

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY BOARD**

**TUESDAY, 28TH JULY 2009 AT 6.00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillors D. L. Pardoe (Chairman), C. B. Taylor (Vice-Chairman),  
A. N. Blagg, R. J. Deeming, C. R. Scurrall and C. J. Tidmarsh

Invitees: All Members were invited to attend the Accessibility Study and  
Bus Stop Audit Presentation

Officers: Mr. T. Beirne, Mr. P. Street, Mr. J. Godwin (during Minute No's  
16/09 to 20/09), Mrs. S. Sellers and Ms. P. Ross

16/09 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S.R. Colella.

Councillor C. R. Scurrall apologised to the Chairman for not attending or  
submitting his apologies for the meeting of the Scrutiny Board held on 30th  
June 2009 due to some confusion over the membership of the Board.

17/09 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest or whipping arrangements were received.

18/09 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Board held on 30th June 2009  
were submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

19/09 **ACCESSIBILITY STUDY AND BUS STOP AUDIT - PRESENTATION BY  
WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Chairman thanked Members for attending and was pleased to note the  
high number of attendees. He welcomed Martin Rowe, Principal Transport  
Policy and Strategy Officer, and Mark Kelly, Transport Development Officer,  
from Worcestershire County Council to the meeting.

Mr. Rowe highlighted that the information circulated during the meeting on the  
proposed Bromsgrove Town Centre Bus Service showed a hypothetical bus  
route that was tested as part of the Greater Bromsgrove Accessibility Study  
and that the actual routing, bus stops and timings would need to be defined  
through the development of a robust business case which would be used to  
bid to funders to set up the service.

Mr. Kelly confirmed that the improvements to Bromsgrove Town Centre bus station had been a joint project between Bromsgrove District Council, who had funded the improvements in consultation with Worcestershire County Council.

Mr. Kelly responded to a variety of questions from Members and agreed to a request from Councillor S. P. Shannon to provide copies of the presentation slides.

**RESOLVED** that the presentation slides be made available on request from the Committee Services Officer.

20/09

**CRIME AND DISORDER ISSUES IN RELATION TO HOT FOOD TAKEAWAYS - VERBAL UPDATE FROM DEPUTY HEAD OF STREET SCENE AND COMMUNITY**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. John Godwin, Deputy Head of Street Scene and Community. As requested by Members during the meeting of the Scrutiny Board in June 2009, where Members had considered Crime and Disorder issues in relation to hot food takeaways, Mr. Godwin provided Members with a verbal update. He provided Members with figures from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Analyst who had looked at anti-social behaviour incidents attributed to hot food takeaways during July 2008 and July 2009.

Mr. Godwin explained that in response to Members he had tasked the Community Safety Team to investigate links between anti-social behaviour and hot food takeaways. He informed Members that there was no best practice as anti-social behaviour and hot food takeaways had not been researched. Incidents recorded were linked to late night alcohol issues with some hot food takeaways being located relatively near to licensed premises. Whilst there was no evidence to suggest a link or increase in anti-social behaviour and hot food takeaways they could act as an accelerator in the same way as taxi ranks and bus stops, by acting as a meeting point and keeping people contained in a small confined area. Mr. Godwin explained that the Police, if concerned about an establishment, could request a premises licence review through Bromsgrove District Council's, Principal Licensing Officer. The difficulty the Police faced was that of establishing a link between the licensed premises and anti-social behaviour as in most instances such behaviour will take place away from the licensed premises after customers have left.

In his conclusion Mr. Godwin suggested that the issues may be planning issues which could be addressed through supplementary planning guidance with advice from West Mercia Constabulary Crime Risk Manager to address saturation and control any risk factors associated with hot food takeaways by looking at the following criteria:

- Proximity of hot food takeways to licensed premises.
- Location of hot food takeaways to other hot food takeways.

- Closing times of licensed premises and hot food takeaways, do a high number of establishments close at the same time.
- Layout of hot food takeaways, size of establishment, frontage, flow of people, quick turn around of customers or queuing in a confined space.

Members were advised that this was an area that could be explored in more detail with further advice from the Police if at the end of the information gathering exercise the decision was taken to set up a Task Group.

21/09 **LOW EMISSION ZONES AND AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA REPORT**

As requested by Members during the meeting of the Scrutiny Board in April 2009, where Members had considered air quality and emissions, the Executive Director - Partnerships and Projects had compiled a report on Low Emission Zones and Air Quality Management. The report provided further information on Oxford City Councils 'low emissions zones' initiative. Further discussion followed on traffic calming initiatives, brakes and tyres that can also add to air pollution. Councillor Blagg informed Members that he had recently attended a conference in London where the new Transport Secretary Lord Adonis, affirmed his department's commitment to the low carbon vehicle agenda.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

22/09 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Board considered all the items included within its Work Programme. The Senior Solicitor informed Members of the following:

- The fact finding visit to Waltham Forest had been arranged for 11th September 2009.
- Liz Altay, Worcestershire Primary Care Trust had confirmed her attendance for the Scrutiny Board meeting on 29th September 2009 regarding hot food takeaways with the emphasis on childhood obesity.
- The Head of Street Scene and Community had been requested to provide information on Shopmobility with an invite from the Chairman to attend the Scrutiny Board meeting on 29th September 2009 to respond to Members questions.

**RESOLVED** that the Scrutiny Board's Work Programme be noted and updated as necessary.

The meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

Chairman