BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

January 2015

RECOMMENDATION TRACKER REPORT

1. **SUMMARY**

This Recommendation Tracker lists all recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Board (including Task Group recommendations) until implementation is complete.

The recommendations are grouped in date order and by topic.

(N. B. Column 4 also shows each month the Tracker comes before the Board. To ensure recommendations are reviewed at the appropriate time, a tick is placed next to the quarter for which the Cabinet response advised the recommendation was estimated to be implemented.)

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Board notes the Quarterly Recommendation Tracker and agrees to the removal of any items which have been completed.

Date of O&S Board	Recommendation	Date Considered by Cabinet	Comments on action taken to implement the recommendation(s)
PLANNING PC	LICY TASK GROUP		
10th September 2012	Recommendation 4 That a detailed review of the Planning Enforcement Policy, which was adopted in April 2011 (as encouraged in Section 8 – Conclusion), be carried out giving particular attention to Sections 4 – Enforcement Procedures (Informal) and 7 – Council's Commitment to Complainants.	4th July 2012	Jan April

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10 th September 2012	Recommendation 8 That thorough the Transformation programme a review and mapping exercise be carried out in respect of the process post planning application approval stage and that the results of this be shared with the Overview and Scrutiny Board.	4 th July 2012	Jan April √ July Oct Cabinet Comment: Agreed Implementation date – this will form part of the on going transformation process. Update September 2013 Enforcement is not yet at the Transformation stage. Update July 2014 Response to be provided in presentation to Board on 15/09/14. Update October 2014 Members requested a full response at the meeting held on 13/10/14. Update January 2015
10 th September 2012	Recommendation 9 That the Internal Audit Report recommendations be supported and included within the Overview and Scrutiny Board's Quarterly Recommendation Tracker report to ensure that progress on the implementation is monitored in an appropriate and timely manner.	4 th July 2012	Jan April √ July Oct <u>Update October 2014</u> Members requested a full response at the meeting held on 13/10/14. <u>Update January 2015</u> The Head of Planning and Regeneration has confirmed that the recommendations of the internal audit report have been complied with or

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			will be complied with when the situation described
			in the recommendations arises.
	SION TASK GROUP	I 4b	
15 th July 2013	Recommendation 6	4 th September 2013	Jan April √ July Oct
	That the Chairman of the Task Group		Cabinet Response – Agreed
	(supported by Democratic Services		
	Officers) give a presentation, of the		Update July 2014
	Task Group's findings, to CALC in		
	order to encourage Parish Councils to		To date this has not taken place.
AID OLIALITY	support local youth groups.		
AIR QUALITY		and a	
16 th	Recommendation 1 – 2007 Report	2 nd October 2013	Jan April √ July Oct
September	Recommendation 17 - Taxi Ranks -	and 2 nd April 2014	Cabinet Comment – This was approved and
2013 and 20 th	Regular reminders are given to taxi		Overview and Scrutiny were able to request this
January 2014	drivers in respect of leaving their		report from WRS.
	engines running whilst waiting for the next are at a taxi rank. With WRS		Undata Cantambar 2011
	regularly reporting back to the		Update September 2014 The Board have to date not request this
	Overview and Scrutiny Board to		information from WRS.
	ensure that this is implemented.		Information from WKS.
16 th	Recommendation 5	2 nd October 2013	Jan April √ July Oct
September	WRS Applies for funding from the	and 2 nd April 2014	First Cabinet Response It was agreed that WRS
2013 and 20 th	DEFRA Air Quality Grant Programme.	and 2 April 2014	should apply for DEFRA funding as appropriate
January 2014	If the first application is not successful		and in accordance with the Air Quality Action
23.733.7	the WRS should persist in submitting		Plan.
	further applications in subsequent		
	years.		Second Cabinet Response Cabinet did not wish

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			to amend its previous decision particularly in view of the WRS resources which would be required to prepare and submit an appropriate and fully evidenced funding application.
ARTRIX OUTR	EACH PROVISION TASK GROUP		
14 th April 2014	Recommendation 1 (a) The inclusion of a set of clear	4 th June 2014	July Oct Jan April √ (2015)
	performance indicators in respect of outreach work be included within the new Service Level Agreement; and (b) A proportion of the funding provided by the Council to be ring fenced for Outreach work.		<u>Cabinet Response</u> – The Cabinet sought confirmation that the Artrix Centre had been consulted on this and then approved the recommendation.
14 th April 2014	Recommendation 2 That the Bromsgrove District Council	4 th June 2014	July Oct Jan April √ (2015)
4b	logo be more prominent in Artrix promotional literature.	Ab.	Cabinet Response – this was approved. Update November 2014 The Artrix have asked for and being provided with a high res version of the BDC logo and this will be included in the Christmas and future brochures.
14 th April 2014		4 th June 2014	Jan April July √ Oct
	(a) In order to compliment the		<u>Cabinet Response</u> – this was approved.

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	formal reporting of performance indicators to Officers that the Council receives a quarterly informal (narrative and image based) report from the Artrix detailing the events that have taken place together with the number of those attending. (b) Those Member representatives on the Operating Trust report back regularly to full Council.		
14 th April 2014	Recommendation 4 The Artrix Centre to: a) liaise with Members in respect of specific activities within their ward; and b) explore ways in which it could raise awareness of its activities in all areas within the District. (For example through Parish Council, school and other notice boards throughout the District.)	4 th June 2014	Jan April July √ Oct Cabinet Response - Councillor Webb proposed that, in addition, the Artrix Centre be invited to provide a presentation for the benefit of Council members outlining its plans at least once each year. Councillor Shannon indicated that Artrix Centre had undertaken to do so. The recommendation was approved as amended. Update November 2014 Artrix are to use the noticeboard at the far end of the High Street to promote activities and provided a copy of their electronic newsletter, the Loop for all Members, this will now be sent out to Members on a regular basis.

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14 th April 2014	Recommendation 5 The Artrix Centre to: (a) ensure that there is a defined profile for the target participants/audience that the Outreach Provision is provided for; (b) ensure that participation in such activities is not prohibitive due to cost (for example, seek funding for bursaries where possible); and (c) make activities available through out the main school holidays, particularly during the Easter and summer breaks.	4 th June 2014	Jan April July √ Oct Cabinet Response – this was approved. Update January 2015 The Chairman of the Task Group met with the Artistic Director at the Artrix following Cabinet agreeing all the recommendations and took on board the requested made and agreed implementation of them wherever possible.
14 th April 2014	Recommendation 6 An insert, prepared by the Artrix, to be included within Together Bromsgrove detailing outreach activities at the Artrix.	4 th June 2014	Jan April July √ Oct Cabinet Response – this was approved. January 2015 Whilst the Artrrix have been in touch with the Communications Team, there has been some discussion over the cost of this together with who would pay for such an insert.

Date of O&S Board	Recommendation	Date Considered by Cabinet	Comments on action taken to implement the recommendation(s)
14 th April 2014	Recommendation 7 The main programme brochure which is produced by the Artrix to be used to promote its outreach work.	4 th June 2014	Jan April July √ Oct Cabinet Response – this was approved. January 2015 The Artrix agreed to give this consideration.
14 th April 2014	Recommendation 8 That the Artrix promote all the facilities available to those with a disability.	4 th June 2014	Jan April July √ Oct Cabinet Response – this was approved. January 2015 This was noted by the Artrix and further promotional work will be carried out.
14 th April 2014	Recommendation 9 That the Artrix consider contacting Worcestershire County Council with a view to improving the signage within the Railway Station and Town Centre areas.	4 th June 2014	Jan April July √ Oct Cabinet Response – this was approved. January 2015 Details of the appropriate Officer contact at WCC have been provided to the Artrix in order that this recommendation can be taken forward.
LEISURE PRO 17 th November 2014	VISION TASK GROUP Recommendation 1 (a) That charges for leisure facilities & services, such as the Dolphin	3 rd December 2014	Jan April July √ Oct Cabinet Response The Cabinet felt that the wording of (a) should be

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	Centre, should be used to promote usage and participation in leisure activities; and (b) That the Council's concession scheme should be publicised where appropriate to ensure price is not a barrier to participation in leisure activities.		amended slightly as set out below to clarify the intention behind it. "that the charging structure for leisure facilities and services be used to encourage usage and participation in leisure activities." Recommendation (b) was approved.
17 th November 2014	Recommendation 2 That Members should familiarise themselves with the leisure activities available within their Wards via the information provided by the Sports Development Team and visit activities as appropriate.	3 rd December 2014	Jan April July √ Oct Cabinet Response The Cabinet approved this recommendation.
17 th November 2014	Recommendation 3 (a) The noticeboard situated adjacent to Blockbuster by utilised; (b) A noticeboard be included in the list of requirements for the Phase 2 Works of the Town Centre; and	3 rd December 2014	Jan April July √ Oct Cabinet Response The Cabinet approved this recommendation.

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17 th November	(c) Whilst it was acknowledged that there were often problems with noticeboards being maintained and information displayed kept up to date, to minimise this it is recommended that these be maintained by the local ward councillor. Recommendation 4	3 rd December 2014	Jan April July √ Oct Cabinet Response
2014	 (a) Officers to continue negotiations with BAM and look for alternative funding sources to fund a Sports Hall moving forward; and (b) If the negotiations with BAM are unsuccessful, then Cabinet reconsider and make recommendations to full Council for the facility to include a Sports Hall. 		Recommendation (a) was approved. In respect of Recommendations (b) the wording was agreed as follows: "that if the negotiations with BAM are unsuccessful, then Cabinet reconsider options for the facility to include a Sports Hall".
	MMENDATIONS		
24 th March 2014	Quarter 3 Write Off of Debts Report That the Council issue a press release	4 th June 2014	Jan √ April July Oct Cabinet Response

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	to advise resident with Council Tax arrears about the payment options available and the support provided by the Council with this process.		This was agreed by Cabinet
16 th June 2014	 Summary of Results of Staff Survey A statement should be added to the top ten recommendations arising from the staff survey which demonstrates that the Council has a zero tolerance approach to bullying and harassment amongst staff. The contact details for staff, as detailed in the staff finder on the Council's intranet, should be made available for consideration of elected Members. 	2 nd July 2014	Jan √ April July Oct Cabinet Response – 1. This was approved. 2. The Cabinet referred this to the Chief Executive for further consideration of the most appropriate way of meeting the requirements of Members in this regard.
14 th July 2014	Minutes 16 th June 2014 – Leisure Provision Task Group (Dolphin Centre Business Case) Recommendation to the Audit Board that financial concerns around the increased membership that will be needed to ensure good annual revenue should be addressed through	AUDIT BOARD 18 th September 2014	Jan √ April July Oct Audit Board Response This was rejected by the Audit Board; therefore no further action is required and the item should be removed from the Quarterly Recommendations Tracker.

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14 th July 2014	the Audit Board. Joint WRS Scrutiny Task Group Final Report 1. The 12 recommendations of the task group be endorsed by the Joint Committee. 2. The Board's concerns, that further reductions in the financial contributions from partners, could risk the future of the partnership and the safety of residents, be noted.	WORCESTERSHIRE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE 2 nd October 2014	Jan April July √ Oct Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee Response Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 11 were agreed by the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee. However Recommendations 7, 8,9 and 10 were rejected. Please see appendix 2 for full details. Recommendation 11 – was approved by the Cabinet at its meeting on 5 th November 2014.
25 th September 2014	Finance Monitoring Quarter 1 Report 1. Income and expenditure figures should be provided in future Financial Monitoring Reports to provide greater clarity about the Council's budget position in each quarter. 2. Comparative budget data should be provided in the Financial Monitoring Reports for previous years.	Cabinet 3 rd December 2014	Jan April July √ Oct Cabinet Response That the additional financial and budget data be provided in future Monitoring reports from 2015/16 Quarter 1 following the introduction of the new Financial System. In addition it was felt that ti would be appropriate to request the Overview and Scrutiny Board to report back in due course on whether this information was useful to the Board.

Date of O&S Board	Recommendation	Date Considered by Cabinet	Comments on action taken to implement the recommendation(s)
25 th September 2014	Task Group Procedure Guidelines Review That the Task Group/Short, Sharp Inquiry Procedure Guidelines be incorporated into the Council's constitution.	Constitutional Review Working Party	Jan April July √ Oct Passed to relevant Officer on 3 rd November 2014 for inclusion in at a meeting of the Constitutional Working Group.
3 rd December 2014	Disposal of Stourbridge Road Car Park Consideration be given to putting in place some form of "financial lock in" or at least including explicit timescales for the development.	3 rd December 2014	Jan April July Oct Cabinet Response After discussion cabinet requested that a timetable for development stages be incorporated into the legal documents.
3 rd December 2014	Disposal of Council held assets at Hanover Street Car Park and George House That as part of the consideration of the scoring matric to be drawn up for the project, due regard be given to the proposals of potential developers in respect of the Spadesbourne Brooke as referred to in the Area Action Plan for the Town Centre.	3 rd December 2014	Jan April July Oct Cabinet Response After discussion that the scoring matrix in respect of this site is drawn up, due regard be given to the provisions of the Town Centre Area Action Plan in relation to the environmental enhancement of the site.

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - Ad Hoc Investigation: Marlbrook Tip

Recommendation	Comment on actions taken to implement recommendation
 Planning Approval Where a planning application may result in the approval including a significant number of conditions, that the Planning Committee is made aware of: the resources needed to effectively monitor compliance; whether there are suitably qualified and/or experience officers within the Council; and if not, what outsourcing arrangements would be required. 	
2. Monitoring Arrangements That for any future similar developments and in order to provide clear accountability monitoring should be undertaken by officers and/or a group with suitable experience and expertise and the authority to make decisions.	

JOINT WRS SCRUTINY TASK GROUP - FINAL REPORT

It was noted that Recommendation 6 had been addressed at the Joint Committee's previous meeting and that Recommendation 12 had been agreed and required action by partners' Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Recommendation 6

In order to reduce the focus on financial considerations which currently play a major part in influencing partner participation, to the detriment of other equally important aspects of the service, the following should be addressed:

- (a) A new business model for WRS be developed through the Chief Executives' Panel, building on the proposals already being produced by the Panel.
- (b) Consideration be given to the option for partner authorities to purchase an "out of hours service".

Recommendation 12

- (a) The Joint Scrutiny Protocol should be reviewed in order to take on board the lessons learned during this review.
- (b) Consideration should be given to the reinstatement of the Worcestershire Overview and Scrutiny Chairs Group as a means of feeding back the monitoring of recommendations from Joint Scrutiny exercises, as and when required.

The following recommendations were resolved by the Joint Committee:

Recommendation 1

Performance Management Information should continue to be made available for Members' consideration at every meeting of the

Joint Committee and be sufficiently high on the agenda to be discussed in detail.

Recommendation 2

Twelve months after the new contact centre arrangements for WRS have been introduced, replacing the use of the Worcestershire Hub; the Joint Committee should review the effectiveness of these arrangements for communicating with the public.

Recommendation 3

The web-pages of each partner authority should be regularly monitored to ensure they are kept up to date, with the inclusion of a prominent and obvious link to the WRS website.

Recommendation 4

The purpose, content and circulation of the WRS newsletter should be thoroughly reviewed, with a view to it providing a more systematic and comprehensive account of the work and performance of the shared service and with the content and format being agreed by the Joint Committee.

Recommendation 5

That WRS have a designated member of staff to act as a Member Liaison Officer and as a single point of contact to signpost Member enquiries.

Recommendation 11

The lessons learned from the WRS shared service experience, particularly as detailed in this report, should be heeded by elected members and senior officers when considering any future proposals for shared service arrangements involving multiple partners.

In respect of Recommendations 7, 8, 9 and 10 the Joint Committee requested Officers to bring forward alternative proposals to address the issues raised within these recommendations.

Recommendation 7

A new strategic decision making board for WRS should replace the Joint Committee, comprising one elected member per partner authority and supported by senior officers. This should be called the WRS Board.

- (a) Meetings of this Board should take place at the base of WRS.
- (b) Responsibility for attendance at Board meetings should lie with each authority's representative, and the quorum for meetings proceeding should be set at 5 representatives in attendance.
- (c) Meetings of the Board should take place bi-monthly.
- (d) Elected members appointed to the Board should be provided with an induction programme and sufficient ongoing training to enable them to fulfil their role effectively.
- (e) Members appointed to the Board be expected to serve a minimum of two years to ensure continuity.
- (f) The Chair of the WRS Board should be elected annually by the members of the Board.

Recommendation 8

The Management Board be disbanded, with the WRS Management Team taking the lead responsibility for operational decision making under the leadership of the Head of Regulatory Services.

Recommendation 9

- (a) The Head of WRS should be fully accountable to the WRS Board (as the strategic decision making body).
- (b) The Chief Executive of the host authority to act in a mentoring role as and when necessary.

Recommendation 10

- (a) All decisions made by the WRS Board be formally reported back to all elected members of the partner authorities in a timely manner.
- (b) Attention should be paid to communicating updates about any planned changes to WRS services to all elected members of partner authorities.
- (c) The agendas and minutes of all WRS Board meetings should also be uploaded on to the WRS website in a timely fashion.