



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY TOPIC PROPOSAL

This form can be used for either a Task Group or a Short Sharp Review topic proposal.

Completed forms should be returned to scrutiny@bromsgrove.gov.uk – Democratic Services, Bromsgrove District Council.

Name of Proposer: Councillor H. Rone-Clarke	
Tel No:	Email: h.rone-clarke@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Date: 11.07.24	

Title of Proposed Topic (including specific subject areas to be investigate)	Housing Task Group
Background to the Proposal (Including reasons why this topic should be investigated and evidence to support the need for the investigation.)	<p>The potential to review housing was discussed by Members at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 11th July 2024. This subject was suggested as a topic that was possibly suitable for further investigation when Members discussed key lines of enquiry for a scheduled review of a affordable housing, due to be considered at the meeting of the Board scheduled to take place on 23rd July 2024.</p> <p>There are particular areas relating to housing that would be of interest to Members. Some of these subjects may just involve sharing information whilst other aspects may benefit from a more detailed review.</p> <p>For this review, it is suggested that the following should be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Fleeceholding' – in terms of the definitions of fleeceholding and the local context in respect of this national matter.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report in respect of affordable housing due to be considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting on 23rd July 2024 will provide useful background information for Members of a Task Group. • Revisiting the findings of the Fuel Poverty Task Group, for information, to avoid duplicating the work of that earlier investigation. • Infrastructure considerations, in respect of Section 106 agreements. This should not duplicate the work of the Strategic Planning Steering Group and it is noted that Members cannot scrutinise specific planning applications. • The difficulties experienced by residents who are asset rich, , but are struggling financially and the extent to which this is a particular issue in Bromsgrove District.
<p>Links to national, regional and local priorities</p> <p>(including the Council's strategic purposes)</p>	<p>Housing has been agreed as a Council priority in the Council Plan 2024 – 2027.</p>
<p>Possible Key Objectives</p> <p>(these should be SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timely)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Based on background information provided to the group, to identify the extent to which “fleeceholding” is a challenge in Bromsgrove District and whether there are any actions to address or influence this locally. 2. To scrutinise information about the rules with respect to providing Section 106 monies to support infrastructure for housing and communities in the District. 3. To investigate the extent to which there is an issue locally for residents who are considered to be “asset rich” but potentially “revenue poor” and the support available locally to residents in this position. This should involve the group exploring whether there are any gaps in provision that could be addressed by the Council or partner organisations.
<p>Anticipated Timescale for completion of the work.</p>	

Would it be appropriate to hold a Short Sharp Inquiry or a Task Group? (please tick relevant box)	Task Group	X	Short Sharp Inquiry	

OFFICE USE ONLY - TO BE COMPLETED WHEN THE TOPIC PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED

Evidence	
Key documents, data, reports	
Possible Site Visits	
Is a general press release required asking for general comments/suggestions from the public?	
Is a period of public consultation required?	
Witnesses	
Officers	
Councillors (including Portfolio Holder)	
Any External Witnesses	