Recommendation Tracker Update

Overview and Scrutiny Board

September 2019

RECOMMENDATION TRACKER REPORT

1. <u>SUMMARY</u>

This Recommendation Tracker lists all recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Working Groups (including Task Group recommendations which have been agreed by Cabinet) until implementation is complete.

The recommendations are by;

- A. Task and Finish Group
- B. Finance and Budget Working Group
- C. Corporate Performance Working Group
- D. Overview and Scrutiny Board

2. <u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>

2.1 That the Board notes the Recommendation Tracker confirms the status of the recommendations and agrees to the removal of any items which the Board feel have been completed.

Subject and Date of Meeting	Actions	Lead Officer	Date completion	Comments	Completion Date and
requested WCC LTP4 on Bromsgrove District Task Group – 8 April			required	Sept 2019O & S meeting 2 nd Sept, it was agreedthat a Task Group would be formed andthat this would not be picked up by theStrategic Planning Steering Group.O & S Board 10th June 2019The O & S Board to reconsider whetherthe WCC LTP4 Task Group exerciseshould be launched after resolution (g)as follows:The Strategic Planning and ConservationManager and relevant officers fromWorcestershire County Council shouldbe invited to attend a forthcomingmeeting of the Board to explain the stagereached with the strategic review ofhighways and the implications for thedistrict.	RAG Rating
Transport Planning Review	Recommendation 1a) That Worcestershire County Council's Highways Team consults with the relevant County Councillor, when consulted in respect of any planning applications. This should be done as a matter of course, as they may have more detailed local knowledge of a particular area.			Council 26 th June 2019 The final report was presented. Recommendation Noted.	

 b) BDC Members would continue to receive the weekly list of all planning applications. 	Recommendation Noted.
Recommendation 2	
That as part of the response to a planning application the Worcestershire County Council's Highways Team should include a full breakdown of the costs of any infrastructure work which needs to be carried out and provide details of how this work would be funded.	Recommendation Noted.
Recommendation 3	
That it is recognised that the relationships between Worcestershire County Council Highways Team and its parish councils and residents has not been positive and that although the journey to improvement has begun, the improvements to the culture and ways of working need to be ongoing to ensure that the improvements continue.	Recommendation Noted.
Recommendation 4	
That Worcestershire County Highways Team recognises that there is no "one size fits all" approach. They should	The Leader advised that it was not possible for this Council to agree recommendations relating directly to

remain open minded and flexible in considering the approach to the analysis of planning applications before reaching any conclusions.	another authority and she assured Members that officers and the Cabinet would continue to work closely with the County Council to ensure that the lines of communication remained open and positive.
Recommendation 5 At the earliest possible stage of the Strategic Transport Assessment the Project Officers from Worcestershire County Council and this Council arrange a briefing for Members in order to provide details of the scope of the Strategic Transport Assessment, the process and relevant timelines.	New dates in respect of the Strategic Planning Steering Group would be circulated to Members and information in respect of the Strategic Transport Assessment would be channelled through this group.
Recommendation 6That this Council is fully represented on the Project Team of the Strategic Transport Assessment to be undertaken, by both officer and Member representation.Recommendation 7	The Council was already represented at these meetings by the Head of Planning and Regeneration and the Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager.
That, throughout the process of the Strategic Transport Assessment, the Strategic Planning Steering Group holds regular meetings dedicated to this with representatives of	The Leader confirmed that this matter was the existing forum for communicating strategic planning matters and had been for some time.

	Worcestershire County Council in attendance, in order to provide updates and listen and take on board the views of this Council's Members. <u>Recommendation 8</u>		
	That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recognises the current need for the additional transport support from Mott MacDonald. However it requested that the Leader and Cabinet make every effort to seek re-imbursement of those costs from Worcestershire County Council.	Recommendation Noted.	
	Recommendation 9		
	That the Overview and Scrutiny Board formally writes to the Chairman of the Worcestershire Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board requesting that the report be included on its agenda for future consideration to ensure that Members and Officers at Worcestershire County Council are aware of the issues and concerns of this Council.	Recommendation Noted.	
Bromsgrove Sporting Football Club Task Group		Aug 2019The Group's first meeting was held on 8thAugust 2019. Members were keen toinvite relevant officers to attend meetingsto answer questions on the subject.	AMBER

		Members were also keen to look at rent charges for Alvechurch F.C. as it was in the same league as Bromsgrove Sporting F.C. and in a similar position. The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 18 th September 2019.
Business Rates Relief Short Sharp Review – 11 Feb 2019	Rec – that the Section 151 Officer uses her delegated powers to use the 2018/19 balance for business scheme and reflects this in the allocation for subsequent years.	Sept 2019AMBERThe Recommendation from the Task Group to be presented to the Cabinet meeting on 4th Sept 2019.nedationAMBERJune 2019The Group met on 27th June, 2019. The outcomes and findings of the review to be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting on 2nd September 2019, for consideration.AMBER
Homelessness Grant and Flexible Support Grant O&S 14 Jan 2019	Rec that the Council carry out a physical count of the number of people sleeping rough in the Bromsgrove District in order to get a record.	Sept 2019 AMBER Derek Allen – we are in the process of organising a count which will take place in November 2019. AMBER

Finance and Budget Working Group – 10 Jan 19	New and Existing PropertiesRecommended: Officers look at the cost of providing this service and what a reasonable charge would be for it, with a view to doubling this charge if possible.Private Sector Housing Recommended: This be increased to £150 per inspection.Environmental Services Recommended: That a charge for travel time be included, in additional to the use of the sweeper and that this be 		Sept 2019 Meeting scheduled for 2 nd September 2019. The first meeting (of this municipal year) to be held in August 2019, whereby Members would consider the work programme for 2019/20.	
Development Burcot Lane O&S 29 Oct 2018	that further work be carried out to explore the options available to the housing company to allow it to act as a letting agent; and that the housing company's overarching principle be to provide "affordable" rental accommodation for local people	Derek Allen	Sept 2019Derek Allen – the business case is still being pulled together by senior managers in BDC.Mov 2018The potential for the Council to launch a lettings agency is now being considered as part of the wider discussions taking place concerning the development of a wholly-owned council housing company.	AMBER

		A business case is being prepared in relation to this matter, and the potential to launch a lettings agency will be examined within this forthcoming business case. This has been discussed at Cabinet.	
Road Safety around Schools 18 Sept 2018	 Rec 1 - That the details on the Council's website in respect of Parking Services be located in a more prominent position to encourage residents to report local parking concerns. Rec 2 - That Officers' investigate all options for using of mobile CCTV vehicles in Bromsgrove and report back the findings to Members. 	 Sept 2019 Rec 1 - After discussions with IT, it was not possible to put contact details on the home page, however, the Parking link is on the home page within the 'My Place' box. Rec 2 – The parking team at Wychavon made contact with Solihull and received the following report, as detailed at Appendix 1. 	AMBER
	 Rec 3 - That Members are provided with the contact details of the local Safer Neighbourhood Team in order that this information can be shared with residents to enable local issues to be recorded and enforcement action to be prioritised accordingly. Rec 4 - That Parking Services and the Safer Neighbourhood Team discuss and jointly prioritise enforcement action. Rec 5 - The Officers investigate the 	Rec 3 - Wychavon carried out some research and found that Gateshead and Leicestershire councils have invested in a CCTV vehicle. It is used primarily on school zig-zags and mandatory bus stop clearways as these offences do not require an observation time.(Unfortunately within Bromsgrove the zig-zags are not currently enforceable) What the CCTV system can't do is enforce on double yellow lines as it is not possible to see if there is a blue badge on the windscreen. The estimated cost for Leicestershire was	

option to employ an additional Parking	£500,000.	
Enforcement Officer whose role would		
be dedicated to looking at road safety	Rec 6 - Meeting has taken place with the	
around schools.	Police, County and Parking Enforcement	
	to discuss what action could be	
Rec 6 - That Officers' from	considered. It was felt that the schools	
Worcestershire County Council and	needed to take some responsibility and	
the Council contact Solihull Council to	to help communications teams at County	
look at the pilot exclusion zone	and Bromsgrove will be asked to	
scheme in order to consider it as an	consider what joint communication could	
option in some areas within	be produced for school/parents.	
Bromsgrove District and report back	Enforcement are going to increase the	
any findings to Members.	number of visits to schools. County are	
	looking into the possibility of a blanket	
Rec 7 - That Worcestershire County	TRO to cover all zig-zag lines outside	
Council Highways Team, together with	schools.	
representatives from the Safer		
Neighbourhood Team and Parking	Dec 2018	
Services come together to discuss a	The recommendations were agreed by	
joint campaign to address parking	Cabinet at its meeting on 31 st October.	
issues around schools and ongoing		
collective action on this matter.	Recommendations have been sent to	
	relevant officers to action and update	
	received as follows:	
	Rec 1 - Discussions are underway with	
	IT to include the contact details for	
	Parking Services on the home page of	
	the council's website. This will be	
	completed asap certainly by the end of	
	January 2019.	
	Rec 2 - This recommendation has been	
	sent to the relevant officers at WCC	

			requesting that they take appropriate action in the first instance.Rec 3 – The Council are working with Wychavon to find other authorities who use mobile CCTV and arrange to visit them to discuss how they use the technology and how effective it has been. The results will be reported back to members by the end of February 2019.Rec 5 - Initial meetings to be held in Jan Jan 2019.Rec 6 - This recommendation has been sent to the relevant officers at WCC requesting that they take appropriate action in the first instance.Rec 7 - Wychavon will provide details including the likely cost of employing another Enforcement Officer. Information to be provided to members in February 2019.	
Pre – Scrutiny Council Tax Support Scheme Review – O&S 3 Sept 2018	that consideration of the proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019/20 be deferred, pending further information.	David Riley and Jayne Pickering	Feb 2019 Council resolved that the Local Council Tax Support scheme be revised to provide: a) Increase to maximum level of support for working age claimants from 80% of liability to 85% of liability;	

		 b) Care Leavers under 21 years of age are treated as a protected group and provided 100% Local Council Tax Reduction (LCTR); c) Care leavers aged 21 years or over and under 25 years of age are treated as a protected group and provided up to 100% LCT; d) The scheme is uprated in line with national welfare benefits; and e) Council Tax Hardship Scheme is amended to enable transitional support to be provided to care leavers under 25 whose income results in significant withdrawal of support. It was agreed at Cabinet in October that the formal consultation with the major preceptors and the public on the proposed design of a revised scheme take place for 8 weeks from 1 November 2018. 	
CCTV Short Sharp Review 30 Aug 2018	Rec 1 - That the Council's £40k capital funding be used to match-fund a bid to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for CCTV funding in order to	Sept 2019 Rec 1 - An upgrade of the Council's CCTV system is currently underway. North Worcestershire Community Safety	AMBER
	replace the current CCTV transmission infrastructure to a digital network and to purchase and resource the introduction of re-deployable cameras.	Partnership (CSP) has been allocated £245,000 of PCC funding over a 3 year period for improvements to the area's CCTV scheme on behalf of the three Local Authorities. The CSP has developed a	

Rec 2 - The current camera locations be reviewed in accordance with the Surveillance Camera Commissioners guidance and using data from the Community Safety Partnership, to ensure that they still meet their purpose with cameras to be removed as appropriate. proposal to use this capital contribution to modernise the CCTV infrastructure which will support Internet Protocol Recording and upgrade the technological capabilities of the current scheme to digital processing. This will greatly increase the current CCTV scheme, including enhanced digital capability, improved image quality and greater capacity to expand the scheme using re-deployable cameras where appropriate. This project is being match funded by all three District Councils with additional revenue, capital and in-kind contributions to support the project. The Project team have completed a tender exercise and are about to award the contract to the winning bidder. The project plan is being developed for work to commence in the next few weeks.

Rec 2 - Camera locations Have been assessed in accordance with SCC guidance to include public consultation, operational requirements and analysis. All current camera locations have been assessed as still required, apart from Recreation Road in Bromsgrove where the road scape has changed to a residential setting. Privacy impact assessments have been completed and all assessments are currently with the external auditor for feedback.

	Rec 3 - That Officers' have a rolling programme target to replace the existing cameras over a 3 year period, by replacing approximately 20 cameras per year, subject to a capital bid.		Rec 3 - The capital bid was agreed by Members and a rolling program for camera replacement will be included as part of the digital upgrade.Aug 2019 Emailed the CCTV & Telecare Manager for an update.Dec 2018 The recommendations were agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 31st October.Recommendations have been sent to relevant officers to action. Awaiting for response.	
Finance & Budget Working Group (O&S Board 15 January 2018)	Rec 2 - A review of the Management Team re-charge between the two councils be carried out in light of the information received by the Finance and Budget Working Group	Jayne Pickering	Nov 2018 Time spent to be refunded to BDC from RBC for 2018/19 7 Feb 2018 – Cabinet The recommendation was agreed. The Leader confirmed that, at one of his regular meetings with the Leader of Redditch Borough Council, he would discuss the second recommendation.	AMBER
Social Media Task and Finish Group Final 30 October 2017	Rec 1 - the Council should promote its meetings through social media in order to engage with residents	Anne-Marie	Sept 2018 This is ongoing but will be made more prominent going forward. Dec 2018 Update request sent to Anne-Marie. Waiting for response.	AMBER

		May 2018The use of social media to promote meetings did start but then petered out. This will be re-started with vigour.27 Nov 2017Cabinet were in agreement with this recommendation. Following discussions with the Communications Manager it was agreed that this would take place with immediate effect.	
Task and Finish tri Group Final ite	Rec 2 - the Council should consider a rial of the live streaming of particular rems/meetings of interest to residents hrough Facebook	After discussion between the Group Leaders, this was put on hold and may be considered again in the new municipal year. <u>May 2018</u> After further consideration the Member Development Steering Group (made up of the 3 Group Leaders) agreed to give this matter further consideration and at its next meeting will receive information in respect of the cost of live streaming of some meetings using alternative methods. An update following that meeting will be provided in due course. <u>27 Nov 2017</u> - Cabinet were in agreement with this recommendation. Following discussions with the Communications Manager, it was agreed that the first trial would be at Council on	AMBER

			24th January 2018, with the specific item being agreed with the Portfolio Holder.	
Social Media Task and Finish Group Final 30 October 2017	Rec 4 - an area be created on the Measures Dashboard dedicated to data in respect of access to the Council's social media accounts in order to measure its usage.	Anne-Marie	Sept 2019 We measure social media activity via twitter and facebook analytics which would not transfer well to the dashboard. Copies of these are available to Members on demand if they have an interest in a particular post or campaign.	AMBER
			Dec 2018 Update request sent to Anne-Marie on 28 Dec and 20 Nov. Waiting for response. <u>May 2018</u> This recommendation is in progress.	
			27 Nov 2017 - Cabinet were in agreement with this recommendation. A format which met the needs of both officers and Members would be discussed over the next few weeks, with a draft being given to members of the Task Group to see if it meets their needs and then with a view to it being provided for Members on a quarterly basis.	
Preventing Homeless-ness Task and Finish Group 19 September	Rec 1- that officers should investigate the introduction of a local authority lettings scheme that would help customers to access private rented accommodation. This investigation should take into account working in	Derek Allen	Sept 2019 Derek Allen – the business case is still being pulled together by senior managers in BDC. Nov 2018	AMBER

2016	partnership with Redditch Borough Council. The outcomes of this investigation should be reported for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Cabinet.	The potential for the Council to launch a lettings agency is now being considered as part of the wider discussions taking place concerning the development of a wholly-owned council housing company. A business case is being prepared in relation to this matter, and the potential to launch a lettings agency will be examined within this forthcoming business case.
		May 2018 To date, we have not been able to find a compelling evidence base in either local housing market that suggests a standalone lettings scheme would work in Bromsgrove, or in conjunction with Redditch Borough Council. However this may look different if Bromsgrove DC opts to open a housing company which takes on a range of functions, including lettings. As a result the option has not been discounted as it relies upon other developments at this stage. We therefore plan to return to this matter once the position about opening a housing company becomes clear. All advice received to date suggests that we will not be opening a joint company as this would be a very complex thing to achieve.
		July 2017 Officers have been investigating creating a local lettings scheme. On behalf of both

			councils, we have undertaken some visits to other schemes in the West Midlands and we are also assessing the outcomes of some research into this area recently published by the University of Birmingham. We will be pulling our thoughts together into a report in due course, when we have completed our assessment.
Evening and Weekend Car Parking Task and Finish Group 21 March 2016	 Rec 1- The Council needs to formulate a clear Economic Development strategy that includes car parking as soon as possible, whilst considering the following key features of any such strategy: a) Ensuring that car parking arrangements are managed in accordance with the interests of the local economy. b) Working with partners in business and retail to develop the Economic Development Strategy that includes car parking options and tariffs that encourage customers to visit Bromsgrove. c) Ensure car parking arrangements support the Council's Economic Development Strategy. The recommendation was therefore accepted in the amended form below: 	Cllr May	Sept 2019 Emailed Cllr May for an update.AMBERJan 2019 Following member approval of the recommendations made by 2020 consultancy. Officers have been putting together tender documentation to engage a consultant who will produce a detailed business plan including expected costs and realistic timescales for members to approve taking into account the outline details provided by 2020 Consultancy within their initial study. Officers are also making contact with other authorities who have undertaken similar projects for advice and guidance.AMBER24 May Members will be aware that a consultation has taken place the results of which will be shared shortly.AMBER

Development Priorities to assess the	
impact of car parking charges as soon	<u>Sept 2017</u>
as possible, whilst considering the	An update will be provided at the
following key features:	meeting.
 (a) ensuring that car parking arrangements are managed in accordance with the interests of the local economy; (b) working with partners in business and retail to review the Economic Priorities that includes parking options and tariffs that encourage customers to visit Bromsgrove; and (c) ensuring that car parking arrangements support the Council's Economic Priorities++ 	Sth Oct 2016 The Portfolio Holder has advised that she has made some progress with the recommendations and will attend the January 2017 meeting when the Tracker is reviewed again to provide a more detailed update. Cabinet Response - 6 th April 2016 In relation to recommendation 1 the Cabinet agreed that car parking was vital to the economic development of the Town and accepted the principles behind the recommendation. It was felt however that the existing Economic Development Priorities should be reviewed in order to assess the impact of car parking charges, rather than produce a new Economic Development Strategy which may need to alter in 6 months' time. It was fully accepted that the needs and views of businesses in the Town needed to be taken into account and the new Centre Manager would be fully involved in this review process and in working with local businesses. The process should be undertaken prior to the consideration of the next round of changes to fees and

			needed to focus more strongly on car parking. Officers and Members from Economic Development, Car Parking and Planning would need to work very closely together on the further regeneration of the Town Centre.
Evening and Weekend Car Parking Task and Finish Group 21 March 2016	Rec 2 - Having formulated the Economic Development Strategy it is recommended that an external expert be engaged by the Council, with a clear remit of what the Council wishes to achieve, it is suggested that such a consultant would need to consult with the following Council officers/Members: a) Economic Development Team b) Environmental Services Team c) Relevant Portfolio Holders d) Members of the Evening and Weekend Car Parking Task Group e) Local businesses and retailers.	Clir May	Sept 2019 Emailed Cllr May for an updateAMBERDec 2018 Update request sent to Cllr May on 28 Dec and 20 Nov. Waiting for a response.Sept 2017 An update was provided at the meeting.Cabinet Response - 6 April 2016 This recommendation was largely accepted, with a minor change to the wording to reflect the changes made to recommendation 1 above. In addition the new Centres Manager has been added to the list of officers/Members to be involved in the consultation on car parking. Whilst reviewing the Economic Priorities it is recommended that an external expert be engaged by the Council, with a clear remit of what the Council wishes to achieve. It is suggested that they would need to consult with the following Council officers/Members:AMBER
			(a) Economic Development Team (b)

			Environmental Services Team (c)Relevant Portfolio Holders (d)Members of the Evening and weekend car Parking Task Group (e) Local businesses and retailers (f)Town Centres Manager
Evening and Weekend Car Parking Task and Finish Group 21 March 2016	Rec 3- Prior to any further trials (of any nature) being agreed and carried out any necessary data should be collected in order to have appropriate comparative	Cllr May	Sept 2019 Emailed Cllr May for an update.AMBERDec 2018 Update request sent to Cllr May on 28 Dec and 20 Nov – Waiting for a response.AMBERCabinet Response – 6 April 2016AMBER
			Recommendation 3 was agreed. data and information available to ensure that any such trial can be measured successfully.

APPENDIX 1

Safety around Schools Task Group

Recommendation 2

That Officers from Worcestershire County Council and this Council contact Solihull Council to look at the pilot exclusion zone scheme in order to consider it as an option in some areas within Bromsgrove district and report back any findings to Members.

SEPT 2019

The parking team at Wychavon made contact with Solihull and received the following report.

What was implemented

In September 2017 the Council launched an innovative project known as Solihull School Streets at three primary schools. Through the scheme most traffic has been prohibited from entering selected road/s leading to the three pilot schools during drop-off and pick-up periods. The intention being to create a safer, more pleasant environment which encourages active travel to school and in consequence, reduces congestion and improves air quality in the area. The restrictions have been imposed by virtue of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order which introduced a Prohibition of Motor Vehicles, applicable Monday to Friday during school pick-up and drop-off times, with exemptions for permit holders. Permits have been issued to residents living on roads affected by the Order, with a limited number also allocated to the three schools and other stakeholders, as deemed appropriate by the project team. The project also introduced a 20mph speed limit throughout the "School Streets" area effective at all times to promote road safety for all road users, and in particular for pedestrians and cyclists.

How long for

18 month pilot was successful and made permanent

How was it received

The project was generally well supported and has the potential to achieve its objectives. 70% of residents responded favourably, however there was less support from parents, for whom the scheme has the greatest impact.

Did it work

Doorstep surveys of residents and hands-up counts within the three schools have confirmed that the results illustrate a general support and acceptance for the objectives of the project with 90% of residents surveyed supporting the continuation of the scheme. There has also been a significant reduction in children being driven to school. Whilst the scheme is supported, feedback identified three key issues/concerns. Officers have attempted to mitigate and address these concerns, it is however recognised that the following issues remain areas of concern:

- Lack of Enforcement including contravention of the Prohibition of Driving restrictions and exceeding the 20mph speed limit.
- Permit Management including size, visibility and distribution of permits.
- Impact of restriction on accessibility including the impact on both parents and residents.

Having discussed this with the parking team, this type of scheme would not work where the school is located on a through road and as the offence would be a moving traffic offence then it could only be enforced by the police.