

Public Document Pack

Council
15th July 2026

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

15TH JULY 2026, AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors J. Robinson (Chairman), S. Ammar, A. Bailes, R. Bailes, S. J. Baxter, J. Clarke, S. R. Colella, A. M. Dale, J. Elledge, S. M. Evans, D. J. A. Forsythe, E. M. S. Gray, C.A. Hotham, D. Hopkins, R. J. Hunter, M. Marshall, K.J. May, P. M. McDonald, B. McEldowney, S. T. Nock, S. R. Peters, S. A. Robinson, K. Taylor, H. D. N. Warren-Clarke, S. A. Webb and P. J. Whittaker

Officers: Mr J. Leach, Mr. G. Revans, Mr. J. Walton, Mrs. C. Felton, Mrs. R. Bamford, Mr. M. Dunphy, Mrs. J. Bayley-Hill and Ms M. Bassett

21\26

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

At the start of the meeting the Chairmen led Members in observing a minute's silence in memory of former MP and MEP, Ann Widdecombe, who had been murdered the previous week.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors H. Jones, B. Kumar, R. Lambert, D. Nicholl and J. Stanley.

22\26

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors S. Ammar and C. Hotham declared other disclosable interests in Minute Item No. 34/26 –Recommendations from the Cabinet – in respect of the Shared Homelessness Strategy 2026 – 2031 - and in Minute Item No. 35/26 – the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 17th June 2026, in their capacity as private sector landlords. They remained present during consideration of these items and voted thereon.

23\26

TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH FEBRUARY, 6TH MARCH AND 20TH MAY 2026

The minutes of the Council meetings held on 25th February and 6th March 2026 and the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 20th May 2026 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meetings held on 25th February and 6th March 2026 and the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 20th May 2026 be approved as a true and correct record.

24\26

TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND/OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

The Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that his charity for the year would be Touchstones. Touchstones provided bereavement support to children living in Worcestershire. The Chairman advised that he had visited the charity and had felt touched by the information that he had received about their work the impact that this had had on children and their families.

Since the previous meeting of Council, the Chairman advised that he had attended Bromsgrove Carnival as well as the Wythall 10k run.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman concluded his announcements by wishing the England Football team good luck in the semi-final of the football world cup against Argentina. The Chairman also commented that one of the English midfielders, Jude Bellingham, was from Bromsgrove District and he highlighted how proud the local community was of Mr Bellingham's achievements.

The Head of Paid Service's Announcements

The Chief Executive advised that it was anticipated that the government would announce its decision on local government reorganisation in Worcestershire the following day. A briefing with all Members on this subject was booked to take place on Thursday 23rd July 2026.

25\26

TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER

There were no specific announcements from the Leader on this occasion.

26\26

TO RECEIVE COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No comments, questions or petitions from the public were considered on this occasion.

27\26

URGENT DECISIONS

Members were advised that no urgent decisions had been taken since the previous meeting of Council.

28\26

REQUEST FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CHARTER TRUSTEES IN THE STRUCTURAL ORDER FOR THE NEW UNITARY AUTHORITY

At the start of Members' consideration of this item, it was agreed to suspend the standing orders to permit the Senior Electoral Services Officer to speak at the meeting.

The Leader presented the report and in doing so commented that it was proposed that within the relevant Structural Changes Order for the Worcestershire Unitary Authorities there should be a proposal to introduce Charter Trustees in the unparished areas of Bromsgrove District.

Council was advised that this was an important matter to debate at a time when Members were considering whether to undertake a Community Governance review (CGR) in respect of the unparished areas in the District. Should Parish Councils subsequently be established in those locations, then the Charter Trustees would be abolished.

Reference was made to recent discussions of this subject that had occurred at a meeting of the Electoral Matters Committee. It was noted that there had not been unanimity in terms of views amongst Members in respect of the proposal to introduce Charter Trustees. Members also noted that, whilst Parish Councils made a valuable contribution to their local communities, there was limited time available for Members to undertake a CGR prior to Local Government Reorganisation and Charter Trustees would be a useful addition in the meantime.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor K. May and seconded by Councillor S. Baxter.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The standing orders be suspended to permit the Senior Electoral Services Officer to speak at the Council meeting;
- 2) A request be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for provision to be included in the relevant Structural Changes Order for the establishment of Charter Trustees for the unparished areas of the current Bromsgrove District from the re-organisation date; and
- 3) Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Monitoring Officer, to agree the wording of the request and to take any necessary steps to progress the proposal through the Local Government Reorganisation process.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - SCOPING CONSULTATION

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Strategic Housing presented a report on the subject of the Bromsgrove District Local Plan – Scoping Consultation.

Council was informed that approval was sought for the Council to go out to consultation in accordance with the new national plan setting process.

In considering this matter, Members were asked to note that responses received in previous consultation exercises concerning the Local Plan had not been forgotten and would continue to inform the development of the plan. The scoping document was a new stage in the process and provided the Council with a chance to reflect on matters prior to progressing further with the new Local Plan.

The proposed consultation would not be considering potential development sites. Instead, the focus of the consultation was on the overarching scope of the Local Plan.

The strength of feeling that had been articulated in responses to the previous consultation on the draft Local Plan was recognised. In particular, key points had been raised in respect of infrastructure, including transport, the high streets, green spaces and the green belt in the District. A study of the green belt had been commissioned and was expected to also take into account the concept of a grey belt.

In this latest consultation exercise, the Council was keen to hear people's views. However, Members were asked to note that points raised in the previous consultation exercise would not need to be repeated.

A lot of work had been undertaken in preparing for this consultation exercise. Officers in the Planning Department were thanked for their hard work in respect of this matter.

Following the presentation of the report, Members discussed the content and in doing so noted that the subject of the consultation had been discussed in detail at meetings of the Local Plan Cross Party Working Group. It was acknowledged that the Council did not have a choice in respect of holding this consultation or on introducing a new Local Plan. The suggestion was made that the authority needed to work hard to progress with a Local Plan. This would help to address issues with speculative planning applications, which were causing concerns for Members.

During consideration of this item, reference was made to Worcestershire County Council's Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme. A request was made for Bromsgrove District Councillors to be kept appraised on work on the scheme, due to the implications for the Local Plan.

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor S. Baxter and seconded by Councillor K. May.

RESOLVED that the Bromsgrove District Local Plan Scoping Report be approved for consultation from the 24th July to the 4th September 2026 inclusive.

30\26

AUDIT, STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

The Chairman advised that in advance of the meeting group leaders had agreed that the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee's Annual Report 2025/26 should be deferred for consideration at the following Council meeting due to take place in September 2026.

31\26

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 2026

The Chairman advised that in advance of the meeting group leaders had agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Board's Annual Report 2025/26 should be deferred for consideration at the following Council meeting due to take place in September 2026.

32\26

TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER A REPORT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING, LEISURE AND CULTURE

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Leisure and Culture presented an annual report to Council. Members were advised that, as an annual report focusing on the health and wellbeing remit of her portfolio had been considered at Council relatively recently, the report had focused on Leisure and Culture Services on this occasion only.

In presenting the report, the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Leisure and Culture highlighted the following points for Members' consideration:

- There were a lot of events due to take place over the summer.
- The Parks and Open spaces team had been working on the Inclusive Play Policy.
- Sanders Park and Lickey End Recreation Ground had both been awarded green flag status.
- A £500,000 grant had been received from Arts Council England which would be allocated to the Renew Programme.
- Sports Development Officers continued to work in partnership with external organisations in respect of the delivery of sports services at leisure centres.
- A new Couch to 5k event was due to be introduced in the District.

Once the report had been presented, Members queried the extent to which works on the King George playing field were likely to proceed as previously agreed by the Council. Confirmation was provided that as this was a key park in the district these proposed works would be going ahead.

Reference was also made to the consultation event in respect of the switch on of Christmas lights in Bromsgrove and whether the outcomes of this engagement exercise had been reviewed. Members were advised that analysis of the feedback was ongoing and the suggestion

was made that further information would be provided in respect of this matter after the meeting.

33\26

**CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING GROUP - RECOMMENDATIONS
RELATING TO THE CONTENT OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION**

The Leader presented a recommendation that had been proposed at a meeting of the Constitution Review Working Group (CRWG) held on Friday 10th July 2026.

During the CRWG meeting, Members had discussed the process that could be followed in the event that two rival candidates for the position of Chairman of a Committee received an equality of votes. Members were asked to note that on the date of the Council meeting, there was nothing in the Council's constitution that addressed this point.

The group had discussed different available options. However, Members had agreed that should this stalemate occur again in future, lots should be drawn to determine the successful candidate. The CRWG's preference had been for this to take the form of the successful candidate's name being drawn from a hat.

Members were asked to note that, given the importance of a Chairmen's role on a Committee, the CRWG had felt that the drawing of lots would not be appropriate to determine the permanent appointment of a Chairman for a municipal year. Instead, the CRWG was proposing that, where there was an equality of votes for two rival candidates at a meeting, lots should be drawn to identify a Member who could Chair that meeting only. The appointment of a Chairman for the municipal year would then be revisited at the following meeting of that Committee, when there would be a further opportunity to achieve a majority vote on a permanent appointment.

The proposal involved amending the Council Procedure Rules in the Council's constitution. Therefore, Council was being invited to consider whether to endorse this amendment to the constitution.

Following the presentation of the report, reference was made to the hat that would be used in the process envisaged and questions were raised about whether a specific hat would need to be obtained. However, there was general agreement that this process should be introduced and that the constitution should be amended accordingly.

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor K. May and seconded by Councillor S. Baxter.

RESOLVED that the Council Procedure Rules in the Council's constitution be amended to require a name to be drawn from a hat to appoint a Chairman to preside at that meeting of a Committee in the event of an equality of votes being returned for two rival candidates for the position of Chairman of the Committee for that municipal year.

34\26

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET

Shared Homelessness Strategy 2026 – 2031

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Strategic Housing presented the Shared Homelessness Strategy 2026 – 2031.

Council was informed that the strategy had been developed collaboratively by all the District Councils in Worcestershire, with the exception of Worcester City Council. Local people who had experienced homelessness had been consulted during the development of the strategy.

The aims of the strategy were to ensure that homelessness was rare, brief and non-recurring. Members were asked to note that homelessness was linked to issues with health and wellbeing as well as wider economic factors.

Preventing homelessness was an overriding objective of the Council. The prevention of homelessness required early intervention and strategies to keep people living in their own homes.

An action plan had been developed for the strategy. This action plan detailed clear priorities and targets which would be monitored over time.

Following the presentation of the report, Members discussed the various potential causes of homelessness. The suggestion was made that medical conditions associated with mental ill health could contribute to homelessness and questions were raised about whether this could be reflected in the strategy. Members were thanked for this suggestion and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Strategic Housing commented that she would raise this suggestion with relevant Council officers.

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor S. Baxter and seconded by Councillor K. Taylor.

RESOLVED that the Shared Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031 be approved.

(Prior to consideration of this item, Councillors S. Ammar and C. Hotham declared other disclosable interests in respect of the Shared Homelessness Strategy 2026 – 2031 in their capacity as private sector landlords. They remained present during consideration of the item and voted thereon.)

Enforcement and Civil Penalty Policy

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Strategic Housing presented the Enforcement and Civil Penalty Policy report for Council's consideration.

Members were informed that this item followed a report that had been considered at the Annual Council meeting in respect of the Renters' Rights Act 2025. The report proposed that Members agree changes to the Scheme of Delegations in respect of enforcement of civil penalty notices for private rented sector functions. The content of the policy was based on national best practice and proposed proportionate steps underpinned by the legislative position.

The policy addressed a range of issues relating to landlord and tenancy compliance. Areas such as risk and harm were also taken into account.

The proposed delegations to officers would enable them to act on the Council's new legislative powers and duties. This would also incorporate delegations that had previously been agreed in respect of electrical safety. The delegations would ensure that enforcement activities were lawful and proportionate.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor S. Baxter and seconded by Councillor K. Taylor.

RESOLVED that

- 1) Delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to update the Policy in line with any legislative or government guidance updates; and
- 2) The Scheme of Delegations be updated to reflect the adoption of the Policy and the new Enforcement powers under the Renters Rights Act 2025 in accordance with the wording set out in Appendix 1 (of the minutes).

35\26

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 17TH JUNE 2026

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 17th June 2026 were submitted for Council's consideration.

(Prior to consideration of this item, Councillors S. Ammar and C. Hotham declared other disclosable interests in respect of the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 17th June 2026, in their capacity as private sector landlords. They remained present during consideration of the item.)

36\26

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The following Questions on Notice were submitted for consideration at the meeting.

Business Prospectus

Councillor S. Ammar addressed the following Question on Notice to the Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships, Economic Development and Enabling:

“Please could you provide an update on the development of the Council’s business prospectus, including when you expect it will be published?”

Members were advised that a written response would be provided to this question.

Traveller Pitches

Councillor J. Clarke addressed the following Question on Notice to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Strategic Housing:

“According to the Council’s own assessment, 17 Gypsy and Traveller pitches are needed by the end of 2028/29 and a further 20 over the period to 2029/2042. How many pitches have been provided since the last assessment?”

Members were advised that a written response would be provided to this question and to subsequent comments made by Councillor Clarke in respect of the subject of his question.

Road Sweeping

Councillor S. Evans addressed the following Question on Notice to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Community Safety:

“Could you please confirm why each ward is only due to have one visit from the road sweeper each year with some wards not now due another sweep until May 2027?”

Members were advised that a written response would be provided to this question.

Councillor Evans subsequently asked the following supplementary question:

“Given we’re sharing services with Redditch Borough Council, why do they get multiple sweeps when we get the one?”

Members were advised that a written response would be provided to this question.

Parks and Playgrounds

Councillor S. Robinson addressed the following Question on Notice to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Leisure and Culture:

“Please could you set out how the Council is planning to spend the £1.5m allocated in February’s budget to improving parks and playgrounds?”

Members were advised that a written response would be provided to this question.

(The written responses are attached at Appendix 2 to these minutes.)

37\26

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

There were no Motions on Notice for discussion at the meeting.

38\26

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

There was no urgent business for consideration on this occasion.

The meeting closed at 6.44 p.m.

Chairman

APPENDIX 1

COMMUNITY SERVICES			
1. Strategic Housing			
Subject	Detail	Delegated by:	Delegated to:
Discretionary Housing Assistance Grants.	To determine applications for Housing Assistance Grants under the Regulatory (Housing Assistance Grants) (England and Wales) Order 2002.	Cabinet/ Leader.	Strategic Housing Manager.
Home improvement Agency	To deal with day to day management of the Home Improvement Agency Service	Cabinet	Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services/ Strategic Housing Manager/Private Sector Team Leader
General regulatory and enforcement activity for private sector housing (including Houses of Multiple Occupation)	1. To exercise all local authority regulation and enforcement functions under the legislation listed below:- - Housing Act 1985 - Housing Act 1988 - Housing Act 2004 (and associated regulations) - Housing and Planning Act 2016 - Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector and Social Rented Sector (England) Regulations 2020 - Environment Protection Act 1990 section 79(1)(a) - Building Act 1984 - Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Acts 1976, 1982	1.	Strategic Housing Manager

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To sign housing-related notices for houses in multiple occupation under the Housing Act 2004.

To inspect conditions under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System - Housing Act 2004.

To issue interim and final orders

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APPENDIX 2

	• <u>Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949</u> • <u>Public Health Act 1961</u> 2. To institute legal proceedings <u>for offences under the legislation listed above.</u> 3. To impose a financial penalty for an offence as an alternative to bringing a prosecution.		2 and 3 Strategic Housing Manager in consultation with Principal Solicitor
Housing Associations - Nominations.	To deal with the nomination where necessary of homeless applicants to housing association dwellings.	Cabinet/ Leader.	Strategic Housing Manager.
Housing Capacity Study.	To update the site details and housing figures in the Housing Capacity Study on an annual basis using data from the Housing Land Availability Study.	Cabinet/ Leader.	Strategic Housing Manager.
Housing Corporation Social Housing Grant.	To administer and approve applications and to authorise payment of local authority grant and Housing Corporation Grant under the Housing Corporation IMS System.	Cabinet/ Leader.	Strategic Housing Manager.
Housing Grants.	To determine applications for housing grants under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996.	Cabinet/ Leader.	Strategic Housing Manager.
Low Cost Housing.	1. To administer the Council's low cost housing scheme including the making of nominations and the sale of the Council's interest in dwellings.	1. Cabinet/ Leader.	1. Strategic Housing Manager. 2. Principal Solicitor.

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APPENDIX 2

	2. To take all necessary action including the institution of legal proceedings to recover deferred payments from the purchases of low cost homes who are in breach of covenants made in the purchase of low cost housing. 3. To revise fees in relation to low cost housing transactions.	2. Cabinet/ Leader. 3. Cabinet/ Leader.	3. Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services, Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services and Financial Services Manager in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders.
Low-Cost Housing Capital Receipts <i>(New delegation agreed by Members in 2024/25)</i>	To approve individual proposals for new developments or the purchase of existing satisfactory dwellings and flipping Shared Ownership to affordable or social rented properties and the spend relating to these, as and when they were brought forward.	Council	The Assistant Director Community and Housing Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing.
Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant.	1. To determine applications for housing grants under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. 2. To grant extensions of time of up to six months within which improvements are to be completed.	1. Cabinet/ Leader. 2. Cabinet/ Leader.	1. Strategic Housing Manager. 2. Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services.
Protection from Eviction Act.	<u>1. To institute legal proceedings in respect of illegal evictions and harassment under the provisions of the</u>	Cabinet/ Leader	<u>1 and 2</u> Assistant Director of Community & Housing Services in consultation

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APPENDIX 2

	<u>Protection From Eviction Act 1977 and Housing Act 1988 (as amended by the Renters Right Act 2025).</u> 2. To impose a financial penalty for an offence under section 1 of the Protection from Eviction Act (as amended) as an alternative to bringing a prosecution.		with Principal Solicitor.	Deleted: or Deleted: To take appropriate action (including the institution of criminal or civil proceedings). Formatted: Font: 12 pt Formatted: Font: Formatted: Line spacing: single
<u>Discrimination in the rental market</u>	<u>To take enforcement action under Chapter 3 of the Renters Rights Act 2025, including the imposition of financial penalties in accordance with the Councils Enforcement and Civil Penalties Notice Policy</u>	<u>Cabinet/ Leader</u>	<u>Assistant Director of Community and Housing Service</u>	Formatted: Font: 12 pt Formatted: List Paragraph, Indent: Left: 1.23 cm, First line: 0 cm Formatted: Font: +Body (Aptos), 12 pt Formatted: Font: +Body (Aptos) Formatted: Font: +Body (Aptos), 12 pt Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, First line: 0 cm, Space After: 10 pt, Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li
<u>Stating the proposed rent and rental bidding</u>	<u>To take enforcement action under Chapter 6 of the Renters Rights Act 2025, including the imposition of financial penalties in accordance with the Councils Enforcement and Civil Penalties Notice Policy</u>	<u>Cabinet/Leader</u>	<u>Assistant Director of Community and Housing Service</u>	Formatted: Font: +Body (Aptos), 12 pt Formatted: Font: +Body (Aptos), 12 pt Formatted: Font: +Body (Aptos), 12 pt
<u>Renters Rights Act 2025 – investigatory powers</u> (Added following report on Renters Right Act in March 2026)	<u>To exercise all powers in respect of entry, inspection, investigation, service of notices and other functions for the purposes of the following legislation: - Renters Rights Act 2025 sections 114 to 132 (investigatory powers) and section 110 (reporting to government)</u>	<u>Cabinet/ Leader</u>	<u>Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Housing Strategy Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Team Leader] / [Housing Strategy & Enabling Team Leader] / [Private Sector Housing Officer]</u>	Formatted: Font: 12 pt Formatted: Font: 12 pt Formatted: Font: 12 pt Formatted: Font: 12 pt Deleted:

APPENDIX 2

Renters Rights Act 2025 Investigations (Added following report on Renters Right Act in March 2026)	To undertake investigations into potential offences under sections 33, 34, 39 and 56 of the Renters Rights Act 2025	Cabinet/ Leader	[Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Housing Strategy Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Team Leader] / [Housing Strategy & Enabling Team Leader] / [Private Sector Housing Officer]
Private Sector Housing Enforcement and Civil Penalty Policy	To update the Policy in line with any legislative or government guidance updates	Cabinet/ Leader	Assistant Director of Community and Housing Service following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing
Utilities - Restoration or Continuance of Services.	To deal in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and generally in accordance with emergency procedures with applications received pursuant to the arrangements according to section 33 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1976 (Public Utility Services to Dwellings) and to take such action as may be necessary for the recovery of any payments made by the Council in pursuance of such arrangements.	Cabinet/ Leader.	Executive Director Finance or Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services
Regulation of Mobile Home Sites	To institute legal proceedings under section 1 of the Caravan	Council	Strategic Housing Manager in

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APPENDIX 2

	Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 To take all steps to manage and regulate Mobile Home Sites, including the exercise of power of entry under the following legislation:- • Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 • <u>Caravan Sites Act 1968</u> • <u>Mobile Homes Act 2013</u>	Cabinet/Leader	consultation with the Principal Solicitor Strategic Housing Manager
Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Sector) (England & Wales) Regulations 2015	To implement enforcement powers under the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Sector) (England & Wales) Regulations 2015	Cabinet	Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services
First Homes	To make amendments to Council's the First Homes Policy to reflect future Government guidance	Cabinet	Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing
Local Lettings Plan	To agree and adopt future Local Lettings Policies	Cabinet	Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing
Requisition for Information	To serve a requisition for information under section 16 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976	Cabinet/Leader	Strategic Housing Manager
Boarding up of dangerous buildings	To serve notice under Section 9 of the Local Government	Cabinet/Leader	Strategic Housing Manager

APPENDIX 2

	(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982		
Statutory Nuisance	To take all necessary action in relation to statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.	Council	Strategic Housing Manager

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1. From Councillor S. Ammar

Question for the Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships, Economic Development and Enabling

“Please could you provide an update on the development of the Council’s business prospectus, including when you expect it will be published?”

Response

Thank you, Chairman, and thank you to Councillor Ammar for the question.

A response has been sent to your letter.

The motion approved by Council on 25th February 2026 asked Cabinet to consider the creation of a business prospectus, and I am pleased to confirm that this is being taken forward for consideration in that spirit.

We recognise the importance of presenting Bromsgrove as a place where businesses can start, grow and invest with confidence. We already work closely with a range of partners and agencies to promote business support, and we want to make sure that any additional material we produce adds real value, is accurate, and is delivered through the most effective channels.

There are also wider considerations which Cabinet will need to take into account.

In particular, the Government’s recent announcement on Local Government Reorganisation that Bromsgrove will form part of a new North Worcestershire Unitary Authority.

It is important that any prospectus is developed in a way that remains useful and relevant in that changing context. Therefore, we will ensure outcomes are designed to meet current Bromsgrove requirements while remaining flexible enough to support a wider North Worcestershire approach in future.

To support this work, the Council’s economic development service is currently concluding a programme of restructuring which has taken place over the spring and early summer. That new structure has now been agreed and is intended to provide additional capacity to deliver the Council’s economic development priorities, including stronger business engagement and better promotion of the support available to local businesses.

The next stage is to complete the recruitment exercise for that revised structure. Once that resource is in place, officers will be able to consider what further support may be provided to businesses, including the proposed business prospectus.

The prospectus is scheduled for discussion by Cabinet in September. Subject to Cabinet’s consideration, we will then be in a clearer position to determine the form it should take and the timetable for publication.

In the meantime, our immediate priority remains to ensure that businesses can access accurate, up-to-date information through the channels that are already working well, including the Worcestershire Growth Hub, while we develop the next steps in a considered and practical way.

2. **From Councillor J. Clarke**

Question for the Cabinet Member for Planning and Strategic Housing

“According to the Council’s own assessment, 17 Gypsy and Traveller pitches are needed by the end of 2028/29 and a further 20 over the period to 2029/2042. How many pitches have been provided since the last assessment?”

Response

Pitches should be provided through the local plan process or via planning permissions granted by the local planning authority or the Planning Inspectorate.

The most recent Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) was completed in September 2025, this still represents the most up to date position with respect to pitches across the district.

The Local Planning authority has not granted permissions for any pitches since September 2025.

In terms of decisions by the Planning Inspectorate since September 2025, whilst there has been one approval at Blackwell Road, this site was already included in the GTAA study.

3. **From Councillor S. Evans**

Question for the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Community Safety

“Could you please confirm why each ward is only due to have one visit from the road sweeper each year with some wards not now due another sweep until May 2027?”

Response

The road sweeping programme was reviewed in 2025/26 and changed to a ward-based approach, with the aim of sweeping each ward at least twice a year. Bromsgrove’s road network extends to approximately 220 miles, equating to around 440 miles of kerb line, as both sides of the road require sweeping.

Historically, available resources only allowed for one full sweep of each area each year. This led to a build-up of detritus, making some areas take longer to clear. The service has therefore invested in improvements, including a third HGV road sweeper, two replacement sweepers and additional compact sweepers, to improve resilience and increase coverage. These changes are intended to increase the programme from one district-wide sweep each year to at least two.

Operational arrangements for higher-speed rural roads are currently being reviewed following updated traffic management guidance. While this may affect the scheduling of some rural routes, the aim remains to provide regular sweeping across all wards and to direct additional resources where inspections, local intelligence or service requests identify a need.

Supplementary Question:

“Given shared services with Redditch Borough Council, why do they receive multiple sweeps when Bromsgrove District receives one?”

Response:

“The road sweeping programme was reviewed in 2025/26 and changed to a ward-based approach, with the aim of sweeping each ward at least twice a year. Bromsgrove’s road network extends to approximately 220 miles, equating to around 440 miles of kerb line, as both sides of the road require sweeping.

Historically, available resources only allowed for one full sweep of each area each year. This led to a build-up of detritus, making some areas take longer to clear. The service has therefore invested in improvements, including a third HGV road sweeper, two replacement sweepers and additional compact sweepers, to improve resilience and increase coverage. These changes have reaped the hoped-for outcomes and as of the end of August 2026 the service has completed 2 sweeps. Data is currently being analysed to see whether 3 annual sweeps could be achieved.”

4. **From Councillor S. Robinson**
Question for the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Leisure and Culture

“Please could you set out how the Council is planning to spend the £1.5m allocated in February’s budget to improving parks and playgrounds?”

Response

The £1.5 million allocation approved within the February budget for the financial year 26/27 is intended to support improvements to the Council’s parks and play provision, with a particular focus on enhancing play opportunities, improving accessibility, increasing inclusivity and investing in supporting park infrastructure across the district, the specific scheme as detailed when this money was agreed are:

Sanders Park Tennis Court Fencing	£30K
Improvements to footpaths in strategic Parks	£225K
Sanders Park Café Improvements	£170K
Sanders Park Car Park Extension	£30K
Licky End Water Voles, Reed Bed and Wildlife Survey	£20K
Sanders Park Skate Park	£250K
St Chads Skate Park, Play Area and MUGA	£250K
DDA Play Area Improvements in Strategic Parks	£500K

In addition to this we also have our previously agreed play area investment priorities which covers the 10 year period 2024 -2035 which was informed by the Bromsgrove Play Audit and Investment Plan, which identifies sites based on factors such as condition, usage, accessibility and community need. Which has a budget allocation of £180K in 2026/27 that will see revamped play areas at Kinver Drive, Swans Length and Hollywood Lane.

This Council is committed to creating welcoming, accessible and inclusive parks and play spaces that provide opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to enjoy.

The £1.5 million allocation approved within the February budget for the financial year 26/27 is intended to support improvements to the Council’s parks and play provision, with a particular focus on enhancing play opportunities, improving accessibility, increasing inclusivity and investing in supporting park infrastructure across the district.

Play Area Investment priorities have been informed by the Bromsgrove Play Audit and Investment Plan which covers the ten 10 year period 2024 -2035, which identifies sites based on factors such as condition, usage, accessibility and community need. This evidence-based approach ensures that funding is directed to those areas where it can deliver the greatest benefit for children, young people and families. This amounts to a total pot of £2,005,487 that relates to both creating new and refurbishing and enhancing existing play areas.

The programme will focus on the replacement of ageing and life-expired play equipment, the introduction of inclusive play features that can be enjoyed by children of all abilities, and improvements to accessibility, including pathways, surfacing and site access where appropriate.

In addition to play improvements, the approved capital programme includes a range of wider infrastructure and park enhancement projects designed to improve accessibility, community use, environmental value and the overall visitor experience. The current allocation of funding is as follows:

Scheme	Budget
Sanders Park Sports Improvements (tennis court fencing)	£30,000
Improvement to footpaths in Strategic Parks	£75,000
Sanders Park Café Improvements	£170,000
Sanders Park Car Park Extension	£30,000
Lickey End Water Voles, Reed Beds Work and Wildlife Survey	£20,000
Sanders Park Skate Park	£250,000
St Chad's Skate Park, Play Area and MUGA	£250,000
Strategic Parks Pathway Improvements	£150,000
DDA Play Area Improvements in Strategic Parks	£500,000
Total	£1,475,000

The largest proportion of the funding will be directed towards improving accessibility and inclusivity within play areas, including £500,000 for Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) related improvements in strategic parks. This work is shaped by PIPA guidance (Plan Inclusive Play Areas) and our own policy based on this. Significant investment is also being made in youth recreation facilities through the proposed redevelopment of the skate parks at Sanders Park and St Chad's, alongside play area and multi-use games area improvements.

Further investment will support improvements to park infrastructure, including footpaths, pathways, sports facilities, visitor amenities and accessibility enhancements. Environmental improvements are also included through habitat enhancement works at Lickey End.

The Council is committed to creating welcoming, accessible and inclusive parks and play spaces that provide opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to enjoy. The £1.475 million investment will therefore be prioritised towards schemes that improve both the quality of play provision and the wider park environment, while ensuring that residents can access and enjoy these facilities safely and comfortably.

Officers will continue to develop and refine the programme of works in accordance with the Play Audit and Investment Plan and wider asset management priorities, ensuring that available resources are targeted where evidence demonstrates the greatest need and where the investment can deliver the most significant community benefit. Any unallocated balance within the approved budget will be used to support project development, contingencies and further priority improvement works identified through the audit process and ongoing assessments of need.