being during future extreme temperature events.</i></p>	Councillor M. Marshall