

**Governance Systems Task Group – Progress Update**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor C. Hotham, Cabinet Member for Finance and Enabling
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services
Report Author Jess Bayley-Hill	Job Title: Principal Democratic Services Officer Contact email: <a href="mailto:jess.bayley-hill@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">jess.bayley-hill@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a>
Wards Affected	No specific ward relevance
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	An Effective and Sustainable Council
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to RESOLVE that the update in respect of progress with the implementation of actions arising from the Governance Systems Task Group be noted.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 This report provides an update on the work that is currently being undertaken to implement the recommendations arising from the Governance Systems Task Group review that was completed in September 2023.

**3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

3.1 The Governance Systems Task Group completed a review of the Council's governance model in September 2023. The findings detailed in the group's report were subsequently approved at an extraordinary meeting of Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

3.2 Since Council approved the group's recommendations, the Constitution Review Working Group (CRWG) has held a number of meetings to consider progress with the implementation of the actions that were proposed by the Task Group.

3.3 Recommendations have already been made through the Constitution Review Working Group on the following subjects:

- Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) terms of reference.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Cross Party Working.
  - Amendments to the Committee Terms of Reference to require the Chairmen of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Board respectively to be Members from political groups not represented on the Cabinet wherever possible.
  - Amendments to the Council Procedure Rules to require the Chairman of the Council and the Chairmen of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Board to be Members from political groups not represented on the Cabinet wherever possible.
- 3.4 These recommendations have been approved by Members at meetings of Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 respectively.
- 3.5 The next meeting of the Constitution Review Working Group is due to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Any recommendations arising from that meeting which relate to the outcomes of the Governance systems Task Group report will be reported for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 At the Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 Members discussed and agreed the Medium Term Financial Plan Tranche 2 Report 2024/25 to 2026/27. This report contained a budget bid to fund an additional Democratic Services Officer post for Bromsgrove District Council.
- 4.2 Officers are working on the recruitment process for this position and aim to advertise the role shortly.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Review and revision of the Constitution is governed by Article 15 of the Constitution.
- 5.2 Any final decisions taken on the content of the council's constitution need to be made at a meeting of Council.

**6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS**

**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 6.1 The action proposed in this report supports the strategic purpose “an effective and sustainable Council”.

**Climate Change Implications**

- 6.2 There are no specific climate change implications.

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.3 There are no equalities and diversity implications.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 There is a risk that if the Council does not progress in a timely manner with consideration of the changes to the constitution required as a result of the Governance Systems Task Group, these amendments will not be in place in time for the start of the 2024/25 municipal year as intended.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Background Papers**

Governance Systems Task Group’s final report: [Governance Systems Task Group - report](#)

Minutes of the meeting of the extraordinary Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023: [Minutes - Council meeting, 20th September 2023](#)

Governance systems Task Group – Update Report – report to the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023: [Governance Systems Task Group - Update Report - 20th November 2023](#)

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023: [Overview and Scrutiny Board minutes - 20th November 2023](#)

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023: [Cabinet minutes 22nd November 2023](#)

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023: [Council minutes - 6th December 2023](#)

**Overview and Scrutiny Board**

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Governance Systems Task Group Progress Update, considered at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024: [Governance Systems Update Report - 16th January 2024](#)

Governance Systems Task Group Progress Update, considered at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024: [Governance Systems Task Group Update - 12th February 2024](#)  
(Please refer to pages 13 - 49 of the pack)

Governance Systems Task Group Progress Update, considered at a meeting of the Cabinet held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024: [Governance Systems Task Group Update - 14th February 2024](#)

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024: [Cabinet Minutes 14th February 2024](#)

**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Name and Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Portfolio Holder	Councillor C. Hotham, Cabinet Member for Finance and Enabling	01/03/24
Lead Director / Head of Service	Pete Carpenter, Deputy Chief Executive	01/03/24