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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2025

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, D. J. Nicholl, S. A. Robinson 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 9th December 2024 (Pages 5 - 14)**
4. **North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (Including Anti-Social Behaviour) (Pages 15 - 70)**
5. **The Basement Project (Aims of grant funding) (Pages 71 - 90)**

6. **Refuse Fleet Replacement and Wheeled Bin Pressures (Pre-Scrutiny)**
(Pages 91 - 100)
7. **Introduction of Food Waste Collection (Pre-Scrutiny)** (Pages 101 - 110)
8. **Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Update**
(Pages 111 - 112)
9. **Finance and Budget Working Group - Update**
10. **Task Group - Update**
11. **Cabinet Work Programme** (To follow)

The next edition of the Cabinet Work Programme is due to be published on 2nd January 2025, which will be after publication of the main agenda for the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting. Therefore, the Cabinet Work Programme will be published in a supplementary pack for this meeting.

12. **Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme** (Pages 113 - 114)
13. **Overview and Scrutiny Action Sheet** (Pages 115 - 118)
14. **To consider any urgent business, details of which have been notified to the Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services prior to the commencement of the meeting and which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.**

Sue Hanley
Chief Executive

Parkside
Market Street
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B61 8DA

23rd December 2024

**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
Sarah Woodfield**

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**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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Notes:

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

9TH DECEMBER 2024, AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: 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, J. D. Stanley, D. J. Nicholl and J. Robinson (Substitute)

Observers: Councillor K. J. May - Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships and Enabling
Councillor B. M. McEldowney - Cabinet Member of Leisure and Climate Change
Councillor K. Taylor – Cabinet Member for Planning, Licensing and WRS

Officers: Mrs. S. Hanley, Ms. N Cummings, Mrs. R. Bamford, Mr. M. Dunphy, Ms. M. Worsfold, Ms Karimi Fini, Mr. M. Sliwinski and Mrs S. Woodfield

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor S.A. Robinson.

It was noted that Councillor J.W. Robinson was a substitute member for Councillor S.A. Robinson.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS

No declarations of interest were received nor of any whipping arrangements.

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BROMSGROVE PLAY AUDIT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY - PRE-SCRUTINY

The Assistant Director of Planning and Leisure Services presented the Bromsgrove Play Audit and Investment Strategy report to the Board as detailed below:

- The report set out a factual analysis of the play equipment within the District, detailing Council owned sites, location and who managed the specific areas.

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- The Play Audit and Investment Strategy sought to address deficiencies in play provision across the District, allowing all households, where reasonably practicable, to have access to good quality play spaces within walking times of up to 10 to 15 minutes.
- Responding to the recommendations in the Leisure and Culture Strategy for Bromsgrove, a detailed Play Audit and Investment Strategy had been completed with costings also included.
- There were currently 85 play areas across the District. A total of 40 were owned and managed by Bromsgrove District Council, the other 45 were owned and managed by other Organisations including Parish Councils, Community Associations and private Management Companies. The Bromsgrove Play Audit which considered the accessibility of play provision, considered the contribution of all 85 play spaces. The Bromsgrove Play Investment Strategy was focused on the 40 play spaces for which Bromsgrove District Council had responsibility.
- The formation of the Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) provided some useful discussions including the condition of play areas, approaching “end of life”. As instructed by CAG, Officers carried out a public consultation, with a useful session being held with the Consultant to discuss Foxgrove Way in more detail.
- The Assistant Director of Planning and Leisure Services concluded the presentation, adding that the analysis had been useful to define the location, condition and the work that was required for the play equipment. It was also fundamental that decisions regarding funding should be done in a controlled and managed way. S106 contributions would also be a factor when allocating the appropriate funding.

During consideration of the item, Members discussed a number of points:

- Members expressed the view that it was disappointing the Consultant was not present for the meeting. – It was advised that the consultancy was relatively small and specialised but that the matter would be addressed.
- It was also queried why consultancy was necessary for the project. – It was explained that there had been an opportunity for funding through salary savings. Various recommendations from Cabinet had been set in terms of the leisure strategy and required completion within short timescales.
- Members discussed that the CAG sessions had been productive and demonstrated that the forums were beneficial.

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- It was queried how the assessments had been carried out, in particular, with regard to the number of households in the District, having accessibility to play areas within a walking time of up to 10 to 15 minutes. Members also expressed the view that the quality of the equipment should have been more of a consideration over the distance it took to access the area. - Members were advised that accessibility has been cross referenced with demographic health data including Inherited Metabolic Diseases (IMD), Health Deprivation and Disability with the population aged 12 and under including child obesity.
- The Board also queried if the necessary British and European Standards had been considered in significant detail, in particular, concerning the critical fall height. – It was advised that The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) guidance determined the adequate fall height. Officers agreed to obtain an official guidance and report back to Members as an action.
- The Members expressed the need to review areas with no play area provision also as part of the assessment.
- The Board discussed areas being reviewed at a late stage in the process and expressed the view, could run the risk of losing its provision, particularly, if the play area were deemed to be unsafe. – The Board was advised that some areas were being reviewed later as they were not considered an urgent issue and would be the subject of a public consultation.
- Members queried if the review standards were considered nationally acceptable? – Members were informed that there were national standards for what was considered acceptable and unacceptable.
- The Board queried The Play Audit and Investment Strategy which set out an approach that would improve the accessibility of play provision so that 82.5% of households (baseline 81.7%) in the District had access to a play space within a walking time of up to 10 to 15 minutes. Members expressed their view that the statistics within the report were not considered adequate. – It was noted that the review considered walking distance, quality and also in areas where improvements were required. Some areas were also being converted from local to neighbourhood play areas.
- The capital funding bids timeframe was also considered, suggesting that Officers provided Ward Councillors with the necessary paperwork to assist with the process. – Members were advised that finances had been set aside but if the specified period lapsed, Officers would be required to discuss funding with the Board through the budget setting process to request the necessary monies. Members were also advised that there was a

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specific form which required completion for requests of capital spending.

- Typographical errors were discussed for the All Play Provision by Ward document. Officers sought to amend the necessary information.
- Members discussed play areas not being considered for upgrading for 1-3 years. It was queried if a business case could be considered to look at profiling and sequencing some areas? – The Chief Executive informed the Board that the finance and funding for the review (Tranche 1) had already been considered. Tranche 2 was for consideration in the new year and that further proposals could be reviewed at that point.
- The Board also discussed the population forecasts which were shown as out of date. With the new local plan which would be a necessary consideration, would the Council be Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) compliant? – Members were advised that Funds were collected from the Developer to pay for work on development sites and that legislation governed that process.
- Members also queried if it could be a consideration for Parish Councils to get access to funding to provide a fairer and more equitable process. – It was advised that Parish Councils could apply for the necessary funding, although they had not had a comprehensive presentation but communications were in progress.
- It was also queried how the consultancy fees had been calculated? – The Board was advised that an agreement with the Consultant to pay on an hourly rate was discussed to better manage the costs, based on extra works and scrutiny.
- The Board also queried how some areas were being measured which were not being replaced or reviewed for a significant period? – Members were asked to note that some areas were planned for larger play area or neighbourhood play areas.
- Members also queried if there would be any additional consultancy costs if work has not been carried out correctly? – It was advised that the brief set had been met and had not been carried out incorrectly. Members expressed the view that some had not been given the opportunity to review the brief and would have been helpful to review prior to the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting. - The Leader of the Council informed Members that the brief was discussed and reviewed during CAG meetings with the consultant and it was thought that all Members had been briefed accordingly.

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- The Leader of the Council expressed the view that an audit for Parish Council play area provision should be carried out and for transparency and scrutiny, be reviewed through the Finance and Budget Working Group.
- Members also queried if, as part of the assessment process, there could be more consideration to the quality of the play areas.
– It was advised Officers would be working through improvements as part of the review.
- It was also discussed by the Board if CAG could consider as part of their process, review combining some areas to save money in the long term.
- The Chairman queried why some calculations in the report were unspecified ie the use of 10/15 minutes. – It was noted that it was deemed acceptable for residents to walk to a larger play area, for example.
- Members also requested that the wording for Belbroughton and Romsley Ward documentation in the report be reviewed and amended accordingly. Officers agreed to review this as an action.

Also during consideration of the item, an amendment to number 2) recommendation was proposed by Councillor R. Hunter. The recommendation was:

“That the approach to capital investment as presented in, The Bromsgrove Play Audit and Investment Strategy (Appendix 2) is accepted and that officers are requested to prepare bids *in consultation with Ward Members* for capital funding, as applicable, to be considered in due course and in the context of other funding bids”.

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor R. Hunter and seconded by Councillor D. Nicholl.

The Board agreed to endorse the proposed change to the wording of the Bromsgrove Play Audit and Investment Strategy recommendation.

RECOMMENDED that

The Cabinet RESOLVE that:-

- 1) The approach to improve the accessibility of equipped children’s play as presented in the Bromsgrove Play Assessment (Appendix 1) is adopted.
- 2) That the approach to capital investment as presented in, The Bromsgrove Play Audit and Investment Strategy (Appendix 2) is accepted and that officers are requested to prepare bids in consultation

with Ward Members for capital funding, as applicable, to be considered in due course and in the context of other funding bids.

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BROMSGROVE LOCAL HERITAGE LIST - PRE-SCRUTINY

The Principal Conservation Officer presented the Bromsgrove Local Heritage List to Members and discussed the following:

- The report updated Members on the tasks which were undertaken by the Conservation Team to prepare the Bromsgrove Local Heritage List (LHL). Work for the Parishes of Alvechurch, Beoley, Belbroughton and Fairfield and Dodford with Grafton had been completed and Members were being asked to recommend to Council that the final version of the lists be approved. The report also gave an update of progress for other areas within the District.
- Draft lists for Alvechurch, Beoley, Belbroughton and Fairfield and Dodford with Grafton Parishes were compiled earlier in the year, ready for consultation. The lists would add 140 properties to the draft LHL, covering a diverse range of properties including houses, schools, village halls, places of worship and canal infrastructure.
- A six-week consultation period had commenced on Monday 27th May 2024. Letters were sent to all owners/occupiers providing information about the consultation, including the listing for their property.
- Conservation Officers had attended conservation events in village halls for each parish. Information on the LHL was made available and Conservation Officers answered questions accordingly.
- Following completion of the Consultation process and having considered all the comments received, the LHL for each parish was finalised. The Conservation Team were asking Cabinet to recommend that Council approve the LHL list which would then be a material consideration in the planning process.
- Work was continuing with the lists for Bromsgrove Town and the parishes of Lickey and Blackwell and Wythall. In relation to Bromsgrove Town, a meeting had been held with the History Group of the Bromsgrove Society.
- The Conservation Team had also reviewed better use of the GIS and databases to digitise as much of the process as possible for efficiency and to pre-empt changes likely to flow from the corporate GIS strategy.
- The new Conservation Officer had commenced work on Bournheath Parish. The work for Wythall and Bromsgrove, subject to the input from the Bromsgrove Society, was nearer

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completion. Work on Lickey and Blackwell had been delayed due to the Principal Conservation Officer responding to the consultation on the first four parishes. Relevant Officers were proposed to go out to consultation and then moving onto preparing another tranche of draft lists.

Following the presentation Members thanked the Conservation Team for the tasks undertaken to prepare the Bromsgrove Local Heritage List (LHL), noting that it was positive that some areas of the District were getting recognition.

RECOMMENDED that

The Cabinet RECOMMEND that:-

- 1) The Local Heritage List at Appendix 1 for the following parishes is adopted.
Alvechurch
Beoley
Belbroughton and Fairfield
Dodford with Grafton
- 2) The wording of the Officer Scheme of Delegations for the Local Heritage List be updated as set on in Appendix 2.
- 3) The amended Local Heritage List Strategy set out at Appendix 3 be approved.

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TO CONSIDER ANY URGENT BUSINESS, DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED TO THE HEAD OF LEGAL, DEMOCRATIC AND PROPERTY SERVICES PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING AND WHICH THE CHAIRMAN, BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, CONSIDERS TO BE OF SO URGENT A NATURE THAT IT CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.

There was no urgent business for consideration.

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CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Work Programme was discussed by the Board as follows:

- The Democratic Services Officer informed Members of an addition to the Cabinet Work Programme, since the last Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting with Bin Replacements being considered by Cabinet on 7th January 2025.
- The Board agreed to the proposal made by the Chairman that the Food Waste Business Case and Associated Waste Related Issues item, to be considered by Cabinet on 7th January 2025, be pre-scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 6th January 2025.

- A Member requested that the Cabinet Membership be reviewed and amended on the Cabinet Work Programme. Officers agreed to action the request accordingly.
- Members queried why an Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendation meeting was being held when a pay review was imminent. - Members were advised that the item was an annual review, in advance of the municipal year.
- The Bromsgrove District Plan Consultation key decision was discussed. Members expressed the view that there should be a full consultation carried out with public engagement being part of the formal process. – It was advised by the Chief Executive that the purpose of the report was to enable Officers to go out to consultation. The report would be prepared with options for Council and Cabinet to agree the basis of the consultation and would also be available for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to consider the report prior to Council and Cabinet review. Members also expressed the view that the consultation period was considered short and that an effective consultation period was required. The Leader of the Council advised Members that timeframes would be considered based on Government policy.

RESOLVED that the content of the Cabinet Work Programme be noted as per the preamble above.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Board work programme was considered by Members.

The Democratic Services Officer agreed to add the Food Waste Business Case and Associated Waste Related Issues to the Work Programme, to be pre-scrutinised by the Board on 6th January 2025.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be noted.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTION SHEET

The Democratic Services Officer informed Members of two additions to the Cabinet Work Programme, since the last Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting which were as follows:

- The repainting of the lampposts in Windsor Street for the Levelling Up project would be commencing in the Spring/Summer 2025 (weather permitting).
- The review of wording in the report regarding Climate Change Implications for the Levelling Up project would be implemented in future reports.

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RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board Action sheet be noted.

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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 items of business on the grounds that they involve 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>
10	3

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TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2024

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 19th November 2024 were considered.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 19th November 2024 be agreed as a true and correct record.

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

Chairman

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Overview & Scrutiny Board

To: Overview & Scrutiny Board

From:
Service Area:
Contact:

Bev Houghton
Community Safety
01527 64252 Ext 3194

CC: Cllr Peter Whittaker – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services & Community Safety
Sue Hanley – Chief Executive & Chair of NWCSP
Judith Willis – Head of Community & Housing Services

Review of the work of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership from March 2024 to December 2024

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) for the period March 2024 to December 2024.

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 co-ordinate the work of the Partnership are employed by 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 Councillor Peter Whittaker, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Community Safety. Sue Hanley, the Council's Chief Executive is the Chair of NWCSP and Judith Willis, Head of Community & Housing Services acts as the BDC Responsible Authority representative on the Partnership. The Council's Community Safety Manager, Bev Houghton provides co-ordination 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 Councillor Helen Jones. The most recent West Mercia PCP meeting was held on 6th November 2024 and

the agenda and associated papers of the meeting can be accessed here:
[West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Wednesday, 6th November, 2024 11.00 am](#)

3. Current Position

3.1 North Worcestershire CSP Plan 2024 - 27

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. This is identified through an annual strategic assessment which is based on research, evidence and intelligence from national, regional and local sources.

At its planning meeting in February 2024, the NWCSP reviewed and agreed its new priorities for the following three-year period. The Partnership Plan sets out the priorities that the CSP will focus on for a 3-year period, with an annual refresh to capture any emerging issues and trends. The NWCSP priorities for period April 2024 to March 2027 are : -

- **Public Place Violence & the Serious Violence Duty**
- **ASB, Nuisance and Environmental Issues**
- **Shoplifting and Neighbourhood Crime: Neighbourhood Crime is defined as domestic burglary, robbery (against the individual/household), theft from a person and vehicle crime.**
- **Protecting Vulnerable Communities including Hate Crime & Targeted Harassment, Domestic Abuse & DHRs and Sexual Violence**
- **Serious Organised Crime via a Joint Action Group (SOCJAG)**

Alongside these local priorities NWCSP works closely with South Worcestershire CSP, through the countywide Safer Communities Board (SCB), to identify and address countywide issues. Through Worcestershire SCB, the two statutory CSPs collaborate on key countywide projects and initiatives to ensure district area input and delivery is considered and implemented. These Worcestershire-wide activities and interventions include:-

- Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
- Prevent Strategy Group [Counter Terrorism]
- Protect (& Prepare) Board [Counter Terrorism]
- Safeguarding Children Partnership & GETSAFE [Child Exploitation]
- Adult Safeguarding Partnership & Adult Exploitation Group
- Reducing Reoffending Group & Integrated Offender Management
- Substance Misuse Oversight Group / Combatting Drugs Partnership

3.2 John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

First elected in 2016, John Campion was re-elected for a third term as West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in May 2024. The PCC has a duty to co-operate with all CSPs in his geographical area to reduce crime and disorder; and there is a reciprocal duty on CSPs to collaborate with the PCC. Both bodies must have due regard for each other's priorities within their

respective plans. Following re-election the PCC consulted on his new Police and Crime plan for the next four years and the West Mercia Safer Communities Plan, published in November 2024, can be read here: - [Police and Crime Plan - West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner](#)

At a West Mercia PCP meeting on 25th July, Marc Bayliss was re-confirmed as the Deputy PCC after first taking up the role in September 2022. NWCSP works closely with the Deputy PCC and the OPCC Team via a West Mercia Crime Reduction Board and the CSPs are actively involved in the West Mercia PCC's commissioning model for crime reduction activity. Over the last few years this model has seen more funding being provided at a West Mercia force level to deliver activities in key thematic areas.

Established force-wide commissioning areas include the co-ordination of Crime & ASB Data Analysis support for the five West Mercia CSPs, consolidation of funding for Integrated Offender Management across the force area, activity to address rural, business and cyber-crime and the force-wide commissioning of victim's services such as Crimestoppers, Victim Support and most recently force area activities to raise awareness of Hate Crime interventions.

In 2023-24 new funding was made available by the Home Office via PCCs to support Community Safety partners in **Implementing the Serious Violence Duty**. As a CSP member, the Council has requirements in regard of the Serious Violence Duty as laid out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022. In statutory guidance published in June 2023, the Act outlined how key specified authorities (of which the Council is one) should exercise their functions in relation to the Duty and the Home Office allocated limited funding to all policing areas to support this process.

The statutory guidance sets out how specified authorities should work together to deliver the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) in order to prevent and reduce serious violence within a defined area. In preparation for the full requirements of the PCSC Act, Partners agreed that local co-ordination of SVD activities would be delivered at a countywide level, with the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board and the two statutory Community Safety Partnerships in the North and South of Worcestershire working together to address Serious Violence.

Home Office funding allocations for SVD interventions in Worcestershire totalled **£50,599** and the definition of Serious Violence that all West Mercia partners are operating under can be found in **Appendix 1**. Details of the Youth Violence Intervention project that NWCSP and SWCSP have implemented using the Home Office SVD grant for Worcestershire are also provided.

3.3 NWCSP Ring-Fenced Grant from the PCC 2024-25

Alongside the PCC's force-wide commissioning, NWCSP is allocated an annual ring-fenced amount from the PCC of £139,250 to identify and address

local issues at a district level. The details of the NWCSP agreed project allocation for 2024/25 can be found in **Appendix 1**.

The progress of these local 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.

In addition to the annual ring-fenced grant, the PCC also allocated additional Safer Communities funding to NWCSP. This funding has been allocated by the Partnership to complement the ring-fenced grant and address identified issues that are of most concern and/or are having a detrimental effect on our local communities. Details of this additional one-off funding allocated by NWCSP is outlined in the annual NWCSP Project Review in **Appendix 1**.

3.4 District 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 a multi-agency partnership chaired by officers in the Community Safety Team and the activities and interventions of the group are supported by Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams, wider Community Safety partners and other council service areas such as Place Teams, Planning and WRS.

Alongside supporting the CSP sub-groups, the Community Safety Team also monitor and respond directly to local community safety issues, co-ordinating operational delivery with partners. The team is often a first point of contact for residents and community groups with concerns about local crime and disorder issues and officers are able to call upon other community safety partners when solutions to these concerns require a multi-agency response.

Community Safety Project Officers David Rischmiller and (until Sept 2024) Sarah McIntosh work on behalf of the Council and NWCSP, delivering a variety of community safety projects and initiatives across Bromsgrove District. 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. The annual CSP Project Review at **Appendix 1** provides a more detailed update on the key community safety project activity that has taken place from March 2024 to date.

3.5 Use of ASB Legislation, Problem Solving and Partner Engagement

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 Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel.

Use of ASB Tools and Powers

WRS – ASB Enforcement on behalf of Planning and Environmental Services

At Executive on 9th January 2024 it was recommended that a Business case be pursued with the intention to bring together the enforcement functions within Environmental Services and Planning to be delivered within the Shared Regulatory Service provided by WRS. This includes a number of enforcement functions which previously formed part of the reporting of the use of ASB Tools & Powers to Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel.

Since the new arrangements came into effect on the 1st June the team have been setting up systems and recruiting staff. Two Flytipping investigations have been conducted for waste found in Bromsgrove Central and in Belbroughton and a Littering offence is also being investigated.

West Mercia Police-led ASB Activity

West Mercia Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams work in close partnership with a range of agencies to reduce the impact of Anti-Social Behaviour. To illustrate this the District Police Inspector has provided a brief report giving an overview of Police-led ASB and crime actions to date at **Appendix 2**.

Community Safety Team Interventions

There have been no ASB case reviews in the period March 2024 to Dec 2024. However an application has recently forwarded to a resident who is expected to request a case review regarding harassment from a neighbour.

In the absence of a dedicated ASB Team the Community Safety Team have been asked to provide support and interventions in respect of a number of local ASB issues. These Include:

Clent Hills: support and advice provided to National Trust staff and Police in addressing fly tipping, nuisance loitering and drugs activity.

Lickey Hills: support and advice given to the Police and the Golf Club in respect of off-road vehicle misuse including designing out crime recommendations.

Hagley: support provided to a vulnerable resident whose horses and stables had been damaged by ASB.

Rubery: support given to a resident who was in dispute with her neighbour over a Japanese Knotweed infestation utilising ASB tools and powers to resolve.

Town Centre: a particular group of young people were causing substantial ASB in the town centre, ASB intervention work with the Police, retailers and the youth hub is ongoing, and the problem is reducing.

The team also routinely provide advice and support to partner agencies such as BDHT and the Police in the practical use of ASB tools and powers such as Community Protection Warnings and Notices.

Calls to the Community Safety Team for service and support

The team receive a number of calls for advice and assistance from other council service areas and partner agencies requiring expertise and advice in problem solving processes in order to implement Crime & Disorder and ASB prevention measures. Often these community safety interventions assist in resolving long-standing complex issues and cases.

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

Between March 2024 and December 2024, the Community Safety Team received multiple requests for service in Bromsgrove and these are categorised as below:-

- 15 requests from Residents
- 10 requests from Elected Members
- 28 requests from Partner Agencies
- 13 Requests from internal council services

Requests for service related to the following Community Safety and ASB themes and whilst the Community Safety Team does not provide an ASB service, Project Officers will receive several requests for support because callers do not know where else to turn. The number of requests do not add up exactly as there are often multiple issues contained in a single request.

36 requests regarding **ASB issues** were received in the period between March 2024 to date including:

- 2 ASB related to inappropriate use of motorbikes.
- 3 ASB related to neighbourhood issues
- 3 ASB related to noise nuisance
- 1 ASB related to dogs
- 10 ASB related to youth ASB
- 2 ASB related to abandoned vehicles
- 2 ASB related to road safety
- 1 ASB related to inconsiderate parking
- 3 ASB related to drugs/cannabis smell
- 9 ASB related to other general ASB issues

15 requests regarding **Community Safety / Crime Risk issues** included:

1 request for a Crime Prevention Survey regarding CCTV replacement and enhancement at independent living complex

1 request for a Crime Prevention Survey regarding youth ASB

1 request to attend Multi-Agency meeting regarding litter

3 requests to attend Multi-Agency meeting regarding complex neighbourhood issues

1 request for a multi-agency meeting regarding taxi service tensions

1 request for support to a joint Trading Standards operation on rogue traders

9 requests for site visit regarding vulnerable resident

1 request for a site visit regarding ASB in a small park area

1 request for a site visit and assessment of lighting on a footpath route

1 request for site visit regarding drugs

1 request for site visit regarding inconsiderate parking

6 requests for site visits regarding youth ASB

5 requests related to the Nominated Neighbour scheme to address doorstep crime

29 calls for service were signposted to other departments or specific advice was provided.

3.6 Communications and Social Media Campaigns

The Community Safety Team has supported various national and local campaigns in the period from March 2024 to date, promoting key community safety messages and the work of NWCSP. Projects that are directly led by the Community Safety Team such as the Respect Programme, Nominated Neighbour and Hate Incident Reporting are regularly promoted.

This year a new Community Hero Initiative was organised by the Community Safety Partnership to recognise the work of Bromsgrove communities and individuals in addressing ASB. The requests for nominations and the subsequent award ceremony were promoted widely on social media and in local press. The ceremony took place the 11th July and more details about the winners at the event can be found at **Appendix 3**.

The National ASB Awareness week campaign took place between 18th–24th Nov 2024 when publicity and communications around the Community Hero Awards was re-visited and shared again as part of that campaign as well as targeted youth patrols and a campaign of daily ASB messaging through social media channels.

A number of other national campaigns were also supported throughout the reporting period, including:-

Young Citizens Challenge

Loan Shark Awareness

Drowning Prevention Week

Child Exploitation Awareness Day
International Women's Day
Personal and community safety work with students in schools
Nominated Neighbour - raising awareness of the tactics of rogue traders
Supporting the Pride Month events across North Worcestershire
Operation Sceptre and other Knife Crime awareness events and activities carried out by the Police
International Human Rights Day
Delivering talks about Home Security and Scams to resident and community groups.

Community Safety Project Officers were also involved in number of local partner events and community engagements throughout spring and summer, providing crime prevention and community safety information and materials. These included:

Supporting Police Operation Forefront in Rubery and Hagley - March 2024
Charford School Community Day - July 2024
Woodrush Wellbeing Fayre – July 2024
Parkside Middle School Drop-Down Day – July 2024
Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station Open Day – July 2024
BDHT Fun Days – August 2024
Personal Safety Events in Bromsgrove Town Centre and Rubery – Sept 2024
Freshers Fair at Bromsgrove College - Sept 2024
Bromsgrove MP's Pensioners Fair - Nov 2024

The team supported and promoted the National White Ribbon campaign aimed at preventing violence against women and girls which ran from 25th November to 10th December. A partnership stand was held on the 27th November at ASDA Supermarket also supported by the Police, Domestic Abuse support agencies and volunteers.

All of these events were widely promoted to local residents through the Councils media accounts, CSP social media and the local press.

The main social media platform used by Bromsgrove Community Safety is X (formally Twitter) using **@SaferBromsgrove** for local issues, **@nworccsp** (across North Worcestershire) and **@NWHateIncident** (for hate crime awareness projects and campaigns). The Community Safety Partnership's work is also shared widely via the Councils' own Facebook pages.

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, the Starting Well Partnership, BDHT, GETSAFE, Bromsgrove Pub Watch, Women's Aid, HW Fire & Rescue Service and West Mercia Police.

Community Safety awareness messages and projects are also promoted via the 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 the NWCSP website at [North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership \(nwcsp.org\)](http://NorthWorcestershireCommunitySafetyPartnership(nwcsp.org))

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that the progress made by North Worcestershire CSP be noted.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1: NWCSP Project Review for 2024 – Presentation

Appendix 2: Police SNT update on ASB & Crime actions

Appendix 3: ASB Community Heroes Awards

6. Background Papers

West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - [Committee details - West Mercia Police and Crime Panel - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](http://Committeedetails-WestMerciaPoliceandCrimePanel-WorcestershireCountyCouncil(moderngov.co.uk))

PCC's West Mercia Safer Communities Plan - [Police and Crime Plan - West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner](http://PoliceandCrimePlan-WestMerciaPoliceCrimeCommissioner)

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North Worcestershire **Community Safety Partnership**

Community Safety Partnership Review

March 2024 to December 2024

Bev Houghton
Community Safety Manager
bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

NWCSP Responsible Authorities

- **West Mercia Police**
- **Bromsgrove District Council**
- **Redditch Borough Council**
- **Wyre Forest District Council**
- **Worcestershire County Council**
- **Herefordshire and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service**
- **The Probation Service**
- **Redditch, Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest – Integrated Care Board
(replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups)**

Serious Violence Definition

Following consultation and discussion, this definition has been agreed by all five Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to represent serious violence within the counties of Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.

West Mercia's definition of Serious Violence:

Violence, both physical and sexual, causing lasting psychological or physical harm, or where lasting harm was intended. This includes offences where there is an inherent threat of physical harm, such as county lines or offences involving use of an offensive weapon, blade or pointed article or any corrosive substance.

To include:

- Violence with injury resulting in serious harm, with a threshold of Section 20 GBH
- Homicide including attempt murder
- Serious sexual harm – rape and sexual assaults
- Robbery
- Violence, including threats and aggravated offences, involving use of an offensive weapon, blade or pointed article or any corrosive substance
- Violence, including threats and aggravated offences, involving use of a firearm
- Offences with a county lines marker
- Violence with injury marked as domestic abuse
- Violence with injury marked as hate crime
- Modern slavery offences

Worcestershire Serious Youth Violence Project

Using Serious Violence Duty funding allocated to Worcestershire, NWCSP and SWCSP have commissioned the West Midlands youth mentoring and support organisation “The Right Path” to deliver intensive 1:1 mentoring that is specifically designed to support and guide young people who are at greater risk criminalisation, those not accessing education and those at risk of permanent exclusion.

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The project operates on a referral basis and details of the service has been circulated widely to Community Safety partners, schools and youth organisations across Worcestershire.



www.therightpath.org.uk

Worcestershire Serious Youth Violence Project

THE RIGHT Outcomes

#THERIGHTPATH

The RightPath offers a variety of interventions that help young people achieve the following:

- **How** to Build & Sustain Healthy Relationships
- **Awareness** of Actions & Consequences
- **Improve** Self Esteem & Confidence
- **Enhance** Social & Emotional Wellbeing
- **Raise** Aspirations
- **Improve** Levels of Academic Engagement
- **Increase** Awareness & Understanding of Exploitation
- **Reduce** At Risk Behaviours
- **Develop** Emotional Intelligence & Literacy

NWCSP Core Funding - 2024/25

Area of Benefit	PCC Grant
West Mercia CSP Analyst Team (Top Sliced)	£20,000
West Mercia Integrated Offender Mgt. (Top Sliced)	£ 1,000
West Mercia Hate Crime Project (Top Sliced)	£10,838
Bromsgrove Youth Outreach	£13,000
Bromsgrove Tasking Projects	£11,472
Redditch Youth Outreach	£17,000
Redditch Tasking Projects	£12,470
Wyre Forest Detached Youth Team	£15,000
Wyre Forest Tasking Projects	£16,470
NW Domestic Homicide Reviews, DA Projects including the 'Cut it Out' Initiative	£22,000
Total	£139,250

PCC Safer Communities Fund 2024/25

Additional Funding for Bromsgrove

Project	Amount
<p>Bromsgrove & Redditch Domestic Abuse Recovery & Support Project:</p> <p>Will commission a Research professional to undertake a local mapping exercise and gap analysis in Bromsgrove and Redditch; identifying what local Domestic Abuse services are available, how accessible they are particularly for diverse and minority communities and any geographical areas where additional support is required. In return for this engagement, small pots of funding will be made available for local grassroots organisations that run Domestic Abuse support activities and interventions for victims and survivors at a neighbourhood level.</p>	<p>£33,334</p>
<p>Bromsgrove & Redditch Small Area Improvement Project:</p> <p>Funding will be provided for local areas defined at LSOA level that require, environmental and structural changes to reduce crime risks. Each area identified will be assessed using Designing out Crime principles and then a variety of target hardening, and crime prevention interventions will be implemented in each local area. Initial scanning of crime and ASB data will identify the LSOAs that will be prioritised for interventions with approximately £10,000 per area allocated to deliver a series of meaningful neighbourhood improvements.</p>	<p>£33,333</p>

Safer Bromsgrove – CSP Funding 2023/24

Funded Projects	Amount
<p>Bromsgrove Youth Outreach The CSP grant allocation for Youthwork was opened to applications through the Children and Young People Providers group for projects to support crime prevention/reduction activities, improving the personal safety of young people and reducing the risk of exploitation. The successful applicants were:-</p> <p>Woodrush Youth & Community Centre - £4,000 The Hub: Valuing Young People - £5,000 Catshill Games Hub - £3,702</p>	<p>£13,000</p>
<p>Safer Bromsgrove Tasking Fund The CSP grant allocation for Safer Bromsgrove was opened to applications from partners for specific projects that address the Partnership’s priorities. The successful application was:-</p> <p>R.U.N project and Inspiring Futures programme for survivors of Domestic Abuse - £5,167</p> <p>There was also a contribution to 2 x Knife Arch / Poles for use at operations and interventions to tackle serious violence, knife crime and county line. This will now provide a mobile Knife Detection facility in each area within the NWCSP areas - £6,750</p>	<p>£11,472</p>

Community Safety Project Updates

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March 2024 to December 2024

Agenda Item 4

Redeployable Camera Scheme

Since figures were last provided in March 2024, there have been 5 new applications for the use of redeployable cameras in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest which are currently pending further information or actions to support installation. There are 15 current deployments of cameras across the three district areas.

The CCTV Team always look to find ways to approve an application when it is received and reasons why installations do not progress include:

No suitable mounting/power source/point available

Significant privacy concerns

- RIPA required

- The requirement for camera is no longer an issue since the application was submitted.

Applications that are successful are installed to combat ASB, drug taking, vehicle crime and vandalism.

Before each camera is installed a consultation document is posted to all surrounding properties covered by the proposed camera view. Consultation responses were invited through a press release and social media however the response to these consultations is typically minimal.

Redeployable CCTV

Current Deployments in Bromsgrove

No.	Location	Installation Date	Proposed Removal Date
903	Sidemoor - King George Play Area	14/05/2024	02/09/2024
910	Rubery - Brook Road Park. Rear of Rea Avenue	24/05/2024	02/09/2024
901	Catshill - Stourbridge Road to Milton Road Footpath (Stourbridge Rd end)	05/07/2024	27/09/2024
907	Catshill - Milton Road play area ('Birdcage')	05/07/2024	27/09/2024

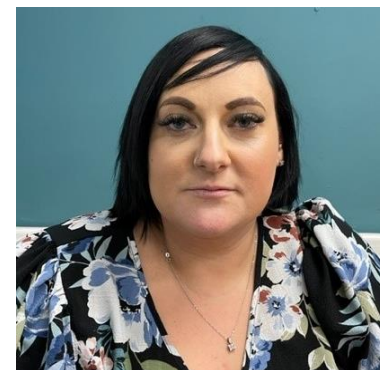


The Respect Programme provides community safety awareness sessions as part of school PHSE drop down days and bespoke classroom sessions on several subjects such as recognising and reporting hate crime, understanding healthy relationships/domestic abuse, the dangers of substance misuse and promoting respect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

2024 sees the cohort that the Respect Programme works with expand further. The team receive between 40 to 60 referrals each half term, with our youth mentors holding around 200 open cases at any time.

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



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Following a year-on-year increase in referrals to the Respect Programme, we have been very fortunate to be able to expand our current team of experienced, qualified youth mentors. We currently have 10 mentors who support the delivery of the Respect Mentoring Programme

School Drop Down Days

During the reporting period, drop-down days were held in two local schools. During these days community safety and crime prevention workshops were delivered by the youth mentors and officers from community safety partner agencies.

South Bromsgrove High School – Community safety sessions were delivered to pupils around Hate Crime Awareness, Drugs and Alcohol, Healthy Relationships and Anti-Social Behaviour

Parkside Middle School – Workshop sessions were delivered on Hate Crime Awareness, Drugs and Alcohol, Healthy Relationships and Anti-Social Behaviour



Youth Outreach

The Youth Hub and Reach Out Bromsgrove work with the Community Safety Youth Workers to deliver outreach and detached youth work 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 out in the community and has directly resulted in the reduction of reported incidents of Youth ASB in location across the district.

At the height of the summer, outreach youth workers can engage with between 600 – 800 hundred young people per month.

The outreach teams are now seen as a model of best practice across the county and over the past year the team have expanded their delivery and have been commissioned to work in Droitwich.



The Bromsgrove Youth Listening Service



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The Community Safety Team has worked with the Anglican Churches to establish a volunteer Listening Service for young people requiring lower-level support and intervention. The Listening Service is now in its eighth year. The service is well established in Bromsgrove High schools where you people with lower-level concerns and worries are supported by volunteers.

Following the extension of the programme into the middle schools, there has been an increase in new Listeners with a number of new volunteers being recruited. Currently sessions are now being held in St Johns Middle School, Aston Fields Middle School and Parkside Middle School

Agenda Item 4

Bromsgrove Youth Hub CiC

The Bromsgrove Youth Hub an independent Community Interest Company (CIC) which provides support and activities for young people, offering a space for young people to socialise safely. The original concept was established as a partnership project led by the Community Safety Team, the YMCA and Bromsgrove Churches Together.

The Hub 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.

Safer Bromsgrove works closely with The Hub to support local young people, and the Hub supports the partnership by responding to reports of youth ASB and providing advice, guidance and signposting to statutory processes in place to support young people facing additional challenges.





Alternative School Provision

The Community Safety Team worked with Young Solutions - Worcestershire to secure county-wide Big Lottery funding. A successful bid secured a Reaching Communities grant for Worcestershire, which provided £23k of funding for Bromsgrove Youth Hub.

The programme called Youth Scape originally focused on outreach work, mentoring and diversionary activities but once a post became vacant in the first year of the project it provided an opportunity for the funding to be re-purposed and used to establish and open an Alternative School Provision. This was launched in October 2023 and since its launch has supported 20 young people to stay in education and gain vocational City and Guilds qualifications. This project continues to be seen as an example of best practice in the County.

Volunteer It Yourself

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The Community Safety Team have been supporting the VIY team to identify community locations that would benefit from refurbishment. Once sites have been agreed the Community Safety Team have supported activity by identifying learners aged 16 – 30 to sign up project to carry out work such as painting and woodwork. Those people attending are the furthest away from the job market and are often on the edge of criminality. On completing the project, those engaged gain City and Guilds qualifications for the work carried out. In Bromsgrove, the VIY team and its learners have worked on transforming the Bromsgrove Rugby Club, Wythall Hall, Shawfield in Wythall, Rainbow Garden in Charford and a Community Centre in Hagley.



Agenda Item 4

In May 2024, the Annual Redditch and Bromsgrove Young Citizen's Challenge (YCC) was held at the Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station from 20th – 24th May

YCC offers all Year 6 students from Redditch and Bromsgrove the opportunity to take part in a series of scenarios and take quizzes on what to do in various situations, when exposed to different risks. Each partner-led session promotes experiential learning as each scenario is interactive and designed around student participation.

Key partners such as the Community Safety Team, Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Safer Roads Team, SARA (Water Safety) and Western Power were in attendance to get across key safety messages across to Year 6 students. Across the week Community Safety Partners engaged with 843 young people.



Designing Out Crime



The Community Safety team carry out Environmental Visual Audits and Crime Risk Surveys at locations across the district which are experiencing crime and ASB issues. Site visits during 2024 include:-

- Shelley Close, Catshill
- Bromsgrove Town Centre
- St Chads Park, Rubery
- Bromsgrove Allotment sites
- Lickey Hills

Sanctuary Assessments

Sanctuary is the concept whereby survivors of domestic abuse are supported to remain in their home rather than fleeing. This is achieved by a professional assessment of the security improvements necessary to make the home environment safe.

Community Safety DOC officers are available to conduct Sanctuary assessments which could enable survivors of domestic abuse and their children to remain in their homes, close to family, friends and work. This undoubtedly improves their safety, reducing fear of reprisals and minimising the disruption to their lives.

Planning Consultations



Until recently, the Community Safety team had two College of Policing qualified, Designing Out Crime Officers (DOCO) who can review planning applications, making appropriate crime prevention and security recommendations with the aim of making future building developments less vulnerable to crime and disorder

During the reporting period, the Community Safety team scrutinised 23 planning applications. 16 of these were in Bromsgrove comprising totals of 1350 residential units and 1286 Sq.M of commercial space.



The RUN Project - Bromsgrove

The Run Project is funded through Safer Bromsgrove and the Programme is coordinated by a community volunteer who is herself a survivor of domestic abuse.

The coordinator has linked up with the Inspiring Leadership foundation and the RUN programme hosts weekly sessions where survivors get together, share and build on life skills and are supported to reach the goals they want to achieve in their lives.



Community Safety Engagement Events 2024

Attending events and engaging with local communities provides valuable opportunities for officers to meet with residents, pass on crime prevention information and advice and find out about community concerns and fears.

In 2024 officers attended events including:

- HoW College Freshers' Fair
- Bromsgrove Green Fair
- Police and Fire Station Open Day
- Police SNT Events
- BDHT Fun Days
- Wellbeing Fayre at Charford
- Wellbeing Fayre at Woodrush High School



Vulnerable and Older Person Project

The Community Safety Team manage the Nominated Neighbour scheme, which aims to protect vulnerable residents from doorstep crime and rogue trader offences. This continues to be a successful local initiative, which we continue to roll it out further to our residents.

To support this work Safer Bromsgrove has established a working group to develop a referral pathway for our most vulnerable and older residents to ensure they are able to access all the required support they need in one place. As part of this project, we are going to look to establish Nominated Neighbour areas across the district, with the aim of giving a clear messages to those that might want to prey on our residents, that these areas are protected and are no-go locations for that type of behaviour. Work on two pilot areas in Bromsgrove District will start in the new year.

This developing project will bring together partners and volunteers to improve the offer to older and vulnerable residents including resources, information and targeted support to protect them from crime



NWCSP Funded Knife Arch



Date	Purpose
05/03/2024	Supported West Mercia Police Op Forefront - day of action showcasing the work the police carry out every day of the year to protect, serve and keep communities safe from criminals.
10/05/2024	Supported national Op Sceptre (Police Knife Crime Education and Zero Tolerance Operation)
13/05/2024	Used for further Op Sceptre activities

On the 5th March, the Community Safety Team supported Police Officers as part of Operation Enzyme which focused on raising public awareness of burglary and car theft



NWCSP Personal Safety Events

14th September in Bromsgrove
28th September in Rubery



The Community Safety Team worked with key partners to host two a personal safety events in Bromsgrove Town Centre and Rubery High Street.

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The team were joined by Spikes Bikes who gave out cycle safety advice and provided bike security marking.

The CSP also commissioned a Street Theatre company to engage with members of the public in a fun and informal way about personal safety and securing their property, issuing Crime Risk 'Red Cards' to people who were spotted with insecure or exposed property.

Crime Risk Red Card

**Leaving valuables on show is
an open invitation for thieves
to steal them, they may
distract you to do this!**

Agenda Item 4

'CUT IT OUT' – Domestic Abuse Awareness Training for Businesses

This year NWCSP has funded a new awareness initiative which aims to help professionals spot the signs of domestic abuse with their clients.

The **Cut It Out initiative** raises awareness of the devastating impact of domestic abuse by offering free training for all professionals who have unique, one on one trusting relationships with their clients. Originally the project was aimed at hair and beauty professionals but has now been widened **to any professional working in any sector** such as physiotherapists, chiropractors, tattooists, cleaners, etc.

The **Cut It Out** campaign was first launched in Norfolk following the murder of Kerri McAuley, who was killed in 2017 by her abusive partner. Before her death, Kerri had disclosed to her hairdresser that she was the victim of abuse and reached out for support, but the seriousness of this wasn't realised.

Everyone who takes part in the training will receive materials to display in their business windows or mirrors to show that it is a safe space. They will also receive a pin badge which is a great way to start a conversation, it gives the opportunity to talk about the training they have completed and then offer support services if a client needs it.

Cut It Out will be launched soon by the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership with the first session being held in Bromsgrove. The training is delivered by Martin Lakeman (Domestic Abuse Consultant). Martin says:

Our aim is that as many professionals as possible have the opportunity to come to a free session and learn about what domestic abuse is and what they can do to recognise the signs, and signpost those that may be suffering abuse to support. Because of the proximity certain professionals have, they will see things in their customers other people might not notice. People are more likely to talk to someone they trust about abuse rather than report it to the police. A salon for example may be the ideal place for a victim to seek help as it could be one of the few places their abuser will allow them to go without them."

Annual White Ribbon Domestic Abuse Campaign 25th Nov to 10th Dec

This annual campaign features various community events and social media promotion, with the 16 Days of Action keenly supported by our partners and the local press.

This year Community Safety team, the Police, Domestic Abuse professionals and volunteers hosted an awareness raising stand in ASDA Supermarket to support the campaign and promote the work of support services.

Alongside this in-person promotional activity which took place on the 27th November, the team also had a strong social media campaign, engaging with local organisations and businesses throughout the full 16 Days of Action.



Safe Places Scheme

The Safe Places Scheme gives the elderly, people with a disability, illness or learning difficulty, or anyone who feels in danger; a range of safe places where they can go to for help if they feel they are being bullied, abused or harassed while out and about.

All Safe Places are identified by a Safe Place sticker and the organisations employees receive training, so that they can give reassurance and help people contact appropriate support, as needed.

A full directory of the Safe Places in Bromsgrove is available here:- [Safe Places | Our Way Self Advocacy](#)

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Bromsgrove District Youth Service Fund

Separate to crime prevention and community safety work, the Community Safety Team co-ordinates the commissioning of District youth services funding on behalf of Worcestershire County Council. This five-year fund provided by WCC supports local youth groups to provide open access, targeted and 1:1 youth activities that provide quality youth provision, improve young people's social and emotional learning and behaviours, improve mental health and improve young people's engagement with the local community.

Local youth groups commissioned to deliver a wide range of youth provision in Bromsgrove District are:

The Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub - £27,282 to provide Open Access / Detached / Targeted Sessions.

Waseley Hills Youth Hub - £10,000 to provide Open Access Sessions

YMCA - £3,069 to provide Open Access / Targeted / 121 Sessions

Woodrush Youth & Community Centre - £10,000 to provide Open Access Sessions

The WCC funding is also providing opportunities for local youth workers to achieve additional qualifications in Youth & Community work at Level 2 and above.

BROMSGROVE ASB & CRIME REPORT

Subject NWCSP Scrutiny Board - Police Report for Bromsgrove

West Mercia Police have been asked to provide a Police report for the Bromsgrove Overview & Scrutiny Board. The report will focus on three main themes.

- Overview of Crime and ASB within Bromsgrove District
- Anti-Social Behaviour Interventions
- Recent Successes

Overview of Crime and ASB

The district year-to-date figures surrounding the crime type/s that impact our communities the most from November 2022-November 2024 are contained below;

Public Order Offences – reduction of 1%
 Personal Robbery - reduction of 31%
 Shoplifting offences – reduction of 20%
 Anti-social behaviour – increase of 1%

Appendix 2A details the volume of crimes and ASB and the percentage difference.

Anti-Social Behaviour Interventions

The below ASB interventions for the Local Policing Area (LPA) from the 1st November 2023-30th September 2024 are contained below;

ASB STAGE 1	30
ASB STAGE 2	2
CAWN	5
CBO (CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR ORDER)	3
COMMUNITY PROTECTION NOTICE	15
COMMUNITY PROTECTION WARNING	36

DVPN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION NOTICE	3
DVPO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION ORDER	17
INJUNCTION - NO POWER OF ARREST	2
NON - MOLESTATION ORDER	30
RESTRAINING ORDER	3
SEXUAL HARM PREVENTION ORDER	20
SEXUAL RISK ORDER	2
ASB CIVIL INJUNCTION (WITH POWER OF ARREST)	2
Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Order (STRO)	2

Recent Successes

West Mercia Police work in close partnership with a range of agencies to reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour. A few examples of recent successes that have reduced the impact of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour on our communities are contained below;

Joint Working with West Midlands Police.

West Mercia Police are continuing to improve and enhance our working relationship with West Midlands Police. This is achieved through the attendance at the cross border meeting every two months where we share crime trends, information and concerns and plan joint operational work.

At the start of 2024, West Mercia Police invited West Midlands officers to share a day of action. West Midlands officers came to Rubery, and we performed a number of foot patrols on the border areas where we had experienced ASB. Each patrol team were a mix of officers from both forces which has improved relationships and allowed for ideas to be shared. Following on from this we have worked closely, sharing information regarding a number of problems including - off road biking concerns, traveller encampments, dangerous dog/s incidents and wanted suspects.

West Mercia Police perform regular train operations with West Midlands Police, BTP and Safer Travel where knife arches are deployed at Birmingham New Street, Northfield, Longbridge and Bromsgrove. This is aimed to reduce the impact of knife related crimes and cross border offending.

ASB and Shop Theft – Rubery

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) for Rubery have worked to build relations with the stores that suffer higher shop theft. We actively encourage reporting when offences take place as this will assist in identifying the true picture of offences. One store received a visit from business and rural crime officers to discuss designing out the crimes in an attempt to prevent offenders committing these offences.

The team have been proactive and taken positive action when suspects have been apprehended. One persistent offender is now awaiting a court hearing following a significant number offences.

Other partnership work has taken place including a joint visit to a store selling vapes and illicit cigarettes. This resulted in the seizure of a significant quantity of illegal vapes/ cigarettes. Controlling and monitoring the activity and behaviour of these stores will seek to prevent young

people obtaining illegal vapes and consequently performing ASB. Recent meetings with partners have identified other locations to visit in the coming weeks/ months.

Bromsgrove Town Centre

Bromsgrove Town Centre has increased an increase in ASB around Windsor Street and the High Street where young people climbing on the roofs of buildings or entering empty building/s.

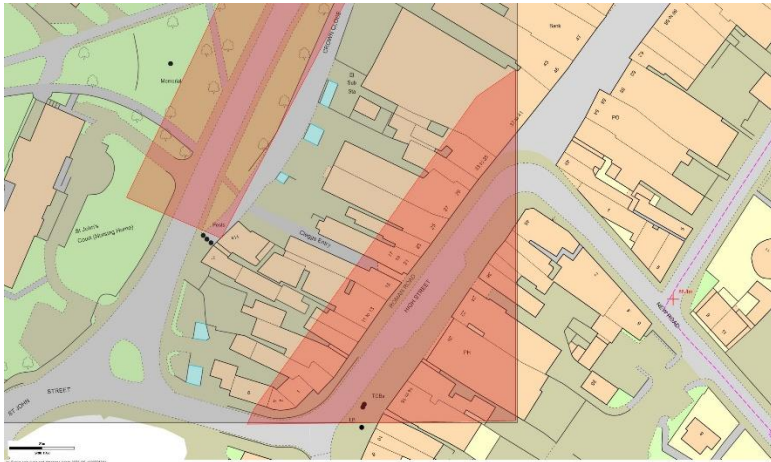
A Home Office bid via the hotspot fund was agreed where £13,000 worth of Police Officer/s overtime was granted to address the ASB concerns which will take place until March 2025. In addition, West Mercia Police have worked with the businesses, community safety team and the Town Centre manager in an attempt to design out the environmental issues. Lastly, Bromsgrove Hub are creating a new youth centre, where £17,000 was secured by West Mercia Police via the Home Office to part fund this initiative to reduce the impact of ASB within the area.

Hotspot Patrols

Two areas of Bromsgrove were identified as suffering from higher levels of serious violence and ASB. This is based on crime and call data from the last three years. The two hotspot areas are detailed below.

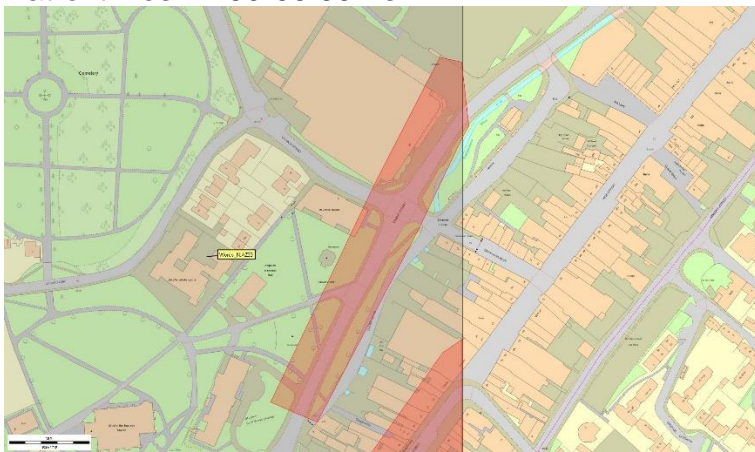
High Street, Bromsgrove

Patrol times 12:00-05:00hrs



Market Street, Bromsgrove

Patrol times 12:00-05:00hrs



Since the project went live on the 1st of June 2024, 595 pro-active patrols (as of 30/11/2024) have been completed at the relevant times to increase visibility within the Town Centre,

Schools Panel

Bromsgrove has a successful Schools panel where a range of partners meet to discuss children at risk of exploitation, concerns over crime and anti-social behaviour or children at risk of exclusion. This aims to map and reduce the impact of criminality and anti-social behaviour within the community.

Author: Inspector Richard Field

Date: 6th of December 2024

APPENDIX 2A

Public Order	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
2022 - 2023	3	1	7	2	5	12	9	7	4	11	3	4	3	71
2023 - 2024	3	3	2	3	2	9	7	10	7	4	5	4	11	70
Difference	0	2	-5	1	-3	-3	-2	3	3	-7	2	0	8	-1
% Difference	0%	200%	-71%	50%	-60%	-25%	-22%	43%	75%	-64%	67%	0%	267%	-1%

Personal Robbery	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
2022 - 2023	4	5	5	0	6	4	7	7	6	4	2	4	5	59
2023 - 2024	6	1	3	1	1	1	3	4	1	9	1	3	7	41
Difference	2	-4	-2	1	-5	-3	-4	-3	-5	5	-1	-1	2	-18
% Difference	50%	-80%	-40%	100%	-83%	-75%	-57%	-43%	-83%	125%	-50%	-25%	40%	-31%

Shoplifting	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
2022 - 2023	35	40	51	84	61	53	70	67	50	42	59	74	39	725
2023 - 2024	39	29	39	40	42	38	43	46	35	60	41	67	58	577
Difference	4	-11	-12	-44	-19	-15	-27	-21	-15	18	-18	-9	19	-148
% Difference	11%	-28%	-24%	-52%	-31%	-28%	-39%	-31%	-30%	43%	-31%	-12%	49%	-20%

ASB	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
2022 - 2023	97	87	86	84	91	94	107	91	99	127	69	74	63	1106
2023 - 2024	64	69	77	69	64	85	121	122	121	118	65	74	73	1122
Difference	-33	-18	-9	-15	-27	-9	14	31	22	-9	-4	0	10	16
% Difference	-34%	-21%	-10%	-18%	-30%	-10%	13%	34%	22%	-7%	-6%	0%	16%	1%

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Appendix 3

ASB Community Hero Event

11th July 2024

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Agenda Item 4

ASB Community Heroes Community Category

Winner: Catshill Community Hub for their work setting up new youth provision in Catshill over the past 10 months

Highly Commended:

Louise Smith, Community Coach BDHT, for her work at Shawfields in Wythall.

The Respect Programme Mentors



ASB Community Hero Youth Category

Winners:

Kay Parker for a lifetime dedicated to working with and supporting young people.

Kayleigh Fitzgerald – For her work setting up the Alternative School Provision via Bromsgrove Youth Hub.

Reach Out Bromsgrove - For their work providing Outreach support in the district.



ASB Community Heroes Business Category

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Winners: Mark Eastwood and Mark Goodard for their co-ordination and support of Bromsgrove Pub Watch.



Agenda Item 4

ASB Community Heroes Extra Mile Category

Page 68 **Winner:** Kristy Pascole for her work on the Bromsgrove Police Schools Panel.



Special Recognition Award

Bromsgrove Street Pastors in recognition of their exceptional voluntary work and the support provided in the local Night-Time Economy over the last 12 years.



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The Basement Project Aims of Grant Funding

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Shirley Webb
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Head of Service		Judith Willis Assistant Director Community and Housing Services
Report Author	Job Title: Amanda Delahunty Contact email: a.delahunty@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881269	
Wards Affected		All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		Not Applicable
Relevant Strategic Priorities(s)		Housing
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 Committee is asked to RESOLVE to note the contents of this report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report seeks to provide Overview and Scrutiny Members an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the aims and outcomes of the Basement Project which is based in Bromsgrove and provides housing related support and other support to young people up to the age of 25.
- 2.2 The Council supports the Basement Project with both Homelessness Prevention Grant and Domestic Abuse grant funding.
- 2.3 The purpose of the ringfenced Homelessness Prevention Grant fund is to give local authorities control and flexibility in managing homelessness pressures and supporting those who are at risk of homelessness. The Government expects local authorities to use it to deliver the following priorities:
 - To fully enforce the Homelessness Reduction Act and contribute to ending rough sleeping by increasing activity to prevent single homelessness.
 - Reduce family temporary accommodation numbers through maximising family homelessness prevention.

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6th January 2025

- Eliminate the use of unsuitable bed and breakfast accommodation for families for longer than the statutory six week limit.
- 2.4 Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant funding is allocated to ensure that councils can comply with the requirements to provide safe and supported accommodation for those fleeing domestic abuse.
- 2.5 The Grant Funding is monitored and Appendix 1 details an outcomes monitoring table.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Homelessness Grant and Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant monies are allocated to the Basement Project as follows:

Homelessness Grant Allocation	2025/26
North Worcestershire Basement Project - Support for young people at risk of homelessness	24,541

Domestic Abuse Grant Allocation	2025/26
Basement Project	15,459

Financing of the Basement Project

- 3.2 The Basement Project 2023-2028 strategy has set out to diversify income over the next five years. During 2023 the Basement Project were successful in securing Reaching Communities funding for 2023 to 2028, Lloyds Foundation funding 2023 to 2026 and a volume of local funding / free of charge services from individuals and local business in the Bromsgrove District (NFU Mutual, WigWam Storage, Vinci Construction, Hintons). They have indicated interest in other commissioned work and remain strong in local fundraising which generates c£50,000 per annum. They formally agreed a new five-year lease with a rental well below market rates in April 2023. This will save £70,000 over five years. They are working hard with local businesses to develop support (HSBC, NFU Mutual, Santander) and have a number of funding bids in place in line with their funding cycle.
- 3.3 The Basement Project have recognised that securing funding would not have been possible or significantly more challenging without BDC's previous and ongoing support, as by being able to demonstrate that they had ongoing local statutory support gives other funders more

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confidence in funding them. This is important as one set of funding alone is not sufficient for the Basement Project to deliver its charitable object.

3.4 The Basement Project has also received Household Support Fund money via Bromsgrove Council and since the Phase 1 of the Fund started in 2021. The total of this Grant to date has been £37,000 which has been used to support the delivery of a food bank.

3.5 Their expenditure budget for 2024/25 (detailed below) is £394,000 which reflects a very efficient operating model noting the expected pressures of cost inflation.

Budget 2024/25	
Staff costs (including Employers' NI and pensions) comprising Youth Support Workers (x7) Operations Manager (Team Leader) Senior Support & Finance Manager Community Fundraising Manager (21 hours per week) Chief Executive Officer	£306,740
Direct project costs	
Training, Travel & Security (lone working, CCTV etc)	£9,300
Client Support	£9,000
Marketing, Events & Workshops	£12,235
Food Bank	£8,000
IT, Telephony & Broadband	£10,600
Print, Stationary & Postage	£4,748
Drop-in / Office Overheads (rent, water rates, utilities, insurance, repairs & maintenance, refuse, cleaning)	£24,222
Drop-in & Floating Support - Governance, Insurances, Professional Fees, Accounting & Audit, Depreciation, Subscriptions, fundraising	£17667
TOTAL COSTS	£402,512

All the funding goes directly towards service delivery and service delivery quality.

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- 3.6 The Basement Project helps local young people and families in crisis, particularly around homelessness, risk of homelessness and in creating a foundation for independence;
- to improve the medium to long term safety and housing status of young people leaving home.
 - to enable those who have a tenancy to maintain it;
 - to improve the chances of young people to compete more effectively in the labour market through initiatives such as their Application Station;
 - to access education, employment and skills development; to enable young people to understand their rights and responsibilities;
 - to improve access and “signposting” to support and other services for young people;
 - and to live independently, confidently and empower young people to make positive life choices.
- 3.7 Increasingly, and as part of preventing homelessness, they are supporting young people in physical health, and the challenges of mental wellbeing. Responding to the impact of the cost-of-living crisis which is expected to continue to feature heavily in 2025/2026 includes;
- The successful development and full utilisation the Drop-in on Hanover Street, Bromsgrove including extended community use (NHS Early Assessment, St Johns Counselling Service (Domestic Abuse, self-esteem/confidence, anxiety et al workshops) Social Services, Education & Employability.
 - Maximising delivery hours in communities through Support Workers.
 - Supporting existing and reaching more young people through the targeted Food Bank.
 - Delivering district events, roadshows, freshers’ advice (HOW College) and working in local schools; and rolling out highly successful pilots such as Picnic in the Park, as well as some other tried and tested events (Weston Trip etc).
- 3.8 The Basement Project has a history of delivering positive outcomes. Their strategic plan [2023-2028] aim remains to improve the quality of life for young people and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. In addition, they aim to prevent homelessness through accelerating their preventative initiatives.
- 3.9 They prevent homelessness / repeat homelessness or help to support young people (and their children) who experience actual homelessness to access and sustain accommodation by supporting them to navigate the housing system, find accommodation solutions and help them understand their tenancy commitments. They support any mental health issues and have seen a significant increase in demand for support in this area, addressing complex needs, and developing

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independent living skills that will positively impact on young people's ability to sustain a tenancy.

- 3.10 Young people and families in Bromsgrove and District are supported through the Basement Project Drop-in Service (Hanover Street), Floating Support (working in the BDC district communities) and their targeted Food Bank. Supported by independently exploring each individuals' options and providing; information; practical support; tenancy training (from budgeting to basic home skills); help with furnishing, cookery; shopping on a budget and advocacy. Supporting clients in person with housing option interviews, key meetings and health appointments.
- 3.11 The Basement Project offer support through their family mediation service and conflict resolution to encourage young people to maintain positive relationships in order to stay within the family unit / home; as well as counselling including access to alternative therapy such as hypnotherapy and relaxation techniques, and support in the journey to employment, training and further education.
- 3.12 They want to continue to broaden their reach and impact through independent, efficient and outcome focussed charity model, and through developing the management and governance of the Basement Project continue to contribute towards local good quality services, working cooperatively with appropriate partners (e.g. working with Social Care, BDHT, BARN, Parenting and Family Support Services, The Youth Hub) to build on the community involvement that has grown over many years and during the pandemic whilst working with partners such as Cranstoun, Redditch and Wyre Forest Nightstop and local health professionals to ensure a holistic package of support for young people.
- 3.13 The continued and increasing demand for their services (that are not met by current or planned provision) is indicative of the support need for young people and families under the age of 25. The cost-of-living crisis has exacerbated the need, with expectations of a sustained level of hardship continuing for the next two years. In referrals they are witnessing young people from a broader sector of the local community. The ability to fully engage in person with young people in their communities, aligned to fully utilising the central Bromsgrove Drop-in at Hanover Street for clients (and as a community asset) contributes to their ability to respond in full.

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- 3.14 The Basement Project benefit from 25 years of supporting local young people through their stable team, evolved experience and expertise; the community & service relationships the team have to ensure they are collectively making a difference in the local community. They have implemented four key actions to evidence the local need namely:
1. Commissioned the Bright Ideas Partnership [an external and independent charity sector specialist] to complete an evaluation of the Basement Project impact and value.
 2. Increased service user feedback focus and feedback methodology to ensure they captured the service user context and needs.
 3. Analysed the 2022/2023 use of the Drop-in having refurbished and relaunched the Drop-in in 2022.
 4. Committed, attended, and contributed to the strategy and partnership forums / meetings that collectively drive connected solutions.
- 3.15 The provision of support for young people with complex needs, adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and the current cost of living often falls outside the remit or available resource levels of statutory agencies, mental health agencies and the substance misuse services et cetera, leaving organisations such as the Basement with the task of supporting some of the most marginalised people in local communities. Undoubtedly the cost-of-living crisis has brought additional pressures on mental health for many young people and this has been factored this into their support framework as the effect will be felt for several years to come. Financial hardship along with the loss of community frameworks, relationship breakdown and mental health form much of their case load in creating the foundations for independence that will enhance the lives of young people and remove homelessness or the risk of homelessness.
- 3.16 The Basement Project works with young people experiencing domestic abuse (DA) in a sensitive, respectful manner with their focus being on the safety of the individual. They have created a safe physiologically informed environment within the Basement Project where clients experiencing DA feel safe and supported. All support workers have been trained to identify indicators of DA, are confident in approaching conversations with care and empathy, are able to provide information and resources relating to DA and have good partnership relationships with specialist DA agencies. Including WMRSASC, Women's Aid and work closely with BDHT's DA support worker. DA is often not the presenting issue for many clients, many of whom do not recognise they are in a DA relationship. It is only as a result of building a good and trusting relationship with their support worker that they are able to recognise this. A member of our support team has recently qualified as

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a Domestic Abuse Champion through the DAWN Project and is able to offer specialist 1:1 support to clients and offer advice to the support team. In 2024 Basement ran a series of workshops focusing on emotional wellbeing/healthy relationships and indicators of DA. These were successful with all attendees reporting that they had benefited. Another series of these will run in 2025. The Basement Project also offer specialist counselling free of charge if needed. From April 2023-April 2024, they worked with 71 clients experiencing DA who were given related support on 591 separate occasions.

- 3.17 They are still seeing a rise in the need for more intensive support. As a staff team they have accessed and continue to access specialist training and continuous personal development (CPD) to enable them to bridge the gap for clients whilst pending / waiting for other services to engage, as well as the whole team receiving additional support themselves to help manage the intensity of support needed by many of their clients.
- 3.18 The real strength underpinning the need, is their ability to work in partnership whilst remaining independent to their clients - (*and the positive association of independence from a client's perspective*); their time served in depth local knowledge, in-house expertise and networks; the ability to provide a timely, holistic and a flexible approach that is focussed on the individual, blending skills and expertise with those of partner agencies is an efficient model. And delivers exceptional value for money.
- 3.19 In the year 2022/2023 88.95% (90% 2022/2022) of the young people they work with acknowledge that they are struggling in some way with their mental health. Up from an original base of 52%. The reality is that many more are trying to cope without acknowledging the impact this has on their daily lives. Getting professional help is extremely challenging and further exacerbated by level of demand for support services and pressure on support budgets. Some will look for other solutions including substance abuse and self-medication or simply stop functioning in a meaningful way. Budgeting on a limited income is difficult but raises further issues when money is "needed" to fund drugs. Research has identified that using a substance is a way to cope with psychological and life difficulties. 70% of people in treatment for drug and substance dependency also have a mental health illness. Suggesting that they stop means taking away their coping strategy, so unless immediate support can be provided it is likely they will return to using to cope with the psychological distress. More critically deploying and evolving preventative strategies will capture young people at an earlier stage in their journey and problem solve before a simple intervention becomes a complex needs case.

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- 3.20 In line with current thinking (Homeless Link, Homeless Partnership Meeting(s), Homeless Strategy Steering Group, Young Solutions), the Basement Project is increasingly driving the preventative activities to complement their work with young people. This focus has centred on delivering both preventative and crisis management through their secure Drop-in centre on Hanover Street and in their field based Floating Support.
- 3.21 In creating more capacity and reaching more young people they have developed a detailed operating plan for 2024 and embedded new ways of working. Within this they will look to see a continued increase in volunteering, which will liberate Support Worker time to maximise available hours of support delivery; support more awareness events; enhance support options and increase the direct, face-to-face work as they train, develop and embrace volunteering.
- 3.22 From a prevention perspective, they are very aware that reaching people at an earlier stage is critical and commenced work in 2022/2023 to grow the number of referrals and reach more people at an earlier point through; working directly with schools and colleges, the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP); Social Prescribers, Pathway Workers & Health Visitors; pro-actively securing contact with those in need through the work of their targeted Food Bank (which often captures people who were not previously aware of the Basement Project or are very recently found themselves in a challenging situation); in the investment in their website; social media and communications which has secured BBC radio coverage and numerous press releases in 2023; in their schedule of key events in 2024 which again included awareness linked to Easter, summer holidays (regular picnics in the park); and Halloween, Harvest Festival, and Christmas which they know is a key time for those in need and / or suffering financial hardship.
- 3.23 The Drop-in at Hanover House is well utilised for social, life skills and learning interventions as well as space for other charities and the community to utilise. The Drop-in service location is perfect for access, being next to the town centre, capturing walking, multiple bus route and other support service locations as well as having free car parking to the rear (thanks for Marstons) and external social space. As a result of refurbishment, the Drop-in and open additional rooms / space has encouraged wider community use including the NHS Public Health Nursing Team who hold weekly early assessment appointments; local schools who have used this space for educating young people and for intense individual pre-GCSE support; and a local counselling service on an ad hoc need basis. The Basement Project frequently support parents, grandparents, and carers via the central telephone contact

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and through the Drop-in, signposting accordingly when necessary to other agencies within the Worcestershire area.

3.24 The Basement Project adhere to safeguarding, confidentiality and GDPR protocols, updating processes through updates (NVCO, ACEVO, Centrepont et al). They work with an external health and safety organisation to help with post covid operating practices and complete online training to ensure best practices around ways of working. Their finances are supported and managed by Curo Professional Services, Bromsgrove.

3.25 The Basement Project have supported clients with items such as money for utilities; purchasing small items of furniture or electrical goods; school uniforms; items of clothing/shoes for interviews; winter coats and shoes; white goods; nappies; other debt support to prevent evictions such as rent arrears, council tax arrears and rent in advance payments for anyone who is rehoused. Based on last year and run rate, they expect to tactically help clients with some £12,000 of their own funding of the aforementioned necessities excluding access to other 3rd party items from partners such as white goods. They have been able to secure funds and donations to stock the Basement Project food bank and have been able to provide substantial parcels for a balanced diet containing fresh (eggs, milk, cheese, vegetables) and frozen foods along with the non-perishable staples, toiletries, nappies and baby milk. The value of the food parcel distribution to young people annualises at c£50,000. Included in this they have worked with the CAB, Worcestershire Children's Services, local schools and housing associations to secure food parcels for those suffering financial hardship. The food bank is rapidly evolving as a complementary service to the Drop-in Service and Floating support, adding both reach and solutions. They have added basic cleaning and sanitisation goods to the service which is making a difference in the domestic environments of clients.

“these food packs will help some of our most vulnerable families suffering hardship during the current crisis” (Pastoral Care Teacher)

3.26 Many young people they work with have lacked stability, positive role models or influences in their lives and even when housed these young people are likely to find it extremely difficult to maintain their tenancy and live independently. In many instances they have also failed to fully engage with other support agencies.

3.27 The young people they work with, as well as facing homelessness, are likely to have experienced family breakdown, physical and mental health issues, substance misuse issues, domestic abuse,

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bereavement, issues with their sexuality, sexual exploitation and disengagement from education, training and or employment. Roughly half of the young people who access homeless services in England are between the ages of 18 and 24 (Homeless Link).

3.28 The Basement Project offer some stability, in that they are available if young people are in crisis, need help or to talk to someone and this is why the majority have readily engaged virtually and welcomed the continued support. A 'follow up' survey of Children and Young People in England conducted by the NHS, showed that in 11–16-year-olds 54.1% were more likely to say that lockdown had made their lives worse, and 59% of 17-22 year olds (NHS follow up survey on 2017 of Mental Health of Children and Young People in England July 2020)

3.29 The Mediation pilot that they started in late October 2019 in one local High School was starting to gain momentum when schools closed. They returned to this in 2022. The pilot was initiated following a piece of research they commissioned into the effect of mediation on relieving homelessness. The results indicated a very positive impact. The Basement Project Mediators have achieved good outcomes working both with pupils and their families. They are also able to provide Conflict Resolution where Mediation is not appropriate.

“it is an innovative project which gives our pupils a safe platform in which to share their feelings. This allows the pupils to resolve their issues in a highly supportive environment”. (Bridget Thomas Pastoral Support NBHS)

3.30 Through the Drop-in and Floating Support, a holistic approach to the young person's needs is assessed and a range of options are explored (e.g. housing options; financial support; health and wellbeing). Young people are supported in the choices they make, referrals are made, and ongoing and/or advocacy support offered to ensure they engage with other agencies as appropriate.

3.31 The Drop-in Service for young people is open Monday to Friday, 1200-1600hrs and works on both an appointment system and “walk-in” basis. Between 0900-16.30 for meetings and appointments and wider community use. It all links to the Floating Support and balancing the young person's need with the most appropriate form of support. The project is staffed with qualified Support Workers and several trained Volunteers. The latter will continue to form part of the 2023/2024 actions to increase reach and impact as they grow volunteer numbers. The Floating Support and Mediation is likewise provided by qualified staff. Floating support is delivered in the community with timings agreed between the client and the Support Worker. This is in the main

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on a one-to-one basis. Their programme of related events brings young people together (2022 picnic in the park et al) as part of growing social interaction and building confidence.

- 3.32 Both the Drop-in and Floating Support provide assistance to access benefits, housing, education and employment; one-to-one support and group work to develop independent living skills (e.g., budgeting, cooking); and support to identify and address any physical and mental health issues by exploring their options; referring to appropriate agencies; young people often lead chaotic lives and need support to attend appointments.
- 3.33 The Basement Project offer one-to-one mentoring sessions on self-esteem and confidence building, offering professional counselling to clients after negotiating with a local practitioner for a reduced rate for his services; and from additional funding they have secured to fund this.
1. The Workers advocate on behalf of young people with housing providers (e.g., BDHT, local housing associations and Fry Housing), Nightstop Hosts, to secure accommodation for a young person, or to prevent eviction. The Workers also provide mediation and conflict resolution to enable young people to return to their family home, where appropriate.
 2. A programme of activities, including a programme of LifeWise sessions are available throughout the year, to develop the independent living skills, abilities, and confidence of the young people they work with.
 3. Hanover Street facilities are available for all clients, (e.g., a washing machine, a shower cubicle and kitchen) so practically, a young person can have a shower, do some washing or get a meal whilst visiting the Drop-in.
 4. Emergency food, toiletry and cleaning parcels to young people (including Christmas parcels containing Christmas goodies, tinned hams, and more basic food items to get through the Christmas period). So far this year (April to October 2024) they have given out 327 food parcels.
 5. In addition to giving out food parcels, they also provide financial assistance to young people. Living on a limited income frequently means that if an unforeseen expenditure happens, clients suddenly find themselves struggling to manage.

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Management and Staffing of the Basement

- 3.34 The Basement Project service delivery is led by a Floating Support Manager, who leads their qualified support team and ensuring the quality-of-service delivery; with a Senior Support Officer and Finance Manager leading finances (supported by Curo Services who are a local accountancy company). They have a part time fundraiser with the remaining staff Support Workers who are solely focussed on client services. Their management structure very efficient operating model which was endorsed in their 2022 external evaluation.
- 3.35 Volunteers are interviewed, DBS checked where role dictates, have references taken, have a formal induction, and work for a probationary period before being 'officially' accepted as volunteers to ensure their suitability (and to identify any specific training/support needs). Once recruited and trained, volunteers provide indirect support to young people; have regular support meetings and access to ongoing training.
- 3.36 All staff access statutory training opportunities to increase professional and personal development and are encouraged (and do) complete person specific training to support their role. The team receive regular 121 meetings, attend a weekly client review conference and regular team meetings. They continue to outsource professional 'Clinical Supervision' from a psychologist to help support the staff team with the extensive degree of mental health issues that the young people are presenting with.

Promotion of the Basement

- 3.37 The Basement Project engaged the support of the Cranfield Trust in 2023 to review and develop the promotion of the Basement Project ranging from digital platforms and social media to funding, communications and overall image / messaging. This work and output was completed in both 2022 and 2023 and reflects the strategic focus on reaching more young people and preventative strategies to secure earlier interventions.
- 3.38 Their Fundraising Manager who with local communications company Big Splash, have progressively been able to focus on raising their profile in the BDC area to support the Basement Project reaching clients. This has led to much progress including raised social media (regular posts go out on Facebook, LinkedIn, twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp) activity; rebuilding and relaunching the Basement Project website; re branding in 2022; key events (Bromsgrove Pride, Picnic in the Park) and local fundraising such as the Big Give. They have

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produced innovative videos and secured press coverage that includes the BBC.

3.39 They produce a quarterly Newsletter, which promotes the Service with the aim of generating referrals. This newsletter is emailed to supporters and partner agencies (e.g., Basepoint, local churches, and schools). Their outreach includes attending events and deliver talks and presentations to promote their service (e.g., to schools and church groups, Rotary Club, National Trust, Court Leet, WI)

3.40 Anticipated Outcomes:

- a minimum 175 clients will be provided with information, advice and guidance about the housing options available to them - to establish the right option for them and match young people up with local available housing; and to ensure they get appropriate housing in line with Council expectations that a tenancy can be sustained for at least 6 months, thus preventing repeat homelessness.
- A minimum 200 young people will receive support to develop independent living skills e.g. budgeting, debt management, healthy eating, cooking on a budget (either through the one-to-one support provided, or through the workshops they deliver) to ensure the young people have the key skills to maintain their tenancies/housing, which will reduce the incidence of repeat homelessness. One to one sessions will be delivered focusing on the development and enabling of independent living skills, such as self-confidence, self-esteem, and socialisation, as well as the more practical skills covering cooking and budgeting. To monitor this, feedback will be obtained after each session. Feedback forms and the Outcomes Star will also be used to record the one-to-one support. Using these, individuals are encouraged to acknowledge personal development and independent living skills gained.
- A minimum 200 young people will be provided with information on the benefits, debt services and employment and training opportunities available to them. This will enable them, with guidance, to make informed decisions and improve their socio-economic position (further reducing the likelihood of repeat homelessness).
- A minimum 150 clients will be provided with advocacy support to enable them to secure accommodation from local housing providers, or to prevent an eviction (thereby reducing incidents of repeat homelessness and improving young people's life chances), through continued support – from, for example, helping them maintain and decorate their accommodation, to prevent them being evicted, through to negotiating with debtors and supporting with social care plans.

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- Using their food bank as a route to start the process of supporting young people in need they will increase their volume of food parcels to a run rate of no less than 700pa to a including 300 Christmas food parcels.
- Their preventative strategies will be reflected in monthly reporting and annual impact reporting. Through the work highlighted in this application they will increase reporting on preventative work, the number of people they reach and the earlier interventions. This reporting will complement the work they do in resolving complex cases and in securing tenancy retention.

3.41 The Basement project supports the council's statutory duty to homelessness and worked in partnership alongside other agencies in providing support and information to young people who find themselves in, or at risk of homelessness.

Worcestershire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

3.42 The Basement Project has always worked in line with the County Homeless Strategy and in recent years aligned strategy to the reference document entitled 'Worcestershire Homelessness and rough sleeping strategy as well as the more recent Bromsgrove Action Plan 2023 / 2024 which captures the core themes of "Prevention, Intervention and Recovery"

Added Value for Money

3.43 The Basement Project provide added value in that they will not turn young people away, no matter what their circumstances and maintain the capacity and ability to provide immediate support. They provide added value in designating the Drop-in as a community asset for other local organisations. They provide added value in their contribution to the various forums and meetings. Staff have experience in dealing with a wide range of issues and will:

1. Provide support for young people still in education or in employment.
2. Advocate on a young person's behalf with, for example, debt companies, utility companies.
3. Provide a free mediation and conflict resolution service to clients and their families to prevent homelessness – wherever possible and it is safe to do so, will try to keep young people in the family home
4. Work with partner agencies wherever possible to provide a holistic support service for young people, e.g., working with BDHT and other housing associations to access housing, to provide

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workshops, working alongside Citizens Advice to provide debt advice, providing support to young people housed by other agencies, such as St. Basil's and Fry Housing. This is also added value as, by working in partnership prevents service duplication.

5. Provide financial help through client fund subsidising very low incomes to help with gas and electric, white goods, bedding, household items, winter clothing.
6. Access to their food bank on a need basis, the frequency of which is assessed on every individual's needs and circumstances.
7. Offer counselling and other therapy support, such as relaxation techniques. This provides alternatives to, or additional support with, prescribed medication, and can improve the mental health issues, low self-esteem and confidence issues that can prevent young people from accessing and sustaining accommodation.
8. Workers will support/accompany and transport young people to appointments, e.g., health assessments, social care meeting, court appearances.
9. Partnership work in the support of the new Youth Hub for younger people via the Children and Young Peoples Group, offering support and signposting to their service and most recently through the partnership with BARN and the other food banks in the development of the 'Support Bromsgrove' initiative and website.

Evaluating Success

- 3.44 Impact evaluation (day-to-day activity) is captured and recorded on their GDPR compliant InForm database (commissioned through Homeless Link) and detailed reports are obtained from here. This is aligned to contract and funder led outcome targets.
- 3.45 They set targets based on their strategy and the service is monitored regularly, and reports presented to the Board of Trustees for the Basement Project at their regular meetings to ensure they are meeting their proposed targets and outcomes. A member of the staff team also attends alternate board meetings to present a case study and inform the board of the work they are doing.
- 3.46 To evaluate the success of their work they regularly consult with beneficiaries asking for young people's feedback through a comments book, through feedback forms and verbally. They also use focus groups (of previous and existing clients) who give feedback on the services, and what is needed. Feedback is generated at regular intervals throughout the duration of everyone's support, as well as the start and end of the support offered. All this consultation information (from the questionnaires, client monitoring and evaluation sheets, feedback, comments forms and direct consultation with young people)

Overview and Scrutiny

6th January 2025

is also used to monitor and evaluate their work. Outcome Stars are also completed with all clients.

- 3.47 From this monitoring and evaluation, they know that in year (2022/2023), the Basement supported 247 (169 in 2021/2022) young people as regular clients with numerous more supported as non-clients, and the outcomes secured included: Securing temporary or permanent accommodation; Supporting young people to sort out their finances; Supporting young people to develop independent living skills; Supporting young people to take care of their physical and mental health; and to secure education and employment. In 2022/2023 they directly prevented 62 incidents of homelessness versus 44 in 2021/2022.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council has statutory duty under the Housing Act 1996 (as amended) to assist those who are threatened with homelessness or experiencing actual homelessness and has placed additional duties on the Council regarding preventing and relieving homelessness.
- 4.2 The Homelessness Prevention Grant has been ring fenced to homelessness prevention and tackling homelessness by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 4.3 The Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant has been provided to ensure that councils comply with the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

5. COUNCIL PRIORITIES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Council Priorities

- 5.1 Homelessness Prevention Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant supports the Council's priority of Housing. It allows the Council to support a range of holistic services to help prevent or tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the District.
- 5.2 The combination of practical support such as furniture compliment those services that provide outreach support to help clients access accommodation, sustain tenancies, manage budgets, engage in positive activities and access employment.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.3 Helping service users to develop life skills can support them to be more energy conscious and less wasteful with food.

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6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The Homelessness Grant and Homelessness Prevention Grant will benefit customers by offering household's more options to prevent their homelessness, support them to remain in their own homes or help the Council to manage and support households in Temporary Accommodation.
- 6.2 The grant will also benefit the larger community as opportunities to prevent homelessness will be maximised.
- 6.3 Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant will ensure that there are resources to support the provision of a range of services available to meet the needs of those victims/survivors of domestic abuse who become homeless and need support to set up a new home and recover from their experience, many of whom are women.

Operational Implications

- 6.4 The management and administration of grant forms a significant part of the Strategic Housing Team's day to day operations.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Without the Basement Project there is a risk that more households who are threatened with homelessness, or who are in housing need, will have limited alternative options. There is also therefore the risk that they may have to make a homeless approach and this could consequently lead to the following negative outcomes:
- Increased B&B costs with 80% having to be picked up by the local authority.
 - Increased rough sleeping in the District
 - Impacts on physical and mental health, educational achievement, ability to work and similar through increased homelessness.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 Outcomes Monitoring Table

Overview and Scrutiny

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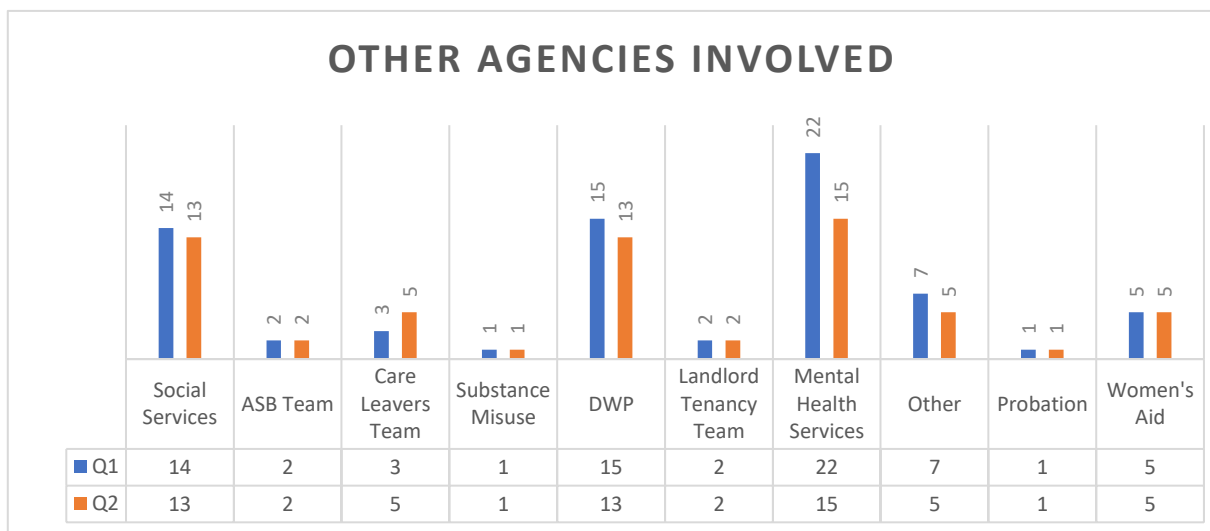
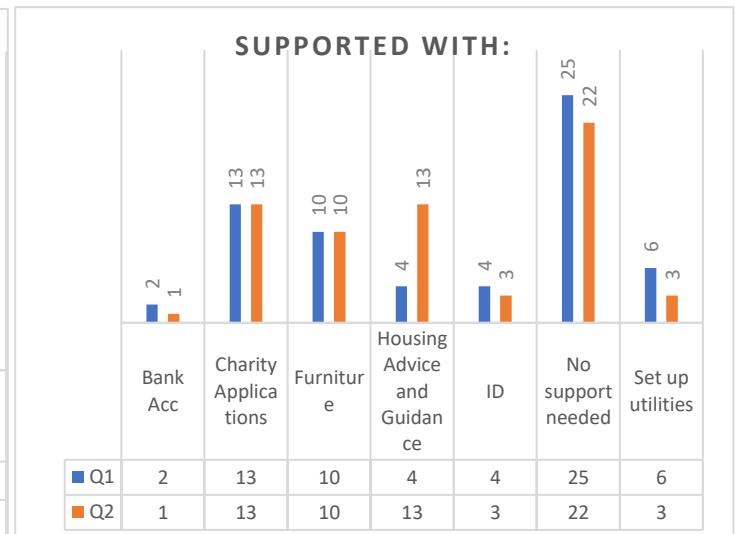
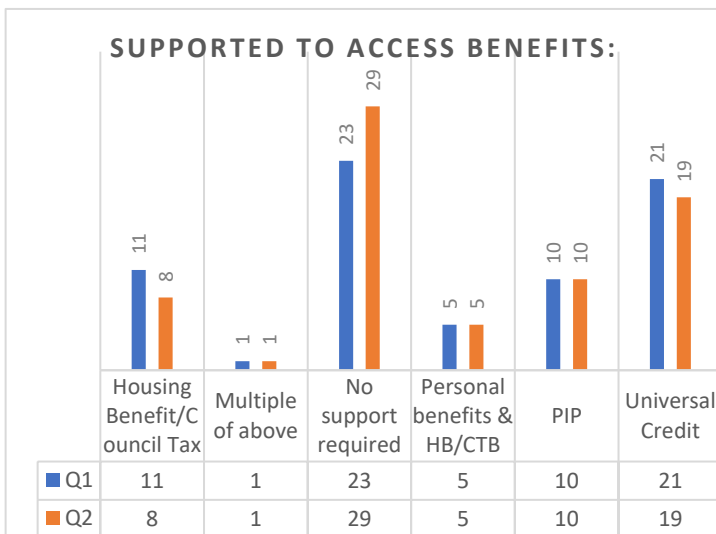
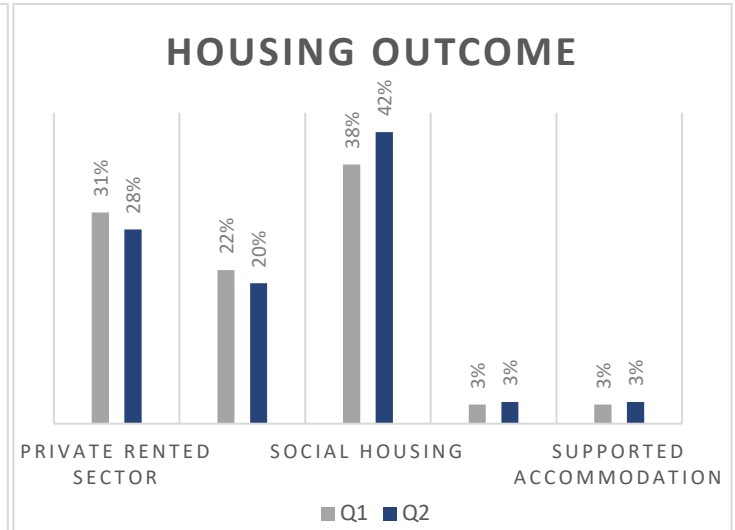
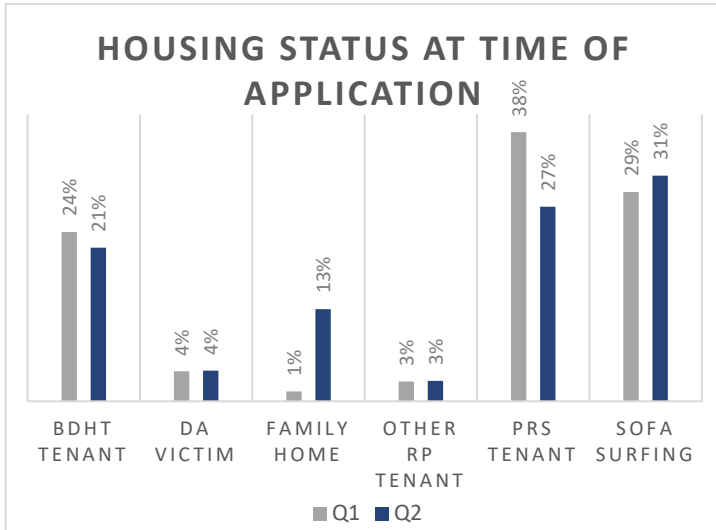
9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Shirley Webb Portfolio Holder Strategic Housing	19/12/2024
Lead Director / Head of Service	Judith Willis Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	18/12/2024
Financial Services	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy Section 151 Officer	19/12/2024
Legal Services	Claire Felton, Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	23/12/2024
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Not applicable	N/A
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Eccles, Climate Change Manager	N/A

Agenda Item 5

Basement Project Monitoring Summary – April to September 2024, BDC clients only.

	Q1	Q2
Total Supported:	72	70
New Applications received:	11	15
% of cases with ongoing support at quarter end:	97%	98%



Agenda Item 5

Q1		Q2	
Engaging with services <u>before</u> Basement Project support	Engaging with services <u>since</u> Basement Project Support	Engaging with services <u>before</u> Basement Project support	Engaging with services <u>since</u> Basement Project Support
Mental Health Support		Mental Health Support	
26	53	31	53
GP		GP	
61	71	63	72

Q1		Q2	
Active offending behaviour <u>before</u> Basement Project support?	Active offending behaviour <u>since</u> Basement Project support?	Active offending behaviour <u>before</u> Basement Project support?	Active offending behaviour <u>since</u> Basement Project support?
9	0	9	0

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Report title: Refuse Fleet Replacement & Wheeled Bin Pressures

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Whittaker
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Head of Service		Simon Parry
Report Author: Matthew Austin	Job Title: Environmental Services Manager Contact email: matthew.austin@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 548206	
Wards Affected		All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)		Environment - supporting recycling to reducing waste production
Key Decision: YES		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		
This report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended		

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cabinet RECOMMEND that:

1.1. The Council agrees to replace all “Diamond” lift bins in use across the Residual, Recycling, and Garden Waste services in Bromsgrove District during the 2025/26 financial year with industry standard “Comb” lift bins.

1.2. The Council allocates £2,200,00 Capital funding in the Medium-Term Financial Plan for the 2025/26 financial year for the purchase and distribution of these bins.

2. **Context:**

2.1. Bromsgrove District Council previously received significant government funding from DEFRA to support waste collection improvements with the introduction of a wheeled bin service in 2004.

2.2. As part of this funding, a decision was made to invest in highly specialised vehicles that used a mechanical arm to pick up wheeled bins and empty them with far less human involvement.

2.3. To support this system, the wheeled bins that were purchased for the new service were required to be compatible with the “Diamond” lift system, which is common on the continent, but was only invested in by three LA’s in the UK, with every other LA investing in the standard “comb” lift mechanism, which is cheaper to manufacture than the diamond bins.

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- 2.4. The benefits of the Diamond system are that it supports bins to self-centre on the lifting mechanism as part of being clamped for lifting, reducing the need for manual intervention.
- 2.5. Unfortunately, the new technology failed to provide the efficiency gains expected, and as a result of prolonged mechanical issues, the decision was taken to revert to a more conventional lifting mechanism and emptying process on our vehicles, although the bins remained.
- 2.6. We have operated this system for 20 years now, and in that time, the other Local Authorities who operated Diamond bins have invested to migrate across to Comb lift bins, due to the increased cost of the wheeled bins, lengthy delays in the provision of diamond bins by manufacturers, and the risk to service provision of operating a non-standard collection fleet.
- 2.7. The last authority to move to Comb Bins was Aberdeenshire Council, with the decision made in 2021/22, leaving Bromsgrove District as the only Local Authority in the UK utilising diamond Bins.

3. Background:

- 3.1. The hire sector does not offer “diamond lift” equipment, due to its rarity in the waste sector, which means that the only vehicles available to support domestic waste collection in Bromsgrove when there is a vehicle failure are the six refuse vehicles operating from the Redditch Depot, as they have been fitted with a reversible lifting system that allows them to empty Bromsgrove Bins as well as the standard Comb Bins, as part of the shared services arrangement.
- 3.2. In the event of a significant event affecting the Bromsgrove Depot, such as a fire or other large-scale accident affecting our fleet, there is currently no way to source sufficient vehicles with the necessary lifting mechanisms to continue the provision of waste collection services for Bromsgrove residents.
- 3.3. As has previously been identified in reports to Council, the Waste Collection Service has had significant challenges in maintaining services over the last two years as a result of an aging fleet and a failed refurbishment programme, that was intended to extend the life of existing vehicles.
- 3.4. To address this, Capital Budgets have been reprofiled to support the replacement of the fleet to stabilise services, but since then we have had difficulty procuring the necessary lifting mechanism on new vehicles, as a result of increased safety requirements by the vehicle manufacturer in response to a fatality involving one of its vehicles whilst in service with Coventry City Council in 2022.

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- 3.5. In response to the “Future Prevention of Deaths” report by the coroner who reviewed this accidental death, the vehicle manufacturer has made changes to how it constructs and certifies its equipment and variations to it by third parties, which means they are unable to provide the combination we would need to continue with our current collection arrangements.
- 3.6. Having also spoken with the Chief Executive responsible for manufacture of our current bin lifts, there is no route to procure vehicles that can meet our needs at the current time, although they are continuing to work with us to maintain our existing mechanisms, which are experiencing a high failure rate due to their age, and wear commensurate with the 17.5 million bins they have emptied to date.
- 3.7. This is not a long-term resolution, and is costing us considerably more on maintenance than is currently budgeted, as well as vehicle hire costs.
- 3.8. To maintain waste collection services across Bromsgrove District, this will require the replacement of approximately 87,000 wheeled bins, which will allow the fleet to transition to the industry standard lifting mechanism, safeguarding future service resilience.
- 3.9. Whilst costly, this will re-set the condition of our wheeled bins, many of which are over 15 years old now, which is expected to reduce our Capital outlay on replacement bins lost either due to damage to the bin, or issues with our current worn out vehicles and lifter mechanisms.
- 3.10. In addition, this will allow for consideration of how we provide our service to residents, and the potential to mirror the arrangements already in place across the South of Worcestershire.
- 3.11. As part of the Environment Act 2021, the Council has a legal duty to provide a weekly food waste collection service from 2026, and is currently looking at the options for implementing such a service.
- 3.12. As part of this work, it has been identified that food waste makes up to 35% of the residual waste collected in Bromsgrove, with a further 11% made up of items that could be recycled in our existing recycling services.
- 3.13. Although we provide a good quality service to residents, our current recycling rates have plateaued in recent years, and experience in other Local Authorities has shown that pressuring the residual waste stream by reducing the frequency, or reducing capacity, is the means to improve recycling performance, which is what South Worcestershire Local Authorities have done by providing a 180ltr grey bin for their residual waste, which encourages residents to ensure they are recycling everything they can.

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- 3.14. On 29 November the Government set out a new policy statement regarding “Simpler Recycling¹”, which set out a “maximum default requirement” for councils to collect card and paper separately from April 2026, which would require an additional recycling bin to be provided to our residents.
- 3.15. No reference is made to new burdens funding for this activity, and it is recognised alongside this requirement, that councils and other waste collectors will “still have the flexibility to make the best choices to suit local need”.
- 3.16. It is believed that as with previous legislation regarding waste collection, there is scope to maintain our existing comingled approach for now, using a TEEP (Technical, Economic and Environmentally Practicable) assessment², although this will require us to set out how we will attain the required quality of recycling, and so will need to be considered alongside the ERP funding to ensure we can demonstrate the necessary outcomes and benefits to justify this.
- 3.17. Replacing our wheeled bins gives us an opportunity to reduce the size of our grey wheeled bins in order to achieve similar gains to South Worcestershire in the short term, which will also help increase engagement with the new food waste service when it starts in 2026.
- 3.18. Whilst also having a financial benefit in reducing the cost of replacing our existing residual bins, this would potentially limit future variation of the collection frequency on residual waste, such as a three weekly collection interval, which would have the potential to significantly reduce the operating costs of our waste collection arrangements whilst also boosting the use of our recycling collections, which would include the odour elements linked to food waste which are typically the main concern regarding reduced frequencies of residual waste collection.
- 3.19. Bromsgrove has signed up to the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy with all of the other Worcestershire Authorities, committing to work towards the reduction of waste, and a reduction in the size of our residual waste bins, or the reduction of our residual waste collection frequency, would have a significant impact to reduce the volume of recyclable waste disposed of through incineration for energy creation rather than reuse.

¹ This is the umbrella term for the rationalisation of waste collection arrangements nationally to ensure that all residents can dispose of the same core recyclable items wherever in the country they live.

² Officers already reviewing this with the other Worcestershire Authorities as a joint initiative.

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4. Proposals:

4.1. Given that our current “Diamond” bins are limiting our ability to meet our statutory duties, as well as increasing our operating costs, it is proposed that Bromsgrove District Council takes the following steps:

4.1.1. Replace all of our existing “Diamond” wheeled bins with industry standard “Comb” 240ltr wheeled bins (no change in size for any waste streams)

Or

4.1.2. Replace all of our existing green and brown “Diamond” wheeled bins with industry standard “Comb” 240ltr wheeled bins, and replace the existing 240ltr wheeled bins for residual waste, with 180ltr “comb” wheeled bins³.

4.2. In regards to the option to reduce the size of our residual waste bin, although this will support immediate benefits regarding our recycling performance, it may add additional challenges should we look to make further changes to expand our service and/or reduce the frequency of residual waste collection to further pressurise the waste stream and reduce operating costs linked to the non-recyclable waste.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Like for like replacement of all our existing Diamond Wheeled bins would require Capital investment of approximately **£2,200,000**⁴ including delivery and expected credits against the recycled “Diamond” bins.

5.2. A decision to reduce the size of the 240ltr residual waste bins to 180ltrs will reduce that cost by **£60,000**, and would also support increased recycling quantities and take up of the food waste service expected to start in 2026 based on our current fortnightly collection service.

5.3. The cost breakdown of these two options are shown below, and would place an average yearly pressure of **£365,000** per year on Capital repayment budgets from 2025/26 until 2031/32.

³ Reduced capacity offset by the new food waste collection service, which provide a 23ltr food caddy giving 46ltrs capacity per fortnight to residents to offset the reduction in capacity and ensure residents make full and efficient use of our services to manage their waste.

⁴ Estimated cost based on current prices. A tender exercise for the provision, delivery, and recycling will be needed to confirm the final cost and ensure best value.

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	Like for Like bin swaps across all waste streams	Residual Reduced to 180ltr wheeled bins
Purchasing Costs	£1,810,337	£1,747,490
Delivery Costs	£185,961	£185,961
Collection Costs	£164,084	£164,084
Total Costs (estimated)	£2,160,382	£2,097,535

Option 1 - 240's Residual, Recycling, & Garden	25/6	26/7	27/8	28/9	29/30	30/1	31/2	32/3
MRP	£108,019	£416,645	£416,645	£416,645	£416,645	£416,645	£416,645	£308,626
Repayment		£308,626	£308,626	£308,626	£308,626	£308,626	£308,626	£308,626
Interest	£108,019	£108,019	£108,019	£108,019	£108,019	£108,019	£108,019	

Option 2 - 180's Residual, 240's Recycling/Garden	25/6	26/7	27/8	28/9	29/30	30/1	31/2	32/3
MRP	£104,877	£404,525	£404,525	£404,525	£404,525	£404,525	£404,525	£299,648
Repayment		£299,648	£299,648	£299,648	£299,648	£299,648	£299,648	£299,648
Interest	£104,877	£104,877	£104,877	£104,877	£104,877	£104,877	£104,877	

5.4. It is expected that replacing these bins would reduce costs on vehicle purchase by approximately 2% (£80,000 across the replacement cycle of our fleet), and vehicle maintenance on our waste fleet by up to 8% (£30,000 per year⁵ as a result of the move to the comb lifting mechanism and reduced wear and tear of not having a reversible system with so many moving parts to accommodate the two styles of bin).

5.5. This will also be supported by the financial benefits previously identified as part of reprofiling the Capital Replacement plan for the Domestic Waste Fleet, which will address current overspends on maintenance and hire vehicles, alongside a reliance on Redditch Borough Council vehicles to maintain services.

5.6. In addition to these benefits, the Council has also now had confirmation that DEFRA will be transferring funding of **£1,004,000** to Bromsgrove District Council linked to dry recyclable material through the Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR) scheme for the 2025/26 financial year, with further funding from this scheme each year thereafter.

⁵ In Chargeable Mechanic's time as well as parts – so some of this benefit will be linked to increased capacity within the workshop to support the entire fleet and further reduce the use of third parties for maintenance support.

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- 5.7. This is effectively a tax on packaging manufacturers under the “producer pays” principle and not direct government funding per se.
- 5.8. EPR funding is intended to support costs of our existing waste collection arrangements and support communication and education on dry recycling to further improve this to divert waste from landfill/incineration; and although there are currently no limits on how this money is spent, this is not guaranteed income.
- 5.9. From 2028 this funding will be linked to the quality as well as quantity of recycling we collect, and may be required to support education and engagement with residents regarding their waste in order to maintain this level of funding.
- 5.10. The government have emphasised repeatedly the need to demonstrate “efficient” collections ensuring a high quality of collected recycling, and it may be appropriate to link this on-going revenue funding with the replacement of our existing wheeled bins, and consideration of whether a split stream recycling service may be appropriate in the future as well.
- 5.11. The additional costs of moving to a twin stream recycling service would be significant as an addition to our existing service, but such a system would support a transition to a three weekly residual collection cycle alongside the weekly food waste service and alternating fortnightly collections of the two dry recycling streams and our existing fortnightly garden waste service, and this would likely generate the highest quality of recycling as well as influence recycling behaviour and engagement to a greater degree with residents to realise the reductions in residual non-recyclable waste identified from previous waste sampling across the District.

6. Environmental/Climate Change Implications

- 6.1. As part of replacing the “Diamond” wheeled bins, arrangements would be made for the old bins to be recycled as part of the arrangements, with the raw material fed back into the recycling stream.
- 6.2. Given the likely timescale of this project, it is expected that wheeled bins produced for delivery to our residents will be made with plastic recycled from our existing diamond bins, and further illustrating the circular economy principle of waste reduction.
- 6.3. The value of this recyclable material from our old bins is part of the quoted price for collection and processing of our old bins, which keeps the costs lower for the Council.

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6.4. We do not have the storage capacity or arrangements in place to realise a greater value for this material ourselves.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. Wheeled bins are provided to each property to support engagement with our waste collection arrangements, as per Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

7.2. As such, bins remain the property of Bromsgrove District Council, and we can support the change by reissuing the section 46 notice to all residents, with details of the new wheeled bin requirements for residents to access our collection service.

7.3. Procurement is viable through either a competitive tender process, or direct award under a framework, and this will be managed to ensure compliance and quality regarding new wheeled bins.

8. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

8.1. Equalities and Diversity Implications

8.2. Replacement of wheeled bins may impact on residents with medical needs/disabilities.

8.3. This will be managed through direct engagement with those residents currently receiving support under our assisted waste collection arrangements, and included in our communications plan to ensure that any concerns are identified and addressed.

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Whittaker – Environmental Services Portfolio Holder	
Lead Director / Head of Service	Simon Parry - Head of Environmental Services	
Financial Services	Peter Carpenter – Section 151 Officer	
Legal Services	Claire Green – Principal Solicitor	
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	N/A	
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Eccles – Climate Change Manager	

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Strategic Update - Introduction of Food Waste Collection

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Peter Whittaker
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Head of Service		Simon Parry
Report Author: Matthew Austin	Job Title: Environmental Services Manager Contact email: matthew.austin@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 548206	
Wards Affected		All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)		Environment - supporting recycling to reducing waste production
Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS (Provisional)**

The Cabinet **RECOMMEND** that:

- 1) **Subject to the outcome of negotiations, the Council approves the introduction of a joint Food Waste Collection Service, working with Redditch Borough Council and Wyre Forest District Council to deliver the authority’s statutory duties under the Environment Act 2021 regarding a Food Waste Collection service;**

- 2) **The Council allocate £1,000,000 Revenue Funding in the Medium-Term Financial Plan as an operational budget from 2026/27 to fund the Food Waste Collection Service in the Borough, as accounted for within tranche 1 of the budget;**

- 3) **Delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director of Environmental and Housing Property Services following consultation with the Section 151 Officer, the Principal Solicitor (Contracts, Commercial and Procurement) and the Portfolio Holders for Finance and Environmental Services respectively to:**
 - a) **subject to the agreement of recommendation 1 above, to negotiate and agree terms with Redditch Borough Council and Wyre Forest District Council to enter into a joint tender for a shared food waste collection service;**

 - b) **tender and award a dedicated weekly food waste collection service through a third party for a period of 8 years commencing no later than 31 March 2026.**

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2. Context

- 2.1. The Government has set a new statutory duty under the Environment Act 2021 to introduce a dedicated separate weekly collection of food waste from all households by 31st March 2026, alongside expanded requirements on dry recycling.
- 2.2. Working closely with Worcestershire County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority, we are able to accommodate the changes to dry recycling without any changes to our existing green bin service, so this report is focusing primarily on the changes required from the new food waste service.
- 2.3. As we do not currently operate such a service, this will require additional resources to operate, and due to the current size restrictions of our depots, we are unable to add these to our existing arrangements without significant investment in additional land as well as an expansion of our Operators Licence with the Traffic Commissioner and DVSA.
- 2.4. In addition to the challenges regarding space restrictions on providing this service, it will require procurement and delivery of food waste caddies for each property, additional bins for communal properties, and additional dedicated vehicles and staff to collect the waste.
- 2.5. To achieve the Government requirements on time, it is vital that the Council takes decisions by the end of January 2026 to allow the procurement of resources to supply the service to our residents, either as an in-house service, or through an external provider.

3. Background

- 3.1. Over the last five years, considerable work has been carried out in partnership with the other Worcestershire Authorities to consider how to meet the new requirements, and model the resources required to operate such a service, as well as what the associated environmental benefits will be as a result of implementing this service.
- 3.2. This has given us a good understanding of what will be required, and the benefits arising from such a service, as well as potential other changes to offset some of the potential costs arising from the new burden.
- 3.3. Due to persistent delays in the communication of funding and precise requirements for local authorities, we are currently only able to give assurance on some of the costs and associated income relating to Capital costs, without any detail or confidence in additional revenue income to offset on-going costs, despite assurances that the cost of this new burden will be supported by Central Government.
- 3.4. For this reason, many Local Authorities operating in-house services have been waiting for more detail on the financial support for implementing the new service, although a number of LA's with externally contracted services (such as Stratford on Avon District Council) have had to implement the new duties as part of contract renewals in advance of the deadline, and as a consequence have not received any funding from central government.
- 3.5. If we are to meet the deadline for implementing this new service though, there is now a need for a decision regarding how we will implement the new service, as procurement timescales and lead in times for the manufacture of food collection vehicles are currently estimated at up to 12 months, with the purchase and delivery of sufficient food caddies also requiring up to 6 months in order to ensure that the service is able to commence for all our residents.

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- 3.6. These timescales will likely increase as councils nationwide are now starting to place orders to support their needs in time for the deadline, and funding announcements are expected in November that will support the remaining authorities to commit to spending.
- 3.7. It is important to note that management of waste in Worcestershire is split between ourselves as the Waste Collection Authority (WCA), and the County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), who arrange for waste to be processed/treated once collected.
- 3.8. There is currently nowhere within Worcestershire that can support the disposal of food waste, and the nearest facility that can meet our needs is to the west of Stourbridge, but the County Council are not able to secure that as the destination for our food waste until there is clarity regarding our future collection service, and this presents a risk that the available capacity may be committed elsewhere, and require us to transport food waste further for disposal – increasing costs and reducing the efficiency of a collection service.
- 3.9. To support discussions and secure a disposal route, the WDA will need clarity around the parameters of the future service.
- 3.10. Key parameters include:
- assumption of food waste yield based on 1.25kg/hh/week
 - if caddy liners are to be provided;
 - Any changes to current residual services (which will influence yield);
 - planned service start date;
 - property coverage – if all premises will be covered from service start date or if the service will be phased in.
- 3.11. Options for the future management of collected food waste, including the provision of new transfer stations and/or combined transfer stations and collection depots, are being explored by WCC currently to support the longer-term efficiency of managing food waste.
- 3.12. A report to Worcestershire Leaders Board in July examined the implications of direct delivery versus the use of transfer stations. Transfer stations are generally beneficial for the WCA as they reduce mileage and impact on collection rounds. Additionally, transfer manages risk – for example if a facility is offline for any reason, bulked up waste can easily be diverted elsewhere.

4. Current Options:

- 4.1. There are currently three core options open to the Council regarding the new Statutory requirement, each with variant elements and different risks:
- 4.2. **Option 1:** Expand our current services to operate a Food Waste Collection ourselves.
- 4.3. **Option 2:** Outsource the Food Waste Collection service through the private sector.
- 4.4. **Option 3:** Consider the legal options to not meet the new statutory duty.

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4.5. Option 1 Outline Information: In House Provision

- 4.6. Approximately 40% of local authorities fulfil waste collections via an in-house workforce, and this would give opportunity to share local knowledge from our existing workforce, but also require us to take on the responsibilities associated with all aspects of the service.
- 4.7. This would consist of recruiting and training approximately 26 additional staff, and procuring/operating 11 vehicles.
- 4.8. This would also involve maintenance of the additional vehicles, which is a current concern for our existing fleet, and taking responsibility for all operational risks – which as a brand-new service are higher than normal.
- 4.9. In order to operate these additional resources, we would also need to acquire a new site to operate from, as our existing depots do not have capacity, or the relevant certification to operate the size of fleet that this would produce.
- 4.10. Our current O Licenses (that regulate the maximum number of Heavy Goods Vehicles we can legally operate) are already at capacity across the two existing sites, and cannot be extended without increasing the space and maintenance facilities to support such a fleet.

4.11. Option 2 Outline Information: Outsource a Food Waste Collection Contract

- 4.12. Option 2 under this requirement would be to commission the food waste collection service by procuring a new contract for waste collections.
- 4.13. The Council will be able to use the contract to allocate much of the uncertainty around participation and necessary logistics to the Contractor in return for a set cost that would allow the Council to budget more effectively, but potentially reduce the ability to make savings during the life of such a contract.
- 4.14. If the Council opted to outsource this service, then it will need to consider the procurement strategy which it adopts, but there are procurement frameworks that will support an open process with minimal risk – subject to sufficient interested parties looking to engage with this process.
- 4.15. The Council should be aware that undertaking a procurement exercise would not guarantee a satisfactory outcome. The waste collection market has contracted due to consolidation and companies exiting the market.
- 4.16. Contractors do not have sufficient capacity to bid for all projects, and so they are selective about which projects they pursue. It can therefore be difficult to generate sufficient competition to drive value for money through such a procurement exercise.
- 4.17. In addition, a dedicated waste collections contract for the District may not be an attractive proposition for private sector waste contractors not already operating in this area, unless they seek to use this as an entry-point to expand operations in the Worcestershire area.
- 4.18. To address this, opportunities to let a joint tender with Redditch Borough Council under our shared service would help to increase the attraction of our contract, although further partnership with other Worcestershire LA's would further increase this and support increased resilience and best value if such an agreement could be reached, and transparency of costs between the individual authorities be built into the pricing.

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4.19. Option 3 Outline Information: Alternatives to full implementation of a Food Waste Collection Service

4.20. This option may breach our statutory duty under the Environment Act 2021, and is not one presented lightly.

4.21. It is currently unknown what the funding from Central Government will support regarding the new burden of implementing a food waste collection service, and it is expected that there will likely be some initial shortfall against our costs, with further financial pressure over time in the form of future capital investment and uncertainties regarding the period for which central government will support revenue funding of the new service.

4.22. Current estimated costs of implementing the service are presented in section 4 below, but place an exceptional additional pressure on Council Finances.

4.23. If the funding from Central Government does not meet our expected costs, we may require legal advice to consider our options, and any relevant interpretation of the new requirements that may allow us to either defer, partially implement, or simply not meet the new statutory duty.

4.24. Summary of Options:

4.25. Whichever mechanism is chosen, the logistical challenges will remain, and due to the number of Local Authorities that are also planning to implement additional services to meet this requirement, there are now significant concerns that further delay in making arrangements will result in us failing to meet this new Statutory Duty.

4.26. Due to the costs and capacity concerns outlined in the main body of this report associated with operating a new in-house food waste collection service, Officer recommendations at this point will be to outsource this element of our services, as per option 2 above, and will be reviewed to support a final report paper in January to present additional detail and appraisal of options to meet this duty.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Working with external consultants “Circulogic”, who have supported modelling for the new requirements, the modelled indicative cost of operating a food waste collection service across Bromsgrove is just under £1 million per year, not including any additional expenditure on infrastructure.

5.2. Government is providing three funding streams to support Councils implement food waste collections:

- Capital transitional funding (to buy vehicles and containers)
- Transitional resource funding (one off start-up costs)
- Ongoing resource (revenue) funding

5.3. The details of this revenue funding were expected to be provided in November 2024, but have still not been shared.

5.4. Waste Collection Authorities (WCA) have been given a one-off capital fund for the purchase of vehicles and containers to commence the service, although future Capital costs to replace vehicles

and bins are expected to be funded by Collection Authorities thereafter, which is an additional financial pressure for the Council.

5.4.1. **BDC - £902,511**

Waste Collection Authority	Allocated DEFRA capital funding for containers	Actual capital funding needed for containers	Shortfall
Bromsgrove DC	£288,711	£317,060	£28,349

- 5.5. An appeal regarding the allocated Capital funding was submitted to Defra in early March 2024.
- 5.6. In our appeal to Defra, for illustrative purposes, we also highlighted the current market rate of land with an estimate of the additional land area required to support the operation of a food waste fleet and meet the criteria to support potential expansion of our Operators Licence.
- 5.7. For BDC this added a further **£309,000** to the total funding shortfall (without any other investment in facilities/infrastructure on that land).
- 5.8. Food waste collection vehicles are generally smaller than those used for the main residual and recycling collections. 7.5 tonne vehicles have been used in our modelling and by Government to calculate funding. The funding does not cover the cost of procuring alternative fuel vehicles and equates to just over £100,000 per 7.5 tonne vehicle. Electric versions of these vehicles are quoted at more than £300,000.

Waste Collection Authority	Allocated DEFRA capital funding for Vehicles	Actual capital funding needed for vehicles	Shortfall
Bromsgrove DC	£613,800	£1,125,300	£511,500

- 5.9. Ongoing revenue funding will be paid from 2026/27 when the New Burden payments commence, but the estimated figures have not yet been provided for consideration.
- 5.10. Transitional resource funding will be provided in late 2024/25 and again in early 2025/26 with a caveat from Defra that this will be 'subject to agreement and our spending review allocation, we plan to fund procurement, project management, communications and container delivery'.
- 5.11. Based on the modelling carried out for Bromsgrove, we will need up to 11 vehicles, with a minimum of 2 staff per vehicle, not including cover for annual leave/sickness.

- 5.12. The Revenue costs associated with operating this service are estimated at nearly £1 million per year for Bromsgrove, although updated modelling is currently being prepared by *Circulogic*¹ to more clearly define this to support inclusion in the MTFP.
- 5.13. It is worth noting that the figures above are solely for Bromsgrove, and there may be financial benefits arising from our shared service arrangements with Redditch Borough Council that would support a reduction on these figures, although this cannot be verified until planning has commenced in earnest to deliver the service operationally – either inhouse, or through an external supplier.
- 5.14. In addition to the funding and resource requirements linked to Food Waste, the Council has now had confirmation that DEFRA will be transferring funding of **£1,004,000** to Bromsgrove District Council linked to dry recyclable material through the Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR) scheme for the 2025/26 financial year.
- 5.15. This is effectively a tax on packaging manufacturers under the “producer pays” principle and not direct government funding per se.
- 5.16. EPR funding is intended to support costs of our existing waste collection arrangements and support service changes, communication and education on dry recycling to further improve this to divert waste from landfill/incineration; and although there are currently no limits on how this money is spent, this is not guaranteed income and we expect further guidance on this in 2025.
- 5.17. From 2028 this funding will be linked to the quality as well as quantity of recycling we collect, and may be required to support education and engagement with residents regarding their waste in order to secure and maintain this level of funding.
- 5.18. On 29 November the Government set out a new policy statement regarding “Simpler Recycling²”, which set out a “maximum default requirement” for councils to collect card and paper separately from April 2026. No reference is made to new burdens funding for this activity which – at a minimum – would require provision of separate containers and either separate containers in vehicles for holding the material (with slower collection times as crews have to empty two containers rather than one) or even separate vehicles and crews to undertake the collections.
- 5.19. The additional costs of moving to a twin stream recycling service would be significant as an addition to our existing service, but such a system would support a transition to a three weekly residual collection cycle alongside the weekly food waste service and alternating fortnightly collections of the two dry recycling streams and our existing fortnightly garden waste service.
- 5.20. This would likely generate the highest quality of recycling as well as influence recycling behaviour and engagement to a greater degree with residents to realise the reductions in residual non-recyclable waste identified from previous waste sampling across the Borough, whilst also reducing our operating costs to offset the costs associated with the additional arrangements for recycling.
- 5.21. It is recognised within this that councils and other waste collectors will “still have the flexibility to make the best choices to suit local need” though, and it is believed that as with previous legislation regarding waste collection, there is scope to maintain our existing comingled approach using a TEEP (Technical, Economic and Environmentally Practicable) assessment.

¹ Results expected early November 2024

² This is the umbrella term for the rationalisation of waste collection arrangements nationally to ensure that all residents can dispose of the same core recyclable items wherever in the country they live.

- 5.22. We are already discussing this with the other Worcestershire Authorities as a joint initiative to support our current service arrangements, as this will require us to set out how we will attain the required quality of recycling, and so will need to be considered alongside the ERP funding to ensure we can demonstrate the necessary outcomes and benefits to justify this.
- 5.23. Whilst this funding may be used to offset potential shortfalls in funding for food waste, the government have emphasised repeatedly the need to demonstrate “efficient” collections ensuring a high quality of collected recycling, and it should not be seen as a windfall that can be relied on without careful consideration of the potential impact of not being able to demonstrate how this funding has been used to support this.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The Environment Act 2021 sets out the legislative framework for Simpler Recycling which was launched in October 2023. The Council already meets many of the requirements, but it will need to provide new services to provide a separate weekly collection of food waste from homes from 31 March 2026.

7. OTHER – IMPLICATIONS

7.1. Climate Change Implications

- 7.2. The introduction of food waste will give the potential to divert nearly a third of the residual waste (by weight) we currently collect based on sampling of what Redditch residents are throwing away.

Residual Waste – Composition Analysis 2022 (Percentage by weight)			BDC
ORGANIC CATERING	UNAVOIDABLE FOOD WASTE		7.98%
	POTENTIALLY AVOIDABLE FOOD WASTE		2.58%
	AVOIDABLE FOOD WASTE - LOOSE		3.08%
	AVOIDABLE FOOD WASTE - PACKAGED		17.76%
	CONSUMABLE LIQUIDS, FATS AND OILS.		0.88%
			32.27%

- 7.3. For Bromsgrove, it is estimated that the food waste service has the potential to reduce the Carbon impact of managing our residents waste by up to 1,800 tons per year subject to how well our residents engage with the service.
- 7.4. Subject to the success of the new service, the diversion of this waste out of the residual waste stream may also support improved efficiency in our wider waste collection rounds, giving further reductions to our carbon impact.

8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 8.1. People with disabilities may require assistance in presenting their food waste caddy for collection, which will be provided as part of our existing assisted collection scheme, and will be publicised alongside the introduction of a new collection scheme as part of the information provided directly to every household when the caddies are delivered.
- 8.2. There could potentially be a negative impact on people from particular ethnic groups whose first language is not English and any subsequent misunderstandings about the correct food waste disposal instructions. Imagery will be used to help simplify the message as much as possible, and further assessment will be needed to identify the scale of this, and consider how to address these concerns.
- 8.3. A detailed Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out as part of final selection and implementation of the new service alongside the creation of a final specification and implementation plan.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1. There are several risks to meeting the domestic requirement to collect food waste by April 2026, which include:
- Capital and revenue financial uncertainty (New Burdens)
 - Capacity of supply chain to meet unprecedented nationwide demand for specialist vehicles, caddies, and bins
 - Capacity and suitability of existing depot(s) to accommodate increased number of trucks (impacts on O Licence)
 - Capacity and availability of local AD facilities to reduce travel time and impact on collection rounds
 - Availability of supporting infrastructure (waste transfer stations) which will increase the cost of providing service in short-medium term
 - Lack of suppliers for provision of food waste collection contract.
 - On-Going ERP funding not guaranteed, and still uncertainty over how this will be calculated and linked to service provision, efficiency of collections, and quality of recycling material collected in the future, which will be needed to support appropriate use of this funding.
- 9.2. Five of the Worcestershire councils collaborated on a Soft Market Testing exercise in June this year to identify factors relevant to outsourcing food waste with potential suppliers, but did not receive any responses to the questions posed to the private sector.
- 9.3. A further market engagement exercise is being developed alongside this report to address the uncertainty regarding interest from the private sector in providing the service as a dedicated food waste contract only, using a simpler premise to gauge interest specifically to support a decision on whether the private sector will engage with a tender process should we start one.

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10. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Whittaker – Environmental Services Portfolio Holder	5/12/24
Lead Director / Head of Service	Guy Revans - Director Simon Parry – Asst. Director Environmental Services	5/12/24
Financial Services	Peter Carpenter – Section 151 Officer	5/12/24
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings – Principal Solicitor	5/12/24
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	N/A	
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Eccles – Climate Change Manager	

Report of Health Overview and Scrutiny Board Meeting held on 12th November 2024.

Topic Public Health and Prevention

Children and Young People

- Smoking during pregnancy and delivery has been reduced by 18% to a rate of 9%.
- Worcestershire is the only region in the West Midlands to achieve a MMR rate of 90%
- A significant reduction in infant mortality – lowest in the region 4%.
- An area which has not seen improvement is Childhood Obesity –
 - Rate of obesity is 9.1. % at Reception rising to 22% by year 6.
 - Measures taken are – launched an innovative grant scheme for schools and youth settings.
 - Over 200 grants have been awarded to enable improved outdoor play area, sensory and wellbeing spaces, gardening projects.
- Public health work on children by Worcestershire Public Health department has been recognised and has been nominated for a Royal Society Public Health Award.

Adults

- Number of people accessing Substance Misuse Treatment has increased from 1852 to 3060 in the last 12 months.
- Increased physical activity to prevent number of illnesses.
- Use o Resistance Bands = improves physical activity, along with overall conditioning, strength and balance.
- Healthy Worcestershire in collaboration with district and parish councils runs an integrated health improvement programme.
- Healthy Worcestershire supports projects such as walking, running and cycling.
- Bike Worcester runs a Bike Bus and Bikeability schemes, encouraging people to become keen cyclists.

Overview for the next 12 months

- Female life expectancy is highest in Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills and Wychavon locally and much higher than the national average.
- Public Health is targeting priority neighbourhoods.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025

AS OF 1 September 2024

ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Date of Meeting	Subject	Lead Officer / Member
6 th January 2025	<u>Substantive item</u> The Basement Project (aims of grant funding)	Judith Willis, Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services
	North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership including Anti-Social Behaviour	Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager
	Food Waste Business Case and Associated Waste Related Issues (Pre-Scrutiny) (This report may contain exempt information).	Guy Revans, Executive Director (Councillor P.J. Whittaker)
11 th February 2025	<u>Substantive Item</u> Medium Term Financial Plan – Tranche 2 Budget including Fees and Charges (following consultation) – including any recommendations on the subject arising from the Finance and Budget Working Group	Peter Carpenter, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer
	Levelling-Up Fund Programme (Quarterly Update)	Peter Carpenter, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer
	<u>Information Item</u> Local Heritage Action List (Quarterly Update)	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager
25 th March 2025	<u>Substantive Item</u> Update on Heatwaves Preparedness (Impact of Heatwaves Task Group Recommendation)	Guy Revans, Executive Director
15 th April 2025 (meeting reserved for consideration of O&S Annual Report and Review of 2024-25)	<u>Substantive Item</u> Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2024-25	Chairman of the Board

Agenda Item 12

Date of Meeting	Subject	Lead Officer / Member

ITEMS FOR WHICH DATES ARE STILL TO BE CONFIRMED

	Update on the Artrix	Representatives of the Artrix Holding Trust
	Bromsgrove District Plan Consultation (Pre-scrutiny) (TBC)	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED VIA A “FIRST LOOK” MEMBER BRIEFING

All-Member briefing scheduled for 25 th February 2025	Biodiversity Policy	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services
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BDC Overview and Scrutiny Board - Action Sheet (2024/25)

10th September 2024 Meeting

Subject	Action Required	Action Taken	Officer(s) Responsible	Other Comments	Status
Levelling Up – Market Hall	The risk registers for the project to be updated to refer to BDC only and to remove reference to RBC.	Democratic Services emailed relevant officers on 12/9/24	Section 151 Officer/Deputy Chief Executive	Response: 7/11/24 The documents emailed to Members (excluding Public Realm which is being updated and will be provided shortly).	Still outstanding (Public Realm)

17th October 2024 Meeting

Subject	Action Required	Action Taken	Officer(s) Responsible	Other Comments	Status
Levelling up – Market Hall	Updated cost plan	18/10/24 Officers emailed	Section 151 Officer / Deputy Chief Executive	Response: 6/11/24 email from Regeneration Project Delivery Manager. Unable to provide as with Keir and still working on along with programme before works start, this is due on 18 th November 2024.	Still outstanding

9th December 2024 Meeting

Subject	Action Required	Action Taken	Officer(s) Responsible	Other Comments	Status
Play Audit	To obtain the official guidance from ROSPA to determine the adequate fall height.	Emailed officers - 11/12/24 Chased officers – 20/12/24	Ishat Karimi Fini, Parks and Events Service Manager		
	What are the capital funding bids timeline?	Emailed officers - 11/12/24	Ishat Karimi Fini, Parks and Events Service Manager		Budget bids are committed for 25/26, this will be reviewed year on year.
	Amend Belbroughton P.C. to Belbroughton and Fairfield P.C. Also to amend Play Site ID 48 and 11 ownership to Belbroughton Recreation Centre (Refer to page 22 of the report).	Emailed officers - 11/12/24 Chased officers – 20/12/24	Ishat Karimi Fini, Parks and Events Service Manager		
	How much consultants are paid on a hourly basis?	Emailed officers - 11/12/24 Chased officers – 20/12/24	Ishat Karimi Fini, Parks and Events Service Manager		
	To carry out an audit for Parish Council Play area provision.	Emailed officers - 11/12/24 Chased officers – 20/12/24	Ishat Karimi Fini, Parks and Events Service Manager		
	Work with Parish Councils to review financial requirements.	Emailed officers - 11/12/24 Chased officers – 20/12/24	Ishat Karimi Fini, Parks and Events Service Manager		
	Review wording for Belbroughton and Romsley Ward (Refer to page 103 of the report).	Emailed officers - 11/12/24 Chased officers – 20/12/24	Ishat Karimi Fini, Parks and Events Service Manager		

Subject	Action Required	Action Taken	Officer(s) Responsible	Other Comments	Status

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