

# Public Document Pack



## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

TUESDAY 16TH JUNE 2026

AT 6.00 P.M.

PARKSIDE SUITE - PARKSIDE

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

### AGENDA

1. **Election of Chairman**
2. **Election of Vice Chairman**
3. **Apologies for Absence and Named Substitutes**
4. **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.

5. **To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 14th April 2026 (Pages 7 - 18)**

6. **Local Government Reorganisation Update** (Pages 19 - 28)
7. **WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Election of Representative and Update** (Pages 29 - 30)
8. **Finance and Budget Working Group - Membership Report and Terms of Reference** (Pages 31 - 36)
9. **Cabinet Work Programme** (Pages 37 - 46)
10. **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2026-27** (Pages 47 - 50)
11. **Overview and Scrutiny Action Sheet 2026-27** (Pages 51 - 54)
12. **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.**
13. **To consider, and if considered appropriate, to pass the following resolution to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of item(s) of business containing exempt information:-**

**RESOLVED:** that under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following 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:-

Item No	Paragraph
14	3

14. **Windsor Street Delivery Options - Pre-Scrutiny**

This item will follow in a supplementary papers pack

J. Leach  
Chief Executive

Parkside  
Market Street  
BROMSGROVE  
Worcestershire  
B61 8DA

5th June 2026

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

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

**If you have any questions regarding the agenda or attached papers,  
please do not hesitate to contact the officer named above.**

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Meeting attendees and members of the public are encouraged not to attend a Committee if they have if they have common cold symptoms or any of the following common symptoms of Covid-19 on the day of the meeting; a high temperature, a new and continuous cough or a loss of smell and / or taste.

#### **Notes:**

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



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- Meeting Minutes
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## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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

**14TH APRIL 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, B. Kumar, S. A. 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 P.J. Whittaker - Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Community Safety  
Councillor M. Marshall

Officers: Mr. G. Revans, Ms H. Corredor, Ms R. Egan, Mr. M. Bough, Mr M. Cox, Ms R. McElliott, Ms. T. Ainscough, Ms. K. Sharp-Fisher, Ms. M. Worsfold and Mrs S. Woodfield

Other parties: Mr R. Church (Representative on behalf of Applied Resilience)

113/25 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor R.E. Lambert.

114/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS**

There were no declarations of interest nor of whipping arrangements.

115/25 **TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 24TH MARCH 2026**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were considered by the Board.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026 be approved as a correct record.

116/25

## **HEATWAVES PREPAREDNESS - YEARLY UPDATE**

The representative from Applied Resilience provided an annual update on heatwave preparedness, explaining the Council's role within the Worcestershire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and participation in the Adverse Weather Planning Group.

The key points included:

- The Council participated in the Local Resilience Forum and was represented on the Adverse Weather Planning Group.
- Community venues, including council buildings, libraries and selected church buildings were identified as potential cool spaces, although these were not formally promoted due to safeguarding and security concerns.
- Vulnerable residents were encouraged to register with the utility providers' Priority Services Registers, which allowed additional support during utility disruptions.
- All Council services had up-to-date business continuity plans.
- A roster of trained officers was maintained to respond to emergencies.
- During heatwave events, the UK Health Security Agency would act as the lead body, with the Council reinforcing national messaging through local communications.

After the presentation the Board carried out the following key discussions:

### **Priority Services Register (PSR)**

- Whether data was available of the number of residents registered on the PSR for the District? – In response it was advised that a search could not be defined by District/Borough due to there being no defined boundary line, however a search could be defined by area.
- If staff were adequately trained in this field of work for the PSR? – In response Members were advised that this field of work was adequately resourced with duty response officers available as part of the service to assist residents and staff were also available at Bromsgrove and Redditch Day Centres.

### **Cool Hubs**

- Members requested progress for seeking the use of cool hub spaces within the Church of England (COE) venues and queried if blank spot areas could be provided. – The Board were advised that all COEs had been contacted within the District but unfortunately there had been a lack of response. It was explained also that these areas could not be publicly advertised, due to safeguarding concerns.

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- If leisure centres (not owned by the Council) could also be possible cooling hub areas and if blank spot areas could be provided to Members? – In response it was acknowledged that access to cool spaces remained challenging, particularly in rural areas and that further engagement with partners such as rest centres and supermarkets was being explored and could possibly be used if in a Red Alert situation.
- Members queried the use of libraries, particularly difficulties faced for the public who were not members. – In response Members were advised that Worcester County Council (WCC) had been instructed to allow the public into libraries during Amber/Red warning alerts.
- Questions were also raised regarding excess heat related deaths nationally and if the reports were correctly reflective. - Officers acknowledged the recent UKHSA data and advised the Board that local impacts appeared lower, possibly reflecting effective community based resilience measures.

**RESOLVED** that the Heatwaves Preparedness yearly update be noted.

117/25

**ENVIROCRIME (TO INCLUDE ENVIRONMENT CRIME UPDATE, ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME ENFORCEMENT POLICY AND LITTERING FROM VEHICLES)**

Officers from Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) outlined enforcement activity since June 2024, covering fly tipping, littering, dog fouling and untidy land, with an increase in staffing to 1.5 full time equivalent (FTE) to support Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) when WRS took over the service delivery.

The key points included:

- Since June 2024, WRS had undertaken environmental enforcement on behalf of the Council.
- Fly tipping volumes in Bromsgrove were high compared to other districts.
- Successful enforcement relied heavily on gathering admissible evidence.
- Intelligence led approaches were used to identify hotspots and repeat offenders.
- A proposal was put forward to adopt the WRS Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy.
- Approval was sought to allow Civil Enforcement Officers to issue littering penalties from vehicles.

After discussions, Members raised the following questions:

**Environmental Crime Update**

- Dog fouling offences reported for investigation were discussed. Members requested clarity on the reported offences for dog fouling within the District. – The standard procedures were explained to Members which included firstly establishing if the complaint was an offence, followed by an initial warning to the perpetrator, and then escalation through a Community Protection Warning (CPW), Penalty Charge Notice (PCN), Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN), followed by possible court proceedings.
- Clarification was sought for the extra resource increase of .5 FTE to cover the BDC area and if this would be sufficient to cover the role? – Members were informed that the extra resource had been operating since June 2024, which was predominantly being used to assist with review of camera footage, associated intelligence checks and to also administer enforcement files. Members noted that the team were working as hard as they could with the resource available.

## **Littering from vehicles**

- If there were other local authorities carrying out similar civil enforcement action to compare work productivity? – Members noted Wychavon District Council were carrying out similar enforcement action and it was agreed that Officers would seek their expertise in this field of work.
- If Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) could be used if the offence had not been witnessed by a Civil Enforcement Officer? – Members noted that evidence from CCTV and evidence from members of the public could be used if the claims were supported by witness statements. Members were also advised that the Team were using vehicle registration numbers as another approach to gain evidence.
- What was defined as a hotspot, could cameras be used in these particular areas and what were the costs? – It was advised that hotspots were identified by volume, severity and patterns of offending and camera deployment was limited by theft and technical constraints. Therefore, cameras were deployed selectively due to cost, theft risk and technical limitations.
- If an update could be provided on the number of fly tips reported since January 2026 as reported? – Members noted numbers were high due to the impact of littering issues in neighbouring District, particularly within the Birmingham City area, however, Officers were liaising with Birmingham City Council to tackle these issues. Members also noted that trying to track down individuals was becoming increasingly difficult, as offenders were learning new ways to avoid detection.
- Members discussed and queried the links between organised crime and fly tipping. – Members were advised that fly tipping was increasingly linked to organised criminal activity and required an intelligence led approach to identify offenders, which was a lengthy process. Members noted the need to raise public awareness of these organised crimes and their impact. It was

also highlighted that the individual who owned the waste was ultimately responsible for its disposal. Residents were advised to verify waste carriers via the Environment Agency register or the Council website.

- If recycling centre access restrictions were contributing to fly tipping? - It was advised that there was no clear evidence which currently linked fly tipping directly to recycling centre restrictions.

**RESOLVED** that the Envirocrime Update be noted.

118/25

## **LOCAL HERITAGE ACTION LIST - QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Progress on the Local Heritage Action List Quarterly Update was provided to Members.

The following key points were considered:

- Draft Local Heritage Lists had been produced for several parish areas.
- Recruitment difficulties had delayed progress, although a vacant Conservation Officer post had been filled.
- External consultancy support had been used to maintain progress.

After consideration of the presentation Members asked when non parished areas would be covered. Officers explained that work would progress sequentially subject to resources. Questions were also raised regarding recruitment difficulties. Officers confirmed posts had required re advertisement due to skills shortages.

**RESOLVED** that the Local Heritage Action Quarterly Update be noted.

119/25

## **PERMISSION TO REVOKE THE FIRST HOMES POLICY**

This was not considered by the Board as the item had been deferred.

120/25

## **RENTERS RIGHTS ACT 2025**

The Private Sector Housing Officer presented a comprehensive update on the Renters' Rights Act. Members were informed that The Act represented the most significant reform of the private rented sector in decades. The act also expanded the Local Authorities enforcement duty from property conditions to tenancy regulation and consumer protection.

The 3 implemented phases were highlighted were as follows:

### **Phase 1**

- The Section 21 "no fault" evictions would be abolished.
- Would provide greater protection for both parties.
- No fixed tenancy period.

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- Rent increases would be limited to once per year.
- Discrimination against tenants with children or on benefits would be prohibited.
- Landlords would be required to register properties on a national database.
- Consideration rights for tenants to request a pet.
- Enhanced enforcement powers had been granted to Local Authorities.

## Phase 2

- All landlords were permitted to register their properties on the National Private Rented Sector Database (PRS)
- The Landlord Ombudsman dealt with tenancies due to end and disputes.

## Phase 3

- Introduction of the Decent Homes Standard in the private sector for the first time.
- Proposals on Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards being a C rated or above.
- Extend Awaabs law into the Private Rented Sector.

Member questions and officer responses were as follows:

A query was raised whether there was adequate proactive engagement with tenants and landlords to provide advice on specific issues within the District, with a Member suggesting “pop up” events. Officers advised that national guidance and future databases would improve local targeting and there was also work set to provide information on the Council’s website. Communications and relevant training would also be provided to the social housing providers within the District. Officers were encouraged by the “pop up” suggestion which would be looked into further as a possible engagement method.

Questions were also raised about antisocial behaviour and landlord powers. Officers confirmed that possession grounds had been expanded but complexities remained.

**RESOLVED** that the Renters Rights Act 2025 be noted.

121/25

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

The Assistant Director for Corporate Services and Transformation provided a detailed update on LGR, including refreshed Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance and recent national announcements.

Members were advised on the following:

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- National announcements regarding approved unitary proposals elsewhere.
- Expected transition arrangements, including joint committees, shadow authorities and vesting day.
- Funding available for transition and implementation.
- Establishment of additional workstreams, including communications and data.
- The proposal to establish a single county wide data hub to support decision making.

After the presentation, Members discussed the following:

- Members queried the Data Hub Workstreams costs and lessons learnt from Cumbria Council, particularly in relation to disaggregation. – In response Members were informed that Cumbria had moved to a two unitary authority, disaggregating social services and therefore provided potentially helpful insights into this process. Officers also highlighted that work was being focused on preparation and data collection, with more detailed modelling dependent on Government decisions.
- The Board also requested when there would likely to be a boundary review for the number of Members required for a specific ward? – In response it was explained that the specifics would be dependent on county divisions in the first instance.
- Members requested clarity on scrutiny arrangements during the shadow period. – It was advised that existing councils were likely to continue for an additional year subject to legislation.
- Clarity on risks relating to education funding and adult social care were also discussed by the Board. – Members were advised that the Council would need to review the budget requirements and grant funding availability, therefore, the Data Hub would be a good tool to assist with data collection. The Leader also reminded Members of the Baroness Casey review which would be addressing adult social care requirements.

**RESOLVED** that the LGR Update be noted.

122/25

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2026-26**

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26 was considered by the Board.

References to live streaming within the report were discussed. Members agreed that scrutiny meetings should explore live streaming where possible.

**RESOLVED** that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2025/26 be noted.

123/25

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

The Chair of the Finance and Budget Working Group provided a verbal update. Members were advised that the Group had considered the Community Investment Fund. Recommendations included increasing cross-party representation on the assessment panel, introducing an appeals process, ensuring Ward Members were consulted on projects in their wards and requiring Ward Member sponsorship for externally proposed projects.

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

**RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet that

- 1) Any projects put forward by BDC must have the approval of the Ward Member. In addition, BDC departments help and assist Ward Members with any projects they may put forward;
- 2) That the Panel be cross-party;
- 3) If Ward Members feel they cannot sponsor a project, then it cannot go ahead; and
- 4) Consideration should be given to an appeal process.

124/25

## **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (HOSC) UPDATE**

There was no update provided for this item as the HOSC meeting was due to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

125/25

## **CABINET WORK PROGRAMME**

The Cabinet Work Programme was presented for Members' consideration.

During discussions on the Levelling Up Fund Programme update, a Member requested that the Windsor Street Delivery Options Paper be scrutinised by the Board, which had been requested at the previous Board meetings. It was agreed that this would be added to the Board's work programme along with the Bromsgrove Car Park report.

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

126/25

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

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

Discussions were raised regarding previous considerations to establish an LGR Task Group. It was agreed that the terms of reference and membership would be established through the Board at its next meeting in June.

The Leader of the Council also informed Members that the Board would receive a Police and Crime Panel update briefing paper, following scheduled panel meetings.

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

127/25 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTION SHEET**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Overview and Scrutiny Action Sheet be noted as per the preamble above.

128/25 **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.

129/25 **TO CONSIDER, AND IF CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE, TO PASS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING DURING THE CONSIDERATION OF ITEM(S) OF BUSINESS CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION:-**

**RESOLVED:** that under Section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of scheme 12A to the Act, as amended, the relevant paragraph of that part, in each case, being as set out below and that it is in the public interest to do so:-

<u>Minute Item No</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
130/25	3

130/25 **LEVELLING-UP FUND PROGRAMME (QUARTERLY UPDATE)**

The Levelling Up Fund Programme Quarterly Update was presented to Members.

Progress continued for the Bromsgrove Town Centre regeneration projects. Windsor Street remediation had entered Phase 2, with works delayed and would commence in May 2026 and completion expected by July 2027. The Nailers Yard construction was advancing, albeit with some delays linked to Section 278 approvals. Overall programme

funding remained secure, with a small Windsor Street overspend to be met from contingency. Cabinet engagement on future delivery and partnership models was ongoing. The completion of the agreement for the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) funding was progressing well.

After the presentation, Members raised the following questions:

## **Windsor Street**

- Frustrations were expressed by Members due to the further delays for Phase 2 works, delaying completion, with an expected date of July 2027.
- Further clarification was requested for the works relating to the monitoring of remediation works by the Environment Agency (EA)? – In response Members were informed that if levels of contamination were high for the barrier injection works then further monitoring would be required.
- Clarity on the Phase 2 works which would result in a project overspend of approximately £74k funded by the Levelling-Up Fund (LUF) programme contingency budget? – The Board were informed that this would be covered by the additional contingency allowance agreed as an urgent decision which was taken back in August 2025.

## **Nailers Yard**

- When was the Public Realm work likely to commence? – It was advised that there was a 10-week delay, however, works were in progress to mitigate risks for delays envisaged.
- A three-week delay for the culvert works, which would result in a loss and expense claim by Keir due to heavy rainfall was raised with Members. Querying why this had not been raised when reviewing the contract from Keir, which should be common practice to mitigate such risks. – In response Officers confirmed that the Council was liable for costs due to poor weather conditions.
- Members raised the lack of interest in the soft market testing exercise for the Pavilion building and queried if the single response from Rubicon Leisure Limited was best value for money (VFM). – Officers reassured Members that the two-week soft market testing exercise had been carried out through the correct procurement process, with only one bidder response based on the drafted scope put forward. Officers and the Leader reassured Members that Rubicon Leisure Limited had the relevant expertise, operating similar facilities elsewhere and would be a good opportunity for the Council.

## **General discussions**

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- Members requested that liability costings be tabled for the next quarter reporting, which was agreed by Officers.

**RESOLVED** that the Levelling Up Fund Programme Quarterly Update be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.57 p.m.

Chairman

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### Overview and Scrutiny

16<sup>th</sup> of June

2026

#### Report title

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
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 consulted	Councillor(s) 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) Note the updates regarding the refreshed guidance from MHCLG.
- 2) Note the new workstreams established by the LGR Preparations Board – Comms and a Data Hub.

#### 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	MHCLG Meetings: 27 <sup>th</sup> of May. Expected before summer recess, July 2026
Stage five: First Transition Period	The first transition period runs from when the SCO comes into force, up to the inaugural elections to the new council. Begins later in 2026 when involuntary committees form.

### Overview and Scrutiny

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Making secondary legislation – the Structural Changes Order (SCO).	
Stage six: Second transition period	The second transition period runs from a defined date following the inaugural elections to the Shadow Authority, up to vesting day – referred to as the reorganisation date in the SCO – April 2028.
Stage seven: New unitary authority goes live	April 2028.

- 2.1 Work on Local Government Reorganisation continues at pace through the established programme governance, with all core workstreams meeting regularly and reporting into a monthly Chief Executives’ Board. The latest meeting on 28 May confirmed that activity across key areas including Finance, HR, ICT, Legal, Communications, Services and the Programme Management Office is progressing, with the majority of workstreams reporting ongoing delivery against plan and developing the detailed datasets and analysis required for transition. Work to assess the alignment of HR terms and conditions and prepare asset and financial information is underway and continued development of the Data Hub to support consistent, assured information.
  
- 2.2 Members will also note a growing focus on capacity planning, resourcing and recruitment at programme level, reflecting the increasing scale and technical complexity of the preparatory phase as activity moves from high-level planning into detailed implementation design. Recruitment is currently live for an LGR Programme Director (external), Programme Manager and Programme Support Officer (both internal). The LGR Programme Director will be a member appointment. Funding for recruitment is split across all seven authorities in Worcestershire.
  
- 2.3 The Worcestershire Leaders Board have indicated their support for establishing arrangements for a voluntary Joint Committee as soon as possible and will be discussing this further in the coming weeks. This is despite the SCO, which will formally mandate the committees, not being anticipated until later in 2026 (more below).

### 3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

#### Development of the Structural Changes Order

- 3.1 The close of the statutory consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) closed in March after attracting 1972 responses.

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MHCLG has now moved to the next phase of the process, which is the development of the Structural Changes Order (SCO). The SCO is the secondary legislation that will establish the new local government arrangements, including governance, electoral arrangements and implementation structures.

3.2 On 19 May 2026, Co-Deputy Director for Local Government Reorganisation at MHCLG wrote to all Worcestershire Chief Executives seeking views on a range of matters that will need to be determined within the SCO. The matters raised by MHCLG cover the key components required to implement LGR in legislation, including:

- the model for implementation (new council vs preparing council);
- implementation governance (e.g. joint committees);
- electoral arrangements (including councillor numbers and wards);
- naming of new councils;
- roles within the implementation team; and
- practical matters such as returning officers and alignment of parish elections.

3.3 A collective response was submitted on 22 May 2026 on behalf of all seven Worcestershire Chief Executives following discussions with Group Leaders. It established a clear, consistent Worcestershire position on the issues raised. The key principles set out in the Worcestershire response are:

**3.4.1 Creation of new council(s):** Worcestershire has expressed a clear preference for the creation of **new unitary council(s)** rather than a “continuing” or preparing council model. This is on the basis that a new organisation provides the best opportunity to establish a new culture, avoid perceptions of takeover, and enable a fresh approach to service design and leadership.

**3.4.2 Implementation Governance:** The preferred implementation approach is a **joint committee model**, with equal representation from each council (two members per council), rather than an implementation executive. The response indicates that there is no need for the SCO to prescribe chairs or impose political balance, as these matters can be determined locally. Consistent with MHCLG guidance, the approach emphasises collective responsibility across all councils for delivering a safe and effective transition. The preferred model follows a precedent that includes a single lead officer (the County Council Chief Executive), supported by deputy leads drawn from the Heads of Paid Service of each district council, creating a collectively led implementation team across all councils.

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#### 3.5 Electoral and governance arrangements during Transition:

- **Election cycle:** Elections to the new council(s) should align with existing parish and town council cycles (May 2027, 2031, 2035), maintaining a four-year cycle. The correspondence from MHCLG currently suggests a four year + 1 cycle.
- **Wards and councillor numbers:** Proposed wards are based on existing county divisions, with councillor numbers reflecting a doubling of representation per division. We are currently in discussions with MHCLG on these matters. The Boundary Commission is expected to undertake a full review after the first election.
- **Returning officer arrangements:** The response proposes that the Returning Officer role is assigned to the Head of Paid Service at Redditch Borough Council under a single unitary model; under a two-unitary model, this would be split between Redditch (North Worcestershire) and Wychavon (South Worcestershire).

3.7 The response also highlights that the indicative timetable (drafting over summer, laying in Parliament towards the end of the year) may be too slow relative to the complexity of implementation work required. It suggests that earlier laying of the Order (for example by October) would better support effective transition planning.

This work continues to be coordinated through the county-wide Programme Management Office and LGR governance arrangements described in previous reports.

#### Future Local Governance Arrangements

3.8 Alongside the development of the Structural Changes Order, work is progressing to consider future local governance arrangements for Bromsgrove in the context of Local Government Reorganisation. At its meeting on 20 May 2026, Full Council agreed to establish a cross-party working group to undertake preparatory work in relation to future local governance within Bromsgrove District.

3.9 The working group will consider the current local governance position across the district, including parished and unparished areas, and will help identify the intended outcomes for future local governance in Bromsgrove. This will include consideration of how local identity, representation and community voice could be supported in the context of Local Government Reorganisation. This work will inform whether there is a case for commencing a formal Community Governance Review, including consideration of the potential creation of a Town Council, the area any such council may cover, and related governance arrangements.

### Overview and Scrutiny

16<sup>th</sup> of June

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- 3.10 An engagement exercise is being developed to support this preliminary work. Its purpose is to understand what is important to local communities, how residents identify with their local area, and how they see future local governance and community voice working in the context of Local Government Reorganisation. If a formal CGR is commenced in due course, the statutory requirements of that process, including formal consultation, would still need to be followed.
- 3.11 A report is due to be considered by Electoral Matters Committee on 11 June 2026, setting out the proposed scope of the working group and an indicative timetable. Findings and recommendations are expected to be reported back to Full Council in October 2026. The timing of any future CGR will also need to be considered alongside the wider LGR timetable, including the role of any shadow authority and the future unitary authority's approach to neighbourhood governance, local representation and community voice.
- 3.11 Discussions regarding an LGR Task and Finish group, as requested by the O&S Committee, have been ongoing with the new portfolio lead for LGR and the Chair of the Committee. The original topic of focus was proposed to be community engagement. Due to the above development, and democratic calendar, the terms of reference for this group have not yet been tabled for the committee.
- 3.12 In considering the local governance work and a separate Overview and Scrutiny task group, it is important to recognise the overlap in subject matter and the level of member and officer capacity required to support both effectively. The governance work associated with future local governance arrangements, including options appraisal, engagement and development of proposals, will be substantive and time-critical in the context of wider LGR activity, and will be likely to consider the future of community engagement and how our civic structures support us to work closely with residents post-unitarisation. As such, Committee are invited to consider how these two aims could be met through a single group, with all activities closely aligned.

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

- 4.1 The financial implications of LGR will be assessed as part of the ongoing programme. Current work is focussed on establishing baseline financial information across all authorities to support the development of a robust financial model for the new authority or authorities. This includes:
- Asset valuation and capital receipts

## **Overview and Scrutiny**

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- Contract data
- Budgeted revenue expenditure, income, borrowing and investment
- Council Tax data and forecasts

4.2 Final proposals for the two proposed models in Worcestershire include transition costs arising from such areas as programme management, IT integration, workforce change and harmonisation of policies and systems. These costs will be refined following the stage four decision expected in July, as design work progresses.

4.3 Opportunities for medium term savings are expected through service consolidation, reduced duplication and streamlined governance but will be dependent upon the final decision and implementation plan. Financial risk will include demand driven service delivery and Exceptional Financial Support legacy implications, again dependent upon the final unitary model and the approach to aggregation / disaggregation necessitated.

4.4 No decisions have yet been taken on Council Tax harmonisation, future fees and charges structures or the treatment of reserves. Further modelling and member consideration will be necessary, and all financial planning will be subject to statutory requirements and agreement.

4.5 It will be necessary to deliver a balanced budget for vesting day. All material financial decisions taken by existing councils during the transition period will be subject to assurance processes to ensure undue liabilities are not created for the new authority or authorities.

### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **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**

### Overview and Scrutiny

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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 LGR is 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. A copy of the LGR risk as reported on the Corporate Risk Register is included in the appendix below.

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

- PDF: 'Implementation bodies and predecessor councils during local government reorganisation'
- Extract from Corporate Risk register below:

Reference	Risk Title	Risk Owner	Risk Lead	Status	Inherent	Residual
COR14	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) prevents the Council from delivering business as usual and work associated with LGR is also ineffective	John Leach	Hannah Corredor	Open	Red	Amber
<b>Mitigating Action</b>						
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An LGR Preparations Board has been established internally, attended alternate meetings by portfolio lead members.</li> <li>2. The LGR Board has supported regular updates to Members and staff during the development of the proposal stage. This work is to continue.</li> </ol>						

### Overview and Scrutiny

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Reference	Risk Title	Risk Owner	Risk Lead	Status	Inherent	Residual
	<p>3. An Assistant Director for Corporate Services and Transformation has been appointed with responsibilities relating to LGR transition. The postholder commenced work on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025.</p> <p>4. Through the LGR Board and cross system LGR Preparations Board of Chief Executives, working with the other Councils, deliver against an action plan that covers the framework of agreed activity in the “Transforming Worcestershire” proposal that was submitted to Government on 27<sup>th</sup> November (pages 164 – 173).</p> <p>5. A Programme Management Office (PMO) across all seven councils has been agreed by Chief Executives, Monitoring Officers and Section 151 Officers. This will report to the Leaders Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Programme Management Board has developed the following workstreams that are undertaking a “housekeeping exercise” to ensure all data is up to date in readiness for the outcome of the proposal assessment stage by Government (due before summer recess 2026): Finance, HR, ICT, Legal, Services, Data Hub, Communications.</li> </ul> <p>6. The work of the PMO and the above workstreams are also aligning actions to LGA/MHCLG guidance issued to support the LGR prepare stage (November 2025 – June 2026).</p> <p>7. Assistant Directors to ensure that Service Business Plans cover key priority areas for work activity (for example delivery of matters such as the Local Plan) classed also as business as usual whilst undertaking any LGR related work. The preparations are to include consideration in particular relating to HR (e.g. capacity, resilience and recruitment) and finance matters including bids for capacity. Each service business plan has to have an LGR specific section that links in to ensure BAU activities are safeguarded as much as possible and relates to each services risk register.</p> <p>8. Assistant Directors provide quarterly assurance returns to SLT regarding delivery against the priorities for the service, finance, risk, capacity etc.</p> <p>9. All decision reports through the councils governance arrangements include a section on the impact of LGR regarding any proposals so that decision makers are sighted on the implications of their decision.</p> <p>10. Updates on LGR are provided to the LGR Portfolio Holder, Cabinet/Executive, Council and Scrutiny as appropriate.</p>					

### Overview and Scrutiny

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#### 9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Taylor	05/06
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Hannah Corredor	05/06
Financial Services	James Walton	05/06
Legal Services	Claire Felton	05/06
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Hannah Corredor	05/06
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	N/a	

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## Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Two items on the agenda

### **1. Maternity and Newborn Services (First 100 days)**

#### **2. Update on Cancer Pathway**

### **1. Maternity and Newborn Services (First 100 days)**

The report provides an update on maternity and newborn services across Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and partner health services, focusing on the critical “first 100 days” from pregnancy to early infancy. It outlines the maternity pathway from antenatal care through birth and postnatal support, highlighting that all hospital births in Worcestershire remain centralised at Worcestershire Royal Hospital, while community-based antenatal and postnatal care is delivered locally and at home. Health Visiting support from Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust continues until a child reaches five years of age.

The report notes significant improvement since the maternity service was rated “Requires Improvement” by the Care Quality Commission in 2020. Following a fresh inspection in 2023, the service has now achieved an overall “Good” rating, reflecting better leadership, improved safety measures, and successful completion of its improvement programme. Key improvements include reduced perinatal mortality, sustained compliance with national maternity safety standards, and stronger recruitment of midwives.

However, challenges remain. Patient feedback highlights ongoing concerns around triage waiting times, communication during induction of labour, and ensuring mothers understand all birth options, including homebirth. Homebirth services are being restructured to improve safety and consistency following national concerns raised after serious incidents elsewhere.

The report also focuses on wider public health priorities, including reducing smoking in pregnancy (down to 4% at birth), tackling maternal obesity (29% of mothers have BMI over 30), improving breastfeeding support, and increasing uptake of pregnancy vaccinations such as RSV, pertussis, and flu. Overall, the report presents a service that has improved considerably but continues to evolve in response to national reviews, local patient feedback, and public health challenges.

#### **2. Update on Cancer Pathway**

This report provides an updated overview of cancer services across Worcestershire, led by the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB), NHS England, and Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. It builds on previous scrutiny reports and aligns with the new national cancer strategy set out in the **National Cancer Plan for England (2026)**, which aims that by 2035, 75% of people diagnosed with cancer will either be cancer-free or living well five years after diagnosis. The Worcestershire system is focusing on three main priorities: **earlier diagnosis, faster treatment, and better long-term support for patients.**

A major emphasis remains on **prevention and early diagnosis**, recognising that earlier-stage diagnosis (Stages 1 and 2) significantly improves survival rates. The Integrated Care Board continues public awareness campaigns to encourage residents to seek medical advice earlier and engage in screening programmes. Worcestershire continues to perform strongly in national screening uptake, particularly in bowel screening, although there remain inequalities in participation among deprived communities, younger adults, and vulnerable groups.

Performance against national cancer waiting standards shows mixed but improving results. The report highlights the **Faster Diagnosis Standard (28 days)** and the **62-day treatment**

# Agenda Item 7

**standard** as key measures. Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust has improved performance compared with previous years, but pressures remain due to increased referrals, workforce shortages, and diagnostic demand. Some pathways—particularly skin, lung, and urology cancers—continue to face operational pressures because of growing patient numbers and complexity of diagnosis.

Diagnostic capacity is a central challenge. The report identifies the expansion of Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs) as a major strategic response, bringing scans and tests closer to local communities and reducing hospital bottlenecks. There is also a developing ambition to improve access to advanced imaging, including PET-CT services, reducing the need for Worcestershire patients to travel outside the county for specialist diagnostics.

The report places stronger focus on **personalised cancer care**, ensuring that patients receive holistic support beyond clinical treatment. This includes mental health support, financial advice signposting, rehabilitation, and “living with and beyond cancer” services. Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) remain essential in supporting patients throughout their journey, and workforce investment remains a priority.

Challenges remain around workforce resilience, particularly specialist staff shortages, diagnostic backlogs, and increasing cancer incidence due to an ageing population. However, Worcestershire’s cancer system is showing measurable improvement, stronger collaboration across health partners, and better alignment with national priorities. Overall, the report presents a cancer pathway that is improving in timeliness and quality but still under pressure from rising demand and workforce constraints.

Cllr Bakul Kumar  
Vice Chairman  
HOSC

### Overview and Scrutiny Board 2026

16<sup>th</sup> June

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

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

#### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

- a) Appoint a Chairman of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group for the municipal year 2026/27;**
- b) Agree the Membership of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group for the municipal year 2026/27; and**
- c) Confirm the Terms of Reference of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group.**

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group was set up by the Overview and Scrutiny Board to carry out detailed scrutiny of a number of Financial Reports (listed in the Terms of Reference) and to assist in scrutiny of the Council's budget setting.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to formalise the membership of the Group for 2026-27 and to confirm that the terms of reference (updated during the 2025-26 municipal year) remain relevant.

**Overview and Scrutiny Board**  
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**3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**Chairman

- 3.1 Historically the Chairman of the Working Group has been the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board. Members are asked to consider whether they are happy with this arrangement to continue for the forthcoming municipal year. If this is not the case, then consideration needs to be given as to who to appoint as Chairman of this group.

Membership

- 3.2 It has been agreed within the terms of reference that the Working Group be composed of the Chairman of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee and 6 Members of the Board with a quorum of 3. Working Groups are not required to be politically balanced, although it is good practice to have each political group represented.
- 3.3 Members are asked to choose the membership of the Working Group (Cabinet Members cannot be represented). It should be noted that the terms of reference for the group state that Members must be Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, (with the exception of the Chairman of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee where s/he is not a member of the Board). However, the Terms of Reference for the Working Group also state “*should a vacant post remain after Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board had been approached, Members of the Overview and Scrutiny “pool” (i.e. those who do not sit on the Scrutiny Board and are also not Cabinet Members) may be appointed to fill the vacancy.*”
- 3.4 For any Member wishing to sit on the Working Group, meetings have been scheduled for this year as per below, although there may be a need for extra meetings when the need is identified, particularly during the budget setting period. Conversely, meetings may be cancelled if there is no business to be considered on the particular date.
- 16<sup>th</sup> July 2026
  - 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026
  - 16<sup>th</sup> November 2026

## Overview and Scrutiny Board 2026

16<sup>th</sup> June

- 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027
- 10<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> February 2027
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2027

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

3.6 The Chairman of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee will be contacted about his/her membership of the Working Group in due course.

### Terms of Reference

3.7 The terms of reference are reviewed at the beginning of each municipal year since the inception of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group.

3.8 Members are asked to consider whether they feel that these continue to be relevant or whether there is a need for any amendments to be made. The terms of reference are not exhaustive and from time to time the Working Group have considered a number of items at the request of the Cabinet Member for Finance. It remains at the discretion of the Working Group as to whether they carry out these additional pieces of work.

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications in respect of this report. Although it should be noted that there are resource implications in respect of officer time in attending and preparing for the meetings.

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **Overview and Scrutiny Board 2026**

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### **6. OTHER – IMPLICATIONS**

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

6.1 There are no implications for Local Government Reorganisation.

#### **Relevant Council Priority**

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

#### **Climate Change Implications**

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

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

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

### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 No specific risks have been identified.

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

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group (updated June 2025).

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD** **Finance & Budget Scrutiny Working Group**

### **Terms of Reference**

**This Terms of Reference shall apply from the start of the 2025/26 Municipal Year**

The Finance & Budget Scrutiny Working Group has been set up by the Overview & Scrutiny Board to carry out detailed scrutiny/pre-scrutiny of a number of Financial Reports (listed below) and the setting of the Council's budget.

1. The Working Group shall comprise 7 Members, to be made up of 6 Members (who are Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board) plus the Chairman of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee. The quorum shall be 3. The Working Group will meet throughout the year at intervals dependent upon the reports to be considered. It is anticipated that this will be most frequent during the budget setting period.
2. Should a vacant post remain after members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board had been approached, members of the Overview and Scrutiny "pool" (i.e. those who do not sit on the Scrutiny Board and are also not Cabinet Members) may be appointed to fill the vacancy.
3. The update on the Working Group will be a standing item on the agenda of the Overview & Scrutiny Board and either a verbal or written report will be provided at each of the Board's meetings.
4. The Working Group is able to make recommendations in one of two ways (dependent on the timescales of its meetings and the reports it considers); by reporting back to the Overview & Scrutiny Board, which will then put forward its recommendations for consideration by Cabinet or directly to Cabinet/Council.
5. The work of the Working Group will be reviewed as part of the Overview & Scrutiny Board's annual report process.

The Working Group will scrutinise the following reports, which had previously been part of the Overview & Scrutiny Board's Work Programme:

- Finance Monitoring Report (on a quarterly basis)
  - Write Off of Debts Report (received annually)
6. No substitute will be permitted to sit on the Finance and Budget Working Group, other than in exceptional circumstances, such as planned absence.

## Budget Scrutiny

Scrutiny of the budget will cover the following areas, although this list is not exclusive.

- Full review of the cost centres for actual spend, involving comparable figures for consecutive years.
- Assessing income levels.
- Considering the quarterly budget monitoring report.
- Reviewing the capital programme and borrowing costs.
- Commenting on the report format for budget reports to Committee.
- Considering links to the strategic purposes.
- Scrutinise business cases in respect of investment opportunities identified by the Council.
- Investigating new pressures on savings.
- Reviewing reserves and balances.
- Assessing any sources of external funding that has been received.

# CABINET LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

**1 JULY 2026 TO 31 OCTOBER 2026**  
**(published as at 1<sup>st</sup> June 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 Planning and Strategic Housing
Councillor S. Nock	Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor K. Taylor	Cabinet Member for Local Government Reorganisation Worcestershire Regulatory Services and Climate Change
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
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
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
BDC Engagement Strategy 2026-2028 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 22 Jul 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Services	Helen Mole, Business Improvement Manager Tel: 01527 881685  Councillor K. J. May
BDC Equality Strategy 2026-2028 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 22 Jul 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Services	Helen Mole, Business Improvement Manager Tel: 01527 881685  Councillor K. J. May

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Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Bromsgrove car parks <b>Key:</b> Yes	Cabinet 22 Jul 2026	This report may contain exempt information that would need to be considered in private session	Report of the Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services	Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1232  Councillor K. J. May
Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Policy 2026/27 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 22 Jul 2026 Council 14 Oct 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	David Riley, Revenue Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252  Councillor S.T. Nock
Enforcement and Civil Penalty Policy <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 22 Jul 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	Katie Sharp-Fisher, Private Sector Housing Manager (Interim)  Councillor S. J. Baxter
First Homes Policy Review <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 22 Jul 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	Amanda Delahunty, Strategic Housing Officer Tel: 01527 881269  Councillor S. J. Baxter

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Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Food Waste Collections Implementation <b>Key: Yes</b>	Cabinet 22 Jul 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services	Matthew Austin, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01572 882537  Councillor P. J. Whittaker
Low Cost Housing Capital Receipts <b>Key: Yes</b>	Cabinet 22 Jul 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	Amanda Delahunty, Strategic Housing Officer Tel: 01527 881269  Councillor S. J. Baxter
Medium Term Financial Plan Scene Setting Report 2027/28 <b>Key: No</b>	Cabinet 22 Jul 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock
Promotion of Business Support <b>Key: No</b>	Cabinet 22 Jul 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services	Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1232  Councillor K. J. May

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Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Treasury Management Outturn Report 2025/26 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 22 Jul 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock
Quarter 4 Financial Monitoring and Outturn Report 2025/26 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 22 Jul 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock
Housing Assistance Policy 2026 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 16 Sep 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	Katie Sharp-Fisher, Private Sector Housing Manager (Interim)  Councillor S. J. Baxter
Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring Report 2026/27 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 16 Sep 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Quarter 1 2026/27 Performance Report <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 16 Sep 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Services	Sarah Davis, Performance and Improvement Advisor Tel: 01527 534156  Councillor K. J. May
Medium Term Financial Plan Stage 1 2027/28 (Including Fees and Charges) - Prior to <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 18 Nov 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock
Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2026/27 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 18 Nov 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock
Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2026/27 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 18 Nov 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Quarter 2 2026/27 Performance Report <b>Key: No</b>	Cabinet 18 Nov 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Services	Sarah Davis, Performance and Improvement Advisor Tel: 01527 534156  Councillor K. J. May
Council Tax - Empty Homes Discounts and Premiums 2027/28 <b>Key: No</b>	Cabinet 6 Jan 2027		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock
Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27 <b>Key: No</b>	Cabinet 6 Jan 2027		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock
Council Tax Base 2027/28 <b>Key: No</b>	Cabinet 6 Jan 2027		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock

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Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Policy 2026/27 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 6 Jan 2027		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock
Medium Term Financial Plan Stage 1 2027/28 (Including Fees and Charges and Worcestershire Regulatory Services' Budget Recommendations) - Following Consultation <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 6 Jan 2027		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock
Non Domestic Rates - Discretionary Rates Relief Policy 2026/27 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 6 Jan 2027		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and information explaining why items have been postponed (where available)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Council Tax Resolutions 2027/28 <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 10 Feb 2027		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock
Medium Term Financial Plan Stage 2 2027/28 (Including Capital Strategy, Investment Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy) <b>Key:</b> No	Cabinet 10 Feb 2027		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070  Councillor S. Nock

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# Agenda Item 10

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME (2026-2027)

### ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Lead Officer / Member</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> July 2026	<b><u>Substantive Items</u></b> First Homes Policy Review (Pre-Scrutiny)	Amanda Delahunty, Strategic Housing Officer
	<b><u>Overview Items</u></b> AI (Uses and Risks)	Pete Bailey/Mark Hanwell, ICT
	Additional Licensing Scheme for HMOs	Matthew Bough/ Katie Sharp-Fisher
	Bromsgrove Sports Leisure Centre (Level of Support Provided by BDC)	Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services
	<b><u>Information Items</u></b> Local Heritage Action List (Quarterly Update)	Mary Worsfold, Principal Conservation Officer
	LGR Update	Hannah Corredor, Assistant Director Corporate Services and Transformation
	Levelling Up Fund Programme (Quarterly Update)	Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services
	Police and Crime Panel Briefing Paper	Councillor Helen Jones
15 <sup>th</sup> September 2026	<b><u>Substantive Items</u></b> Libraries “Unlocked” Update	Hannah Perrott, Assistant Director for Communities, Worcestershire County Council
	Bromsgrove Car Parks (Pre-Scrutiny) (This report may contain exempt information)	Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services
	<b><u>Information Items</u></b> LGR Update	Hannah Corredor, Assistant Director Corporate Services and Transformation
	Police and Crime Panel Briefing Paper	Councillor Helen Jones
17 <sup>th</sup> November 2026	<b><u>Substantive Items</u></b> 6-Month Review of Working Arrangements - Hybrid Leader and Cabinet Governance Model	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic & Property Services (Monitoring Officer)

# Agenda Item 10

Date of Meeting	Subject	Lead Officer / Member
	Capacity of the Minor Works Team (TBA)	Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services
	<b><u>Information Items</u></b> LGR Update	Hannah Corredor, Assistant Director Corporate Services and Transformation
	Local Heritage Action List (Quarterly Update)	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager
	Levelling Up Fund Programme (Quarterly Update)	Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services
5 <sup>th</sup> January 2027	<b><u>Substantive Items</u></b>	
	<b><u>Information items</u></b> LGR Update	Hannah Corredor, Assistant Director Corporate Services and Transformation
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2027	<b><u>Substantive Items</u></b>	
	<b><u>Information Items</u></b> LGR Update	Hannah Corredor, Assistant Director Corporate Services and Transformation
	Levelling Up Fund Programme (Quarterly Update)	Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services
	Local Heritage Action List (Quarterly Update)	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager
	Crime and Disorder Scrutiny – Annual Review of the Work of the Community Safety Partnership in the District	Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager/West Mercia Police
23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2027	<b><u>Substantive Items</u></b> Update on Heatwaves Preparedness (Yearly Update) (Impact of Heatwaves Task Group Recommendation).	Guy Revans, Executive Director
	<b><u>Information Items</u></b> LGR Update	Hannah Corredor, Assistant Director Corporate Services and Transformation

# Agenda Item 10

Date of Meeting	Subject	Lead Officer / Member
13 <sup>th</sup> April 2027	<b><u>Substantive Items</u></b> Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2026-27	Chairman of the Board
	<b><u>Information Items</u></b> Levelling Up Fund Programme (Quarterly Update)	Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services
	Local Heritage Action List (Quarterly Update)	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager

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

Date of Meeting	Subject	Lead Officer / Member

## **ALL MEMBER BRIEFINGS**

Date of Meeting	Subject	Lead Officer / Member

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**BDC Overview and Scrutiny Board - Action Sheet (2026/27)**

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

Subject	Action Required	Action Taken	Officer(s) Responsible	Other Comments	Status
<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>In Progress</b> Officers have been working with DAC Ltd who delivered the Grey and Green Belt training and they have developed 3 face to face workshops related to the Local Plan which were signed off by the LPCPWG at its meeting on 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2026. There will also be on-line sessions for Cllrs who are unable to make the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> June dates. Officers are working with PAS regarding the training relating to Development Management recommendations RDM2 and they are working on a proposal that will include Cllrs and Officers to be delivered in the Autumn.
	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> The PAS report and Action plan was approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026.

<p><b>Crime and Disorder Scrutiny</b></p>	<p>1. Police rep to share costings for cameras and details of existing tactical plans for the Rose Hill / Ten Ashes / Lickey Hills area with the relevant ward councillor(s).</p>	<p>Emailed Officers 27/3/26</p> <p>Chase ups on 13/4, 12/5, 2/6</p>	<p>Bev Houghton</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>Emailed provided 2/6/26:                  The Community Safety Manager has provided recent costs for a redeployable/mobile CCTV camera as purchased as part of the PCC funded NWCSF scheme. These are as follows:-                  A redeployable camera (last purchased in Jan 2025) was £4,230.67                  SIM card costs are currently £20 per month                  Each deployment/move is £500 for installation costs                  24-hour monitoring is provided by CCTV monitoring centre team at no cost; however, this may need to be revisited in the future following LGR. Members are advised that these figures only relate to the Redeployable Camera Scheme where camera installation is time-limited. There are more complex considerations for installation of a permanent static camera, including the legal and policy requirements under the Government’s Surveillance Camera Code of Practice and the Information Commissioner’s CCTV Code of Practice. It is recommended that Members contact the council’s CCTV and Telecare Manager, Rachel Nicholls for more information and further discussion - <a href="mailto:rachel.nicholls@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">rachel.nicholls@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a></p>
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<b>Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26</b>	To explore the possibility of live-streaming at Board meetings.	27/4/26 Meeting set up to discuss	Sarah Woodfield		<b>In Progress</b> Due to the poor quality of the current visual equipment, this will be subject to procurement proposals for new visual equipment, with the bidding process likely to be completed by early August 2026.
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