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## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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

**TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2026**

**AT 6.00 P.M.**

**PARKSIDE SUITE - PARKSIDE**

**MEMBERS:** Councillors P. M. McDonald (Chairman), A. M. Dale (Vice-Chairman), S. Ammar, A. Bailes, R. Bailes, J. Clarke, 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. To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 10th February 2026 (Pages 5 - 18)**

4. **Crime and Disorder Scrutiny - Annual Review of the Work of the Community Safety Partnership in the District** (Pages 19 - 62)
5. **Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) - Update** (Pages 63 - 68)
6. **Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Update** (Pages 69 - 76)
7. **Finance and Budget Working Group - Update**
8. **Cabinet Work Programme** (Pages 77 - 80)
9. **Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme** (Pages 81 - 82)
10. **Overview and Scrutiny Action Sheet** (Pages 83 - 84)
11. **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

16th March 2026

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

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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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## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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

**10TH FEBRUARY 2026, AT 6.00 P.M.**

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

Observers:

Councillor K. J. May – Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships, Economic Development and Enabling  
Councillor S. J. Baxter – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Reorganisation and Climate Change  
Councillor S.T. Nock – Cabinet Member for Finance  
Councillor K. Taylor - Cabinet Member for Planning, WRS and Strategic Housing  
Councillor S. R. Colella,  
Councillor E. M. S. Gray  
Councillor. D. Hopkins  
Councillor C. A. Hotham  
Councillor M. Marshall  
Councillor B. M. McEldowney

Officers: Mr. G. Revans, Ms H. Corredor, Ms R. Egan, Mrs D. Goodall, Mr S. Parry, Ms R. McElliott and Mrs S. Woodfield

Other parties: Mr T. Burton (Representative of Tim Burton Planning), Mr J. Campion (Representative of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Mr D. Coleman (Representative of DAC Planning) and Ms L. Hornberger (Representative of West Mercia Police (joined remotely)

87/25

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES**

Apology for absence was received from Councillor R.E. Lambert, with confirmation provided that Councillor D.J.A. Forsythe was attending as the named substitute and apology for absence was also received from Councillor S.A. Robinson, with confirmation provided that Councillor J.W. was attending as her named substitute. Apology for absence was also received on behalf of Councillor P.J. Whittaker as portfolio holder.

88/25

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS**

There were no declarations of interest nor of whipping arrangements.

89/25

## **TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 6TH JANUARY 2026**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were considered by the Board.

A Member requested an updated list of the Board's named substitutes which Officers agreed would be provided accordingly.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 be approved as a correct record.

90/25

## **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (UPDATE)**

The representative for the Police and Crime Commissioner, accompanied remotely by a local inspector, provided a strategic update to the Board.

The key points included:

- Policing remained predominantly people based; pay pressures continued to exceed central grant increases.
- West Mercia Police had grown in officer numbers significantly but rising pay scales created budget strains.
- Civilian workforce reductions had been actioned, but frontline focus was being protected.
- Overall crime continued to fall across the District but outcomes of successful investigations remained a key area for improvement.
- Focus centred on prompt investigations, file quality and improving justice outcomes for victims.
- The PCC emphasised the importance of cooperation with District Councils on community safety and early prevention.
- A renewed emphasis was placed on Councils to raise localised concerns directly.

Following the presentation, Members raised the following concerns within the District:

- Increased criminal cross border activity in the West Midlands. - The PCC responded that regular cross-border meetings were underway with the West Midlands Police, including data sharing and planned joint operations. It was suggested that crime within the West Midlands would be greater than in local areas. Vehicle crime and domestic burglaries was being tackled long term.
- Various reports of vigilante-style individuals wearing high-vis jackets, patrolling in school areas. What strategies were in place? - In response Members were advised that specific "vigilante" reports were being investigated in partnership with affected schools.

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- Persistent speeding with some fatalities in the Lickey Hills area. – In response it was advised that speed surveys could be commissioned in hotspot areas. It was also advised that the West Mercia Police could get access to additional funds to provide practical solutions i.e. additional signage.
- There was limited availability of TruCam enforcement with only one tool among several enforcement methods. – It was advised that in addition to TruCam there were under resourced Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) and laser devices. West Mercia Police would continue expanding road policing methods, including motorcycles and specialist teams to assist.
- A perceived rise in shoplifting on Bromsgrove High Street. Members requested that a joint visit with the West Mercia Police and shop owners would be helpful to discuss the issues further. - In response the Board noted that shoplifting had risen slightly year on year but remained relatively stable. The town centre sergeant was leading robust enforcement activity. The Inspector and Sergeant offered to attend site visits with Members.
- Members requested access to location specific data. - In response there were current recording systems which made location extraction difficult; however, work was underway to mirror the West Midlands Police's public reporting model for this financial year.
- Members had received increased reports of cannabis use. – Reported drug offences had increased slightly but West Mercia Police were trying to combat the problem with carrying out more proactive stop-searches.
- Reports of neighbourhood harassment cases. – Members were advised that in these cases the West Mercia Police could use harassment legislation such as Community Protection Notices (CPNs) and Public Order powers.
- Racially aggravated incidents had also been reported to Members. - In response the Board were informed that these cases should receive prompt contact and that individual cases raised would be reviewed.
- Reports of Cross City Line crimes. - It was agreed that knife crime was a problem in these areas. The British Transport Police and West Mercia Police were working collaboratively to combat the issues and active operations were in place to tackle the issues.
- Members received little or no updates from the Council's representative on the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel and requested regular localised policing updates to the Board.
- Rural crime concerns were raised by Members in the Dodford and Grafton surrounding parishes which included vehicle thefts and burglaries. Members requested a reassurance of more police presence in the areas as confidence had been lost. – The rural security concerns were acknowledged; however, it was advised that patrolling was unlikely to deter the issues.
- Some Members expressed a poor perception of the 101 Service. – In response it was advised that operatives worked extremely

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hard, often dealing with lifesaving critical incidents and an average of 10,000 calls were received a week. Members noted that training had been introduced for control room staff on rural crime indicators and further training was being explored from National Farmers Union (NFU) backed up with specialist teams for areas such as wildlife. However, it was agreed that there was room for some improvement. Further resources were required, however, with funding being minimal it was difficult to deliver the level of service required.

- Members had received regular complaints of burglaries in the Barnt Green area and advised that Ward Members were ill informed of what steps were being taken to tackle the reported issues. To tackle the problem, residents were setting up their own Neighbourhood Watch Groups and employing security to patrol the areas. – In response Members were advised to sign up to “Neighbourhood Matters”, a website dedicated to the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) for the public to report critical neighbourhood matters. However, some Members had signed up to this webpage but found the information was inadequate for the issues which had been raised.
- A Member took the opportunity to thank the local sergeant for the area of Alvechurch. Issues of harassment had been reported and dealt with effectively, speaking to each party involved to solve the matter.
- The Leader of the Council thanked the PCC and West Mercia Police for their attendance to the meeting. She also reported regular issues in the District with road traffic accidents caused by diversion routes. – It was advised to report the relevant incidents to the local Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the areas concerned.
- The Leader also wished to thank the West Mercia Police for the work carried out to tackle the closure of illegal vape shops in the High Street. – Members were advised that Op Machinize was a major, ongoing UK-wide initiative led by the National Crime Agency (NCA), in partnership with the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC), Trading Standards and other agencies, targeting the criminal exploitation of high street businesses which were helping to tackle the issues.
- The Chairman concluded discussions by requesting that regular updates were provided to the Board by the Council’s representative on the Police and Crime Panel, which was agreed by the Board.

A motion was moved and seconded requesting that the Council’s representative on the Police and Crime Panel provided a report to the Board following each Panel meeting.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) The Police and Crime Commissioner update be noted; and

- 2) The Council's representative on the Police and Crime Panel provide regular updates to the Board.

91/25

## **PLANNING ADVISORY SERVICE (PAS)**

The Executive Director commenced discussions by stating that the PAS review had been commissioned to assess governance, relationships, barriers to decision making and improvements required for:

- Development Management
- Local Plan preparation
- Officer-Member working
- Readiness for forthcoming planning reforms

Tim Burton, PAS Planning Consultant carried out a presentation to discuss the Development Management workstream.

The key points were discussed as below:

- Procedures and protocols were generally sound.
- Key issues related to strained Officer–Member relationships.
- There was insufficient early engagement prior to Planning Committee.
- Need for a “reset” of working practices.

Recommendations included:

- Improved collaboration.
- Training on defensible decision making.
- Addressing relationship with Worcestershire Highways.
- Review of enforcement processes.
- Improving Planning Committee focus.
- Reviewing livestream retention.
- Increasing Member involvement at pre application stage.
- Improving attendance at site visits.

David Coleman, PAS Planning Consultant also carried out a presentation to Members and discussed the Local Plan workstream.

The main points discussed were:

- Significant divergence between Members on the draft development strategy.
- Lack of political buy in and sense of “ownership” of the plan.
- Insufficient shared vision for the district's future.
- Evidence base gaps (e.g. Green Belt assessment, infrastructure planning).
- Poor relationships with the Worcestershire County Council (WCC) on transport and education.

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- Need for clearer governance of the Strategic Planning Steering Group (SPSG).
- Importance of a 30-month statutory timetable under the new system.
- Emphasis on risk management, programme management and Member training.
- Need to develop a spatial vision and place making objectives.

After the presentations, Members discussed the following:

- The need for joint Officer-Member behavioural, culture, trust and relationship building external training. – In response the Executive Director agreed that building relations for Officers and Members was a good suggestion and highlighted the portfolio's comments about training being designed to be more engaging. The PAS Consultant suggested that some training requirements would be tailored differently for Members and Officers and considerations of roles were advised. It was also suggested that workshops for Local Plan discussions could be a good option to encourage open discussions and also to have better clarity of Officer and Member roles.
- Possible Officer training required for complex subjects i.e. grey belt areas.
- A suggestion that the recommendation to continue active Senior Leadership support should include all Officers and Members who could provide influence.
- Was it expected that all the recommendations would be implemented? – In response the PAS Consultants advised that the recommendations should be implemented, were necessary and valid and the priority was to have an action plan for implementing the recommendations. It was felt that building relations was the overriding issue. The Executive Director advised the Board that the suggested recommendations would go to Cabinet in March along with an action plan.
- Suggestions that cross party working groups should include a chair but not include the portfolio holder, to encourage neutrality.
- Why it had taken so long for a PAS report when individual issues had been raised by Members for some time?
- Urgency of progressing the Local Plan due to speculative applications. – In response the Leader explained that the formula for housing and infrastructure provision had changed since the National Planning Policy Framework rules in 2022. However, this had been challenged with the Minister and therefore the rules would be revisited. There was also a statutory requirement to educate children.
- How would the recommendations be progressed and when would the action plan be published to ensure accountability, transparency and mitigation of risks? – The Executive Director explained that the recommendations and action plan would go to Cabinet in March. In response Members expressed the view that

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considerations to Cabinet would delay progress and earlier actions were necessary to meet the statutory deadline. The Leader advised that she was happy to review timelines, however, external advice may also be sought and the first Planning Subgroup was meeting the next day to discuss the recommendations. The Executive Director added that some recommendations could be expedited.

- Clearer communication on enforcement performance was also raised. – Members were informed that this would form part of the action plan, along with timescales.
- Resource and staffing capacity issues, with Members sometimes having difficulties contacting Planning Officers. What plans were being put in place? – In response the Executive Director informed that the medium-term strategies were being explored.
- To review the necessity for Members to contact Planning Officers, prior to planning meetings taking place. – It was agreed that specific training would be put in place to assist with this.
- Why there was a breakdown in relations with WCC and when would a Memo of Understanding (MOU) be in place for transport planning support? – The Leader explained that Officers were working to rectify the issues and would be forming a different approach for this issue.
- Concerns about historic delays and political management of the plan was also raised by Members.
- A requirement for consistent updates and improved engagement mechanisms was also requested. – In response the Portfolio Holder suggested that Members provided details, who would liaise with Planning Officers.
- What was a realistic timescale for the Council to consider the adoption of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)? – In response the PAS Consultant suggested that it would take 12 months to draft a plan, requiring viability evidence to underpin the plan.
- Some Members had frustrations with past working groups not working collaboratively and lacked inconsistencies in Member attendance. Other Members were frustrated that numerous recommendations had been suggested in group meetings but had not been carried through. It was also suggested that future working group meetings needed to be open and honest and learn from the past to move forwards.
- Stream retention and transparency for public confidence was agreed as recommendation.

Following the above discussions two motions were moved, seconded and agreed.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) Joint Officer-Member relationship building training be included as a formal action within the PAS Action Plan; and

- 2) The PAS Action Plan be brought to Cabinet at the earliest possible opportunity (earlier than the provisional date of 26th March 2026, if feasible).

[Between the hours of 8:49pm and 9:00pm the meeting was adjourned for a short comfort break].

92/25

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION (UPDATE)**

The Assistant Director of Corporate Services and Transformation presented her report with the following main points raised:

- Worcestershire remained at Stage 3 of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) process.
- Two proposals had been submitted and the statutory consultation launched the previous week.
- A decision on implementation was expected in July 2026.
- A Countywide Programme Management Office (PMO) had been set up, with Bromsgrove's Transformation Lead as Senior Responsible Officer (SRO). The focus areas included: Finance, Legal, HR, IT and Service Delivery (cross-cutting).
- An internal Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) "LGR Roots" programme was supporting staff through change.
- Externally, District Councils had refreshed the partnership website for [TransformingWorcestershire.co.uk](http://TransformingWorcestershire.co.uk).
- A new corporate LGR risk had been added to the Council's risk register.
- Residual risk was assessed as Medium (12), largely due to uncertainties in costings and capacity.
- Corporate risks had been redeveloped and would be reported to the Audit, Standards and Governance meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Members discussed the following:

- How much interest was expected from the public for the Statutory Consultation? – In response it was explained that the consultation was focused on reaching public bodies primarily but was open to all residents and businesses. Parish Councils would be contacted separately also. The Portfolio Holder also urged Members to ensure that the public was aware of the consultation.
- The Portfolio Holder also commented that although it was difficult for the Council to navigate the unknowns, housekeeping would be essential for future implementation, regardless of the decision made.

The Chairman concluded the Board had previously decided on receiving updates at every meeting and options for deeper scrutiny could be revisited once workloads allowed.

**RESOLVED** that the Local Government Re-Organisation Update be noted.

93/25 **WORCESTERSHIRE HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (UPDATE)**

There was no update provided for the reporting of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) as the meeting scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 had been cancelled and re-scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

94/25 **FINANCE AND BUDGET WORKING GROUP (UPDATE)**

The Board received an update on information which was in progress for the forthcoming FBWG. Members of the Board agreed to a meeting prior the Cabinet meeting to be held on 18th February 2026 to discuss its recommendations.

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

95/25 **CABINET WORK PROGRAMME**

The Cabinet Work Programme was presented for Members' consideration.

It was requested and agreed by the Board that the cabinet item for the Introduction of Enforcement of Littering from Vehicles be added to the Board's Work Programme.

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

96/25 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme was considered by Members.

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

97/25 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTION SHEET**

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

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

98/25 **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.

99/25

**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:-

Minute Item No. 100 – Town Centre Parking and ANPR Update  
Minute Item No. 101 – EV Charger Profit Sharing Arrangements Update

100/25

**TOWN CENTRE PARKING AND ANPR (UPDATE)**

The Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services updated the Board on the Town Centre Parking and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) update.

It was reported that Town Centre parking capacity remained sufficient, with peak demand significantly below the 1,013 available spaces.

St John Street and Windsor Street car parks continued to experience the highest utilisation, while School Drive, North Bromsgrove and Stourbridge Road remained underused.

The Board noted the following redevelopment considerations:

- Churchfields remained closed due to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) risks, with high costs required for reopening and ongoing maintenance.
- Stourbridge Road was subject to an existing development agreement and observed usage indicated high weekday occupancy by season ticket holders.
- School Drive was identified as suitable for redevelopment due to consistently low usage and a potentially higher capital receipt.

Even with redevelopment of one or more sites, overall parking demand was predicted to remain comfortably met.

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Sanders Park Car Park was being used by Town Centre workers for all day free parking. Options were presented to introduce time limits, charges or MiPermit only operation.

Season ticket usage at Parkside had raised concerns from local businesses. Survey findings indicated most users were season ticket holders rather than Council Staff. Options included amending which car parks accepted season tickets.

ANPR implementation was reported as not viable due to legal constraints, operational requirements for barriers, cost implications and no reduction in enforcement workload.

Out of town enforcement had met the agreed minimum requirement, with between 26% to 29% of patrol time spent outside the Town Centre. Increasing enforcement would require additional staffing at significant cost.

Financial implications were highlighted, including income levels, resurfacing costs and the financial impact of potential car park redevelopments.

The report concluded that a strategic, place-based approach was required to support Town Centre accessibility and economic activity, with further on site counts recommended.

After the presentation the Board made the following comments:

## **Churchfields Car Park**

- Some Members expressed the view that ASB issues would remain if the car park reopened and felt that the brownfield site would be better used for build extra housing for the District. – In response the Leader advised that the primary position would be to carry out remediation works to the car park and address the ASB concerns.
- School Drive Car Park could provide relief but was located quite far away from the Town Centre, however, Churchfields Car Park was more suitably located for people using the Town Centre.
- With the upcoming LGR considerations and to leave a legacy, carrying out remediation works and re-opening the car park would assist with the key issue of parking within the Town Centre.

## **Sanders Park**

- Some Members regularly visited the park and hadn't experienced problems with parking availability.
- Members were concerned that the potential consideration to introduce charges to the car park could potentially deter some to visit the park. – In response the Leader reassured Members that there were no immediate proposals to introduce parking charges.

## **School Drive Car Park**

- Concerns that parking charges in North Bromsgrove Car Park could be a deterrent for the use of the local gym near the area. A Member suggested season ticket charges to reduce costs for gym membership holders and a consideration for potential revenue for the Council. – In response the Leader reminded Members that the Council did support the Leisure Centre through the Covid pandemic. Although the Leisure Centre had not contacted the Council to discuss season ticket ideas, the suggestion would be explored further if contact was made.
- LGR – Concerns that there would be inadequate car spaces available for North Bromsgrove High School. – In response the Leader informed the Board that the issue had been raised by with the Board of Education.
- Reports of numerous bins in the area which needed to be addressed.

## **Stourbridge Road Car Park**

- Members expressed the view that the Stourbridge Road Car Park was a prime spot for the Town Centre and convenient for Council Staff. – In response Officers explained that there was a development agreement in place and a planning application on the site; therefore the ongoing use of the car park was unlikely and should be excluded when considering future capacity needs.

## **General Discussions**

- Manual checks were encouraged by Members to check the validity for the current car parking usage in the Bromsgrove Town Centre. – In response the Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services explained that the findings were carried out during the strategic planning review but shared concerns that the use of the car parks within the report were out of date and agreed that a more comprehensive usage strategy were required. Contact would be made with Wychavon Parking Services to discuss costings and it was agreed that further findings would be reported to the Board in due course. During discussions Members also queried how the data analysis checks had been carried out for the car park usage. – In response Officers explained that certain times of the day were analysed.
- Members expressed the view that future demands for parking had not been highlighted in the Local Plan.
- What was the current plans for the agreed extra out of town Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs)? – The Assistant Director responded that the details would be discussed with Wychavon Parking Services and would be reported back to the Board. The Leader also added that 25% of resources were used for CEOs in the rural areas.

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- Exploration of outsourcing to introduce ANPR at Council owned car parks was sought. – However, in response the Executive Director informed the Board that the contract agreement was in place for 5 years (which would run after LGR).

In conclusion the Chairman suggested the following be reported back to a future meeting for remediation costs for the Churchfields Car Park; and an exploration of a business case for parking permits at School Drive Car Park.

## **RESOLVED** that

- a) The update on Town Centre Parking and ANPR be noted;
- b) Remediation costs for the Churchfields Car Park be provided for future reporting; and
- c) Explore a business case for parking permits at School Drive Car Park.

(During consideration of this item, Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to move to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed that included information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)). However, there is no exempt information contained within this minute).

101/25

## **EV CHARGER PROFIT SHARING ARRANGEMENTS (UPDATE)**

The Assistant Director Environmental Housing and Property Services presented the Electrical Vehicle (EV) Charger profit sharing arrangements update to the Board.

The main points were discussed:

- The Council had sought to utilise its own land to provide Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) for financial viability.
- Zest Eco Limited procured the contract to undertake a further exploration to expand EVCI across land that were not covered by the taxi scheme.
- Three sites were identified as being viable - two sites had completed installation and one site was in progress.
- Following queries from the Board a review had been carried out to explore the income terms and conditions of the contract.
- Barnt Green Parish Council advised that they had used the same Council supplier Equans, as used for the Plug-in Taxi Programme.

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- There were legal implications and both parties would need to agree to vary the agreement if seeking early payment. Alternatively, a break notice/termination clause within the contract could be another option, however, compensation may be payable, given the expenditure incurred to date for installations.

After the presentation, Members made the following comments:

- How was the contract procured? – In response the Board were informed that it had been through an open tender process with only one bid received.
- Who dealt with the repair and maintenance on site? – It was advised that this was covered by the common contract clause.
- What happened with the contract when the unitary authority took over? – In response it was advised that the contract would be carried over to the unitary authority and maintained.
- How the Council obtained the current usage of the units? – In response the Board noted that the Council were in the process of seeking to gain access to the contractor's portal to gain this data.

**RESOLVED** that the EV Charger Profit Sharing Arrangements update be noted.

(During consideration of this item, Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to move to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed that included information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)). However, there is no exempt information contained within this minute).

The meeting closed at 10.35 p.m.

Chairman



## Overview & Scrutiny Board

To: Overview & Scrutiny Board  
From: Bev Houghton  
Service Area: Community Safety  
Contact: 01527 64252 Ext 3194

CC: Cllr Peter Whittaker – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services & Community Safety  
Guy Revans – Executive Director & Chair of NWCSP  
Judith Willis – Asst. Director of Community & Housing Services

### Review of the work of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership from January 2025 to February 2026

#### 1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) for the period January 2025 to January 2026

#### 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 Team that supports and co-ordinates the work of the Partnership is 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. Guy Revans, Executive Director of Environment & Communities is the Chair of NWCSP and Judith Willis, Asst. Director 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 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and the agenda pack for that meeting can be accessed here: [Agenda for West Mercia Police and Crime Panel on Friday 6th February 2026 at 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 March 2025, NWCSP reviewed and confirmed its priorities for the following two-year period remained the same. The Partnership Plan sets out the priorities that the CSP will focus on for a 3-year period, with an annual refresh to identify 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

The countywide work of the Safer Communities Board is scrutinised by the Worcestershire County Council Overview & Scrutiny arrangements and the latest report to WCC O&S Performance Board outlining community safety activity at a countywide level can be accessed here:

[Worcestershire County Council Community Safety Update Report - 12-12-2025](#)

## 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. The PCC's current Safer West Mercia Plan can be read here:- [Priorities for West Mercia | West Mercia PCC](#)

NWCSP works closely with the Deputy PCC, Marc Bayliss and the OPCC Team via the West Mercia Crime Reduction Board and CSPs are actively involved in the 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 force-wide activities to raise awareness of Hate Crime interventions.

Back 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 (SVD) as laid out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022. Statutory guidance published in June 2023, outlines how key specified authorities (of which the Council is one) should exercise their functions in relation to the SVD and the Home Office allocates limited funding to all policing areas to support this process.

The statutory guidance also details how specified authorities should work together to deliver the requirements of the SVD in order to prevent and reduce serious violence within a defined area. Worcestershire Community Safety partners agreed that local co-ordination of SVD activities would be delivered at a countywide level, via the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board reflecting the two statutory Community Safety Partnerships in the North and South of Worcestershire working together to address Serious Violence.

In 2025 Home Office funding allocations for SVD interventions in Worcestershire totalled **£60,141** and this funding has been used to deliver an ongoing Youth Violence Intervention Project called '*The Right Path*', details of which can be found in **Appendix 1**.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025, the Home Secretary announced the government's decision to abolish the role of Police & Crime Commissioner. It is envisaged that the roles will be absorbed by regional Mayors wherever possible, and in areas not covered by a Mayor, the role will be taken on by elected council leaders.

It is reported that the transition to the new model will happen at the end of the next electoral cycle in 2028. [Police and crime commissioners to be scrapped - GOV.UK](#)

### **3.3 NWCSF Ring-Fenced Grant from the PCC 2025-26**

Alongside the PCC's force-wide commissioning, NWCSF was previously allocated an annual ring-fenced amount from the PCC of £139,250 to identify and address local issues at a district level. In 2025/26 the amount received from the PCC was reduced to £117,838 an approximate 15% reduction. The details of the agreed NWCSF project funding allocation for 2025/26 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.

### **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 an officer 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 Officer David Rischmiller works on behalf of the Council and NWCSF, 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 January 2025 to date.

## 3.5 Use of ASB Tools and Powers

As part of the implementation of the Council's ASB Policy in June 2020, Elected Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board asked to receive an update on activity to address ASB issues as part of the annual Crime & Disorder Scrutiny process.

### WRS – Enforcement Service on behalf of Planning and Environmental Services

Since January 2024 enforcement functions for Planning and Environmental Services have been delivered by Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS). This includes a number of enforcement functions which were previously included in the reporting to Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel on the use of ASB Tools & Powers. Data for the reporting period has been provided by the WRS team here: -

#### Community Protection Warnings Issued

Enforcement Category i.e.	Date Issued	Ward Area	Reason for Issuing	Outcome
Planning Enforcement	12/02/2025	Catshill	Parking vehicles on motorway overpasses/bridges, causing safety implications to both motorists and pedestrians in the Bromsgrove District.	Non-compliance
Planning Enforcement	31.07.2025	Bordesley	State of property	Non-compliance
Planning Enforcement	29.08.2025	Catshill	Parking vehicles on motorway overpasses/bridges, causing safety implications to both motorists and pedestrians in the Bromsgrove District.	Compliance to date

#### Community Protection Notices Issues

Enforcement Category	Date Issued	Ward Area	Reason for Issuing	Outcome
Untidy Land	18.12.2025	Romsley	Fly-tipping and untidy land	Partial Compliance
Untidy Land	15.05.2025	Romsley	Fly-tipping and untidy land	Non-Compliance
Planning Enforcement	12.05.2025	Catshill	Parking vehicles on motorway overpasses/bridges, causing safety implications to both motorists and pedestrians in the Bromsgrove District.	Compliance
Planning Enforcement	12.05.2025	Catshill	Parking vehicles on motorway overpasses/bridges, causing safety implications to both motorists and pedestrians in the Bromsgrove District.	Compliance

Planning Enforcement	12.05.2025	Catshill	Parking vehicles on motorway overpasses/bridges, causing safety implications to both motorists and pedestrians in the Bromsgrove District.	Compliance
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## West Mercia Police-led ASB Activity

The District Police Inspector for Bromsgrove has provided a brief report giving an overview of Police-led ASB and Crime actions for the reporting period at **Appendix 2/2A**.

## Community Safety Team Interventions

There have been no ASB case reviews in the period January 2025 to January 2026. However, an application has recently been received from a resident requesting a case review regarding disputes with a neighbour.

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

Town Centre: A 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.

Rock Hill: Nuisance car use on a supermarket car park after hours, involving excess speed and noise from anti-social gatherings and misuse of off-road motorcycles.

Lickey Hills: Reports from residents of vehicle generated ASB, loud music, litter, burnt out car etc on Beacon Hill Car Park, Monument Lane, Lickey.

Sidemoor: The daughter of a resident targeted by graffiti sprawled across King George Recreation Ground play area. There is also litter and other ASB issues.

Rubery: Work continues with the Police, Town Centres Management and other partners through the multi-agency MATES process in respect of ASB and possible crimes linked to certain shops.

The team also routinely provides 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.

## 3.6 Community Safety Problem Solving and Service Engagement

### **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 January 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026, the Community Safety Team received multiple requests for service in Bromsgrove and these are categorised as below: -

- 19 requests from residents
- 12 requests from Elected Members
- 13 requests from partner agencies
- 10 requests from internal council services
- 4 requests from businesses

In addition, the team received 27 requests for home security assessments for vulnerable residents. Addresses were visited by the team's Designing out Crime Officer Dave Rischmiller and recommendations were made, primarily to social landlords for improvements to increase residents' safety. The vast majority of these were for domestic abuse cases.

Requests for service related to the following Community Safety and ASB themes. 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 and signposting is provided. The total number of requests does not add up exactly as there are often multiple issues raised in a single call.

**20** requests regarding **ASB issues** were received in the period between January 2025 to date including:

- 1 ASB related to inappropriate use of motorbikes
- 1 ASB related to car racing
- 8 ASB related to neighbourhood issues
- 2 ASB related to noise nuisance
- 1 ASB related to dogs
- 13 ASB related to youth ASB
- 1 ASB related to graffiti
- 2 ASB related to litter
- 2 ASB related to road safety

15 ASB related to other general ASB issues

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

1 request for assistance regarding a CPN intervention with a local business

1 request for a Crime Prevention Survey regarding youth incursion onto allotments

1 request to attend Multi-Agency meeting regarding litter

2 requests to attend Multi-Agency meetings regarding complex neighbourhood issues

2 requests for support regarding environmental issues

2 requests from Social Prescribing regarding vulnerable residents

1 request for support from a resident regarding an adjacent abandoned property

2 requests for support regarding dangerous wall toppings

1 request relating to safeguarding young people

3 requests regarding vulnerable residents

2 requests for site visits regarding youth ASB

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

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

### 3.7 **Communications and Social Media Campaigns**

The Community Safety Team has supported various national and local campaigns in the period from January 2025 to date, promoting key community safety messages and the work of NWCSF. Projects that are directly led by the Community Safety Team such as the Respect Programme, Nominated Neighbour and Hate Incident Reporting are regularly promoted.

A number of other campaigns and events were supported throughout the reporting period, including: -

- Promotion of the Community Safety Nominated Neighbour Scheme & raising awareness of the tactics of rogue traders and doorstep scams
- Freshers Week at HoW College
- MP's Pensioners Fair
- Police and Fire Station Open Day
- Council Staff Well-being Event - All about me
- Operation Sceptre and other Knife Crime awareness events and activities delivered by Police Teams
- Independent Living Event, Hagley
- Loan Shark Awareness
- International Women's Day
- Child Exploitation Awareness Week
- Mental Health Awareness Week

- Home Security and Scam Awareness talks to groups at the Rainbow Hospice
- Health Bus Outreach Event, Clent
- White Ribbon Campaign
- Hate Crime Awareness Week

The Community Safety team also uses social media to raise awareness of community safety issues and keep residents and partners informed of work delivered by partners, via 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 and awareness messages are 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.

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 2025/26 – Presentation

**Appendix 2/2a:** Police SNT update on Crime & ASB activity – provided by Insp Richard Field

#### 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 Safer West Mercia Plan - [Priorities for West Mercia | West Mercia PCC](http://PrioritiesforWestMercia|WestMerciaPCC)

#### Officer Contact Details:

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Email: [bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

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# North Worcestershire **Community Safety Partnership**

## Community Safety Partnership Review January 2025 – February 2026

Bev Houghton  
Community Safety Manager  
[bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:bev.houghton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

# **NWCSP Responsible Authorities**

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



North Worcestershire  
**Community Safety Partnership**

## North Worcestershire CSP Priorities

- Public Place Violence & Serious Violence Duty
- ASB, Nuisance and Environmental Issues
- Shoplifting and Neighbourhood Crime: 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, Sexual Violence
- Serious Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOCJAG)

# West Mercia PCC Ring-fenced Grant to NWCSP for 2025/26

Allocated to the NWCSP	2025/26 Amounts	Allocation
Contribution to WMP Partnership Analyst Team	£20,000	<i>PCC Top Slice</i>
Contribution to West Mercia IOM	£1,000	<i>PCC Top Slice</i>
Contribution to West Mercia Hate Crime Project	£10,383	<i>PCC Top Slice</i>
<b>Top Sliced Total</b>	<b>£31,838</b>	
W DHR Support	£30,000	<i>DHR 39, DHR 40, DHR 41, DHR 43</i>
R.U.N Our Space CIC – DA Project Continuation and Expansion	£33,000	<i>DA Advocacy &amp; Support across Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest</i>
Bromsgrove Allocation	£5,340	<i>Bromsgrove District Support</i>
Redditch Allocation	£5,330	<i>Redditch District Support</i>
Wyre Forest Allocation	£12,330	<i>Wyre Forest District Support</i>
<b>Total North Worcs and District Allocations</b>	<b>£86,000</b>	<i>Total NW District Allocation</i>
<b>Total NWCSP funding</b>	<b>£117,838</b>	<i>Total PCC Ring-fenced Grant</i>

# Safer Bromsgrove – CSP Funding 2025/26

<b>Funded Projects</b>	<b>Amount</b>
R.U.N Our Space CIC – Bromsgrove allocation from NW Domestic Abuse Advocacy & Support Project	£19,000.00
Safer Bromsgrove Contribution to UKSPF Community Infrastructure Event - The Real Women Project taking place on 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026	£2,412.00
Safer Bromsgrove Contribution: To improve security at the Youth & Community Hub including CCTV cameras and an Electronic Sign-in System	£2,945.00

## The Right Path Serious Violence Youth Project – Worcestershire

Using Serious Violence Duty (SVD) 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 of criminalisation, those not accessing education and those at risk of permanent exclusion.

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

The Right Path project continues to receive regular referral from the Police Intervention & Prevention Officers, School DSLs and Youth Workers. Since April 2025, **21 young people** have been seen by the project. Referrals continue to include complex concerns and there are strong links between the project and other safeguarding forums, for example Prevent for risks around extremist language, fascination with violence and expressing language from Incel culture. Each young person receives an individual evaluation and next steps report from the Mentor and work is underway to gather data on pre and post intervention offending and suspect roles.

## Addressing NWCSP Funding Priorities

- **Public Place Violence & Serious Violence Duty**
- **Protecting Vulnerable Communities**
- **Serious Organised Crime (incl. CCE / CSE / County Lines / Knife Crime Awareness)**

**Home Office SVD Funding - £60,141**

# Redeployable Camera Scheme

Since figures were last provided in January 2025, there were 24 new applications for the use of redeployable cameras across Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest which were installed or are pending further information or action to support installation. There are 5 current deployments of cameras across the areas of Redditch and Wyre Forest and two pending requests for Bromsgrove District.

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

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- 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, suspected drug activity, 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

## Pending Deployments in Bromsgrove

No.	Location	Installation Date	Proposed Removal Date
TBC	Sidemoor - King George Play Area	In Consultation Phase	
TBC	Catshill - Milton Road play area ('Birdcage')	In Consultation Phase	

# **Community Safety Project Updates**

## **2025-2026**



The Community Safety Respect Programme is a therapeutic mentoring scheme which provides weekly support and guidance sessions to young people at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of crime.

From Sept 2024 to Feb 2026 the team of Respect Mentors have supported **over 250 young people**

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

The most serious cases are being referred to the Serious Youth Violence Project called The Right Path.

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We have a well-established team of experienced and qualified youth mentors who support the delivery of the Respect Programme across Redditch and Bromsgrove schools.



# Bromsgrove Youth Hub CIC

The Bromsgrove Youth Hub is 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 BDC 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.





# Designing Out Crime

The Community Safety team coordinate and carry out Environmental Visual Audits and Crime Risk Surveys at locations across the district which are experiencing crime and ASB issues.

Site visits during 2025/26 include:-

- Bromsgrove Town Centre - Bus Station
- Bromsgrove Town Centre - Rooftops and Rear Access points
- Bourne Avenue, Catshill
- Bromsgrove Allotment Sites
- St Chads Park, Rubery
- Car Park sites

# Sanctuary Assessments

Sanctuary support is offered to survivors of domestic abuse to assess and assist them to remain in their home rather than having to flee. This is achieved by providing a professional assessment of the security improvements necessary to make the home environment safe and secure.

Community Safety Designing Out Crime Officers (DOCOs) are available to conduct Sanctuary assessments which could enable survivors of domestic abuse and their children to remain in their homes and close to family, friends and work. This undoubtedly improves their safety, reduces fear of reprisals and minimises the disruption to their lives.

During 2025 the Community Safety Team dealt with **29 requests** for home security assessments for the purposes of Sanctuary.



# Planning Consultations



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The Community Safety team has a College of Policing qualified, Designing Out Crime Officer (DOCO) who reviews planning applications and makes appropriate crime prevention and security recommendations. The aim of this process is to create residential developments that are less vulnerable to crime and disorder

During the reporting period, the Community Safety DOCO scrutinised **32 planning applications**. 9 of these were in Bromsgrove comprising a total of 237 residential units.

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# The R.U.N Project - Bromsgrove

The R.U.N project has received funding from Safer Bromsgrove for local domestic abuse projects for over 3 years. Starting as a small grassroots support service, the project is coordinated by a community volunteer who is herself a survivor of domestic abuse.

After being commissioned to carry out a research project in Bromsgrove and Redditch looking into the experiences of victims and survivors of abuse, the R.U.N project has now successfully expanded and has been become a registered Community Interest Company called R.U.N Our Space.

This expansion allows the group to continue to provide safe community spaces for women, many from minority ethnic communities, that have survived domestic abuse, violence and harassment and are experiencing poor mental health, isolation and low self-esteem as a result.

In Sept 2025 R.U.N Our Space submitted a successful bid for DA funding from NWCSF, to widen its reach and deliver outreach services to Redditch and Wyre Forest whilst maintaining its core base in Bromsgrove. This increased funding allows the project to create a team of female leaders, working together to develop the project's range of services and expand its delivery further.

R.U.N Our Space provides support services for women, particularly those from minoritised communities who are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse, sexual violence, hate crime, targeted harassment and isolation.

## R.U.N. Our Space

R.U.N. Our Space CIC provides safe, supportive environments for women who have been affected by domestic abuse, poor mental health, isolation and low self-esteem.

R.U.N. Our Space is dedicated to establishing a vibrant and inclusive Community Hub for women and our unique approach, informed by lived experience, delivers bespoke programmes and advocacy services.

R.U.N. Our Space is about creating a sense of belonging, connection, a system of sharing resources and community by Women for Women.

R.U.N. Our Space is a multifaceted space offering direct and ongoing support after crisis provision has ended. We then step in to provide ongoing assistance throughout the transition period, helping women re-engage with the community while on a journey of healing and self-development.

Our initiatives include:

### *We Are More*

Every First and Third Monday of the Month.  
11 am to 1 pm  
Destination Zone  
Bromsgrove High Street, B61 8ES

A regular meet-up for Women providing emotional support, activities such as arts & crafts, creative writing, music etc., move-on assistance and personal development guidance.



A place where you can become yourself again.

### *Journey After*

Monday to Friday  
11 am to 5 pm  
At pre-arranged community locations  
Accessed by referral process to:  
recovery.united.network@gmail.com

Tailored individual support, advocacy, and help with training, career and educational progression. Volunteering and job opportunities can be identified and pop-up taster sessions called "This Woman's World" are on offer.

### *Women Who Lead*

Support for Women's Grassroots Community Projects, assisting with networking, setting up a CIC, identifying useful local provision, collective collaboration, and co-production opportunities.

Contact by email:  
recovery.united.network@gmail.com

Javina Greene - Founder and Director  
Tel: 07497 082 543  
recovery.united.network@gmail.com

R.U.N Our Space is supported and funded by



# Community Safety Engagement Events 2025

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 2025 officers attended events including:

- HoW College Freshers' Fair
- Scam Awareness events with Barclays
- Police and Fire Station Open Day
- Police SNT events
- Hagley Home Instead event
- Primrose Hospice events
- Worcestershire Health Bus Outreach



# Vulnerable and Older Person Project



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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 out further to our residents. Across the two districts **179 members** have been signed up since the inception of Nominated Neighbour.

Managed through Safer Bromsgrove, the Vulnerable and Older Person project, aims to establish specific Nominated Neighbour areas across the district, the aim of which is to give 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 crime.

This targeted project brings together a range of partners and volunteers to improve the safety and security offer to older and vulnerable residents including resources, information and direct support to protect them from crime.

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# Resources for Older and Vulnerable Residents

A further strand of the project was to establish a central collection of resources that are available to protect older and vulnerable residents. This needed to be accessible for those residents who have their own access to the internet but also promoted and targeted toward their concerned relatives and friends and contributions sought from relevant partner agencies.

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Specific pages on the Council's website were created which provide information on preventing doorstep crime; on scams and fraud protection awareness, on home and personal security matters and plus a wealth of other information relevant to those residents.

Promotional cards have been produced, and these are widely distributed at events and with partner agencies.

**Concerned about?**

- Doorstep Crime
- Fraud & Scams
- Home Security & Personal Safety

**Turn over for details of online resources for older & vulnerable residents.**



[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/vulnerableresidents](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/vulnerableresidents)



[www.redditchbc.gov.uk/vulnerableresidents](http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/vulnerableresidents)

or call the Community Safety Team 01527 534187

Agenda Item 4

# Alvechurch Nominated Neighbour Area

Alvechurch was selected as a pilot area to see if it was possible to comprehensively roll-out Nominated Neighbour to all older and vulnerable residents in a targeted location. To promote the pilot a partnership working group was established including Ward Councillors, the Police and local active volunteers.

Three promotional events were held in Alvechurch at the Picnic in the Park in May, at the Village Hall in June and at The Lounge in September.

The pilot highlighted how ambitious the aim was with only a total of 7 residents eventually signing up to the Nominated Neighbour Scheme. This was less than originally hoped but valuable feedback and experience was gained.

The intention in 2026 is to seek out other Bromsgrove locations to actively promote Nominated Neighbour, most likely will be rural villages where there are active local community organisations to provide support. Promotional material has already appeared in the CALC Parish Council's Bulletin.



# Nominated Neighbour Scheme Feedback

Mrs A has had no cold callers since the scheme. Prior to this she was constantly harassed by people calling her door which made her feel vulnerable. She couldn't speak highly enough of the scheme and the positive difference it has made.

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Very positive feedback from Mrs B who recognised the Nominated Neighbour name straight away. She had a good understanding of the scheme and was so pleased with the way she was signed up to it and how it completely stopped cold callers at her address.

Mr F who is 90 years old states the scheme has worked very well. He used to get several callers offering to cut his tress etc but since the scheme he hasn't had any such callers.

*Voicemail response; "I'm absolutely thrilled with the scheme. I haven't had a single cold caller"*

Mrs C felt the sign on her door was a deterrent, on one occasion she had someone at the door who saw the sticker and went away. She commented she felt safer with having that on. After 6 months Mrs C has not had any cold callers and is sure the scheme has worked for her.

Mrs E had a lot of trouble with unwanted callers in the past, she said it was constant as she is at busy location by the school, but she has had no unwanted callers since the sticker was put in the window.

Mrs G has had no callers since the scheme was introduced. Previously had issues with bogus callers trying to obtain cash from her. Her daughter states the scheme has worked brilliantly and gives both her and her mother peace of mind.

# NWCSP Funded Knife Poles

In February 2025 NWCSP purchased new knife detecting poles, alongside the existing knife arch, to assist Police colleagues with crime prevention and knife detection operations.

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Training on how to use the new systems has been delivered to Police SNT officers and the new poles will further enhance the police's ability to take dangerous weapons off the streets.

The pole was deployed at Bromsgrove Train Station in November 2025 as a part of Operation Sceptre, the national policing operation to tackle knife crime.



Agenda Item 4

# Annual White Ribbon Domestic Abuse Campaign 25<sup>th</sup> Nov to 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025

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

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

Alongside this in-person promotional activity which took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, the team also had a strong social media campaign, engaging with local organisations and businesses throughout the full 16 Days of Action.



# National Hate Crime Awareness Week – 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025

## Safer Bromsgrove Social Media Campaign

**Safer Bromsgrove** @SaferBromsgrove · 12 Oct 2025  
Learn to recognise what hate crime is  
[nwcsp.org/help-and-advic...](http://nwcsp.org/help-and-advic...)

**Have you experienced or witnessed a hate crime? Do you know someone else who has?**  
If so, report it...

**UNITED AGAINST HATE**  
North Worcestershire Hate Incident PARTNERSHIP

A hate crime is when someone commits a crime against a person because of their disability, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, religion, or any other perceived difference. It doesn't always include physical violence.

Using offensive language or harassing someone because of who they are, or who they think they are, is also a crime. The same goes for someone posting abusive or offensive messages online.

**Safer Bromsgrove** @SaferBromsgrove · 16 Oct 2025  
North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership works to raise awareness of hate crime, ways to report it reporting and support for victims of hate crime. #stophateuk. Recognise & Report hate crime! [nwcsp.org/help-and-advic...](http://nwcsp.org/help-and-advic...)

**HATE DOESN'T BELONG HERE**

**Report Racism**

**Racism Hurts**

**REPORT IT**  
[www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)

**Stop Racism towards Gypsy, Roma or Traveller communities. REPORT IT!**

**Safer Bromsgrove** @SaferBromsgrove · 13 Oct 2025  
NW Community Safety Partnership supports National Hate Crime Awareness Week and partner agencies work hard throughout the year to promote hate crime reporting, awareness and education in communities.  
#stophateuk  
[nwcsp.org/help-and-advic...](http://nwcsp.org/help-and-advic...)  
Report it!

**The only thing necessary for the triumph of crime is for good people to do nothing.**

You have an opportunity to do something through contacting CrimeStoppers.

**CrimeStoppers.**  
**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.

**Safer Bromsgrove** @SaferBromsgrove · 11 Oct 2025  
It is National Hate Crime Awareness Week this week  
#stophateuk  
Recognise Hate Crime & Report it!  
[youtu.be/WUYWRLu01PU?si...](https://youtu.be/WUYWRLu01PU?si...) via @YouTube

**7-24-30 NATIONAL HATE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK**

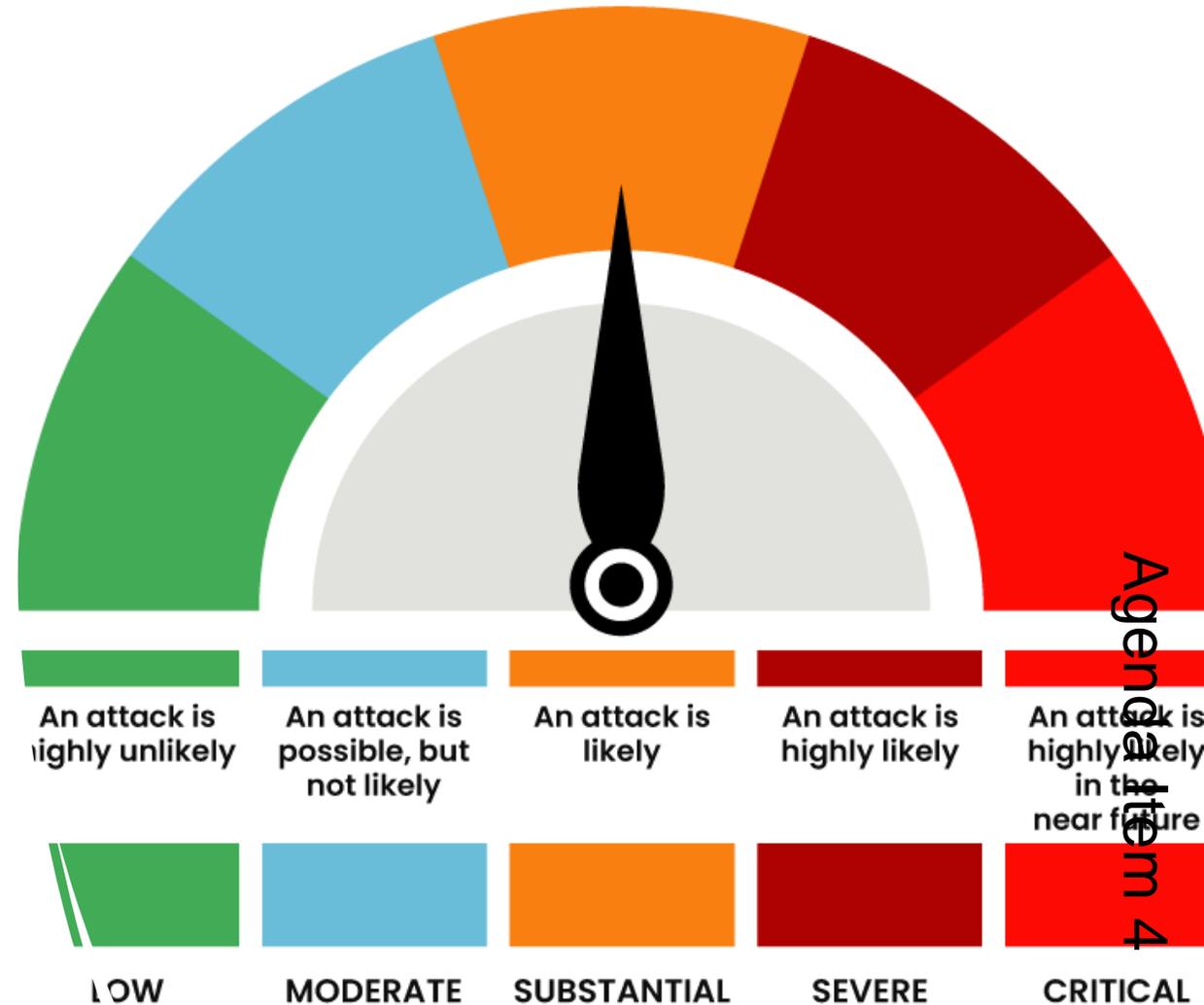
youtube.com  
17 24 30 National Hate Crime Awareness Week (118...  
17-24-30 National Hate Crime Awareness Week (1184819) [www.nationalhcaw.uk](http://www.nationalhcaw.uk)

# PROTECT

PROTECT is one of the four strands of the UK's Anti-Terrorism strategy CONTEST. Its aim is to strengthen the defences of public places, infrastructure, borders, and transport to make them less vulnerable to attack.

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's Law, is due to come into force in April 2027 placing statutory responsibilities on those responsible for certain premises and events to consider how they would respond to a terrorist attack. This will include Local Authority premises.

Through its experience and skills, the Community Safety Team is closely involved in developing the Council's approach to PROTECT and the team's DOCO is providing advice and guidance to CLT and working with countywide and West Mercia wide partners to access PROTECT training, identify risks, develop strategies in order to support the Council in complying with the forthcoming legislation.



# Mallard ASB Consultancy Membership

For the last 5 years the Community Safety Team has commissioned Mallard ASB Consultancy to support council's services with advice and guidance on appropriate and efficient use of ASB tools and powers.

In 2024-2025 officers from WRS, Housing Services, Private Sector Housing and Environmental Services had an opportunity to attend specialist training delivered by the consultancy.

Training courses cover wide range of topics, including:

- Streetscene and Patrolling FPN
- Waste Crime and Scrap Metal
- Caravan Licencing Procedure
- Crime and Criminal Investigations
- Community Protection
- Renters Rights Bill



**David Armstrong, LL.B. (Hons), NLP M.P, D Hyp, ISCH, GQHP.**

*David is widely known within the public sector as “the Wig”.*

*David is a founder member of Mallard Consultancy Ltd. He is a highly experienced advocate and Barrister (having finally retired from practice in 2024). He has worked in both the private and public sector and, in his early career as a solicitor, was employed by a large metropolitan local authority for 10/11 years as their Head of Litigation. David has prosecuted many precedent cases for public bodies and has also taken action on behalf of and trained many RSL's in civil actions to combat nuisance.*

[Consultancy - Mallard](#)

# 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 for help if they feel they are being bullied, abused or harassed while out and about.

All Safe Places are identified by this sticker, and the organisation's 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 Redditch is available here:- [Safe Places | Our Way Self Advocacy](#)



# WCC Youth Services Funding

The Community Safety Team continues to co-ordinate and manage the commissioning of the WCC District Youth Services Fund in Bromsgrove. This fund supports local youth providers to deliver activities and initiatives that give young people a safe place to meet and be supported by trusted adults.

Page 55 Local Commissioned Organisations are:

- **The Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub**  
£27,282 to provide Open Access / Detached / Targeted Sessions.
- **Waseley Hills Youth Club / Sport P&E**  
£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

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**Subject     West Mercia Police Report to Bromsgrove District Council's Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel**

West Mercia Police have been asked to provide a report to Bromsgrove District Council's Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel. The report will focus on three main themes.

- Overview of Crime within Bromsgrove District.
- Anti-Social Behaviour interventions.
- Recent successes.

**Overview of Crime and ASB**

The District's year-to-date figures for the crime types that impact our communities the most, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 are contained in Appendix A

**Anti-Social Behaviour Interventions**

The Police ASB interventions for Bromsgrove District from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 are listed below:

Level 1 ASB letters – 22  
Cease and Desist letter - 2  
Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) - 10  
Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) - 1  
Sec 59 warning (Anti-social driving) - 1  
Personal ASB Risk Assessment (PARA) - Standard score - 19  
Personal ASB Risk Assessment (PARA) - Medium score - 8  
Personal ASB Risk Assessment (PARA) - High score - 0

**Recent Successes**

**Neighbourhood Policing Expansion – West Mercia**

**Overview:**

During September 2025, West Mercia Police employed additional officers to strengthen neighbourhood policing across Herefordshire, Shropshire, and Worcestershire. This investment supports the Police and Crime Commissioner's Safer Communities Plan and contributes to the national Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.

## New Resources Being Deployed:

- 29 Police Constables, including:
- 5 dedicated Rural Crime Officers
- 2 Sergeants
- 20 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

## County Lines Week of Action

Our crackdown on county lines drug dealing continues as West Mercia Police took part in the recent national County Lines Intensification Week (25th Nov - 1st Dec 2024).

During the week, we arrested 68 individuals linked to county lines drug dealing and seized over £2.5 million worth of drugs, and over £21,000 in cash.

Importantly, we also focused on safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our society who can fall victim to being exploited by county lines gangs. We made 110 cuckooing visits to vulnerable people and safeguarded 29 adults and 19 children as a result.



## Op Sceptre Knife Crime Week – November 2025

Nearly 300 knives were surrendered during the recent national Sceptre initiative to tackle knife crime.

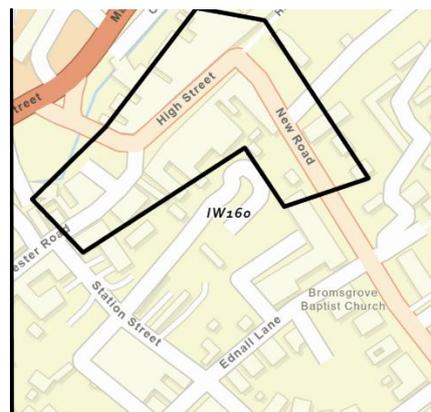
Key activity:

- 202 retail visits conducted to check compliance with knife sale laws.
- 42 test purchases carried out; 15 retailers failed to challenge for ID – advice provided.
- Community engagement, proactive patrols, stop/searches, warrants, and intelligence-led action took place throughout the week.



## **Bromsgrove Hotspot Patrols**

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, West Mercia Police launched hotspot patrols within Bromsgrove Town Centre, namely High Street / New Road to address serious violence and ASB. In total, there have been a total of 490 pro-active high visibility patrols (at the time of writing on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026) recorded in this area as part of our ongoing commitment to increased visibility in the area. A map of the hotspot area is below;



## **Multi-Agency Targeted Enforcement Strategy (MATES)**

West Mercia Police have worked with a number of partners to address some of the local concerns around serious and organised crime, in particular concerns around illegal vape / tobacco sales to young person/s in Bromsgrove.

This has resulted in a number of compliance visits with partners, resulting in illegal tobacco being seized by trading standards. During February 2025, £500,000 was seized by our Economic Crime unit and a further £250,000 in November 2025 as part of a national NCA led called Operation Machinize

More locally, through this partnership, three shops in Bromsgrove have been ordered to close by magistrates after investigators discovered they were selling illegal products.

The closures have been funded by Worcestershire County Council Public Health, Bromsgrove District Council, Redditch Borough Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner. They were

carried out by Worcestershire Trading Standards officers, supported by West Mercia Police and Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS).

The three premises closed include European Mini-Market on The Strand, Zam Zam Shop on the High Street and WK Groceries on New Road. Following court hearings on Thursday 20th November 2025, magistrates issued orders to extend the closures for European Mini Market and Zam Zam Shop for three months.

WK Groceries' court proceedings have been adjourned but the shop will remain closed until a future date is set.

To assist, four press articles are enclosed below for reference;

[Police and partners seize illegal vapes from store | West Mercia Police](#)

[More than £500k seized in West Mercia Police fraud raids - BBC News](#)

[Organised crime raids uncover firearms and £250K in illegal cash | West Mercia Police](#)

[Three shops ordered to close for selling illicit products](#)

**Author:** Inspector Richard Field

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Bromsgrove Crime & ASB Data

Public Order	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2024	16	27	30	35	35	43	42	38	31	28	38	30	393
2025	31	34	38	34	34	19	52	36	31	39	29	30	407
Difference	15	7	8	-1	-1	-24	10	-2	0	11	-9	0	14
% Difference	94%	26%	27%	-3%	-3%	-56%	24%	-5%	0%	39%	-24%	0%	4%

Robbery	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2024	5	1	1	2	5	5	2	9	3	5	7	5	50
2025	5	4	2	7	7	8	6	8	8	9	6	1	71
Difference	0	3	1	5	2	3	4	-1	5	4	-1	-4	21
% Difference	0%	300%	100%	250%	40%	60%	200%	-11%	167%	80%	-14%	-80%	42%

\*\* New Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) for 2025/26 now classify shop thefts involving violence as robbery.\*\*

Shoplifting	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2024	39	40	42	38	43	46	34	60	72	67	57	44	582
2025	45	35	46	45	50	52	56	54	63	61	51	49	607
Difference	6	-5	4	7	7	6	22	-6	-9	-6	-6	5	25
% Difference	15%	-13%	10%	18%	16%	13%	65%	-10%	-13%	-9%	-11%	11%	4%

Burglary	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2024	33	25	26	23	35	20	27	29	19	32	35	39	343
2025	28	31	34	43	24	30	20	38	20	40	33	22	363
Difference	-5	6	8	20	-11	10	-7	9	1	8	-2	-17	20
% Difference	-15%	24%	31%	87%	-31%	50%	-26%	31%	5%	25%	-6%	-44%	6%

Poss of weapons	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2024	5	1	6	3	3	2	6	2	3	8	2	8	49
2025	5	6	6	11	3	1	3	5	4	8	1	8	61
Difference	0	5	0	8	0	-1	-3	3	1	0	-1	0	12
% Difference	0%	500%	0%	267%	0%	-50%	-50%	150%	33%	0%	-50%	0%	24%

Drug Offences	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2024	9	9	15	10	9	9	7	13	7	11	6	7	112
2025	9	10	12	10	12	7	16	5	4	12	11	18	126
Difference	0	1	-3	0	3	-2	9	-8	-3	1	5	11	14
% Difference	0%	11%	-20%	0%	33%	-22%	129%	-62%	-43%	9%	83%	157%	13%

Vehicle Offences	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2024	36	44	45	41	28	40	45	44	37	60	30	30	480
2025	20	33	32	35	39	34	31	32	31	37	22	23	369
Difference	-16	-11	-13	-6	11	-6	-14	-12	-6	-23	-8	-7	-111
% Difference	-44%	-25%	-29%	-15%	39%	-15%	-31%	-27%	-16%	-38%	-27%	-23%	-23%

ASB	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2024	77	69	63	85	121	122	121	118	111	74	72	67	1100
2025	62	77	103	120	83	103	103	114	62	95	86	65	1073
Difference	-15	8	40	35	-38	-19	-18	-4	-49	21	14	-2	-27
% Difference	-19%	12%	63%	41%	-31%	-16%	-15%	-3%	-44%	28%	19%	-3%	-2%

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### Overview and Scrutiny

24<sup>th</sup> of March

2026

#### Report title

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Sue Baxter
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Hannah Corredor, Assistant Director Corporate Services and Transformation
Report Author	Job Title: as above. Contact email: Hannah.corredor@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/a
Relevant Council Priority	Local Government Reorganisation
Non-Key Decision	
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

##### Overview and Scrutiny RESOLVE that:-

- 1) The updates regarding the consultation responses and engagement activity are noted.
- 2) The overview of the current position and next steps regarding Devolution are noted.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

Stage one: Inviting unitary proposals	Received November 2024
Stage two: Submission of formal unitary proposals.	Completed November 2025
➤ Stage three: Statutory consultation (MHCLG)	5 <sup>th</sup> of February to 26 <sup>th</sup> of March 2026
Stage four: Decision to implement a proposal	Expected before summer recess, July 2026
Stage five: Making secondary legislation – the Structural Changes Order (SCO).	Begins later in 2026 and ends with shadow elections in May 2027.
Stage six: Transition period	From decision to vesting day April 2028.
Stage seven: New unitary authority goes live	April 2028.

- 2.1 The consultation is live and can be accessed directly via our Transforming Worcestershire webpage:

### Overview and Scrutiny

24<sup>th</sup> of March

2026

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[www.transformingworcestershires.co.uk](http://www.transformingworcestershires.co.uk) or directly on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-worcestershire/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-worcestershire>. All Members are encouraged to promote response to the consultation throughout their networks.

- 2.2 The five workstreams detailed in the previous paper – HR, Legal, Finance, IT and Services – are progressing as planned. Fortnightly meetings are taking place with key leads from each authority in each group. The Chief Executives LGR Preparations Board continues to meet every four weeks and an extended session including s151 and Monitoring Officers is planned to take place in Pershore at the end of March. This session will be attended by a Senior Sector Advisor on behalf of MHCLG.
- 2.3 As part of the above the Chief Executive of Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council has arranged a workshop on the development of a data hub to assist with the collection of data across the seven Worcestershire local authorities. The workshop is being facilitated by colleagues from Westmorland and Furness Council who became the second of two unitary councils on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, the second being Cumberland Council. This followed the unitarisation of Cumbria County Council and the six former districts.

### **3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

- 3.1 Following submission of the Transforming Worcestershire proposal in November 2025, we were invited to attend a ‘Listening’ meeting with MHCLG on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2026. Preparations for the meeting included work with KPMG. The Chief Executive of BDC and RBC, Chief Executive of Wychavon and Malvern Hills and Managing Director of Worcester City Council provided a presentation to MHCLG on the Transforming Worcestershire proposal. The presentation included an overview of the proposal highlighting how it met the Government’s six criteria for Local Government Reorganisation, and within the criteria delivered high quality and sustainable public services alongside other key aspects such as risks to delivery, and areas of concern, whilst finishing with a strong and confident summary followed by a Q&A.
- 3.2 The Government’s consultation for Local Government Reorganisation in Worcestershire runs until 26<sup>th</sup> March. Bromsgrove District Council Group Leaders are being consulted on the response to be provided to Government on the Transforming Worcestershire proposal and the One

### Overview and Scrutiny

24<sup>th</sup> of March

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Worcestershire proposal, alongside a response to LGR proposals in Warwickshire. For Members information, as is the case in Worcestershire there are two proposals in Warwickshire – one covering the County area and the other being a two unitary option (covering the north and south). With the agreement of Group Leaders responses will be provided to Government on these proposals by the deadline.

#### **DEVOLUTION**

- 3.1 The Transforming Worcestershire proposal that was supported by Full Council provides a preference for a Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Warwickshire and or Gloucestershire devolution footprint/footprint for a Foundation Strategic Authority. It did, however, leave open the opportunity for other options should that be the wish of Government for the area to further consider them. Throughout the last year, the Worcestershire Leaders Board representing all authorities, have continually considered Devolution. In September 2025, the Leaders Board agreed that the most suitable geography was Herefordshire + Worcestershire + Warwickshire; however, the final position on these options was dependent on the outcome of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the potential split, or not, of Gloucestershire and Warwickshire. This view is based on strong evidence related to economic links (e.g. defence sector, A46/M42 corridors) and alignment to the existing Integrated Care Board (ICB).
- 3.3 On the 12th of February 2026, MHCLG wrote to all authorities without an existing devolution agreement, including Bromsgrove District Council. inviting expressions of interest with neighbouring counties for the creation of a Foundation Strategic Authority (FSA) over what Government describes as a “sensible geography”. The Department stated that it would begin reviewing responses from 20 March. Over recent months, Government policy on devolution has shifted from an expectation of progressing directly to Mayoral Strategic Authorities, towards a staged approach requiring areas to first establish FSAs.
- 3.4 At the same time, Government has reintroduced Spatial Development Strategies (SDS) — high-level strategic plans that set broad parameters for housing, employment land and major infrastructure across a larger geography. SDSs are intended to sit above Local Plans, and Government has made clear that SDS footprints should generally align with future devolution geographies. There will be practical implications of the new Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) requirement to consider. County and Unitary councils will hold the formal responsibility for SDS preparation.

### Overview and Scrutiny

24<sup>th</sup> of March

2026

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- 3.5 On 10 March 2026, a paper was considered by the Worcestershire Leaders' Board to support authorities to agree how to respond on both the matter of FSAs and SDSs and restate preferred local options in advance of Government's review window. The paper highlighted that, while Worcestershire has maintained a consistent position, neighbouring counties are currently taking different approaches in response to the Government's invitation.
- 3.6 Following the Worcestershire Leaders' Board meeting on 11 March 2026, all seven councils agreed a common position for submission to MHCLG. Worcestershire's position is that Herefordshire and Worcestershire must progress together due to their shared border, health arrangements, and long-standing joint fire and rescue service, and that either Warwickshire and/or Gloucestershire should form part of the wider devolution and SDS geography. Leaders have written to Government to confirm this position in time for the deadline of 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- 3.9 As spatial planning expertise currently sits within district councils; Worcestershire Leaders have stressed the importance of district involvement in SDS preparatory work through to April 2028. This temporary arrangement would support continuity of planning work and ensure a smooth transition ahead of future mayoral responsibility.
- 3.10 In providing this report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee it is acknowledged that updates on LGR are of interest to the Committee when there are specific mentionable activities to report on. Now that the MHCLG stakeholder consultation is coming to a close and the MHCLG "Listening Meeting" has taken place, there is unlikely to be any significant activity to report, other than the work of the internal/countywide LGR groups which is ongoing. We are therefore flagging to members that future reports may be limited. On these occasions a Chief Officer will provide a verbal update.

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

- 4.1 Financial implications will continue to arise as LGR progresses; however, these implications may relate to Bromsgrove District or the future Unitary, dependent on the time of arising.

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

- 5.1 Legal implications will continue to arise as LGR progresses. This committee will be updated as and when necessary.

## Overview and Scrutiny

24<sup>th</sup> of March

2026

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### 6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

#### Local Government Reorganisation

6.1 This is the subject of this report.

#### Relevant Council Priority

6.2 N/a

#### Climate Change Implications

6.3 N/a

#### Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.4 Significant equalities implications will arise from the redesign and redistribution of services across the County. Reports will be brought here once planning progresses to a stage where these can be considered.

### 7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 Devolution and LGR are listed as a Corporate Risk in the Corporate Risk Register, owned by the Chief Executive Officer and lead by the Assistant Director of Corporate Services and Transformation. Ongoing work to improve our risk management systems continues, with a focus on flagging risks that relate to LGR to enable a single view of LGR related risks – noting that LGR will be a dependency for a increasing number of risks over the upcoming two years.

### 8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/a

### Overview and Scrutiny

24<sup>th</sup> of March

2026

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#### 9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Baxter	16/03
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Hannah Corredor	13/03
Financial Services	Julie Lorraine	11/03
Legal Services	Claire Felton	
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Hannah Corredor	11/03
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	N/a	

## **Two items on the agenda**

- 1. Annual review of Public Health**
- 2. Overview from West Midlands Ambulance Service**

## **Annual Review of Public Health – Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (9 January 2026)**

The Annual Review of Public Health provides an overview of population health trends in Worcestershire, progress against Health and Wellbeing Board priorities, and emerging risks for the county. It sits within the wider statutory framework for annual public health reporting.

### **Key Positives**

#### **1. Statutory Accountability and Transparency**

The report reflects the statutory duty of the Director of Public Health to provide an independent annual assessment of population health. This ensures democratic oversight, transparency, and regular scrutiny by elected members.

#### **2. Data-Driven Strategic Approach**

The review aligns with Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) processes, summarising latest health data and identifying emerging issues for Worcestershire. This strengthens evidence-based commissioning and helps target resources toward priority needs.

#### **3. Focus on Health Inequalities**

Worcestershire Public Health uses neighbourhood-level data (e.g., small area analysis) to identify unmet need and priority communities. This targeted approach supports reduction of health inequalities, particularly in areas with high emergency admission rates or deprivation.

#### **4. Partnership Working**

Public Health reporting connects with NHS partners, Healthwatch, and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Engagement with community pharmacy, voluntary sector, and wider system partners demonstrated an integrated system perspective.

#### **5. Identification of Emerging System Pressures**

Recent board discussions highlighted pharmacy closures (6% reduction since 2022) and concerns about access and opening hours. Incorporating such system pressures into the annual review demonstrated awareness of evolving service challenges.

#### **6. Clear Governance Route**

Presentation to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee embeds public health within formal member oversight structures. This provides opportunities for challenge, debate, and forward planning.

## **Potential Drawbacks / Limitations**

### **1. High-Level Strategic Tone**

As with many JSNA and annual public health summaries, the report prioritises aggregated data and trends over operational detail.

Members found limited granular breakdown by district or ward.

### **2. Limited Direct Outcome Attribution**

Public health outcomes are influenced by NHS services, social care, housing, employment, and behavioural factors.

The review described system-wide trends without clearly attributing improvements (or deterioration) to specific Public Health interventions.

### **3. Access and Service Sustainability Risks**

Recent evidence of pharmacy service reduction and concerns about rural access suggest fragility in community provision.

If similar pressures exist in other services (e.g., prevention programmes), sustainability risks were not yet fully quantified.

### **4. Engagement and Communication Challenges**

Healthwatch reports have previously made recommendations regarding public health messaging and communication effectiveness.

This implies that translating strategic priorities into accessible, community-facing messages remains an ongoing improvement area.

### **5. Financial Context Not Always Explicit**

Public health is delivered in a constrained local government funding environment. While performance is reported, financial trade-offs and prioritisation decisions are not be fully transparent within the review itself.

## **Highlights**

- Educational settings can receive grants up to £3000.00.
- Increased rate of physical activity in children in the county except in Redditch where it is falling.
- 2.2 million invested into both targeted family support and preventative programmes
- Healthy Worcestershire programme ensured that at least 1000 residents have engaged in physical activity.
- Smoking cessation has been a success with reduction to 7.5% (33%) as compared to England 4.5% and neighbours who have gone up by 10.59%.
- Highest uptake of measles vaccine uptake.

## **Overall Assessment**

The Annual Review of Public Health demonstrated strong governance, statutory compliance, and a data-driven approach to tackling health inequalities across Worcestershire. It reflected system awareness, partnership engagement, and responsiveness to emerging pressures.

However, as with many strategic annual reports, it would have benefited from:

- clearer attribution of outcomes to interventions,
- stronger district-level granularity,
- explicit linkage to financial constraints and resource allocation,
- and clearer communication of measurable impact to residents.

## 2. Overview from West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS)

The **WMAS Overview** report reviews performance of the West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) across the county, focusing on response times, demand pressures, system flow, and winter resilience.

### Key Improvements

#### 1. Response Time Performance (Category 1 Incidents)

There has been sustained improvement in life-threatening (Category 1) response times compared with the severe pressures seen during the pandemic and immediate post-pandemic recovery period. Performance is closer to national standards, reflecting:

- Improved clinical prioritisation.
- Better fleet and rota management.
- More effective deployment models.

#### 2. Workforce Stabilisation

The report highlighted progress in:

- Recruitment of additional paramedics and technicians.
- Reduction in vacancy rates compared with previous years.
- Stronger staff retention and training pathways.

This has improved resilience and reduced reliance on overtime and agency support.

#### 3. Hospital Handover Focus

There has been structured collaboration with local acute trusts to reduce ambulance handover delays. While not fully resolved, there is evidence of:

- Joint escalation protocols.
- Better monitoring of delayed handovers.
- More consistent reporting to system partners.

#### 4. System Integration & ICS Working

WMAS is increasingly embedded within the local Integrated Care System (ICS), improving:

- Multi-agency coordination.
- Winter planning alignment.
- Data sharing and performance transparency.

This collaborative model strengthens strategic oversight.

#### 5. Winter Preparedness

The Winter Plan showed more proactive risk assessment and board-level assurance, indicating improved forward planning for seasonal pressures.

### Areas Not Improving / Ongoing Pressures

#### 1. Category 2 Response Times

Performance for urgent but not immediately life-threatening calls (e.g., strokes, chest pain) remains inconsistent. Delays persist in peak periods due to:

- High call volumes.
- Hospital discharge bottlenecks.
- Ambulance queuing outside A&E departments.

This continues to be a major area of public concern.

#### 2. Handover Delays

Although monitored more closely, hospital handover delays remain a structural challenge. Delays reduce ambulance availability in the community and directly impact response standards.

This is primarily a system-wide issue rather than solely WMAS performance.

#### 3. Demand Growth

Demand for ambulance services continues to rise year-on-year. Contributing factors include:

- Ageing population.

- Increased complexity of cases.
- Mental health-related callouts.

Demand growth is outpacing workforce growth, placing ongoing strain on response targets.

#### 4. Conveyance Rates and ED Pressures

Ambulances continue to experience difficulty transferring patients into Emergency Departments, especially during surges. This contributes to:

- Longer turnaround times.
- Reduced fleet availability.
- Slower response to subsequent calls.

#### 5. Workforce Fatigue & Wellbeing Risks

Although staffing levels are improving, sustained operational pressure creates:

- Burnout risks.
- Sickness absence concerns.
- Morale pressures during peak winter months.

Long-term resilience remains dependent on system-wide flow improvements.

#### Overall Assessment

The report demonstrated **clear operational improvement and stronger governance**, particularly in life-threatening response performance, workforce stabilisation, and winter planning. However, structural system challenges—especially hospital handover delays, rising demand, and Category 2 response times—remain significant barriers to achieving consistent performance standards.

In summary:

##### What is improving

- Category 1 response performance
- Recruitment and staffing stability
- ICS integration and winter planning
- Monitoring of hospital delays

##### What remains under pressure

- Category 2 response times
- Handover delays
- Rising demand
- Emergency Department flow
- Long-term workforce resilience

The trajectory is positive, but sustained improvement will depend on broader NHS system capacity rather than ambulance service performance alone.

#### Local news article after the HOSC Meeting

West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) crews across the region lost more than 50,000 hours to handover delays in January, which is more than any other ambulance trust in England.

"The next highest was around 27,000 – that's how much of an outlier we are in the country," said Vivek Khashu, the director of strategy and engagement at WMAS. "We are the worst by far."

**Around 6,500 hours** were spent waiting outside hospitals in Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

## Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 Cllr Bakul Kumar

### Two items

#### A. Access to GP Appointments (Including Out of Hours)

##### **Purpose of the Report**

The report provides the Committee with an update on access to GP appointments and primary care services in Worcestershire. Representatives from NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (HWICB) were invited to provide assurance and answer questions.

##### **Structure of Primary Care in Worcestershire**

- **59 GP practices**
- Organised into **10 Primary Care Networks (PCNs)**
- PCNs work with community, mental health, social care, pharmacy, hospital and voluntary services to deliver integrated care locally

Access to general practice remains a high local and national priority.

##### **National Policy Context**

The report references:

- The **National Delivery Plan for Recovering Access to Primary Care (May 2023)**
- Introduction of **Modern General Practice Access (MGPA)**
- NHS England 2024/25 operational planning guidance reinforcing improved access and patient experience

Nationally, GP contract reforms agreed in 2025 include increased funding and a focus on improving patient access, including expanded digital access routes.

##### **Key Issues Identified**

###### **1. Demand vs Capacity**

- Appointments have increased by **19%**
- However, demand continues to outstrip supply

###### **2. Workforce Pressures**

- GP workforce shrinking
- Leaver rate: **10%**
- Joiner rate: **8.9%**

This imbalance contributes to ongoing access pressures.

###### **3. Patient Experience**

- Patient satisfaction rates fell by **10% in 2022**
- 85% of local GP practices saw declining satisfaction, including appointment booking experience

###### **4. Variation Between Practices**

- Significant performance variation across Worcestershire
- Reducing variation is identified as a priority for the ICB

##### **Out-of-Hours (OOH) Provision**

The report outlines:

- Current activity levels
- Governance and assurance arrangements
- Procurement update for future GP Out-of-Hours services

##### **Overall Position**

The system has:

- Increased appointment numbers
- Introduced digital triage and modern access models
- Operated within national reform frameworks

However, challenges remain:

- Workforce shortages
- High and rising demand
- Patient dissatisfaction
- Variation in performance

The report positions access as improving but still under structural pressure, requiring continued oversight and performance management.

## **Appendices 1–6: Access to GP Appointments (Worcestershire)**

The appendices accompanying the GP Access report provide quantitative evidence to support the Committee's review. They focus primarily on appointment volumes, practice-level variation, and trends over time.

### **1. Overall Appointment Trends (Appendix 1)**

Appendix 1 compares **annual GP appointments (2019 vs 2025)**, enabling assessment of post-pandemic recovery and demand growth

#### **Key analytical themes likely covered:**

- Total number of appointments pre-COVID (2019 baseline).
- Total appointments in 2025 (current system performance).
- Percentage change over time.
- Growth in demand relative to population change.
- Shifts in consultation mode (face-to-face vs remote, if included in later appendices).

#### **Scrutiny implication:**

The critical issue is not simply whether appointments have increased, but whether growth has kept pace with:

- Population growth
- Increasing clinical complexity
- Ageing demographic pressures
- 

### **2. Average Daily Appointments per Practice (Appendix 2)**

Appendix 2 details the **average number of daily appointments per GP practice**

This enables comparison of:

- Practice workload intensity
- Variation between practices
- Capacity distribution across the county

#### **Scrutiny implication:**

Wide variation may indicate:

- Workforce shortages
- Recruitment and retention disparities
- Structural inequality in access across localities

As Vice Chair, a key line of questioning is whether variation reflects:

- Efficiency differences
- Case mix differences
- Or under-capacity in certain Primary Care Networks (PCNs)

### **3. Likely Additional Appendices (3–6)**

Although not detailed in the summary page, the full appendix pack (Appendices 1–6) typically includes:

- Mode of access (face-to-face vs telephone vs online)
- Waiting time indicators
- Same-day access performance
- Practice or PCN comparisons
- Benchmarking against regional/national averages

## **Strategic Interpretation**

The appendices collectively aim to demonstrate:

- Whether GP access in Worcestershire has recovered post-pandemic

- Whether appointment volumes are rising
- Whether practices are meeting demand

However, volume growth alone does not equate to improved access.

## Key Scrutiny Risks

1. **Headline growth masking inequality**  
County-wide increases may conceal underperformance in specific localities.
2. **Mode substitution vs genuine access**  
An increase in total appointments may reflect growth in remote contacts rather than expanded face-to-face capacity.
3. **Demand outpacing supply**  
Rising appointment numbers may still fall short if patient demand has risen faster.
4. **Workforce sustainability**  
Increased daily appointment averages may indicate strain rather than resilience.

## B. Access to NHS Dental Services

### 1. Purpose of the Report

The report updates the Committee on access to NHS dental services across Worcestershire, outlining:

- Current commissioning arrangements
- Activity levels and capacity challenges
- Access pressures and inequalities
- Role of Community Dental Services (CDS)
- Actions being taken by the Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Primary care dentistry is commissioned by the NHS Integrated Care Board rather than the County Council.

### 2. Current Context

#### National Position

- NHS dentistry continues to experience workforce shortages and contract pressures nationally.
- The Unit of Dental Activity (UDA) contract model remains a structural constraint on capacity and access.

#### Local Context (Worcestershire)

- Significant access difficulties for new NHS patients.
- Pressure in rural areas.
- Rising unmet need and oral health inequalities.

The Worcestershire Community Dental Service provides specialist support for:

- Special Care Dentistry
- Paediatric dentistry
- Dental Anxiety Management
- Domiciliary care (housebound patients)
- Unscheduled care

### 3. Key Issues Identified

#### A. Access for New Patients

- Many practices not accepting new NHS adults.
- Limited availability for new child registrations.
- Patients travelling outside district boundaries.

#### B. Workforce

- Recruitment and retention difficulties.
- Competition with private practice.
- Impact of contract model on sustainability.

#### C. Inequalities

The Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy prioritises reducing health inequalities across the county. Dental access pressures disproportionately affect:

- Low-income families
- Rural residents
- Vulnerable adults

#### **D. Urgent & Emergency Care**

- Use of urgent dental care pathways.
- Risk of increased A&E attendances for dental pain if access deteriorates.

#### **4. Commissioning & Governance**

- Dentistry commissioned by NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire ICB.
- Community Dental Service delivered by Herefordshire & Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust.

Oversight routes include:

- ICB assurance processes
- Health and Wellbeing Board priorities

#### **5. Risks Identified**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Inability to recruit dentists	Reduced NHS capacity
Contract disincentives (UDA model)	Shift to private provision
Rural under-provision	Geographic inequality
Delayed treatment	Increased emergency admissions
Oral health decline in children	Long-term health cost

# CABINET LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

**1 APRIL 2026 TO 31 JULY 2026**  
**(published as at 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026)**

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 Councils 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 Culture
Councillor P. Whittaker	Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Community Safety

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Shareholders Committee Annual Report 2025/26 <b>Key:</b> No	Shareholders Committee 13 Apr 2026  Cabinet 17 Jun 2026  Council 15 Jul 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services	Jess Bayley-Hill, Principal Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01527 64252  Councillor K. J. May
Private Sector Housing Enforcement & Civil Penalty Notice Policy 2026 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 17 Jun 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	Matthew Bough, Housing Development and Enabling Manager Tel: 01527 64252  Councillor K. Taylor
Audit, Standards and Governance Committee Annual Report 2025-2026 <b>Key:</b> No	Council 15 Jul 2026		Report of the Chairman of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee	Sarah Woodfield, Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1605  Councillor E. M. S. Gray

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26 <b>Key:</b> No	Council 15 Jul 2026		Report of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board	Sarah Woodfield, Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1605  Councillor P. M. McDonald

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# Agenda Item 9

## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

2025-2026

#### ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Lead Officer / Member</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	<b><u>Substantive Items</u></b>	
	Update on Heatwaves Preparedness (Yearly Update)	Guy Revans, Executive Director
	Local Heritage Action List (Quarterly Update)	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager
	Envirocrime Enforcement Work – Update	Mark Cox, Technical Services Manager, WRS
	<b><u>Information Items</u></b>	
	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update	Hannah Corredor, Assistant Director Corporate Services and Transformation
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-26	Chairman of the Board	
Levelling Up Fund Programme (Quarterly Update)	Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services	

#### ALL MEMBER BRIEFINGS

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

# Agenda Item 9

## FUTURE ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY (2026/27 municipal year)

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Lead Officer / Member</b>
	Bromsgrove Sports Leisure Centre (Level of support provided by BDC)	Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services
	Police and Crime Panel – Update (TBC)	Chief Inspector Dave King, Safer Neighbourhood Team/Councillor Helen Jones
	Capacity of the Minor Works Team (Requested 2/7/25 by Cllr McDonald) (TBA)	Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services

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

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>	<b>Officer(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Other Comments</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Minutes of meeting</b>	To provide Councillor Clarke with the Board's "Named Substitutes" list.	11/2/26 – Emailed to Councillor	Sarah Woodfield		<b>Completed</b>
<b>Police and Crime Commissioner Update</b>	1. Provide Members with Lisa Hornberger, Safer Neighbourhoods Team Inspector email address to contact her on their various issues.	11/2/26 – Emailed to Councillors	Sarah Woodfield		<b>Completed</b>
	2. The Board receive updates from the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel.		Sarah Woodfield		<b>Ongoing (discussions with Senior Officers)</b>
<b>Planning Advisory Service (PAS)</b>	1. Training is provided for both Members and Officers to discuss aims and objectives to improve culture and behaviours for Planning Committee meetings.	11/2/26 – Emailed action to Officer	Guy Revans		<b>Completed</b>
	2. The Action Plan for the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) recommendations is brought forward at its earliest convenience.	11/2/26 – Emailed action to Officer  5/3/26 – Requested update	Guy Revans		<b>Completed</b>
<b>Finance and Budget Working Group update</b>	A meeting to be set up for the Board to be updated on outcomes/recommendations from the FBWG.		Sarah Woodfield		<b>Completed</b>

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Agenda Item 10

Subject	Action Required	Action Taken	Officer(s) Responsible	Other Comments	Status
<b>Town Centre Parking and ANPR Update</b>	To provide an update regarding the agreement for extra 3 x Enforcement Officers. Guy to check with Wychavon.	11/2/26 – Emailed action to Officers.  5/3/26 – Chased a response	Rachel Egan/Simon Parry		<b>Completed</b> 16/3/26 Email response - the funding provided, along with the potential for a small amount of additional funding from Birmingham City Council to support additional enforcement around Lickey Hills, will be sufficient to employ an additional 1.5 Civil Enforcement Officers. Wychavon Parking have now been instructed to commence recruitment.