

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW BOARD**

**3RD FEBRUARY 2009**

**POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION**

Responsible Portfolio Holder	N/A
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 There are currently three topics on the work programme and the Board needs to decide how it would like to move forward in relation to this subject areas.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Consider the completed forms for each topic (attached) together with additional information contained within paragraphs 3.5 to 3.17 in order to:
- (a) confirm which the topics will remain on the work programme; and
  - (b) decide the priority order of the topics.
- 2.2 Subject to the outcome of 2.1 above, decide how each topic will be investigated (e.g. via a Task Group or via the Board).  
(Please note: Each Board can have one Task Group at any one time)

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 There are currently three items on the work programme which the Board needs to consider. The Members who are suggesting the topics have completed the necessary forms which are the proposal form and the scoping checklist (attached as appendices).
- 3.2 Should the Board decide that more than one subject should be investigated, the priority order needs to be agreed.

- 3.3 Assuming it is agreed one or more topics should be investigated, Members will then need to agree how this should be undertaken. The options are:
- Set up a Task Group to carry out the investigation (this is particularly suited to topics requiring in-depth investigations covering a large remit); or
  - The Board itself carries out the investigation (this would be appropriate if the topic can be investigated over one or two meetings)
- 3.4 If Members are uncertain whether or not further investigation is required, they also have the option of requesting the relevant Head of Service to present a report and discuss the matter with the Board so to enable Members to come to a decision.

### Older People

- 3.5 The former Scrutiny Steering Board decided sometime ago that a possible future topic for further investigation was Older People, particularly as it has been predicted that the elderly population is set to rise further. There was some discussion on how this could be progressed and Councillor Mrs. Bunker suggested that, as a first step, older people themselves should be consulted to find out which areas most concern them. This would ensure that it was these areas that were investigated. Therefore, with the help of the Assistant Chief Executive and his team, focus groups (one rural and one urban) were set up in the summer 2008.
- 3.6 Snap Surveys was asked to facilitate the focus groups. The recruitment of the groups was out-sourced to a third party. Potential respondents were stopped in the street and invited to participate. Willing residents were asked a number of questions about themselves (including where they lived, age group and socio-economic group) so that a wide range of residents were recruited. In total there were 10 respondents in each group.
- 3.7 Councillor Mrs. Bunker is suggesting that Members concentrate on the following, as these are areas which came out of the focus groups that have not been covered by Overview and Scrutiny recently:
- Health and Wellbeing
  - Community Facilities and Activities
  - Housing and Cost of living
- 3.8 The proposal and scoping checklist which has been completed by Councillor Mrs. Bunker are attached at Appendix 1 and 2. Members need to consider these forms and decide how they wish to move this topic forward. Due to the potentially large remit of the investigation, it would be suitable to establish a Task Group to undertake an in-depth investigation.

### Sponsorship Funding

- 3.9 The suggestion of looking at sponsorship funding was raised at the last meeting by the Chairman.
- 3.10 At that meeting, it was explained that the existing policy was still in its infancy. Officers are continuing to work on raising funding for the Council through sponsorship and input from the Board in reviewing the policy would be helpful.
- 3.11 The proposal and scoping checklist which were completed by Councillor McDonald are attached at Appendix 3 and 4. The Board now needs to decide on how to progress this matter. This particular topic could be suitable for the Board to undertake over a couple of meetings.

### Takeaways

- 3.12 A second suggestion put forward by the Chairman at the last Board meeting was in relation to takeaways; specifically, looking at controlling the number of takeaways in a particular area.
- 3.13 However, the Head of Planning and Environment, who was at the Board Meeting, advised Members that they needed to be clear what could and could not be achieved, taking into account national policy guidance and market forces.
- 3.14 It should be pointed out that Planning Policy regarding hot food takeaways is found in national policy in PPS1 and PPS6, also under specific area policies within the Bromsgrove District Local Plan. Local plan policies exist for the following local centres Alvechurch (ALVE2); Barnt Green (BG1); Town Centre (BROM11 and13); Catshill (BROM 23); Aston Fields (BROM 24); Hagley (HAG 3); Rubery (RUB 2) and Wythall (WYT 1), the policy states that:  
*“within the area defined on the proposals map the District Council will allow proposals for retail development at ground floor (Use Classes A1, A2 and A3) and retail office and residential use at upper floor level.”*
- 3.15 Members should be aware that National policies also inform local decision making in particular PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development and PPS6 Planning and Town Centres. PPS1 promotes the creation of safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder or fear of crime does not undermine quality. It also states that in planning for the achievement of high quality and inclusive design, planning authorities should have regard to good practice set out in Safer Places the Planning System and Crime Prevention which states that:

*“Attracting the right mix of uses can generate greater activity and surveillance. The right mix of uses in an area almost always leads to more surveillance, more of the time. Care should be taken to ensure that the mixed uses in a locality are compatible. For example, concentrations of bars and clubs are usually best sited away from residential areas. A town centre residential population brings activity, surveillance and ownership, and should be encouraged.”*

- 3.16 Current ongoing work on the core strategy has not identified the proliferation of hot food takeaways as a specific issue and as such it is considered by the Head of Planning and Environment Services that the current national and local policy can be used to ensure the vitality of the District’s retail centres is maintained and enhanced.
- 3.17 The proposal and scoping checklist which were completed by Councillor McDonald are attached at Appendix 5 and 6. Taking this into account, and the information contained in the paragraphs above (3.12 to 3.16), Members now need to decide whether or not this topic is suitable for further consideration.

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

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly relating to this report, however, any implications in relation to the specific topics mentioned in this report would be considered as part of any subsequent investigation undertaken.

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

- 5.1 There are no legal implications directly relating to this report, however, any implications in relation to the specific topics mentioned in this report would be considered as part of any subsequent investigation undertaken.

#### **6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

- 6.1 This report does not directly link to the Council Objectives, however, information on how each topic links to the Council Objectives and Priorities are included in the proposal forms.

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

- 7.1 There are no risk management issues directly relating to this report, however, any implications in relation to the specific topics mentioned in this report would be considered as part of any subsequent investigation undertaken.

**8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no customer implications directly relating to this report, however, any implications in relation to the specific topics mentioned in this report would be considered as part of any subsequent investigation undertaken.

**9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no implications directly relating to this report for the Council's Equalities and Diversity Polices, however, any implications in relation to the specific topics mentioned in this report would be considered as part of any subsequent investigation undertaken.

**10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no value for money implications directly relating to this report, however, any implications in relation to the specific topics mentioned in this report would be considered as part of any subsequent investigation undertaken.

**11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Any implications in relation to the specific topics mentioned in this report would be considered as part of any subsequent investigation undertaken.

Procurement Issues – None
Personnel Implications – None
Governance/Performance Management – None.
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – None
Policy – None
Environmental – None

**12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	No, not at this stage.
Chief Executive	Yes

Executive Director - Partnerships and Projects	Yes
Executive Director - Services	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

**13. WARDS AFFECTED**

All Wards.

**14. APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1 - Proposal Form relating to Older People
- Appendix 2 - Scoping Checklist relating to Older People
- Appendix 3 - Proposal Form relating to Sponsorship Funding
- Appendix 4 - Scoping Checklist relating to Sponsorship Funding
- Appendix 5 - Proposal Form relating to Takeaways
- Appendix 6 - Scoping Checklist relating to Takeaways

**15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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