

**Portfolio Holder Report****Portfolio Holder Report - Leisure, Culture and Climate Change****Introduction and Overview:**

At Bromsgrove District Council Portfolio Holders provide an annual update to Council on services within their portfolio remit. These services are delivered in accordance with the Council's Strategic Purposes, as detailed in the Bromsgrove District Council Plan 2019 – 2023.

This report provides an outline of services and activities within the remit of this particular Portfolio Holder. Information is included in relation to the Council's Strategic Purposes, relevant key activities, partnership working, projects and programmes and news stories.

A version of this report, focusing on each Portfolio Holder's remit in turn, will be considered at each meeting of Council (except for the Annual Council meeting).

Whilst services will be contributing information into this report it is worth noting that not all sections of the report will be relevant to all service areas. In this circumstance, some sections may not be completed by all services.

The report will be structured as follows:

- 1) Update on Strategic Purposes
- 2) Partnership working
- 3) Key activities and priorities
- 4) Good news stories and awards (if applicable)
- 5) Other

The Council has the following Strategic Purposes and Priorities:

Strategic Purposes	Council Priorities
Run and grow a successful business	Economic development and regeneration
Work and financial independence	Skills for the future
Living independent, active, and healthy lives	Improving health & well being
Affordable and sustainable homes	A balanced housing market
Communities which are safe, well maintained, and green	Reducing crime & disorder
The Green Thread runs through the Council Plan	Internal priorities
	Financial stability
	High quality services
	Sustainability

Leisure and Culture Services

1. Update on Strategic Purposes

The relevant strategic purposes are:

- Living independent, active, and healthy lives
- Communities which are safe, well maintained, and green.
- The Green Thread runs through the Council Plan

The recently approved leisure and culture strategy supports the strategic purposes by:

Creating a VISION: Healthy bodies and minds through active, engaged and creative communities

Creating an AIM: To inspire everyone to celebrate our historic past and participate in building a brighter future through access to parks, open spaces, sport, physical activity, arts, heritage, culture and everyday creativity. This way we will inspire our communities to lead longer happier, healthier, and more successful lives.

Key activities since last report:

1. Commissioning and member endorsement of the Leisure and Culture strategy.

The Leisure and Culture strategy component parts are the Parks and Open spaces Strategy and four management plans: Arts and Culture strategy and the Built Facility Strategy.

The Playing pitch strategy will follow in June 2023.

2. Some aspects of the Leisure and Cultural Strategy Recommendations are already being implemented. For example, in terms of the Arts and Culture Strategy the following has been achieved in terms of Strategy Recommendations 39, 40 and 42.

£15k leveraged from Arts Council England towards facilitation of Compact (total now being spent £35k).

Appointment of freelance project manager for the compact. This is funded externally and will create extra capacity and expertise between now and July 2023.

Confirmation of Compact Conference event at Avoncroft Museum 28th March 2023

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Subgroups for Compact in full motion with use of grants of £2,500 each. Projects being piloted between now and Conference on March 28th as follows:

1. What will you do when you're in charge? (a youth social action project)
2. Volunteering Campaign

Fundraising for Digital Heritage Trail in motion.

In addition to the work related to the preparation, endorsement, and early implementation of some of the Leisure and Cultural Strategy recommendations, other Events and activities have taken place. The following are examples:

External funding (£46,610) working alongside partners for physical activity and sport sessions as follows:

Summer 22:

Holiday Activity Funds – 1192 places available

- Bromsgrove Sports and Leisure Centre– Town Centre
- Aztec Upton Warren – Upton Warren
- Bromsgrove Youth & Community Hub – Town Centre & Charford
- Mindfully Empowered Coaching – Tardebigge
- Rigby Hall School – Aston Fields
- BDHT – Burcot, Wythall, Sidemoor, Charford
- Woodrush High School – Wythall

Short Breaks – 142 places available for young people with disabilities.

- Aztec Upton Warren – Upton Warren
- Upton Warren Sailing Club – Upton Warren

Adult disability activities (Non grant funded) – 24 places per week

- Bromsgrove Sports and Leisure Centre – Town Centre

Junior clubs (Non grant funded) – 45 places per week

- Bromsgrove Gymnastics Club – Sidemoor / town centre
- Meadows First School – Sidemoor / town centre

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Autumn / Winter 22:

Holiday Activity Fund – 133 places

- Bromsgrove Sports and Leisure Centre – Town centre
- Bromsgrove Youth & Community Hub – Town centre / Charford

Together Fund

- Aztec Upton Warren – Upton Warren
- Upton Warren Sailing Club – Upton Warren
- RYA - Worcestershire

Short Breaks – 36 places per week

- Rigby Hall School – Aston Fields
- Bromsgrove Youth & Community Hub – Town Centre & Charford

Adult disability activities (Non grant funded) – 24 places per week

BSLC – Town Centre

Junior clubs (Non grant funded) – 45 places per week

- Bromsgrove Gymnastics Club – Sidemoor / town centre
- Meadows First School – Sidemoor / town centre

Health sessions (Strong and steady classes for postural stability support: 40 participants)

- Rubery (Fathers Barn)
- Wythall (Wythall Village Hall)
- Bromsgrove (Newsong Church and Bromsgrove Methodist Church)
- New class starting in Catshill (2023)

Commonwealth Games

Queens Baton Relay visited Bromsgrove in July 2022. Local Paralympian Leanna Horne was the local authority's nominated Baton Bearer. Three other Baton Bearers were at the community celebration event at Sanders Park. Over 1000 people in attendance with Bromsgrove Gymnastics, Severn Arts, Bromsgrove Festival and the Town Crier presenting a celebration of the Bandstand (also originally built to mark the Queen's Reign).

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2. Partnership Working

The Council works with a range of partner organisations to meet the needs of residents and businesses in the District. The following section details work delivered within the remit of this Portfolio Holder.

Partnership working examples:

The team are working with key community, charity and third sector groups/organisations to enable the delivery of the Leisure and Culture strategy outcomes.

The Cultural Compact partners currently engaged are as follows:

- Active Hereford and Worcester,
- Attract Marketing Ltd
- AIR: artsinredditch (local arts forum)
- Avoncroft Museum
- Bromsgrove Arts Alive (local arts forum)
- BARN (Bromsgrove and Redditch Network)
- Bromsgrove Festival
- Bromsgrove Society
- B Music (Town Hall and Symphony Hall Birmingham)
- Canals and Rivers Trust
- Culture Central
- Dancefest (Worcestershire and Herefordshire Dance Agency)
- Friends of St John
- Heart of Worcestershire College
- Kingfisher Shopping Centre
- Knights Pharmacy Group
- Motionhouse Dance Theatre
- National Trust,
- Reimagine Redditch Consortium (Creative People and Places Project)
- Royal Enfield (European region)
- Rubicon Leisure
- Severn Arts
- Stans Café Theatre
- Dry Spy Public House
- Heart of England Forest Trust
- University of Worcester
- Visit Worcestershire
- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
- WMCA Cultural Services
- Writing West Midlands
- Young Solutions

Anticipated Activities/Key Milestones For Next Period

The key milestones will relate to working through the recommendations in the Leisure Strategy and spending any external funding received. For example:

Carry out a detailed assessment of the play value, quality, and accessibility of equipped play spaces across the district. Community first partnership has been

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commissioned to develop this using information provided by the strategy and further research and using best practise. This is due to be completed by May 2023.

Deliver a pilot project to test how Council managed land can deliver offsite Biodiversity Net Gain.

Develop an overall capital investment plan for enhancing parks and open spaces to provide a more strategic approach to the use of Section106 and other funding.

Develop a clear marketing plan for green spaces that includes new web pages, social media, and targeted work with key audiences.

Develop a volunteer plan and a clear approach to working with Friends groups tied to its aspirations for Green Flag Award across its priority parks. Community engagement to generate interest will be developed during easter through to summer holidays.

Carry out a feasibility study to establish a roadmap for the self-management of allotment sites across the District.

Start a pilot project to explore the process of transfer of allotments to self-management and share this learning across the District.

Pilot an approach to establish a new model for event delivery that allows local organisations to deliver programmes of events and activities.

Evaluate the success of the pilot projects and implement any required changes to the new delivery model.

3. Good News stories and Awards

Contributions to delivery of arts and culture strategy

1. £35,000 awarded by Arts Council England to support Cultural Compact for North-East Worcestershire

Climate Change

1. Update on Strategic Purposes

Relevant Strategic Purpose 'Communities that are safe, well maintained & green'



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Climate Change supports the Council's strategic purpose of 'Communities which are safe, well maintained & green.' In addition, it underpins the green thread that runs through the Council Plan and supports the delivery of achieving carbon reduction across council services. It also contributes to each of the Council's four other Strategic Purposes all of which have measures that support climate change initiatives.

In addition to the Strategic purposes, the Council's Plan also sets out its organisational priorities, and within a sustainability framework a requirement on any review of services to understand how we can adapt to climate change.

Members will recall that the Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, affirming that it will place the Climate Emergency at the centre of its decision-making process

Key activities since last report:

In October 2022, the Council adopted a Carbon Reduction Strategy and Implementation Plan. This is our first Carbon Reduction Strategy which covers the next 3 years and is published on our website. The Strategy sets out how as a Council we will achieve a 50% reduction in carbon dioxide by 2030 and Net Zero by 2040. This is in advance of the Government's target of Net Zero by 2050.

Each of the Council's service areas contributed to the Strategy and Implementation Plan in order to produce 'carbon reduction pathways.' Through this approach carbon reduction will become 'business as usual' and truly embedded throughout the organisation.

Over the last 12 months our key successes and activities have been:

- Office for low emission vehicles funded electric taxi scheme – estimated Carbon savings of 126 CO₂ tonnes for the wider area, beyond Council operations
- Low carbon heating & Solar PV project at the Artrix Centre - estimated carbon saving of 100 CO₂ tonnes.
- Purchase of 100% green electricity for the Council - estimated carbon saving of 98 CO₂ tonnes.
- First delivery and implementation of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) low carbon fuel for the Council's diesel fleet - estimated carbon saving of 530 CO₂ tonnes per annum and the Council is now using HVO in all its diesel vehicles
- Bromsgrove Zero Carbon District Heat Network study – carbon savings to be achieved when the scheme is operational.

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- A Green Fair at Sanders Park as a key event to communicate the message of a low carbon future to the wider community

Anticipated Activities/Key Milestones For Next Period

Our Carbon Reduction Strategy sets out our actions over the next 3 years to work towards our Net Zero target. Our top five future actions are:

- Assess further low carbon fleet fuel options - estimated carbon saving of 349 CO₂ tonnes.
- Seek commercial partners to build out the Bromsgrove District Heat Network - estimated carbon saving of 100 CO₂ tonnes.
- Support Bromsgrove District Housing Trust to apply for funding to improve efficiency of housing stock- estimated carbon saving to the District of 50 CO₂ tonnes.
- Set up a rolling programme of works to improve energy efficiency/ renewable generation in the buildings with the highest consumption - estimated carbon saving of 48 CO₂ tonnes.
- Implement Recommendations of the 2020 Energy Saving Trust report into decarbonising the council's transport fleet including staff mileage and travel plans across all service areas - estimated carbon saving of 36 CO₂ tonnes.

It was acknowledged that given the importance of this area of work additional staffing resources were required at a more strategic level. Consequently, in November 2022 the Council approved a budget bid to fund a Senior Climate Change Officer post. This post will be advertised in February 2023. Following the resignation of our Climate Change Officer at the end of 2022, a further post of Graduate Climate Change Officer will be recruited during 2023.

Our Carbon Reduction Implementation plan will be refreshed every 3 years and reviewed annually. Progress against targets will be reviewed by the Climate Change Working Party. The Strategy will further provide the focus, steer, and priority for the Climate change Panel for the next 3 years.

2. Partnership Working

The Council works with a range of partner organisations to meet the needs of residents and businesses in the District. The following section details work delivered within the remit of this Portfolio Holder.

It is vital that we work closely with partners, in order to reduce the carbon emissions of the district as a whole. It is important that we use our sphere of influence to encourage others to address their own emissions. The council also benefits from



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partnership working with county, regional and national organisations by seeking out and engaging the support that may be available.

Key activities since last report:

A key partner for the Council has been the West Midlands Net Zero Hub who have supported us in developing our Carbon Reduction Action Plan. I would like to say particularly thanks to Alex Pearson for this work.

We currently work closely on a district level with partners such as 'Everyone Active' who run our sports and leisure facilities. We work closely with Worcestershire County Council to ensure that homes and businesses can benefit from the advice and grants that are made available through the Sustainability Team. The Council is also part of the Joint Worcestershire and Herefordshire Waste Partnership group working towards waste reduction and better waste management across the county. We are also working closely with Worcestershire Regulatory Services to promote Electric Taxis through the licencing system. On a regional level alongside working with the Midlands Net Zero Hub we also work with the West Midlands Combined Authority and Sustainability West Midlands on several carbon reduction projects. On a national level we have recently worked with the Energy Saving Trust to look at carbon reduction options across our vehicle fleet.

Anticipated Activities/Key Milestones and Priorities For Next Period

- Work with Partners to deliver of the actions that require a partnership approach contained in the carbon reduction strategy
- Officers to attend monthly sustainability officers group meetings, organised through the County Council in order to share learning
- Investigate opportunities for carbon reduction with our suppliers and delivery partners
- Ensure that our Carbon Reduction Strategy is aligned with the other Worcestershire Councils and review all plans annually
- Work with Worcestershire Regulatory Services to investigate how we might develop a Street Trading Policy to encourage low carbon and sustainable trades to operate in the local area
- We will also continue to explore options with Worcestershire County Council and local businesses to encourage walking and cycling to work.