

Bromsgrove Council Priorities – Council Plan

Currently Bromsgrove District Council has a number of priorities which are underpinned by a set of key milestones. These priorities and milestones are set out in the current Council Plan 2019 – 2023 and in the Council Plan Addendum 2022/23. The Council Plan Addendum was created to provide an intermediary position ahead of a full review of the Council's long term priorities in 2023. The current key priorities for BDC are:

1. Economic Development and Regeneration
2. Housing Growth
3. Work and Financial Independence
4. Improved Health and Wellbeing
5. Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour
6. Green Thread
7. Financial Stability
8. Sustainability
9. High Quality Services

These high level strategic documents, whilst outlining the direction of travel, also recognise that the council cannot deliver all of these priorities on its own. Considerable support and input from partner organisations will be needed if these, and future priorities, are to be successfully achieved. It is for this reason that the council will again need to determine its role in the delivery of its priorities and in the associated projects, to be categorised as either:

- **Lead** – to be the lead organisation in the delivery of the activity/project that delivers the priority.
- **Participate** – to be involved with partner agencies who will be leading the activity/project that delivers the priority.
- **Influence** – to work collaboratively with other partner agencies to persuade them to take a particular course of action/undertake a particular project.

Further highlighting the importance of the council's priorities were the findings from a recent Corporate Peer Challenge which recommended that:

The council needs to review its strategic priorities and realign resources accordingly.

Getting the right priorities in place to maximise emerging opportunities and deal with the challenges will provide the council with the strategic framework for engaging with citizens, collaborating with partners, improving the quality of life for residents, facilitating the transformation of the organisation, and will enable everybody to better understand their place and role in delivering for Bromsgrove.

In order to deliver this recommendation the council will need to review its council plan and priorities during the coming months in order to have a clear direction of travel for the next four year council plan period. The high level timeline below sets out the four stages that will be required in order to have a refreshed council plan by September 2023.

Stage One – Community Panel Engagement

May 2023

Lead Officers – DP, BG, HM, EP

During the recent Corporate Peer Challenge, a number of members of the councils Community Panel volunteered to take part in a discussion with the peers about their opinions of the council.

These sessions were extremely successful and have led to the proposal to ask for Community Panel volunteers to take part in a priorities workshop to better understand what our communities think the council should be paying attention to over the next four years.

No	Task	Date	Lead
1	Establish a set of questions to initiate the discussions	May 2023	DP/HM/BG
2	Engage with the group to ask for volunteers	May 2023	HM/BG/EP
3	Set up meeting arrangements (remote or F2F)	May 2023	HM/BG/EP
4	Deliver the workshop	TBC	HM/BG/EP

Stage Two – Create Feedback Datasets

June 2023

Lead Officers – BG, HM, TB, KJ

After the Community panel workshop there will be a requirement to analyse the feedback and develop datasets for Members to use during a future Cabinet priorities workshop.

This analysis will also need to include Community Survey findings, recent and relevant Census data as well as the feedback from the volunteer community panel members. SMT and CMT will need to consider the areas for discussion ahead of the priorities workshop. A discussion will be scheduled for a CMT meeting at the end of June where the data can be discussed.

No	Task	Date	Lead
5	Collate feedback from panel meeting, include Census and Community Survey data	June 2023	HM/BG/TB
6	Develop user friendly data sets for Member workshops	June 2023	HM/BG/TB
7	Circulate data to SMT/CMT prior to the Member workshop	June 2023	HM/BG

Stage Three – Member/SMT/CMT Priorities Workshop

July 2023

Lead Officers – KD, ?? ??

This workshop will allow the Cabinet along with the senior leadership team to discuss and explore what the priorities for the next four years should be. This will also provide an opportunity to rationalise and focus in on the right priorities. By establishing a clear and concise set of priorities the council will be better able use its resources to deliver the things that matter to our communities.

The datasets and agenda will be circulated closer to the date.

No	Task	Date	Lead
8	Create agenda and establish approach	July 2023	DP/HM/BG/KD
9	Set up workshops meeting arrangements (remote or F2F)	July 2023	HM/BG
10	Capture feedback from the meeting	July 2023	HM/BG/EP

Stage Four – Develop New Council Plan

August/Sept2023

Lead Officers – DP, BG, HM

The new council plan will need to be ready to go forward to members for approval in September 2023. A draft will be required for SMT/CMT in early September for comments and amendments ahead of member approval.

No	Task	Date	Lead
11	Collate feedback from Member workshop	Aug 2023	HM/BG
12	Create first draft Council Plan	Aug 2023	DP/HM/BG
13	Circulate draft to SMT/Leader for feedback	Aug 2023	HM/BG
14	Include final feedback and create final draft	Sept 2023	HM/BG
15	Final draft to Cabinet for approval	Sept 2023	DP/HM/BG

Links to the Medium Term Financial Strategy

The review and update of the Council Plan and priorities will create a clear direction of travel for the next four year council plan period. Internal resources are already allocated to this project for the May to September period and therefore fully budgeted. Any updated set of priorities, once agreed by Council in September, will then become part of the 2024/25 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Process.

Like the 2023/4 MTFP process, the initial Tranche of pressures and savings linked to the new Corporate Plan will be actioned before Christmas. A second tranche will be delivered in February 2024. Where Council Plan priorities affect the 2023/4 year financially, changes to budgets will be actioned and approved through the quarterly financial and performance monitoring reports.