

# Public Document Pack



## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2026  
AT 6.00 P.M.

PARKSIDE SUITE - PARKSIDE

MEMBERS: Councillors P. M. McDonald (Chairman), S. Ammar, A. Bailes, R. Bailes, J. Clarke, A. M. Dale, B. Kumar, R. E. Lambert, S. A. Robinson, J. D. Stanley and H. D. N. Warren-Clarke

### 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. **Appointment of Vice Chairman**
4. **To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 18th November 2025 (Pages 7 - 26)**

5. **Biodiversity Duty Report - Pre-Scrutiny** (To follow)

*This report will follow in a Supplementary Papers pack once the report has been published for Cabinet's consideration (due for publication on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025).*

6. **Homelessness Prevention, Rough Sleeper and Domestic Abuse Grants Funding 2027/28 and 2028/29 - Pre-Scrutiny** (To follow)

*This report will follow in a Supplementary Papers pack once the report has been published for Cabinet's consideration (due for publication on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025).*

7. **Particulate Monitoring - Pre-Scrutiny** (To follow)

*This report will follow in a Supplementary Papers pack once the report has been published for Cabinet's consideration (due for publication on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025).*

8. **Levelling Up Fund Programme (Quarterly Update)** (Pages 27 - 36)

9. **Local Heritage Action List (Quarterly Update)** (Pages 37 - 38)

10. **Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Update** (Pages 39 - 42)

11. **Finance and Budget Working Group - Membership Report and Update** (Pages 43 - 48)

12. **Cabinet Work Programme** (Pages 49 - 56)

13. **Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme** (Pages 57 - 58)

14. **Overview and Scrutiny Action Sheet** (Pages 59 - 62)

15. **To consider any urgent business, details of which have been notified to the Assistant Director 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.**

J. Leach  
Chief Executive

Parkside  
Market Street  
BROMSGROVE  
Worcestershire  
B61 8DA

19th December 2025

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

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please do not hesitate to contact the officer named above.**

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#### **Notes:**

**Although this is a public meeting, there are circumstances when Council might have to move into closed session to consider exempt or confidential information.**



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# Public Document Pack Item 4

Overview and Scrutiny Board

18th November 2025

## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

18TH NOVEMBER 2025, AT 6.00 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Councillors P. M. McDonald (Chairman), S. T. Nock (Vice-Chairman), S. Ammar, A. Bailes, R. Bailes, J. Clarke, D. J. A. Forsythe, B. Kumar, R. E. Lambert, B. McEldowney and H. D. N. Warren-Clarke

Observers: Councillor K. May – Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships, Economic Development and Enabling Councillor S.J. Baxter – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

Councillor S.A. Webb - Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing and Strategic Housing

Officers: Mr. G. Revans, R Egan, Ms J. Willis, Mr. M. Bough, Ms R. McElliott, Ms. A. Delahunty, Mr D. Whitney and Mrs S. Woodfield.

Other Parties: Mr G. Anderson and Mr J. Whitman  
(Representatives of Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT))

58/25

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor A.M. Dale, with confirmation provided that Councillor D.J.A. Forsythe was attending as her named substitute, Councillor S. Robinson with confirmation that Councillor J. Clarke was attending as her named substitute and Councillor J.D. Stanley with confirmation that Councillor R.E. Lambert would be in attendance as his named substitute.

59/25

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS

There were no declarations of interest nor of whipping arrangements.

60/25

### TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 2ND AND 28TH OCTOBER 2025

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 were considered.

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**RESOLVED** that, subject to the amendments detailed in the preamble above, the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 be approved as a correct record.

61/25

## **STRATEGIC OVERVIEW OF BDHT SERVICES**

The Chief Executive of Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT) presented to the Board with the key points discussed as follows:

- BDHT's objectives included being an excellent landlord, employer, and a community-based Housing Association.
- Stock levels had grown to over four thousand homes, with a strong focus on the Bromsgrove District.
- Financial viability remained critical with all expenditure funded through rental income.
- Compliance and safety were highlighted as top priorities following national regulatory changes.
- Recruitment and retention of skilled staff were proving challenging.
- Complaints were increasing, partly due to external claims companies and rising customer expectations.

Member comments and questions were as follows:

- How could a tenant continue to pay their rent monthly which had been initially agreed and preferred option? BDHT advised that although it was stated and suggested in the tenancy agreement to pay rent weekly, individual cases could be assessed and it was advised for individuals to contact BDHT for further advice.
- Did BDHT hold a land banking and development strategy? In response BDHT confirmed that they did not hold any land bank developments and relied mainly on Section 106 agreements for new developments.
- Concerns were raised concerns about the potential impact of rent caps and inflation on affordable housing supply. BDHT acknowledged that there were pressures and confirmed development targets had reduced from five hundred to three hundred and fifty units annually.
- Members were informed that over a thousand properties were built under the S106 option. Nationally housing developers struggled to source providers for affordable homes which ensured that BDHT were a suitable and often successful bidder.
- Were there any potential future government funding opportunities? In response it was confirmed that bids were possible but it was noted that grants required match funding from BDHT to secure the bids and compliance imposed a strict criteria regime.
- Concerns were raised on the lack of some estate maintenance improvements within the district, in particular, with regards to footpaths and garages. It was agreed that these areas would be

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18th November 2025

reviewed as a priority and allocation of funds for communal area provision would be looked at.

- A request for contact details of Housing Officers which were allocated to specific ward areas was agreed by BDHT to provide to Members.
- The Board also requested access to the asset register for footpaths owned by BDHT. In response it was agreed that this would be reviewed to have available for Members.
- Was there a prevention plan to ensure the homeless was housed and remained in employment and if there was relevant data to demonstrate this? It was advised that it wasn't within the contract agreement to provide a plan but BDHT did assist where possible. The necessary data was shown on returns to Central Government which included employment status.
- Parking issues within the district was discussed with Members, suggesting that repossessed land, formerly for garages could assist with the problem. BDHT explained that selling the land was less costly than maintaining the specific areas, however, there were some areas of land within the district which had been made into parking spaces.
- Clarity on complaints handling procedures was requested. In response BDHT outlined the two-stage process and confirmed the Housing Ombudsman involvement where necessary. BDHT also discussed Members' involvement as an advocate between BDHT and residents. It was suggested that to ensure complaints were dealt with effectively, all Members should contact via email (as discussed during the presentation) to ensure that complaints were processed in one isolated area. Members suggested a unique complaints reference numbering system could be devised. In response, BDHT agreed to review the complaints procedure further.

The portfolio holder for Health and Wellbeing and Strategic Housing added her thanks to BDHT for giving up their time and attending the Board meeting. She also expressed her gratitude to the Homelessness and Domestic Abuse teams for their efforts when dealing with individual cases for the Council.

**RESOLVED** that the Strategic Overview of BDHT briefing paper and presentation be noted.

62/25

## **HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT AND DOMESTIC ABUSE GRANT - PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Strategic Housing Officer presented the Cabinet report on proposed allocations for 2026/27.

A summary of proposals were highlighted as follows:

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- Total grant funding available was £531,661 (including Homelessness Prevention, Rough Sleeping, and Domestic Abuse grants).
- Key allocations included:
  - BDHT Housing Agency Agreement top-up of £52,475
  - Additional temporary accommodation units of £30,688
  - Young Persons Pathway Worker of £41,116
  - Rough Sleeper outreach (Maggs) of £35,607
  - Domestic Abuse support services of £35,744

Member comments and discussions were as follows:

- The Severe Emergency Weather Provision was discussed with Members being informed that the provision was not utilised regularly but was required to ensure the people are kept safe during extreme weather.
- Members welcomed the ringfencing of funds for prevention and relief activities.
- Members were informed that domestic abuse was on the rise with requests for accommodation out of area being a huge burden on services, in areas such as Birmingham and Dudley.
- Further clarity on the role of the Empty Homes Officer was requested. Members were informed that the grant and role targeted homes which had been emptied for longer than a six month period.
- Clarity on performance monitoring and outcomes was requested with Officers explaining that there were quarterly monitoring and compliance requirements from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
- The sustainability of voluntary sector services if grant funding ceased? Officers stressed the importance of continued support to avoid increased homelessness pressures.
- NewStarts and GreenSquare Accord worked collaboratively, particularly for volunteering and tenancy sustainability.
- Members expressed concerns regarding rough sleeper numbers and monitoring. Officers reported three had been verified as rough sleepers at the last count which is a snapshot and explained that this figure changes frequently as people move from rough sleeping into accommodation.

**RECOMMENDED** that

- 1) Subject to the final decision by central Government, that the proposed element of the Revenue Support Grant 2026/27 attributed to Temporary Accommodation is ring fenced to the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Grant.

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- 2) The initiatives in 4.6 be approved to receive the Homelessness Prevention Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant allocations of funding for 2026/27.
- 3) Delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing to use any unallocated Grant during the year or make further adjustments and uplifts as necessary to ensure full utilisation of the Grants for 2026/27 in support of existing or new schemes.

63/25

## **HOUSING TASK GROUP - FINAL REPORT**

The Chairman of the Housing Task Group was pleased and proud to present the Housing Task Group's final report to the Board.

Members were informed that the group had covered a wide range of subject areas, guided by the terms of reference, with key recommendations to be noted by the Board. The Chairman of the task group expressed his thanks for the contributions from group Members for their valuable cross-party debates and also to the Democratic Services Officers who facilitated the meetings.

Members of the Housing Task Group also provided their gratitude for being part of the group and thanked the Chairman for his contributions and leadership.

Members discussed content within the report which highlighted a suggestion of residents downsizing to smaller properties which could assist with the pressures of council tax payment demands. In response the Chairman of the Housing Task Group highlighted a recommendation within the report which requested that relevant Officers should monitor the number of residents claiming council tax in housing bands F, G and H.

Members supported the recommendations but noted legal complexities around freehold and the need to align with forthcoming government reforms. In response the Chairman of the Board informed Members that during recent discussions with the Legal Department, it was proposed to amend recommendation 6 a) as follows:

From:

"As part of the Local Government Reorganisation process, the Council:

Includes the proposal that a process be investigated whereby a future unitary authority pursues and seeks to manage contracts in new developments that are causing freehold issues within the District".

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To:

“As part of the Local Government Reorganisation process, the Council:

Notes that the Government is currently analysing the feedback from the consultation which sought views on proposals to implement aspects of the Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024 and further reform related to the charges leaseholders, and homeowners on freehold estates, pay and services they receive, which closed on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025”.

After consideration Members agreed to the recommendations within the Housing Task Group Final Report and suggested recommendation amendment.

**RESOLVED** that the Housing Task Group Final Report be noted.

**RECOMMENDED** that

Recommendation 1 – Housing Allocations

Officers approach Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT) and jointly explore a startup crisis package for residents living in social housing including the potential of an increase in housing benefit payment to cover the costs of the crisis package. The findings to be completed in three months and reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Recommendation 2 – Housing Allocations

Bromsgrove District Council's preference is for the mix of affordable housing contained within a new development be made up of social rent and shared ownership properties only and exclude outright sales of affordable homes.

Recommendation 3 – Asset Rich and Potentially Revenue Poor

Officers provide Members with costings of bad debt owed to the Council as a result of non – payment of Council tax by residents.

Recommendation 4 – Asset Rich and Potentially Revenue Poor

Officers monitor the number of residents claiming Council Tax Support in housing Bands F, G and H (with metrics built into the performance reporting framework).

Recommendation 5 – Section (S) 106 Contributions

Where a planning application has a material impact on the local community and there is a consideration for S106 contribution allocation, the Ward Member (and neighbouring Ward Member(s)) should be informed and consulted with prior to consideration of the application. A

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follow up consultation with the Ward Member (and neighbouring Ward Member(s)) should also take place.

## Recommendation 6 - Fleeceholding

As part of the Local Government Reorganisation process, the Council:

- a) Notes that the Government is currently analysing the feedback from the consultation which sought views on proposals to implement aspects of the Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024 and further reform related to the charges leaseholders, and homeowners on freehold estates, pay and services they receive, which closed on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
- b) Suggests that a new unitary authority continues to lobby Government on the matter of fleeceholding within Bromsgrove District.

64/25

## WORCESTERSHIRE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - UPDATE

The Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) representative, Councillor B. Kumar updated the Board on its recent meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

At the HOSC meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Engaging Neighbourhoods and Community in Health Improvements were considered and the Board were informed that generally community health improvement projects were reducing emergency admissions.

The following key points discussed:

- Priority Neighbourhood Development (PND)
- Empowering School Communities
- Wider Community Development
- Harnessing Assets – Green Spaces, Libraries, Volunteering
- Community Voice and Partnerships
- Volunteering in Healthwatch & Hospitals
- Innovative Models of Integrated Care

At the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) and Winter Planning were considered with Members informed that Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment highlighted reduced pharmacy hours and rural access issues.

The following key points were discussed during the meeting:

- Pharmacy Landscape & Access
- Gaps, Barriers & Inequalities
- Service Opportunities & Health Needs

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- Winter Planning & Key Priorities
- System-Level Interventions & Capacity Measures
- Demand Trends, Challenges & Targets
- Communications & Public Engagement

Members also discussed the Pharmacy First, with a Member discussing his own personal experiences with the scheme. Concerns about capacity and public awareness were also discussed.

**RESOLVED** that the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) update be noted.

65/25

## **FINANCE AND BUDGET WORKING GROUP - MEMBERSHIP REPORT AND UPDATE**

After consideration of the Finance and Budget Working Group Membership Report and terms of reference the Board agreed to maintain six Members on the Working Group.

The Chairman explained that should the three current vacancies as reflected in the report remain after the Board had been approached, Members who did not sit on the scrutiny board and were also not a Cabinet Member may be appointed to fill the vacancies.

**RESOLVED** that the Finance and Budget Working Group Membership Report be noted.

66/25

## **CABINET WORK PROGRAMME**

The Cabinet Work Programme was presented for Members' consideration.

The Chairman suggested and the Board agreed that the following items were to be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme:

- Biodiversity First Consideration Report
- Permission to Revoke the First Homes Policy

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

67/25

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme was considered by Members. The following items were requested by Members and agreed by the Board should be added to the Overview and Scrutiny's work programme:

- Town Centre Parking and Automatic Number Place Recognition Update (ANPR)
- Police and Crime Commissioner (Grant Funding)

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**RESOLVED** that the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be noted as per the preamble above.

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## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTION SHEET**

The Overview and Scrutiny Action Sheet were considered by the Board.

The Chairman raised concerns regarding Electric Vehicle charger revenue arrangements and requested a further review of profit-sharing agreements. It was agreed that this would be raised with the relevant Officers and reported back to the Board accordingly.

**RESOLVED** that the Overview and Scrutiny Action Sheet be noted.

69/25

## **TO CONSIDER ANY URGENT BUSINESS, DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED TO THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 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.**

There was no urgent business for consideration.

70/25

## **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 scheme 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>Minute</u> | <u>Item</u> | <u>Paragraph</u> |
|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| 71/25         |             | 3                |

71/25

## **WINDSOR STREET SITE - PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Regeneration Project Delivery Manager presented to the Board.

The Board considered delivery options for the Windsor Street redevelopment with the key points discussed as follows:

- Homes would be considered sustainable in design.
- Site remediation was underway.

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- Phase 2 was expected to be completed by May 2026 which was not critical as planning permission was required and would take time to complete.
- There would be no cost implications due to delay as there were no contractors present on site, however, when Phase 2 commenced, there could be costs to the Council.
- The requirement for affordable housing on site was 30%.
- Town Centre Living requirements was requested as a consideration.
- Detailed risk assessments were also requested by Members.
- The procurement selection process for a RSL should be considered for their creative vision.
- The chosen RSL should be located close to the district area.
- Members were assured that Homes England funding opportunities would be explored.
- Concerns were raised about parking provision and sustainability.

During consideration of comments received by the Board the Assistant Director Generation and Property explained that the purpose of reporting, as stated in the recommendations, were to gain approval for residential use, to seek delegated authority to review the procurement rules process and to review contractual requirements which could then be considered at Cabinet.

Following consideration and discussions, Members expressed their concerns that some of the recommendations were not clear regarding the delegated authority and contractual details. It was therefore agreed that the recommendations would be reviewed and reworded accordingly.

**RECOMMENDED** that

- 1) The Windsor Street site be redeveloped for residential use.
- 2) Subject to a further report to Cabinet outlining the detail of the collaboration agreement arrangements, the Council seek to enter into partnership with a Registered Social Landlord to develop the site.
- 3) The Assistant Director for Regeneration and Property and the Assistant Director for Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services be delegated authority to progress the preferred option, including reviewing administrative and contractual requirements, following consultation with the Leader, and to report back to Cabinet on the outcomes at a later date.

The meeting closed at 8.23 p.m.

Chairman

### Overview and Scrutiny Board

6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

#### LEVELLING UP REPORT – BROMSGROVE TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder  | Councillor Karen May   |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted   | Yes  |
| Relevant Head of Service   | Rachel Egan – Assistant Director<br>Regeneration & Property  |
| Report Author  | Rebecca McElliott<br>Job Title: Regeneration Programme Manager<br>email:<br>Rebecca.Mcelliott@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk |
| Wards Affected   | All  |
| Ward Councillor(s) consulted   | No   |
| Relevant Council Priorities  | Development<br>Communities and Housing<br>Infrastructure   |
| Non-Key Decision   |  |
| If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting. |  |

#### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

**The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to RESOLVE that:**

- 1) the update on the progress of the Levelling Up Fund projects be noted.**

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a quarterly update on the progress of all regeneration projects funded through the Levelling Up Fund (LUF).
- 2.2 The three projects are Nailers Yard, Windsor Street (acquisition, demolition and remediation) and Public Realm improvements (which is now complete).

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6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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### 3. PROJECT UPDATES

#### Windsor Street Update

- 3.1 As of the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Brownfield Solutions have completed phase one of the remediation strategy. This included groundwater monitoring following the removal of contaminated soil. These results were submitted to the Environment Agency (EA) for technical review.
- 3.2 Feedback was received from the EA on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Their feedback can be summarised as follows –
  - a) The proposed soil remediation has largely removed the main PFAS source and should reduce further contamination of groundwater, though groundwater PFAS levels in source zones still exceed targets and further remediation is needed as outlined in the October 2025 report.
  - b) Groundwater treatment options are supported, with emphasis on developing a detailed treatment specification, managing disposal of contaminated groundwater, and incorporating post-treatment groundwater monitoring.
  - c) For human-health protection aspects, the advice of Worcestershire Regulatory Services Environmental Health/Pollution Control should be sought as the lead regulator.
- 3.3 A meeting was held with the main contractor (City Demolition), Soilfix and Brownfield Solutions to discuss options for phase 2 remediation works on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Soilfix have proposed two options for phase 2 including either source injection works or barrier injection works. If works commence at the end of January 2026, it will take 20-23 weeks to undertake the treatment. This will need to be followed by 25 weeks of post monitoring (expected completion of December 2026-January 2027).
- 3.4 Cabinet agreed on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 that the site would be redeveloped for housing and their preferred option for delivery is to partner with a Registered Social Landlord (RSL). The Assistant Director for Regeneration and Property and the Assistant Director for Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services were given delegated authority to explore this option further and will report back to Cabinet on the outcomes at a later date.

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6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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3.5 The project manager instructed an external solicitor to provide specialist legal advice on partnership and procurement options for the site. The deadline for advice is 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025. Following a review of this advice, an options report will be prepared for Cabinet.

### Nailers Yard Site

3.6 Members will be aware that this project aims to regenerate a key brownfield site in Bromsgrove town centre by creating a vibrant new commercial and cultural hub on the former Market Hall site (which has been renamed Nailers Yard).

3.7 Works to both buildings are progressing well. The electric supply works have been completed, and the culvert works have commenced. Since the previous Overview and Scrutiny meeting in October, the expected completion date remains the same – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026. The project is estimated to cost £15,004,552 (no change from previous report).

3.8 Bruton Knowles have been appointed to undertake the property management of the commercial building. They will deal with landlord/tenant commercial leases, collecting rent and day-to-day enquiries, arranging contractors and repairs (Facilities Management) and broader value-enhancing changes (Asset Management). The management costs of a commercial building are met by the tenants through service charge. A landlord is responsible for service charge in any un-let space.

3.9 GJS Dillon are continuing to receive enquiries for the commercial building. They are agreeing heads of terms with an incoming tenant who would like to rent the whole of the second floor and half of the third floor which is 50% of the office space available.

3.10 The regeneration team are reviewing options for the operational management of the Pavilion building. Enquiries have been received from several community groups who would like to hire the space.

3.11 The full business case (FBC) for GBSLEP funding was presented to the Enterprise Zone Programme Board on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October and the Enterprise Zone Partnership Board on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November. It was approved by the EZ Partnership Board, and it is progressing to

### Overview and Scrutiny Board

6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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Birmingham City Council's Cabinet for approval on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026. This will enable funds to be paid in Quarter 1 2026/2027 towards the Nailers Yard project.

3.12 Kier are engaging with Heart of Worcestershire College and will be arranging a site visit for students in January 2026. They are also going to attend career events and extend the invitation to their supply chain. Any surplus materials from site such as bricks or plasterboard will be donated to the college for their students to use.

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

4.1 The Council has been given a further extension from the Government for the Levelling Up Fund to the end of March 2027.

4.2 The original budget for the programme was £16.103m which was made up of the Levelling Up Fund and the Council's contribution. This was allocated to the following projects within Bromsgrove:

| <b>Project</b>                    | <b>Funding allocated</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Windsor Street                    | £3,471,000               |
| Nailers Yard (former Market Hall) | £10,399,000              |
| Public Realm                      | £2,233,000               |

4.3 The public realm project was completed in early 2025 with a confirmed underspend of £927,335. Nailers Yard and Windsor Street projects are ongoing.

4.4 Further to the Levelling Up Fund money (£14.5m) being awarded to Bromsgrove District Council, some additional funding has also been awarded to the projects in Bromsgrove. These sums total £1.093m and are as follows:

| <b>Funding source</b>                           | <b>£ total received</b> |
|---|-------------------------|
| UK Share Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) - Nailers Yard | 224,364                 |
| Brownfield Land Release Fund                    | 722,748                 |
| UKSPF - Windsor Street                          | 84,000                  |
| Levelling Up Fund                               | 62,500                  |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>1,093,612</b>        |

### Overview and Scrutiny Board

6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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- 4.5 Thus the overall funding secured of £16.103m (£14.5m plus £1.6m) was increased by £1.093m to a total of £ 17.194m. With the additional £500,000 agreed by Bromsgrove District Council, this has increased to £17.694m.
- 4.6 The final cost of the Levelling Up Programme is currently estimated to be £19.8m. This is made up of the following amounts per project –

| Project        | Total (£)  |
|----------------|------------|
| Nailers Yard   | 15,004,552 |
| Windsor Street | 3,490,000  |
| Public Realm   | 1,305,665  |

- 4.7 Bromsgrove District Council agreed to provide a further £500,000 to the Levelling Up Programme in August 2025. Therefore, the total amount of funding available to the projects, including the GBSLEP funding is £20,118,612.00. This is made up of the following amounts:

| Funding source                       | Total funding |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Levelling Up Fund                    | £14.5m        |
| Bromsgrove District Council          | £2.1m         |
| Additional funding sources (secured) | £1.093m       |
| GBSLEP funding (not secured)         | £2.425m       |

Any underspend or additional funding received will reduce the overall Council contribution to the Levelling Up Programme.

- 4.8 The spend to date (as of 4<sup>th</sup> December) on the Windsor Street site for site purchase, clearance and remediation is £3.199m (which is within the budget envelope of £3.490m).
- 4.9 The current spend to date (as of 4<sup>th</sup> December) on the Nailers Yard project is £9,491,615.52.
- 4.10 The Section 151 Officer signs off an assurance statement that is sent to the Ministry for Housing, Local Government and Communities (MHCLG) on a quarterly basis updating on progress.

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4.11 The Levelling Up Fund programme is being actively monitored via the MHCLG. Quarterly monitoring reports are submitted and reviewed. MHCLG recognise that the Council is progressing the projects, and they do not have any concerns.

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

5.1 There are legal implications arising from the contracts between the Council and various third parties (consultants and contractors). They are specific to each contract and assessed by the Council's legal team.

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

##### **Local Government Reorganisation Implications**

6.1 Following LGR, any ongoing revenue income from the Nailers Yard development and Windsor Street site will transfer to the new Unitary Council.

##### **Relevant Council Priorities**

6.2 This project supports the following Council Priorities:  
Economic Development, Communities and Housing and Infrastructure.

6.3 The work on this project supports economic development and regeneration as well as a balanced housing market.

6.4 The regeneration project at Nailers Yard provides workspace and will enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre with the extra food and beverage offer and the community space.

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

6.5 Through the redevelopment of the Nailers Yard site, energy efficiency measures and Low and Zero Carbon technologies will be introduced with a view to reduce operational energy consumption and the associated carbon emissions targets. These include introducing U values better than Building Regulations Part L, mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR), natural ventilation where possible, utilising

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building thermal mass, high efficiency air source heat pumps and low energy LED lighting. The Nailers Yard site commits to achieving a minimum Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology (BREEAM) 'very good' rating on this site.

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

6.6 The design of the mixed-use development at Nailers Yard is founded on principles of universal and inclusive design, ensuring that all users — regardless of age, ability, or circumstance — can access, use, and enjoy the building and its facilities independently and with dignity. In accordance with Approved Document M (Volume 2 – Buildings Other Than Dwellings) and BS 8300-2:2018, the proposals will deliver a barrier-free environment that integrates accessibility into the architectural concept from the outset, rather than as an addition or adaptation.

### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 As part of the governance and reporting requirements, a risk register has been produced for each sub project. The key risks for each project are as follows:

| <b>Project</b> | <b>Risk</b>                   | <b>Comments</b>  |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Nailers Yard   | Culvert works                 | Potential impact on project budget and programme                     |
| Nailers Yard   | Underuse of Pavilion building | Potential reputational and financial risk                            |
| Nailers Yard   | S278 Highway works            | Objection from WCC could impact on budget and programme              |
| Windsor Street | Remediation strategy          | Environment Agency need to sign off prior to any development on site |

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|                |                        |  |
|----------------|------------------------|--|
| Windsor Street | Procurement of partner | Potential impact on project budget and programme |
|----------------|------------------------|--|

#### 8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Levelling Up Programme has been reviewed at the following meetings:

- O&S Levelling Up Programme update report October 2025
- O&S Levelling Up Programme update report July 2025
- O&S Levelling Up Programme update report February 2025
- O&S Levelling Up Programme update report November 2024
- Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration July 2024
- Bromsgrove Town Centre Regeneration – Cabinet, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024
- Bromsgrove 2040 Vision, Cabinet 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023
- Market Hall Proposal – Cabinet 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- Market Hall Scrutiny – Overview and Scrutiny, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- Levelling Up Fund Update – Overview and Scrutiny, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

#### 9. REPORT SIGN OFF

| Department                      | Name and Job Title                          | Date       |
|---------------------------------|---|------------|
| Portfolio Holder                | Cllr Karen May                              | 16/12/2025 |
| Lead Director / Head of Service | Rachel Egan<br>AD Regeneration and Property | 02/12/2025 |
| Financial Services              | Debra Goodall – Acting S151 Officer         | 3/12/2025  |

# Agenda Item 8

## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Overview and Scrutiny Board

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| Department                                     | Name and Job Title                                | Date      |
|--|---|-----------|
| Legal Services                                 | Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor – Governance | 3/12/2025 |
| Policy Team (if equalities implications apply) | Rebecca Green                                     | 3/12/2025 |
| Climate Change Team                            | Matthew Eccles                                    | 3/12/2025 |

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# Agenda Item 9

## Local Heritage List for Bromsgrove- Overview and Scrutiny Board Update

6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

- 1 To briefly reiterate, four parishes have adopted lists, a draft list has been prepared for Wythall, work continues on the lists for Lickey and Blackwell and Bromsgrove.
- 2 To remind members the conservation establishment has two positions of which one is vacant. The shortfall is being managed by a conservation consultant whilst recruitment is progressed, at the time of writing an offer has been made and accepted for new officer to fill the vacancy at Conservation Officer. This will then allow the Principal Conservation officer to spend more time on the Local Heritage List, and the new Conservation Officer will also be available to work on the Local Heritage List.
- 3 The part time Principal Conservation Officer continues to exclusively deal with the majority of development management work, although some cases are sent out to external conservation consultants as this volume of work is increasing.
- 4 This increase in DM work combined with vacancies has resulted in the Principal Conservation Officer struggling to take forward the Local Heritage List in a meaningful way.
- 5 In mid October we recruited a consultant for 2 days a week to work with us exclusively on the Local Heritage List. He has reviewed the work on the Bromsgrove area, the most densely developed area in the District, and has been looking at the streets which had not been previously considered. This also includes Bromsgrove School which could not be visited until the school holidays had commenced and contains a number of buildings of architectural and historic interest. Following completion of the site visits the draft list for Bromsgrove is likely to be completed in early January. The consultant will then move on to the next area/Parish on the list.

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## Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report

10<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Clr Bakul Kumar

Two items on the agenda

1. Integrated Care Board Update
2. Overview of Common Neurological conditions

### Integrated Care Board Update

#### **Purpose**

The report updates the Committee following the national reforms announced in March 2025 that impact Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). HOSC requested it in order to understand the implications for HW ICB and local service delivery.

#### **National Context & Background**

- HW ICB is responsible for planning, commissioning and oversight of NHS services in Herefordshire and Worcestershire—covering hospitals, community, primary care and overall health outcomes.
- On 1 April 2025, NHS England (NHSE) communicated how ICBs will deliver core national priorities and lay foundations for future reform, linked to the forthcoming 10-Year Health Plan.
- As part of reform, NHSE and the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) intend to bring operations closer, potentially abolishing NHSE, and announced that all 42 ICBs must reduce running costs by ~50 % by end of 2025/26.

#### **Key Themes & Changes**

- The report outlines the national “Model ICB Blueprint” and how HW ICB is responding locally.
- HW ICB is developing a **clustering arrangement** with NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (CW ICB) to achieve scale, reduce duplication and deliver efficiencies.
- Locally, HW ICB emphasises safeguarding local focus: ensuring continuity and stability of local services for Worcestershire residents amid structural changes.

#### **Local Implications & Priorities**

- The reduction in running costs presents a significant operational challenge: HW ICB will need to ensure that cost-reduction does not undermine service delivery or local responsiveness.
- The clustering arrangement aims to share resources and governance with CW ICB, which may affect how commissioning decisions, provider contracts and service models operate locally.
- HW ICB stresses prioritising *place-based working*—keeping attention on Worcestershire’s health and care needs despite system-wide alignment and reforms.
- Key priorities include maintaining service stability during change, reducing health inequalities, and ensuring the local voice is preserved in commissioning decisions.

#### **Risks & Considerations**

- The requirement to halve ICB running costs within a short timescale creates risk of service disruption, reduced local responsiveness, and governance complexity.
- Integrating with another ICB (CW) may lead to dilution of local identity, potential conflicts of local vs regional priorities, and complexity in accountability.

# Agenda Item 10

- Ensuring that cost savings do not compromise the quality of care, access (particularly in primary and community services) and support for vulnerable populations is critical.
- Change fatigue among staff and stakeholders, and potential delays or unintended consequences in service redesign are further risks.

## Next Steps

- HW ICB is asked to monitor and report how the clustering arrangement progresses, how cost-reduction is achieved without harming services, and how local health outcomes (particularly for Worcestershire residents) are safeguarded.
- HOSC will have the opportunity to question the HW ICB Chief Executive regarding these reforms at the upcoming meeting.
- Continued focus on strategic planning (including linking to the 10-Year Health Plan) and local delivery frameworks will be important for transparency and accountability.

## Questions asked by me

- How will you measure these initiatives will improve patient access?
- Could you outline specific examples where integrated working will improve patient outcomes or reduce duplication

## Overview of Common Neurological Conditions

### Purpose

- The HOSC requested this report as part of its work programme to better understand neurological conditions locally.
- It brings together input from the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (HWICB), Herefordshire & Worcestershire Health and Care Trust (HWHCT), and Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT).
- 

### Scope & Definitions

- “Neurological conditions” is a broad category (hundreds of conditions) affecting the brain, spinal cord, or nerves.
- The report focuses on two particularly common local conditions: **Parkinson’s disease** and **dementia**.
- Neurological conditions are grouped into four types:
  1. Sudden onset (e.g., stroke)
  2. Intermittent (e.g., epilepsy, migraine)
  3. Progressive (e.g., Parkinson’s, dementia)
  4. Stable with changing needs (e.g., Tourette’s)

### Local Prevalence

- ~1,300 people in Worcestershire live with Parkinson’s.
- An estimated **9,000+** people in the county are living with dementia.
- Of these, 5,269 are recorded on GP dementia registers; 140 of them have early-onset dementia (under 65).
- Demographics: 62% of people with dementia in Worcestershire are female, 38% male.

### Parkinson’s Care

- **Types & Symptoms:** Includes idiopathic Parkinson’s, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP), and Multiple System Atrophy-Parkinsonism (MSA-P). Symptoms vary: tremor, stiffness, balance issues, speech/swallowing problems, etc.

# Agenda Item 10

- **Diagnosis Pathway:** Patients usually referred by their GP to a Consultant Neurologist at WAHT. Diagnosis may involve brain scans, multiple assessments, and response to medication.
- **Medication & Therapy:** The most common treatment is levodopa; additional therapies include physiotherapy, speech & language, and occupational therapy.
- **Local Service Capacity:** WAHT has 8 Consultant Neurologists running clinics at multiple sites (e.g., Alexandra Hospital, Kidderminster, community hospitals) to improve accessibility.
- **Waiting Times:** About **20 weeks** for a first outpatient neurology appointment.
- **Nursing Support:** There is a Parkinson's Clinical Nurse Specialist team in the hospital, plus a community Parkinson's specialist nursing team run by HWHCT (3.9 WTE).
- **Community Caseload:** The community Parkinson's service sees 20–25 referrals per month, with a caseload of ~1,300 patients.
- **Newly Diagnosed Support:** A group for newly diagnosed patients has just launched, in collaboration with Parkinson's UK and the ICS.
- **Strategic Development:** Parkinson's is part of the ICS neurology workstream. The ICS has joined the **National Neurology Pathfinders Programme**, aiming to improve pathways (Parkinson's, MS, headache, MND, etc.).
- They plan a **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment** with Public Health to better understand local Parkinson's needs.

## Dementia Care

- **Definition & Risk:** Dementia describes a decline in cognitive function; some dementia cases are related to Parkinson's (60–70% of Parkinson's patients may eventually develop dementia).
- **Current Service Users:** ~9,604 people estimated to have dementia in the county.
- **Service Provision:**
  - Early Intervention Dementia Services (EIDS) – for assessment, diagnosis, early support.
  - Older Adult Community Mental Health Teams (OACMHT).
  - Admiral Nurses – specialist dementia nursing.
  - "Hospital at Home" team – to support when inpatients might return home safely.
  - Specialist inpatient dementia wards where needed.
- **Carer & Patient Involvement:** People living with dementia and their carers are involved in transformation and commissioning work (e.g., Dementia Programme Board, Dementia Partnership).
- **Strategic Planning:** A revised ICB Dementia Strategy is due to be published in early **2026**, setting out priorities and improvements for the next 5 years.
- **Post-Diagnosis Support:** The ICB is re-tendering contracts for post-diagnostic dementia support (currently delivered by Alzheimer's Society, Age UK, Dementia Matters) — procurement outcome expected in 2026.

## Key Challenges & Risks

- **Capacity:** Long waiting times for neurologist appointments (~20 weeks) may delay diagnosis and care.
- **Workforce:** Dependence on a limited number of consultant neurologists, and growing demand as the population ages.
- **Coordination:** Need to better align hospital, community, and third-sector services (e.g., Parkinson's UK, Alzheimer's Society) for seamless care.
- **Strategic Planning:** Ensuring the revised dementia strategy and neurology pathways are responsive to local need, especially as prevalence grows.

## Questions asked by me:

# Agenda Item 10

- What is the current capacity of Integrated Neurology services on Worcestershire and how do waiting times compare to national or regional benchmarks?
- Can you forecast growth in neurological caseload with anticipated increase in demand pressures?
- How will reduce the gap between rural and urban early intervention rates, thus monitoring postcode disparities?

### **Overview and Scrutiny Board 2026**

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#### **Finance and Budget Working Group**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder  | Councillor S. T. Nock  |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted   | No   |
| Relevant Head of Service   | Claire Felton, Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services  |
| Report Author:<br>Jane Oyenuga   | Job Title: Trainee Democratic Services Officer<br>Contact email:<br><a href="mailto:jane.oyenuga@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">jane.oyenuga@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a> |
| Wards Affected   | N/A  |
| Ward Councillor(s) consulted   | N/A  |
| Relevant Council Priorities  | Sustainability   |
| Non-Key Decision   |  |
| If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting. |  |

#### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to:-**

- a) Agree the Membership of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group for the municipal year 2025/26.**

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group was set up by the Overview and Scrutiny Board to carry out detailed scrutiny of a number of Financial Reports (listed in the Terms of Reference) and to assist in scrutiny of the Council's budget setting.
- 2.2 Due to recent changes to the membership of the Board, following changes to the political balance at the Council, and following agreement at the previous meeting of the Board to consult with Board Members who were not in attendance at the meeting; the purpose of this report is to formalise the membership of the Group for 2025-26.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Board 2026**

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#### **3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

##### Chairman

3.1 Historically the Chairman of the Working Group has been the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board. It was agreed at a previous Board meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 that Councillor P. McDonald be appointed as the Chairman of the Finance and Budget Working Group for the ensuing municipal year 2025/26.

##### Membership

3.2 It has been agreed within the terms of reference that the Working Group be composed of the Chairman of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee and 6 Members of the Board with a quorum of 3. Scrutiny Working Groups are not required to be politically balanced, although it would be good practice to have each political group represented.

3.3 Current Members of the Board who have been confirmed as Members of the Working Group are: Councillors P.M. McDonald (Chairman) and S. Ammar. Councillor E. M. S. Gray, as Chairman of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee has also been confirmed as a Member of the Working Group.

3.4 At the meeting of the Board held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Councillor Hunter, who was also a Member of the Board, expressed an interest in being appointed to the working group. Councillor Hunter subsequently confirmed in writing that he no longer wished to be appointed to serve on this group in 2025/26.

3.5 At that same meeting of the Board, Councillor S. Ammar confirmed that she would like to be appointed to the Working Group (at the time, Councillor Ammar was a Member of the Board). However, following changes to the political balance agreed at the Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June, Councillor Ammar was no longer a Member of the Board and therefore not automatically eligible to serve on the group.

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- 3.6 At the Board meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Councillor C.A. Hotham, who was attending the meeting as a substitute, expressed an interest in serving as a Member of the Finance and Budget Working Group, should there be a relevant vacancy available.
- 3.7 Councillor S.R. Colella (who was not a Member of the Board) expressed an interest in serving as a Member of the Working Group by email on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025.
- 3.8 Councillors S. Ammar, C. A. Hotham and S. R. Colella were appointed as Members of the Finance and Budget Working Group for 2025/26 at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
- 3.9 On 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025, Councillor A. Bailes confirmed in writing that he no longer wished to be appointed to serve on this Working Group and submitted his official resignation from the Working Group by email.
- 3.10 Councillor S.R. Colella subsequently submitted his official resignation from the Working Group by email on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025.
- 3.11 Also on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025, Councillor C.A Hotham submitted his official resignation from the Working Group by email.
- 3.12 Following the appointment of Councillor S.T. Nock as Cabinet Member for Finance on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025, he no longer served as a Member of the Working Group.
- 3.13 Following Councillor S.T. Nock's appointment to Cabinet, there were 4 vacancies on the Finance and Budget Working Group.
- 3.14 On 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025, Councillor B. Kumar expressed an interest in serving as a Member of the Working Group by email.
- 3.15 Councillor B.M. McEldowney (who was not a Member of the Board) expressed an interest in being appointed as a Member of the Working Group by email on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025.
- 3.16 On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Councillor C. A. Hotham (who was not a Member of the Board) expressed an interest in serving as a Member of the Working Group by email.

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3.17 Members are asked to choose the membership of the Working Group (Cabinet Members cannot be represented). It should be noted that the Terms of Reference for the group state that Members must be Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, (with the exception of the Chairman of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee where they are not a member of the Board). However, the Terms of Reference for the working group also state “*should a vacant post remain after Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board had been approached, Members of the Overview and Scrutiny “pool” (i.e. those who do not sit on the Scrutiny Board and are also not Cabinet Members) may be appointed to fill the vacancy.*”

3.18 For any Member wishing to sit on the Working Group, meetings have been scheduled for this municipal year as per below, although there may be a need for extra meetings when the need is identified, particularly during the budget setting period. Conversely, meetings may be cancelled if there is no business to be considered on a particular date.

- 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

3.19 All meetings are due to start at 6.00pm and will be held remotely (on Microsoft Teams). Any meetings held on Friday will commence at 1.00pm.

#### Terms of Reference

3.20 The terms of reference are reviewed at the beginning of each municipal year since the inception of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group. The Overview and Scrutiny Board approved the current terms of reference for the working group at the Board meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

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

4.1 There are no direct financial implications in respect of the recommendations this report. Although it should be noted that there are

### **Overview and Scrutiny Board 2026**

6<sup>th</sup> January

resource implications in respect of officer time in attending and preparing for the meetings.

4.2 Detailed scrutiny of the Council's budget forms an important part of the budget setting process at the Council and helps to enhance accountability and transparency.

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

5.1 There are no direct legal implications relating to this report, other than those in respect of the Overview and Scrutiny function as a whole. The Working Group is currently not constituted, but merely an arrangement set up by the Overview and Scrutiny Board to improve its work going forward in respect of scrutinising the budget and finances of the Council.

#### **6. OTHER – IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Local Government Reorganisation Implications**

6.1 There are no implications for Local Government Reorganisation.

##### **Relevant Council Priority**

6.2 The work of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group contributes towards ensuring that the Council continues to provide sustainable services to its residents.

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

6.3 There are no climate change implications in respect of this report.

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

6.4 There are no direct customer/equalities and diversity implications in respect of this report.

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

7.1 No specific risks have been identified.

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**6<sup>th</sup> January**

### **8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendices - Terms of Reference of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group (last amended 09/06/25).

Background Papers – Finance and Budget Working Group report to the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

## CABINET LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

### 1 JANUARY 2026 TO 30 APRIL 2026 (published as at 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025)

This Work Programme gives details of items on which key decisions are likely to be taken in the coming four months by the Council's Cabinet

The Work Programme gives details of items on which key decisions are likely to be taken by the Council's Cabinet, or full Council, in the coming four months. **Key Decisions** are those executive decisions which are likely to:

- (i) result in the Council incurring expenditure, foregoing income or the making of savings in excess of £200,000 or which are otherwise significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (ii) be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the district;

If you wish to make representations on the proposed decision you are encouraged to get in touch with the relevant report author as soon as possible before the proposed date of the decision. Contact details are provided, alternatively you may write to the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services, Parkside, Market Street, B61 8DA or e-mail: [democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

The Cabinet's meetings are normally held every four weeks at 6pm on Wednesday evenings at Parkside. They are open to the public, except when confidential information is being discussed. If you wish to attend for a particular matter, it is advisable to check with the Democratic Services Team on (01527 64252 ext 3031) to make sure it is going ahead as planned. If you have any queries Democratic Services Officers will be happy to advise you. The full Council meets in accordance with the Council's Calendar of Meetings. Meetings commence at 6pm.

#### CABINET MEMBERSHIP

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Councillor K J May      | Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships, Economic Development and Enabling |
| Councillor S. Baxter    | Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Local Government Reorganisation and Climate Change                |
| Councillor S. Nock      | Cabinet Member for Finance   |
| Councillor K. Taylor    | Cabinet Member for Planning, Worcestershire Regulatory Services and Strategic Housing                  |
| Councillor S. Webb      | Cabinet Member for Health and Well Being, Leisure and Events   |
| Councillor P. Whittaker | Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Community Safety   |

| Decision including<br>Whether it is a key<br>Decision                              | Decision Taker<br>Date of Decision            | Details of Exempt<br>information (if<br>any) and<br>information<br>explaining why<br>items have been<br>postponed (where<br>available) | Documents submitted to<br>Decision Maker / Background<br>Papers List                 | Contact for Comments   |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Appointments to the<br>Shareholders Committee<br>2025/26<br><b>Key:</b> No         | Cabinet 7 Jan 2026                            |  | Report of the Assistant Director<br>of Legal, Democratic and<br>Procurement Services | Jess Bayley-Hill, Principal<br>Democratic Services Officer<br>Tel: 01527 64252<br><br>Councillor K. J. May |
| Biodiversity Duty Report<br><b>Key:</b> No<br><br><b>Page 40</b>                   | Cabinet 7 Jan 2026                            |  | Report of the Assistant Director<br>Community and Housing<br>Services                | Matthew Eccles, Climate<br>Change Manager<br>Tel: 01527 881259<br><br>Councillor S. J. Baxter              |
| Business Rates -<br>Discretionary Rates Relief<br>Policy 2026/27<br><b>Key:</b> No | Cabinet 7 Jan 2026<br><br>Council 21 Jan 2026 |  | Report of the Assistant Director<br>Finance and Customer<br>Services                 | David Riley, Revenue Services<br>Manager<br>Tel: 01527 64252<br><br>Councillor S.T. Nock                   |
| Council Tax Base Report<br>2026/27<br><b>Key:</b> No                               | Cabinet 7 Jan 2026<br><br>Council 26 Jan 2026 |  | Report of the Assistant Director<br>Finance and Customer<br>Services                 | David Riley, Revenue Services<br>Manager<br>Tel: 01527 64252<br><br>Councillor S.T. Nock                   |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision                            | Decision Taker Date of Decision               | Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available) | Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List                 | Contact for Comments   |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| Council Tax - Empty Homes Discounts and Premiums 2026/27<br><b>Key:</b> No | Cabinet 7 Jan 2026<br><br>Council 21 Jan 2026 |   | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services                 | David Riley, Revenue Services Manager<br>Tel: 01527 64252<br><br>Councillor S.T. Nock  |
| Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27<br><b>Key:</b> No                       | Cabinet 7 Jan 2026<br><br>Council 26 Jan 2026 |   | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services                 | David Riley, Revenue Services Manager<br>Tel: 01527 64252<br><br>Councillor S.T. Nock  |
| Cyber security update (including WhatsApp and AI Policy)<br><b>Key:</b> No | Cabinet 7 Jan 2026                            |   | Report of the Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services | Claire Felton, Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services<br>Tel: 01527 881429<br><br>Councillor K. J. May |
| Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Policy 2026/27<br><b>Key:</b> No       | Cabinet 7 Jan 2026<br><br>Council 21 Jan 2026 |   | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services                 | David Riley, Revenue Services Manager<br>Tel: 01527 64252<br><br>Councillor S.T. Nock  |

| Decision including<br>Whether it is a key<br>Decision  | Decision Taker<br>Date of Decision                   | Details of Exempt<br>information (if<br>any) and<br>information<br>explaining why<br>items have been<br>postponed (where<br>available) | Documents submitted to<br>Decision Maker / Background<br>Papers List | Contact for Comments   |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Homelessness Prevention, Rough Sleeper and Domestic Abuse Grants Funding 2027/28 and 2028/29</p> <p><b>Key:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>*NEW !! **</b></p>  | Cabinet 7 Jan 2026                                   |  | Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services      | <p>Amanda Delahunty, Strategic Housing Officer<br/>Tel: 01527 881269</p> <p>Councillor K. Taylor</p>                             |
| <p>Housing Task Group Final Report</p> <p><b>Key:</b> Yes</p>  | Cabinet 7 Jan 2026                                   |  | Report of the Chairman of the Housing Task Group                     | <p>Sarah Woodfield, Democratic Services Officer<br/>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1605</p> <p>Councillor H. D. N. Warren-Clarke</p>       |
| <p>Medium Term Financial Plan 2026-27 to 28-29</p> <p>Fees and Charges and Consultation Outcome including Worcestershire Regulatory Services</p> <p>Budget Recommendations</p> <p><b>Key:</b> No</p> | <p>Cabinet 7 Jan 2026</p> <p>Council 21 Jan 2026</p> | This report may contain exempt information that would need to be considered in private session   | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services       | <p>Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br/>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070</p> <p>Councillor S.T. Nock</p> |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision                            | Decision Taker Date of Decision               | Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available) | Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List                          | Contact for Comments  |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Particulate Monitoring<br><b>Key:</b> Yes<br><br><b>**NEW !!**</b>         | Cabinet 7 Jan 2026                            |   | Report of the Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services                            | Mark Cox, Technical Services Manager<br>Tel: 01562 738023<br><br>Councillor K. Taylor                     |
| Pay Policy 2026-2027<br><b>Key:</b> No<br><br>Page 43                      | Cabinet 7 Jan 2026<br><br>Council 21 Jan 2026 |   | Report of the Assistant Director Business Transformation and Organisational Development | Becky Talbot, Human Resources & Development Manager<br>Tel: 01527 64252<br><br>Councillor S.T. Nock       |
| Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendations 2026-2027<br><b>Key:</b> No | Council 21 Jan 2026                           |   | Report of the Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services          | Darren Whitney, Electoral Services Manager<br>Tel: 01527 881650<br><br>Councillor K. J. May               |
| Wythall Neighbourhood Plan<br><b>Key:</b> No                               | Council 21 Jan 2026                           |   | Report of the Assistant Director of Planning and Leisure Services                       | Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager<br>Tel: 01527 881325<br><br>Councillor K. Taylor |

| Decision including<br>Whether it is a key<br>Decision  | Decision Taker<br>Date of Decision             | Details of Exempt<br>information (if<br>any) and<br>information<br>explaining why<br>items have been<br>postponed (where<br>available) | Documents submitted to<br>Decision Maker / Background<br>Papers List         | Contact for Comments  |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Inclusive Play Policy<br>Statement<br><b>Key:</b> Yes  | Cabinet Not before 1st Feb<br>2026             |  | Report of the Assistant Director<br>of Planning and Leisure<br>Services      | Ishrat Karimi Fini, Parks and<br>Events Service Manager<br>Tel: 07713 085872<br><br>Councillor S. A. Webb |
| Bromsgrove Council Plan -<br>progress update December<br><br><b>Key:</b> No<br><br><b>**NEW !!**</b> | Cabinet 11 Feb 2026                            |  | Report of the Assistant Director<br>Transformation and Corporate<br>Services | Rebecca Green, Policy<br>Manager<br>Tel: 01527 881616<br><br>Councillor K. J. May                         |
| Climate Change Strategy<br>2026 to 2031<br><b>Key:</b> No  | Cabinet 11 Feb 2026<br><br>Council 18 Feb 2026 |  | Report of the Assistant Director<br>Community and Housing<br>Services        | Matthew Eccles, Climate<br>Change Manager<br>Tel: 01527 881259<br><br>Councillor S. J. Baxter             |

| Decision including<br>Whether it is a key<br>Decision  | Decision Taker<br>Date of Decision         | Details of Exempt<br>information (if<br>any) and<br>information<br>explaining why<br>items have been<br>postponed (where<br>available) | Documents submitted to<br>Decision Maker / Background<br>Papers List | Contact for Comments   |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Medium Term Financial Plan Stage 2 Budget Report 2026/2027 to 2028/2029 (including Capital Strategy, Investment Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy)<br><b>Key:</b> No | Cabinet 11 Feb 2026<br>Council 18 Feb 2026 |  | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services       | Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070<br>Councillor S.T. Nock |
| Council Tax Resolutions 2026/27<br><b>Key:</b> No  | Cabinet 18 Feb 2026<br>Council 18 Feb 2026 |  | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services       | David Riley, Revenue Services Manager<br>Tel: 01527 64252<br>Councillor S.T. Nock                                    |
| Permission to Revoke the First Homes Policy<br><b>Key:</b> No  | Cabinet 25 Mar 2026                        |  | Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services      | Amanda Delahunty, Strategic Housing Officer<br>Tel: 01527 881269<br>Councillor K. Taylor                             |

| Decision including<br>Whether it is a key<br>Decision   | Decision Taker<br>Date of Decision                            | Details of Exempt<br>information (if<br>any) and<br>information<br>explaining why<br>items have been<br>postponed (where<br>available) | Documents submitted to<br>Decision Maker / Background<br>Papers List | Contact for Comments   |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Quarter 3 2025/26 Finance<br>and Performance<br>Monitoring Report<br>(including Financial<br>Savings)<br><b>Key:</b> No | Cabinet 25 Mar 2026<br><br>Council Not before 1st Jun<br>2026 |  | Report of the Assistant Director<br>Finance and Customer<br>Services | Debra Goodall, Assistant<br>Director Finance and Customer<br>Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070<br><br>Councillor S.T. Nock |

# Agenda Item 13

## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

2025-2026

#### ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

| Date of Meeting  | Subject   | Lead Officer / Member  |
|--|---|--|
| 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026   | <b><u>Substantive Items</u></b><br>Police and Crime Commissioner (Grant Funding)  | John Campion, Police and Crime Commissioner                        |
|  | Town Centre Parking and ANPR Update   | Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services |
|  | <b><u>Information Items</u></b><br>Crime and Disorder Scrutiny (Yearly Update)  | Bev Houghton, Community and Safety Manager                         |
|  | <b><u>Substantive Items</u></b><br>Update on Heatwaves Preparedness (Yearly Update)<br>(Impact of Heatwaves Task Group Recommendation). | Guy Revans, Executive Director                                     |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026  | Renters Right Act 2025 (Pre-scrutiny)   | Matthew Bough, Strategic Housing Services Manager                  |
|  | Permission to Revoke the First Homes Policy (Pre-Scrutiny)  | Amanda Delahunty, Strategic Housing Officer                        |
|  | <b><u>Information Items</u></b><br>Levelling Up Fund Programme (Quarterly Update)   | Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services |
|  | Local Heritage Action List (Quarterly Update)   | Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager           |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2026<br>(meeting reserved for consideration of O&S Annual Report and Review of 2025-26) | <b><u>Substantive Items</u></b><br>Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-26  | Chairman of the Board  |

#### ALL MEMBER BRIEFINGS

# Agenda Item 13

| Date of Meeting             | Subject                                  | Lead Officer / Member                  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 | Anti-Social Behaviour (Tools and Powers) | Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager |

## FUTURE ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY

| Date of Meeting | Subject  | Lead Officer / Member  |
|-----------------|--|--|
|                 | Capacity of the Minor Works Team<br>(Requested 2/7/25 by Cllr McDonald)<br>(TBA) | Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services |

## BDC Overview and Scrutiny Board - Action Sheet (2025/26)

### 9 September 2025 Meeting

| Subject                     | Action Required  | Action Taken   | Officer(s) Responsible  | Other Comments   | Status   |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| Installation of EV chargers | To ascertain whether it was possible for the Council to renegotiate with Zest to include <b>immediate</b> revenue share arrangements, or to cancel the contract if not | 12/9/25 – Emailed AD Environmental and Housing Property Services<br><br>27/10/25 – Chased a response<br><br>30/10/25 Chased a response<br><br>10/11/25 Chased an update/response | Simon Parry, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services | Response to initial question 21/7/25 – "With regards to the revenue/profit share in relation to the contract with Zest, under the terms of the contract it states:<br><br>The Profit Share shall be payable by the Supplier to the Buyer on the first anniversary of the date of the Lease of the relevant Site. This occurs when "Following calculation of EVCI Income and Costs for the relevant Calculation Period..., the Profit shall be established. | <b>Ongoing:</b><br>10/11/25 - An update was emailed to Members.<br><br>18/11/25 - Chairman raised concerns about EV charger revenue arrangements and requested a review of profit-sharing agreements.<br><br>19/11/25 – Guy Revans is organising a meeting with Simon Parry and Cllr Karen May<br><br>16/12/25 – Chased the outcome of the meeting as above. |

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### 18 November 2025

| Subject                             | Action Required   | Action Taken  | Officer(s) Responsible | Other Comments | Status             |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Strategic Overview of BDHT Services | To provide Members with a contact protocol for complaints and enquiries (Cllr Ammar suggested a reference number system)<br><br>To provide Housing Officer contact details for each ward area | 21/11/25 Emailed BDHT<br><br>16/12/25 Chased a response | BDHT                   |                | <b>Outstanding</b> |

Agenda Item 14

| Subject                                      | Action Required   | Action Taken | Officer(s) Responsible | Other Comments | Status           |
|--|---|--------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|
|  | To review the maintenance of pathways and garages as a priority   |              |                        |                |                  |
|  | To provide Members with an Asset Register of footpaths  |              |                        |                |                  |
| <b>Housing Task Group</b>                    | Fleeceholding recommendation to be amended to align with forthcoming government reforms   |              | Sarah Woodfield        |                | <b>Completed</b> |
| <b>Finance and Budget Working Group</b>      | To email Members of O & S Board first to offer vacant positions and then to all members   |              | Sarah Woodfield        |                | <b>Completed</b> |
| <b>Cabinet Work Programme</b><br><br>Page 50 | The following Cabinet items to be added to the O & S Work Programme and to inform the necessary officers:<br><br><b>Biodiversity First Consideration Report (Matt Eccles)</b><br><br><b>Permission to Revoke the First Homes Policy (Amanda Delahunty)</b>  |              | Sarah Woodfield        |                | <b>Completed</b> |
| <b>Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme</b>  | To discuss the following items with relevant officers which have been requested to go onto the O & S Work programme as future items to consider:<br><br>Town Centre Parking and ANPR Update (Rachel Egan/Bex McElliott)<br><br>Police and Crime Commissioner (Grant Funding Discussions) (Judith Willis/Bev Houghton) |              | Sarah Woodfield        |                | <b>Completed</b> |

| Subject                    | Action Required  | Action Taken | Officer(s) Responsible  | Other Comments | Status           |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|---|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Windsor Street Site</b> | To revise recommendations to make it clearer on procurement process and delegated authority. |              | Rachel Egan,<br>Assistant Director of Regeneration and Property |                | <b>Completed</b> |

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