

**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:

<b>Strategic Purposes</b>	<b>Council Priorities</b>
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	<b>Internal priorities</b>
	Financial stability
	High quality services
	Sustainability

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#### **1. Update on Strategic Purposes**

##### **Leisure and Culture Services**

##### **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 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.

##### **Providing a focus for Key activities**

##### **Since the last portfolio holder report the following has been achieved:**

Implementation of aspects of The Leisure and Culture strategy. By way of reminder the 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 February 2024

In terms of the Arts and Culture Strategy, the following has been achieved in terms of Strategy Recommendations 39, 40 and 42:

- 1 Cultural Compact for North East Worcestershire Annual Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Avoncroft Museum with 52 local, regional and national partner organisations represented
- 2 Cultural Compact business, youth and heritage theme group pilot projects delivering:
  - i) Ludic Rooms and HOW College pixel art project bringing to life the Paolozzi Mosaic Masterpieces (over 1000 views of the work in first month),
  - ii) Heritage Trail project with Wythall Transport Museum, Avoncroft Museum and Norton Museum,
  - iii) 700 visitors to the world renowned exhibition “Of All the People of All the World: North East Worcestershire” by Stans Café Theatre at



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Avoncroft Museum in Easter Holidays

- 3 Cultural Compact Heritage Open Days Festival September 2023 with over 27 activities during the 10-day activity in rural and urban locations across the District. Locations and venues taking part across Bromsgrove included Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove Galloper Heritage Community Public Artwork, Bromsgrove Independent Design Centre, Norton Museum, St John's Church, Bromsgrove, St Mark's Church, Finstall and Tardebigge Wharf Guided Local History Walks.
- 4 Just under 1000 people involved in consultation and engagement leading to the launch of the Cultural Compact's first major participation campaign: **ReNEW : Rediscover North East Worcestershire**. Visit the project's holding page for more details and the project's promotional video produced in partnership with residents: [www.rediscovernew.co.uk](http://www.rediscovernew.co.uk)
- 5 ReNEW launch event at HOW College on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 with over 50 in attendance.
- 6 Production of costed activity plans aligned with the ReNEW campaign for submission to Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund close to completion.
- 7 Secured £33,000 from UK Shared Prosperity Fund towards ReNEW grants scheme with a focus on regenerating redundant spaces across the district through the use of creativity. Launch workshop with 30 participant organisations and individuals at Bromsgrove's DrySpy Public House on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

**Built Facility Strategy:**

- 1 Negotiated and secured the first Community Use Agreement with the new owner and operator of the Rylands Leisure Centre. An Advisory Group to monitor community use has been established in line with the agreement with Sport England
- 2 A £5000 UK Shared Prosperity Fund sports grants scheme has been launched in November 2023 to increase community access to sports leisure facilities across the District.

**Playing Pitch Strategy**

- 1 The Playing Pitch Strategy is scheduled to be considered for endorsement by Bromsgrove District Council in February 2024

**Cross Cutting Leisure and Culture Strategy delivery:**

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- 1 Holiday Activities & Food funding is a targeted programme aimed at supporting children and young people during the main school holidays who are entitled to free school meals. This funding has supported holiday activities across Bromsgrove with various different providers to deliver activities with a meal or food packages. This is supported by The Children's and Young Peoples Providers Group in Bromsgrove.

Easter - £15,688.00

Summer - £44,523.00

Winter - £15,210.00

- 2 Four Disability Programmes (sailing, football, life skills and cycling) . Working in partnership with Upton Warren Sailing Club, Aztec Upton Warren, the Mayors Community Weekend, the POD in Charford, Rigby Hall School, Sport England, RYA, National Lottery Community Fund and Midland Mencap

2023 funding awarded - £6,321

- 3 Cross departmental working to support the launch of the new Bromsgrove District Council £50,000 Youth Service funding in Autumn 2023

- 4 In partnership with Public Health and Bromsgrove Sports and Leisure Centre delivery of £18,628 physical activity voucher scheme targeting 200 Bromsgrove residents who are physical inactive and struggle with weight gain.

- 5 Health intervention work

- i) Multiple Sclerosis support,
- ii) Finding Freedom with Fibromyalgia project,
- iii) Support for community exercise classes in Wythall, Sidemoor, St Goswalds, Alvechurch, Hillcrest and Rubery
- iv) 200 participants in health walks scheme in Lickey End, Sanders Park, Blackwell, the Oakalls and Wythall
- v) 1000+ people participating in couch to 5k schemes in Central area, Catshill, Alvechurch vi) Walking Football Versus Arthritis for 50+ people in Hagley

#### In relation to Parks and Events

1. Management plan implementation and a phased approach of delivery from years 2022- 27 for key parks
2. Delivery of Green Fair meeting some objectives of climate change agenda at Sanders Park
3. Improvements to the management of allotments commenced



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4. Funding secured through the UKSPF fund to provide capital projects across parks with management plans.
5. Lawns Tennis Association funding (£12k) to improve the tennis courts facility at Sanders Park with a new access gate and refreshed surfacing.
6. The delivery of the Light trail at Sanders park
7. Improvements to some play areas across Bromsgrove, this included new equipment, surfacing and removal of unsafe equipment. The Play Audit on the Forward Plan will spearhead further improvements.

**Climate Change**

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

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.

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

- Office for low emission vehicles funded electric taxi scheme – estimated Carbon savings of 126 CO<sub>2</sub> tonnes for the wider area, beyond Council operations
- Low carbon heating & Solar PV project at the Artrix Centre - estimated carbon saving of 100 CO<sub>2</sub> tonnes.
- Purchase of 100% green electricity for the Council - estimated carbon saving of 98 CO<sub>2</sub> tonnes.
- First delivery and implementation of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) low carbon fuel for the Council's diesel fleet - estimated carbon saving of 530 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.
- 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 5 future actions are:

- Assess further low carbon fleet fuel options - estimated carbon saving of 349 CO<sub>2</sub> tonnes.
- Seek commercial partners to build out the Bromsgrove District Heat Network - estimated carbon saving of 100 CO<sub>2</sub> tonnes.
- Support Bromsgrove District Housing Trust to apply for funding to improve efficiency of housing stock- estimated carbon saving to the District of 50 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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



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Change Working Party. The Strategy will further provide the focus, steer and priority for the Climate change Panel for the next 3 years.

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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.

#### **Leisure and Culture Services**

##### **Partnership working examples:**

The Cultural Compact organisations who have supported the development of our ReNEW campaign include:

Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire, AIR: artsinredditch (local arts forum), Bromsgrove Arts Alive, Bromsgrove Independent Business Club, Bromsgrove Society, Canals and Rivers Trust, Culture Central, GRIN Creative, Friends of St Johns, Heart of Worcestershire College, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce, Redditch and Bromsgrove Health Collaboratives, Kingfisher Shopping Centre, Ludic Rooms, Motionhouse Dance Theatre, National Trust, Norton Museum, Redditch BID, Reimagine Redditch Consortium (Creative People and Places Project), Royal Enfield (European region), Royal Shakespeare Company, Rubicon Leisure, Severn Arts, Simon McKewen, 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 and Cultural Strategy and inviting members to approve the Playing Pitch Strategy as detailed in the Forward Plan. In addition, the team will be spending any external funding received.*

1. Cultural Compact Annual Conference and Plenary 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at St Johns Church to reflect on progress of ReNEW participation campaign
2. Increasing number of organisations aligning with the ReNEW participation campaign.





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3. Funding applications to be submitted to Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver ReNEW campaign.
4. Roll out of quality standards certification scheme for health intervention projects.
5. Increase of Couch 2 5K schemes with development into Wythall area with alignment with Fun Run in this ward
6. Continued fundraising for various positive activities in communities.
7. Endeavour to increase the number of Community Use Agreements

**Climate Change**

**Partnership working**

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 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

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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.

### **1. News Stories and Awards**

#### **Leisure and Culture Services**

Contributions to delivery of arts and culture strategy

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