

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

WORK PROGRAMME

2020/21

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board considers and agrees the work programme and updates it accordingly.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Date of Meeting	Subject	Additional Information
11 th January 2021	Homelessness Grants 2021-22	
	Speeding – The Overview and Scrutiny Board to call in representatives of the Safer Roads Partnership to discuss issues with speeding	Delayed from March 2020 meeting. Officers to contact Safer Road Partnership
	Finance and Budget Working Group	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader's Work Programme	
	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	
Monday 8 th February 2021	Staff Survey	Following presentation at the February 2020 meeting it was agreed that a further update would be received work programme in September 2020
	Council Tax Support Scheme	
	Budget Update 20-21	
	Working Group Updates	
	Finance and Budget Working Group	
	Equalities Task Group	
	Impact of Libraries Review Task Group	
	Impact of Flooding Task Group	
	Any Task Group Updates	
	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader's Work Programme	
	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	
Monday 29 th March 2021	Working Group Updates	
	Finance and Budget Working Group	
	Any Task Group Updates	

	WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – update from Representative	
	Cabinet Leader’s Work Programme	
	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	

Areas Identified at the Work Programme Planning Event held on 5th June 2019 and to be scheduled in to meetings on an as and when basis

Potential Task Groups

- Public Transport / Bus Routes / Community Transport - Members agreed that this subject should be reviewed by a Task Group. The review could focus on public transport provision in rural areas and would require Members to consult with both the bus companies, Worcestershire County Council and BURT.
- Affordable and Social Housing Task Group - This review could focus on the accommodation provided by social housing organisations, planning enforcement and housing development controls and the impact of planning on the green belt.
- WCC LPT4 – It was agreed at the O & S meeting on 2nd September 2019, that this would not be considered by the Strategic Planning Steering Group. Councillor Colella had made the proposal and he had felt that it merited having a Task Group and that it would be positive for newly elected Members to be involved in this Task Group. The Board considered this matter again at the meeting held on 13th January 2020 after Cllr Colella provided a topic proposal. It was decided by the Board that it was still not appropriate to action.

Potential Items for Board discussion

- Protecting Local Shops – Members concluded that this was not a suitable subject for scrutiny as stated. However, Members agreed that the relevant Portfolio holder and the Town Centres Manager could be invited to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board to answer questions about town centre economic development. Members agreed that the focus should be on how to increase footfall in the town centres.
- Removal of Early Morning Bus Passes - Members expressed concerns that early morning bus passes had been removed impacting on those travelling to work. Members noted that that there was an ongoing review of public transport and consultation was being held over the summer of 2019. Members concluded that they could revisit the subject of bus passes after this consultation has been completed.

Previous Task Groups to be revisited

- Pavement Parking – The Overview and Scrutiny Board to receive an update on the recommendations arising from previous reviews of car parking.

- Anti-Social Behaviour and CCTV – the Overview and Scrutiny Board to receive an update on the recommendations arising from the previous review of CCTV.
- Air quality – The Overview and Scrutiny Board to receive an update on the recommendations arising from the previous review of air quality.
- Homelessness - The Overview and Scrutiny Board could revisit recommendations made by a previous Task Group on this subject.

Outstanding Items and Potential Items for pre-scrutiny

- Demonstration of modern.gov on an iPad together with data regarding paperless agendas.
- Corporate Dashboard – Demonstration (requested at the Overview & Scrutiny Board meeting held on 10th February 2020).

When considering topics for investigations Members may wish to take into account the Council's Strategic Purposes as detailed below:

Run & grow a successful business



What does this mean to me?

Businesses choose to come to Bromsgrove & grow here, providing services & jobs.

Further development enhances the town & district centres as places that people want to visit.

Improved connectivity makes life easier, whether that's on the roads or online.

Why?

As an entrepreneurial area, supporting business is incredibly important for the District. Through North Worcestershire Economic Development & Regeneration we will continue to support new businesses. We will also work with established companies within the District to help them grow & flourish.

We are committed to making the Town & district centres places that residents & visitors can enjoy & that attract a variety of businesses.



Priority: Economic development & regeneration

We will:

Consult businesses to understand current needs & growth plans, working with partners to support business growth.

How we will measure it:

- Number of businesses engaged through the consultation

- Number of existing businesses supported to grow & develop

Work & financial independence



What does this mean to me?

There are more opportunities for young people, with the right skills for local businesses.

Money management support will help to reduce debt & increase financial confidence.

People get the benefits they are entitled to, when they need them.

Why?

The economic picture for Bromsgrove District is positive, with consistently low unemployment. However, the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (specifically income, employment & education indicators) show there were issues, particularly in parts of Charford & Sidemoor.

We will support our residents to access work opportunities in new industries, focusing on the skills agenda. We will also work with residents to help them manage their money & access the right benefits.



Priority: Skills for the future

We will:

Undertake a skills audit with partners & work together with them to address any gaps.

How we will measure it:

- Number engaged through the skills audit.



**Live independent,
active & healthy lives**

What does this mean to me?

People are supported to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Communities & individuals feel less isolated.

There are more positive things to do through improved access to sport & cultural activities.

Why?

Whilst the health of people in Bromsgrove District is generally good, health priorities include improving mental well-being, increasing physical activity & ageing well. Increasing numbers of people living with reduced mobility, dementia & diabetes are an issue for the District. Through the Bromsgrove Partnership, Bromsgrove District Council will continue to play its part in addressing these issues.

We also want to enhance sport & cultural opportunities in the District, which will have health & social benefits.



Priority: Improving health & well-being

We will:
Support targeted activities for healthy lifestyles.

How we will measure it:

- Number of people accessing targeted activities
- Number of people with diabetes
- Number of people who have had a stroke

Affordable & sustainable homes



What does this mean to me?

More affordable & appropriate homes become available.

Private tenants have homes which are safe & tenancies which are secure & affordable.

Homes can adapt to changes in circumstances & are increasingly energy efficient.

Why?

Bromsgrove has the highest level of home ownership in Worcestershire, & the smallest private rented sector in the county; demand for housing within the district has had a significant impact on property prices.

Access to affordable housing is recognised as an issue, as is ensuring homes are sustainable into the future.



Priority: A balanced housing market

We will:

Develop & implement a District Housing Strategy.

How we will measure it:

- Number of affordable homes (commitments & completions)

Communities which are safe, well-maintained & green



What does this mean to me?

Crime & anti-social behaviour reduces even further & the fear of crime also starts to decrease.

The district is well-maintained & people feel involved in keeping it clean.

It's easier to recycle more & reduce waste going to landfill.

Why?

Bromsgrove District Council has committed to playing its part in addressing the impact of climate change; from work to increase recycling to support to reduce fuel poverty, a **green thread** runs throughout this Council Plan.

It is important to ensure that Bromsgrove remains attractive for everyone, & our Place Teams, in partnership with local communities, provide a strong service across the District.

The District is a low crime area; through the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership we continue to work hard to address the causes of crime & anti-social behaviour & to support victims.

YOU CAN'T BE THE 'IN-CROWD' FROM OUTSIDE

BANNED FROM ONE, BANNED FROM ALL

Bromsgrove will not tolerate anti-social behaviour.

As well as facing arrest, if one member venue of Bromsgrove Pubwatch bans you, you will be banned from all member venues in Bromsgrove town centre for up to 5 years. Have a safe and enjoyable night out.

Priority: Reducing crime & disorder

We will:

Target the causes of crime affecting the night-time economy.

How we will measure it:

- Anti-social behaviour reports in the Town & district centres
- Crimes in the Town & district centres