

# **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Cabinet**

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

## **Q1 Financial Outturn Report 2024/25**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Colella – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Debra Goodall
Report Authors	Head of Finance and Customer Services Debra.Goodall@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Business Improvement Manager H.Mole@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	All
Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- 1) The current Revenue overspend position of £103k and actions the Council are taking to mitigate this position is noted.
- 2) The current Capital spending of £1.92m against a budget of £7.07m is noted.
- 3) That the balance sheet monitoring position is noted, including the Treasury position.
- 4) There is an updated procurements position set out in the appendix, with any new items over £200k to be included on the forward plan.
- 5) The Q1 Performance data for the Period April to June 2024 be noted.
- 6) That the proposed process for the approval of the new “National Forest” bid be noted.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the Council’s draft Revenue and Capital Outturn position for the first quarter of the financial year April 2024 – June 2024 and associated performance data. This report presents:

- The Council’s forecast outturn revenue monitoring position for 2024/25 based on data to the end of Quarter 1.
- The position in respect of balance sheet monitoring as requested by the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee.

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- The updated procurement pipeline of Council projects to be delivered over the next 12 months in order to properly plan for the delivery of these projects.
- The organisations performance against the strategic priorities outlined in the Council Plan Addendum, including operational measures to demonstrate how the council is delivering its services to customers.

### **3. DETAILED PERFORMANCE**

#### **Financial Performance**

- 3.1 As part of the monitoring process a detailed review has been undertaken to ensure that issues are considered, and significant savings and cost pressures are addressed. This report sets out, based on the position at the end of Quarter 1, the projected revenue outturn position for the 2024/25 financial year and explains key variances against budget.
- 3.2 The £12.5m full year revenue budget included in the table below is the budget that was approved by Council in April 2024.

<b>Service Description</b>	<b>2024-25 Approved Budget</b>	<b>2024-25 Approved Q1 Budget</b>	<b>Q1 Adjusted Spend</b>	<b>Q1 Budget Variance</b>	<b>Full Year Forecast</b>	<b>Full Year Budget Variance</b>
Business Transformation and Organisational Development	1,792,618	437,654	343,594	-94,060	1,764,057	-28,562
Community and Housing GF Services	1,159,987	289,997	-362,771	-652,768	984,081	-175,906
Corporate Services	994,465	248,616	288,260	39,643	1,009,778	15,313
Environmental Services	3,798,721	949,680	3,012,375	2,062,695	4,335,978	537,257
Financial and Customer Services	1,441,300	360,325	-1,145,170	-1,505,495	1,840,240	398,941
Legal, Democratic and Property Services	1,563,913	390,978	532,843	141,865	1,501,999	-61,913
Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	1,365,472	341,368	962,131	620,763	1,529,625	164,153
Regulatory Client	397,337	99,334	136,997	37,663	585,527	188,190
Starting Well	0	0	156,618	156,618	20,138	20,138
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12,513,813</b>	<b>3,117,953</b>	<b>3,924,879</b>	<b>806,926</b>	<b>13,571,425</b>	<b>1,057,612</b>
Corporate Financing	-	-	-	-	-	-
	12,513,813	3,117,953	-4,262,479	-1,096,526	13,468,689	-954,876
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12,513,813</b>	<b>3,117,953</b>	<b>-4,262,479</b>	<b>-1,096,526</b>	<b>13,468,689</b>	<b>-954,876</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-337,601</b>	<b>-289,600</b>	<b>102,736</b>	<b>102,736</b>

*Budget Variances*

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- 3.3 The draft position is set out in the above table. As this is expenditure at Q1 it is important to note that, at this stage in the financial year there are a number of instances where annual expenditure or accruals may distort the profiling as reflected in the Q1 actual. The above profiles have assumed support services and grant are adjusted to budgetary levels and accruals are netted out of the figures.
- 3.4 In addition to this, it is also important to note that the Council is yet to close its accounts for the 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years. This could therefore result in adjustments to the actual expenditure/income and forecast outturn positions as reported in the table above. Further updates will be provided to Members throughout the financial year (this work is being led by the Audit Standards and Governance Committee).
- 3.5 Overall, the Council is currently forecasting a full year revenue overspend of £103k at Quarter 1. This is mainly due to the additional fleet costs described below and also the pay award yet to be ratified. This position will continue to be reviewed particularly given the impact of the increasing costs linked to inflation and further updates will be provided to Councillors throughout 2024/25. This includes service projections as follows:

**Business Transformation £29k underspend** – due to vacant posts

**Community and Housing GF Services £178k underspend** – due to vacant posts and increased income.

**Corporate Services £15k overspend** – additional fees and charges income

**Environmental Services £537k overspend** – forecasted additional expenditure on salaries, fuel and vehicle hire The overspend, particularly on vehicle hire, has been mitigated by ordering a number of new vehicles, however the lead times are long.

**Financial and Customer Services £399k overspend** – increased forecast expenditure on agency fees due to vacancies

**Legal, Democratic and Property Services £62k underspend** – increased property rental income with lower maintenance fees

**Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services £164k overspend** – salary savings offset by reduced fees & charges income, professional fees and agency staff

**Regulatory Client £188k overspend** – additional spending due to transfer of Envirocrime and Planning Enforcement from NWEDR

**Starting Well £20k overspend** – additional salaries

- 3.6 The above overspends (£1.058m) are offset by additional income (£955k) in Corporate Financing from additional grant income together with increased investment interest receivable and lower interest payable.

## 3.7 Cash Management

### Borrowing

- As of the 30th June 2024, there was £6.5m short-term borrowings. The Council has no long-term borrowings.

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### Investments

- On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 there were no short-term investments held.

### **Capital Monitoring**

- 3.8 A capital programme of £7.1m was approved in the Budget for 2024/25 in April 2024. This has been fully reviewed as part of the MTFP using actual data as at the end of December 2023. The table below and detail in **Appendix A** set out the Capital Programme schemes that are approved for the MTFP time horizon.
- 3.9 Many of these schemes are already in partial delivery in the 2024/25 financial year. By approving this list, the Council also agreed sums not spent in 2023/24 (and 2022/23 by default if schemes originated earlier than 2023/24 as sums have been carried forward through to the 2023/24 MTFS Report) to be carried forward into 2024/25. The table also splits amounts by funding source, Council or third party.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Programme</b>	<b>Council Funded</b>	<b>Grant Funded</b>
2024/5	<b>7,069,671</b>	4,334,500	2,735,171
2025/6	<b>4,516,377</b>	3,716,377	800,000
2026/7	<b>2,558,000</b>	1,758,000	800,000
2027/8	<b>6,658,000</b>	5,858,000	800,000
2028/9	<b>1,879,000</b>	1,079,000	800,000

- 3.10 Included in this funding the Council also have the following Grant Funded Schemes which are being delivered in 2024/25:
- The two Levelling Up schemes – Old Fire Station and Market which are funded via £14.5m of Government Funding, and the Council is funding £1.6m of works.
    - With Market Hall, the Council are in the process of value engineering the overall costs down in liaison with the approved contractor Kiers. It is expected that a report will also go to Cabinet in September that approves the final budget for the works. In the meantime, as this process is being run archaeological surveys are being undertaken at the site. The Council do have a 6-month extension until the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 to “spend” government funding on this project. After this point it will become the Council’s responsibility for the payment.
    - The Windsor Street demolition tender has been awarded to City Demolition and they are now on site starting the demolition process.

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- O Public Realm work is under way and expected to be completed before the end of the calendar year.

It is expected when we have the final report, that there will be an overspend position on the overall projects of circa £1m. To mitigate this position the Council are in liaison with the former GBSLEP. The Council can claim up to £2.45m although this will require the final costs as a complete application process needs to be followed.

- UK Shared Prosperity Schemes totalling £2.8m (although it should be noted that these grants funded schemes are a mix of capital and revenue) need to be completely spend by the end of the 2024/5 financial year.

- 3.11 The outturn spend is £1.915m against a capital budget totalling £7.069m and is detailed in Appendix A. It should be noted that as per the budget decision carry forwards of £7.166m will be rolled forward from 2023/24 into 2024/25 to take account of slippage from 2023/24.

### **Earmarked Reserves**

- 3.12 The position as reported to Council in April 2024 as per the 2024/25 – 2026/27 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is shown in **Appendix B**. This has been adjusted for the actual 2023/24 Outturn position, which was only estimated based on Q3 monitoring information at the time of the MTFP. As part of the MTFP all reserves were thoroughly reviewed for their requirement and additional reserves set up for inflationary pressures such as utility increases. At the 30th June 2024 the Council holds £6.379m of Earmarked Reserves.

### **Additional Requirements**

- 3.13 A report was due to come to Cabinet this month to ask for approval for the Council to be the Lead Authority on an application, in liaison with the National Trust, to be awarded a new National Forest. This was originally centred on the “8 Hills” region to the North of the Borough but now is wider including wider parts of the district, parts of South Birmingham and Sandwell. If successful, the winning bid will be awarded £9m to undertake this process. The deadline for applications, of which there are 4 nationally, was the 15<sup>th</sup> September but this has now moved to the 27<sup>th</sup> October. Given updated Governance requirements will not be available to bidders until early September, and the fact the next Cabinet Meeting is not until November there is the likelihood that this decision will need to be undertaken by the Emergency Decision process in mid-October.

### **Balance Sheet Monitoring Position**

- 3.14 There has been the request from Audit Committee that the Council include Balance Sheet Monitoring as part of this report.

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Part of this balance sheet reporting is the Q1 Treasury Report which is attached as **Appendix C**. This report sets out the Council's debt and borrowing position for Q1 2024/5. Included in this is how the Council is using its working capital as well as measurement of the Council's Prudential Indicators. It should be noted that one indicator is not compliant. This was a short-term loan between Redditch and Bromsgrove undertaken at year end which was repaid at the start of quarter 2 2024/5

Future reports will look to include further information on aged debt, outstanding creditors and cashflow.

## **Procurement Pipeline**

- 3.14 The Procurement pipeline is shown in **Appendix D**. The Council's Procurement Pipeline includes details of contracts expected to be reprocured and new procurement projects expected to be undertaken in the future. Those happening in the next 12 months will need to be within the next 12 Months and over £200k will need to be put on the forward Plan. The pipeline will be refreshed quarterly.
- There are 14 contracts between the old threshold of £50k and the new threshold of £200k.
  - There are 9 contracts that are over the key decision threshold of £200k
  - There are 9 contracts procured by Bromsgrove on behalf of Redditch.

## Performance

- 3.15 The first section of this report shows the organisations performance against the strategic priorities outlined in the Council Plan Addendum. Additional comments and updates have been provided for the success measures to explain progress/activity. The final section of the report includes some operational measures to demonstrate how the council is delivering its services to customers. This is Quarter 1 of a new financial year, and as this year moves forward these indicators will link to business plans and the requirements of the new Council Plan which was approved at Cabinet and Council in July.
- 3.16 The process of performance reporting will develop iteratively; however, this document is a snapshot in time and very much a temperature check of the organisation, the layout comprises:
- Strategic Priorities – success measures
  - Operational Measures – by service area
  - Financial Data (separate report on this occasion)
  - Corporate Projects (by exception)
- These measures are the same as what was reported in the 2023/4 financial year and are shown in **Appendix E**.
- 3.17 New performance indicators required by the Council Plan approved in July are set out in **Appendix F**. These will be incorporated into the next Performance Report.

## **4. Legal Implications**

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4.1 No Legal implications have been identified.

## **5. Strategic Purpose Implications**

### **Relevant Strategic Purpose**

5.1 The Strategic purposes are included in the Council's corporate plan and guides the Council's approach to budget making ensuring we focus on the issues and what are most important for the borough and our communities. Our Financial monitoring and strategies are integrated within all of our Strategic Purposes.

### **Climate Change Implications**

5.2 The green thread runs through the Council plan. The Financial monitoring report has implications on climate change, and these will be addressed and reviewed when relevant by climate change officers to ensure the correct procedures have been followed to ensure any impacts on climate change are fully understood.

## **6. Other Implications**

### **Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

6.1 None as a direct result of this report.

### **Operational Implications**

6.2 Managers meet with finance officers to consider the current financial position and to ensure actions are in place to mitigate any overspends.

## **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 The financial monitoring is included in the corporate risk register for the authority.

## **8. APPENDENCES**

Appendix A – Capital Outturn

Appendix B – Reserves Position

Appendix C – Treasury Management Position

Appendix D – Procurement Pipeline

Appendix E – Performance Indicators

Appendix F – Performance Indicators linked to the New Corporate Plan.

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**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

Name: Debra Goodall – Head of Finance and Customer Services (Deputy S151)  
E Mail: [Debra.Goodall@bromsgroveandredditchbc.gov.uk](mailto:Debra.Goodall@bromsgroveandredditchbc.gov.uk)

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## Appendix A - Capital Outturn

Description	Approved budget date	Original approved Budget £	duration (years)	Department	23/24 Spend £	c/f	2024/25 Total £	24/25 Spend £
<b>Large Schemes</b>								
<b>Levelling Up Fund Fund</b>								
- Government Funded		14,492,401		Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services	428,395	7,134,965		
Market Hall (LUF)	22/23			Planning, Regeneration & Leisure				1,289,751
Ef - Fire Station	22/23			Planning, Regeneration & Leisure				
- Council Funded		1,610,266			15,592	789,541		
UK Shared Prosperity Fund		2,825,702						
- Remainder (to be allocated)				Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services	73,987	607,001	1,784,215	104,741
<b>Schemes Agreed to Continue</b>								
Burcot Lane	2019/20	10,275,000		Financial & Customer Services	927,642	-927,642	0	42,255
Funding for DFGs	2020/21	750,000		Community & Housing GF Services	842,776	70,224	913,000	185,332
Home Repairs Assistance	2018/19	50,000		Community & Housing GF Services	-19,690	69,690	50,000	
Energy Efficiency Installation	2018/19	110,000	2	Community & Housing GF Services	0	0	110,000	
New Finance Enterprise system	2019/20	455,000		Financial & Customer Services	0	0	20,000	
Fleet Replacemnet new line	New				865,561	-424,561		22,707
							3,090,000	
Replacement Parking machines and Upkeep of Sites	2020/21	120,000		Environmental Services	212,270	-116,270	125,000	10,348
Wheelee Bin Purchase	2018/19	ongoing		Environmental Services	188,195	-133,195	60,000	61,190

Description	Approved budget date	Original approved Budget £	duration (years)	Department	23/24 Spend £	c/f	2024/25 Total £	24/25 Spend £
Footpaths		ongoing		Environmental Services	75,408	-408	75,000	75,482
Buildings		ongoing		Legal and Property		100,000	100,000	21,860
Greener Homes	2020/21	180,000	1	Community & Housing GF Services	197,505	-197,505	0	6,125
New Digital Service	2020/21	57,400	1	Community & Housing GF Services	0	33,668	0	19,053
Bus Shelters	2020/21	18,000		Environmental Services	0	0	18,000	19,180
Cisco Network Update	22/23		3	Business transformation & Organisational Development	0	11,574	0	
Server Replacement Est(Exact known Q2 2022)	22/23		4	Business transformation & Organisational Development	93,201	-91,201	177,500	
Laptop Refresh	22/23		4	Business transformation & Organisational Development	11,542	13,458	150,000	18,352
Install Solar panel and Upgrade lighting	22/23	150,000	1	Legal, Democratic and property services	24,707	-24,707	0	
Sanders Park	22/23			Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services	33,027	-33,027	0	8,550
Fleet Replacement Costs					0	9,400	0	
Wheely Bin Increases					0	85,000	0	
Wild Flower Machinery					0	62,000	0	
Initial Play Audit Requirements					0	87,000	364,000	
Movement of ICT Cyber Capital Works Forward					0	50,000	-50,000	
New ongoing Cyber security budget						0	25,000	

Description	Approved budget date	Original approved Budget £	duration (years)	Department	23/24 Spend £	c/f	2024/25 Total £	24/25 Spend £
Play Area, POS and Sport improvements at Lickey End Recreation Ground in accordance with the S106 Agreement	22/23	37,956	1	Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services	8,842	-8,842	37,956	30,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>32,730,005</b>			<b>3,978,960</b>	<b>7,166,163</b>	<b>7,069,671</b>	<b>1,914,925</b>

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## Appendix B - Earmarked Reserves

	Balance at 31/3/23	Transfers in 2023/24	Transfers out 2023/24	Balance at 31/3/24	Transfers in 2024/25	Transfers out 2024/25	Balance at 31/3/25	Transfers in 2025/26	Transfers out 2025/26	Balance at 31/3/26	Transfers in 2026/27	Transfers out 2026/27	Balance at 31/3/27
<b>General Fund Reserve</b>	5,800	100	(917)	4,983	744	(234)	5,493		(8)	5,485		(7)	5,478
<b>General Fund Earmarked Reserves:</b>													
Building Control Partnerships	82			82			82			82			82
Community Services	271		(125)	146		(125)	21			21			21
Economic Regeneration	398	50		448			448			448			448
Election Services	51			51			51			51			51
Environmental Services	49			49			49			49			49
Financial Services	3,195	638		3,833			3,833			3,833			3,833
Housing Schemes	346			346			346			346			346
ICT Systems	197			197			197			197			197
Leisure/Community Safety	330			330			330			330			330
Local Neighbourhood Partnerships	16			16			16			16			16
Other	0			0			0			0			0
Planning & Regeneration	133			133			133			133			133
Regulatory Services (Partner Share)	46			46			46			46			46
Utilities Reserve	1,053		(351)	702		(702)	0			0			0
Regeneration Reserve					150		150			150			150
Ward Budget Initiative						156	156		(78)	78		(78)	0
Covid-19 (Collection Fund)	1,547		(1,547)	0			0			0			0
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>7,714</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>(2,023)</b>	<b>6,379</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>(671)</b>	<b>5,858</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(78)</b>	<b>5,780</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(78)</b>	<b>5,702</b>

**Appendix C - Treasury Management Position**

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to set out a quarterly update on the Council's Capital and Treasury Management Strategies, including all prudential indicators.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Cabinet are asked to:**

- **Note the Council's Treasury performance for Q1 of the financial year 24/25.**
- **Note the position in relation to the Council's Prudential indicators.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

**Introduction**

- 3.1 The Authority has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve, as a minimum, treasury management semi-annual and annual outturn reports.
- 3.2 This quarterly report provides an additional update and includes the requirement in the 2021 Code of quarterly reporting of the treasury management prudential indicators. The non-treasury prudential indicators are incorporated in the Authority's normal quarterly revenue report.

**External Context**

- 3.3 **Economic background:** UK headline consumer price inflation (CPI) continued to decline over the quarter, falling from an annual rate of 3.2% in March to 2.0% in May, in line with the Bank of England's target. The core measure of inflation, however, only declined from 4.2% to 3.5% over the same period, which, together with stubbornly services price inflation at 5.7% in May, helped contribute to the BoE maintaining Bank Rate at 5.25% during the period, a level unchanged since August 2023.
- 3.4 Data released during the period showed that showed the UK economy had emerged from the technical recession at the end of 2023 to expand by 0.7% (upwardly revised from the initial estimate of 0.6%) in the first quarter of the calendar year. Monthly GDP data showed zero growth in April following an expansion of 0.4% in the previous month.

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- 3.5 Labour market data continued to provide mixed messages for policymakers, exacerbated by issues the Office for National Statistics is having compiling the labour force survey. In the three months between February and April 2024, unemployment was up, employment fell, while the decline in vacancies slowed and wage growth remained elevated. Unemployment rose to 4.4% (3mth/year) while average regular earnings (excluding bonuses) was 6.0% and total earnings (including bonuses) was 5.9%. Adjusting for inflation, real regular pay rose by 2.3% and total pay by 2.2%. Given how keenly the 'second-round' impact of inflation on wages is watched by the BoE, policymakers will likely want to see more downward movement before cutting interest rates.
- 3.6 Having started the financial year at 5.25%, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained Bank Rate at this level throughout the quarter. In line with expectations, at its June meeting, the Committee voted by a majority of 7-2 in favour of maintaining the status quo. The two dissenters preferred an immediate 0.25% reduction in Bank Rate to 5.0%. This continued dovish tilt by the Committee increased financial market expectations that the first cut in Bank Rate will likely be in August.
- 3.7 Earlier in May, in addition to an identical MPC rate decision and voting pattern, the Bank published the latest version of its Monetary Policy Report (MPR). Within the Report, the Committee noted that it expected four-quarter GDP growth to increase over the forecast period, reflecting the declining negative effects of past Bank Rate increases and the predicted downward path of interest rates which should provide support to economic activity. The trajectory of inflation was broadly similar to that in the previous MPR, albeit slightly lower towards the end of the forecast horizon due to the Committee's revised assessment of falling external inflationary pressures from past import price increases. This meant the Committee expected headline inflation to hit the 2% target two quarters sooner than in the February MPR. As was highlighted earlier, inflation data published in June showed that CPI inflation fell to the 2% target in May.
- 3.8 Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that 5.25% is the peak in Bank Rate and that interest rates will most likely be cut later in Q2 2024. The risks over the medium term are deemed to be to the upside as while inflation has fallen to target, it is expected to pick up again later in the year and as services price inflation and wage growth are still on the firmer side, the MPC could well delay before delivering the first rate cut.
- 3.9 The US Federal Reserve also maintained interest rates over the period, holding the Fed Funds Rate at 5.25%-5.50% for the seventh consecutive month in June, as was expected. US policymakers have maintained a relatively dovish stance throughout the period but have steadily reduced their predictions around the pace and timing of rate cuts in the face of higher inflation and firmer economic growth. At the meeting, economic projections pointed to one rate cut in calendar 2024 and four in 2025.

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- 3.10 The European Central Bank cut rates in June, reducing its main refinancing rate from 4.50% to 4.25%. Inflation in the region fell to 2.5% in May, having increased in the previous month, but since February has been fairly sticky at between 2.4% and 2.6%. Economic growth in the region has picked up but remains weak, and with inflation above the ECB's target this continues put pressure on policymakers on how to balance these factors when setting monetary policy.
- 3.11 **Financial markets:** Sentiment in financial markets showed signs of improvement over the quarter, but bond yields remained volatile. Early in the period yields climbed steadily, but mixed signals from economic data and investors' constant reassessment of when rate cuts might come caused a couple of fairly pronounced but short-lived dips in yields. Towards the end of the quarter yields rose once again and were generally higher than at the start of the period.
- 3.12 Over the quarter, the 10-year UK benchmark gilt yield started at 3.94% and ended at 4.18% having reached 4.41% in May. While the 20-year gilt started at 4.40%, hit 4.82% in May, before ending the period at 4.61%. The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 5.20% over the quarter to 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- 3.13 **Credit review:** Arlingclose maintained its advised recommended maximum unsecured duration limit on all banks on its counterparty list at 100 days.
- 3.14 During the quarter, Fitch revised its outlook on Transport for London (TfL) to stable from negative while S&P upgraded its long-term rating for TfL to AA- from A+, in line with its rating of the UK sovereign.
- 3.15 Fitch also upgraded the long-term ratings for the main four Australian banks – Australia & New Zealand Banking Group, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, National Australia Bank and Westpac.
- 3.16 Having placed Warrington Borough Council on review for a downgrade in March, Moody's subsequently withdrew its ratings for the council in June.
- 3.17 Credit default swap prices started and ended the quarter at broadly similar levels in the UK as they did for the European, Singaporean and Australian lenders on Arlingclose's counterparty list, while Canadian banks generally trended modestly downwards.
- 3.18 Financial market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and, credit default swap levels will be monitored for signs of ongoing credit stress. As ever, the institutions and durations on the Authority's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remain under constant review.

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## Local Context

- 3.19 On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the Authority had net borrowing of £6.5m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while balance sheet resources are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary

	31.3.24 Actual £m	31.3.25 Forecast £m
General Fund CFR	32.65	33.77
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>32.65</b>	<b>33.77</b>
Less: *Other debt liabilities <i>(if any)</i>	0	0
<b>Borrowing CFR</b>	<b>32.65</b>	<b>33.77</b>
Less: External borrowing**	-7.5	-10.20
<b>Internal borrowing</b>	<b>25.15</b>	<b>23.57</b>
Less: Usable reserves	-11.96	-11.72
Less: Working capital	-3.1	-3.1
<b>Net borrowing</b>	<b>10.09</b>	<b>8.75</b>

\* finance leases, PFI liabilities and transferred debt that form part of the Authority's total debt

\*\* shows only loans to which the Authority is committed and excludes optional refinancing

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- 3.20 The treasury management position at 30<sup>th</sup> June and the change over the quarter is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

	<b>31.3.24</b> <b>Balance</b> <b>£m</b>	<b>Movement</b> <b>£m</b>	<b>30.6.24</b> <b>Balance</b> <b>£m</b>	<b>30.6.24</b> <b>Rate</b> <b>%</b>
Long-term borrowing				
Short-term borrowing	7.5	-1.0	6.5	5.19
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>6.5</b>	
Short-term investments				
Cash and cash equivalents	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	
<b>Net borrowing</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	

### **Borrowing Strategy and Activity**

- 3.21 As outlined in the treasury strategy, the Authority's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately risk balance between securing lower interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change being a secondary objective. The Authority's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. At the present time short term interest rates are higher than long term interest rates.
- 3.22 Policy interest rates have risen substantially since 2021 although they have largely plateaued over the last year. Over the last quarter gilt yields have risen slightly overall, having had a number of peaks and troughs. There has been downward pressure from lower inflation figures, but also upward pressure from unexpectantly positive economic data. Data from the US continues to impact global markets including UK gilt yields.
- 3.23 The PWLB certainty rate for 10-year maturity loans was 4.80% at the beginning of the quarter and 4.96% percent at the end. The lowest available 10-year maturity rate during the quarter was 4.80% and the highest was 5.18%. Rates for 20-year maturity loans ranged from 5.24% to 5.57% during the quarter, and 50-year maturity loans from 5.06% to 5.40%.

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- 3.24 Whilst the cost of short-term borrowing from other local authorities spiked to around 7% in late March 2024, primarily due a dearth of LA-LA lending/borrowing activity during the month, as expected shorter-term rates reverted to a more normal range and were generally around 5.25% through the quarter.
- 3.25 CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code is clear that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the capital financing requirement and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Authority. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield unless these loans are for refinancing purposes. The Authority has no new plans to borrow to invest primarily for financial return.
- 3.26 **Loans Portfolio:** At 30<sup>th</sup> June the Authority held £6.5m of loans, a decrease of £1m to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, as part of its strategy for funding previous and current years' capital programmes. Outstanding loans on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 are summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Borrowing Position

	31.3.24 Balance £m	Net Movement £m	30.6.24 Balance £m
Public Works Loan Board			
Banks (LOBO)			
Banks (fixed term)			
Local authorities (long-term)			
Local authorities (short-term)	7.5	1.0	6.5
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>6.5</b>

### Treasury Investment Activity

- 3.27 The CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes (revised in 2021) defines treasury management investments as investments that arise from the organisation's cash flows or treasury risk management activity that ultimately represents balances that need to be invested until the cash is required for use in the course of business.

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3.28 The Authority does not hold any invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During the period, the Authority's investment balances ranged between £1.0 and £4.5 million due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The investment position is shown in table 4 below.

Table 4: Treasury Investment Position

	31.3.24 Balance £m	Net Movement £m	31.6.24 Balance £m	31.6.24 Income Return %	31.6.24 Weighted Average Maturity days
Banks & building societies (unsecured)					
Banks & building societies (secured deposits)					
Covered bonds (secured)					
Government	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Local authorities and other govt entities					
Corporate bonds and loans					
Money Market Funds					
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

3.29 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

3.30 As demonstrated by the liability benchmark in this report, the Authority expects to be a long-term investor and treasury investments therefore include both short-term low risk instruments to manage day-to-day cash flows and longer-term instruments where limited additional risk is accepted in return for higher investment income to support local public

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services.

- 3.31 Bank Rate remained at 5.25% through the quarter with short term interest rates largely being around this level. The rates on DMADF deposits have been constant at 5.19%.

## Non-Treasury Investments

- 3.32 The definition of investments in the Treasury Management Code now covers all the financial assets of the Authority as well as other non-financial assets which the Authority holds primarily for financial return. Investments that do not meet the definition of treasury management investments (i.e. management of surplus cash) are categorised as either for service purposes (made explicitly to further service objectives) and or for commercial purposes (made primarily for financial return).
- 3.33 Investment Guidance issued by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and Welsh Government also includes within the definition of investments all such assets held partially or wholly for financial return.

## Treasury Performance

- 3.34 The Authority measures the financial performance of its treasury management activities both in terms of its impact on the revenue budget and its relationship to benchmark interest rates, as shown in table 5 below.

Table 5: Performance

	Actual £m	Budget £m	Over/ under	Actual %	Benchmark %	Over/ under
<b>Total borrowing</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6.5</b>			
PFI and Finance leases	0.0	0.0	0.0			
<b>Total debt</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6.5</b>			
<b>Total treasury investments</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>			
				n/a	n/a	n/a

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## MRP Regulations

- 3.35 On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 amended legislation and revised statutory guidance were published on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The majority of the changes take effect from the 2025/26 financial year, although there is a requirement that for capital loans given on or after 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 sufficient MRP must be charged so that the outstanding Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) in respect of the loan is no higher than the principal outstanding less the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) charge for that loan.
- 3.36 The regulations also require that local authorities cannot exclude any amount of their CFR from their MRP calculation unless by an exception set out in law. Capital receipts cannot be used to directly replace, in whole or part, the prudent charge to revenue for MRP (there are specific exceptions for capital loans and leased assets).

## Compliance

- 3.37 The Director of Resources and Section 151 officer reports that all treasury management activities undertaken during the quarter complied fully with the principles in the Treasury Management Code and the Authority's approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in table 6 below.

Table 6: Investment Limits

	<b>2024/25 Maximum</b>	<b>30.6.24 Actual</b>	<b>2024/25 Limit</b>	<b>Complied? Yes/No</b>
Any single organisation, except the UK Government	£4m each	£6.5m	£4m	No
UK Central Government	Unlimited	£6.0m	<b>Unlimited</b>	Yes
Unsecured investments with banks and building societies	<b>£2.5m in total</b>			
Loans to unrated corporates	<b>£1m in total</b>			
Money Market Funds	<b>£20m in total</b>			
Foreign countries	<b>£5m per country</b>			
Real Estate Investment Trusts	<b>£2.5m in total</b>			

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- 3.38 Compliance with the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt is demonstrated in table 7 below.

Table 7: Debt and the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary

	Q1 2024/25 Maximum	30.6.24 Actual	2024/25 Operational Boundary	2024/25 Authorised Limit	Complied? Yes/No
Borrowing	6.5m	6.5m	55,000	60,000	Yes
PFI and Finance Leases	Nil	Nil	1,000	1,000	Yes
<b>Total debt</b>	<b>6.5m</b>	<b>6.5m</b>	<b>56,000</b>	<b>61,000</b>	

- 3.39 Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the operational boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure

### **Treasury Management Prudential Indicators**

- 3.40 As required by the 2021 CIPFA Treasury Management Code, the Authority monitors and measures the following treasury management prudential indicators.

#### Liability Benchmark

- 3.41 This indicator compares the Authority's actual existing borrowing against a liability benchmark that has been calculated to show the lowest risk level of borrowing. The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. It represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level of £2m required to manage day-to-day cash flow

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	31.3.24	31.3.25	31.3.26	31.3.27
	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Loans CFR	32.645	33.772	34.543	35.401
Less: Balance sheet resources	-15.55	-14.823	-14.241	-14.16
<b>Net loans requirement</b>	<b>17.59</b>	<b>18.949</b>	<b>20.302</b>	<b>21.241</b>
Plus: Liquidity allowance	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Liability benchmark</b>	<b>17.79</b>	<b>19.149</b>	<b>20.502</b>	<b>21.441</b>
<b>Existing borrowing</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>10.20</b>	<b>12.54</b>	<b>14.84</b>

3.42 Following on from the medium-term forecast above, the long-term liability benchmark assumes capital expenditure funded by borrowing of £14.8m, minimum revenue provision on new capital expenditure based on a 40-year asset life and income, expenditure and reserves all increasing by inflation of 2.0% p.a. This is shown in the chart below together with the maturity profile of the Authority's existing borrowing. Presently borrowing has been delivered through the use of internal resources and the Council has no long-term borrowing.

## Maturity Structure of Borrowing

3.43 This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of all borrowing were:

	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	30.6.24 Actual	Complied?
Under 12 months	50%	0%	0%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	50%	0%	0%	Yes
24 months and within 5 years	50%	0%	0%	Yes
5 years and within 10 years	50%	0%	0%	Yes
10 years and above	100%	0%	0%	Yes

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- 3.44 Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

### Long-term Treasury Management Investments

- 3.45 The purpose of this indicator is to control the Authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The prudential limits on the long-term treasury management limits are:

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	No fixed date
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£0.5m	£0.5m	£0.5m	£0.5m
Actual principal invested beyond year end	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Complied?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

- 3.46 Long-term investments with no fixed maturity date include strategic pooled funds, real estate investment trusts and directly held equity but exclude money market funds and bank accounts with no fixed maturity date as these are considered short-term.

### Additional indicators

#### Security:

- 3.47 The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

	2024/25 Target	30.6.24 Actual	Complied?
Portfolio average credit rating	A	UK Govt	Yes

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### Liquidity:

- 3.48 The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three-month period, without additional borrowing.

	30.6.24 Actual	2024/25 Target	Complied?
Total cash available within 3 months	Nil	Nil	Yes
Total sum borrowed in past 3 months without prior notice	Nil	Nil	Yes

### Interest Rate Exposures:

- 3.49 This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to interest rate risk.

Interest rate risk indicator	2024/25 Target	30.6.24 Actual	Complied?
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	500,000	0	Yes
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	500,000	0	Yes

- 3.50 For context, the changes in interest rates during the quarter were:

	<u>01/04/24</u>	<u>30/06/24</u>
Bank Rate	5.25%	5.25%
1-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	5.39%	5.37%
5-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.72%	4.89%
10-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.80%	4.96%
20-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	5.24%	5.37%
50-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	5.07%	5.18%

- 3.51 The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investment will be replaced at new market rates.

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## **4. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Legal Implications**

- 4.1 A number of statutes governing the provision of services covered by this report contain express powers or duties to charge for services. Where an express power to charge does not exist, the Council has the power under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 to charge where the activity is incidental or conducive to or calculated to facilitate the Councils statutory function.

### **Service / Operational Implications**

- 4.2 Monitoring is undertaken to ensure that income targets are achieved, with Treasury Management activities taking place on a daily basis.

### **Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 4.3 The only impact of treasury transactions is in respect of ethical investment linked to the Councils investment counterparties. Presently the Council has a limited counterparty list based on financial risk to the Authority.

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 There is always significant risk in relation to treasury transactions, this is why Councils appoint Treasury advisors, which in the case of Bromsgrove is Arlingclose. In addition, there is the requirement in this area to provide an Annual Strategy report containing indicators/limits that must be met, a quarterly update and closure report all of which must be reported to full Council.

## **6. APPENDICES**

None

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

MTFP 2024/25 – February 2024 which contains this year's Capital Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and MRP Policy.

## **AUTHOR OF REPORT**

Name: Debra Goodall – Head of Finance and Customer Services (Deputy S151)

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## Appendix D - Procurement Pipeline

### Between £50k and £200k

Council	Contract Title	Contract Description	Department	Contract Commencement Date
<b>£50,000 to £200,000</b>				
Bromsgrove	Cloud Storage	Acronis Cloud Storage via HTE Framework	ICT	06/06/2025
Bromsgrove	VMware License & Support	Virtual Server VMware License & Support	ICT	14/01/2025
Bromsgrove	Street Naming and Numbering	Street Naming and Numbering system VIA CCS RM1557 (StatMap)	ICT	31/05/2025
Bromsgrove	IDOX Software	BDC-Call-off contract to support and maintenance for Idox Uniform and DMS solution	WRS	01.03.2029
Bromsgrove	GIS System	Corporate GIS System	ICT	01/12/2024
Bromsgrove	Web Filter	Cisco Web Security XaaS Subscription via CCS	ICT	06/06/2026
Bromsgrove	Web security subscription (Ironport)	Cloud-based web security service subscription	ICT	06/07/2026
Bromsgrove	Telephone Maintenance	Maintenance and Support of Mitel Phone system	ICT	15/09/2024
Bromsgrove	Automation/Robotics	UiPath Licenses via HTE ComIT 2 (Complete IT Solutions) Framework	ICT	26/08/2025
Bromsgrove	out of hours dog warden services	framework agreement to provide out of hours dog warden services for Worcestershire Regulatory	WRS	01.01.2025
Bromsgrove	Laptop Refresh	Replacement of Laptops to Support latest security patches and Windows 11	ICT	01/08/2024
Bromsgrove	Server Replacement	Replacement of Key Infrastructure devices to ensure Security and Support	ICT	01/09/2024
Bromsgrove	Idox Support & Maintenance	Support and Maintenance of the Idox Uniform Application	ICT	20/09/2027
Bromsgrove	Public Health Funerals	The provision of a service for burials at public	WRS	Sep-24

### Over £200k

Council	Contract Title	Contract Description	Department	Contract Commencement Date
<b>Over £200,000</b>				
Bromsgrove	Data Access Services	Data Access Services WAN supply	ICT	01/09/2026
Bromsgrove	Air Quality Analysers	Provision of Air Quality Analysers and data	WRS	asap
Bromsgrove	Pest Control	Framework Agreement for provision of pest control services	WRS	24/10/2024
Bromsgrove	Management and maintenance of data centre infrastructure	Management and maintenance of data centre infrastructure	ICT	TBC
Bromsgrove	Planning/GIS/Gazetteer	Supply of Idox Uniform via CCS RM3821 Lot 2b	ICT	19/09/2027
Bromsgrove	Microsoft Licenses	Licenses to use Microsoft Office	ICT	01/07/2025
Bromsgrove	PROVIDE Kennelling of Dogs	FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE Kenneling of Dogs FOR WORCESTERSHIRE REGULATORY SERVICES.	WRS	30.04.2025
Bromsgrove	Community Transport	Provdion of community transport in the Bromsgrove	Community Services	01/05/2025
Bromsgrove	Fleet Replacement	Fleet Replacement	Environmental Services	

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## Redditch Relating to Bromsgrove

Council	Contract Title	Contract Description	Department	Contract Commencement Date
<b>£50,000 to £200,000</b>				
Joint	Energy Advice	Provision of Energy Advice and Energy Efficiency Schemes in Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough	Housing Strategy	TBC
Redditch	New Cemetary	Design & Planning Fees	Environmental Services	
Redditch	Vehicle Hire	Vehicle Hire and Car Share RBC Via CCS RM6013	Environmental - Fleet	TBC
Redditch	Payment Processing	Online payment processing solutions	Finance	TBC
Redditch	Fire Compartmentation Corporate Buildings	Survey and retification of fire compartmentation	Property Services	24-Aug
Redditch	Server Replacement	Replacement of Key Infrastructure devices to ensure Security and Support	ICT	01-Sep
Council	Contract Title	Contract Description	Department	Contract Commencement Date
<b>Over £200,000</b>				
Joint	Corporate Building Electrical contract	Reactive , EICR and Project Electrical installation	Property Services	01/03/2025
Redditch	Fleet Replacement	Fleet Replacement	Environmental Services	
Redditch	Plumbing Supplies	Plumbing & Heating Supplies for RBC via PFH Lot 1a	Environmental - Stores	TBC

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## **Appendix E BROMSGROVE Strategic & Operational Performance Measures**

**Quarter 1, 2024/25**

### **1. Introduction**

We are committed to reviewing performance reporting and key measures; as this is part of continuous improvement to ensure accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in delivering services to the community.

By assessing performance and utilising benchmarking where appropriate, we can identify areas of improvement, make informed decisions, allocate resources efficiently, and ultimately enhance service delivery to meet the evolving needs of our constituents, therefore how we measure performance is essential.

The Council Plan 2024-27 has been adopted, which identifies priorities and key projects, and contains a suite of measures to assess delivery of against these, which be the foundation for performance reporting going forward. These measures and the associated data collection requirements are currently under development will be included in the Q2 2024/25 report where possible.

### **2. Strategic Priorities and Performance Measures**

The performance measures shown in the next section are structured around the previous priorities; the report will be restructured around the newly adopted Council Plan for the Q2 report.

#### **2.1. Economic Development and Regeneration**

##### **2.1.1 Supporting Businesses to Start and Grow**

###### **Performance measure:**

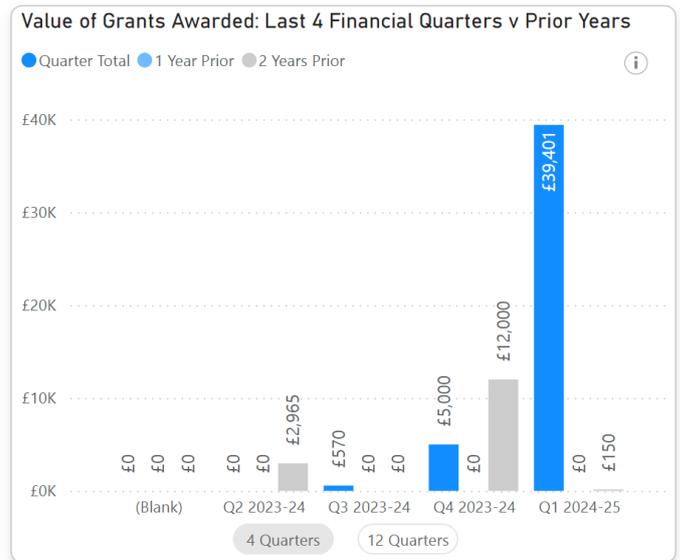
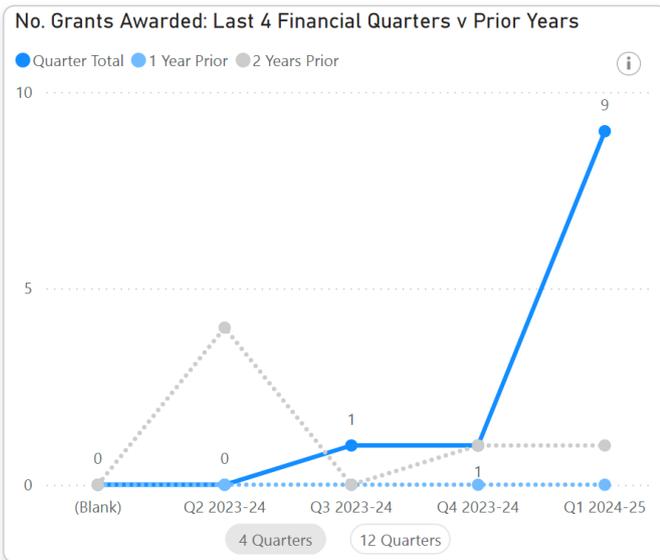
- Take-up of start-up business grants and creativity grants programme (up to 1 period lag)

###### **Start-up Grants**

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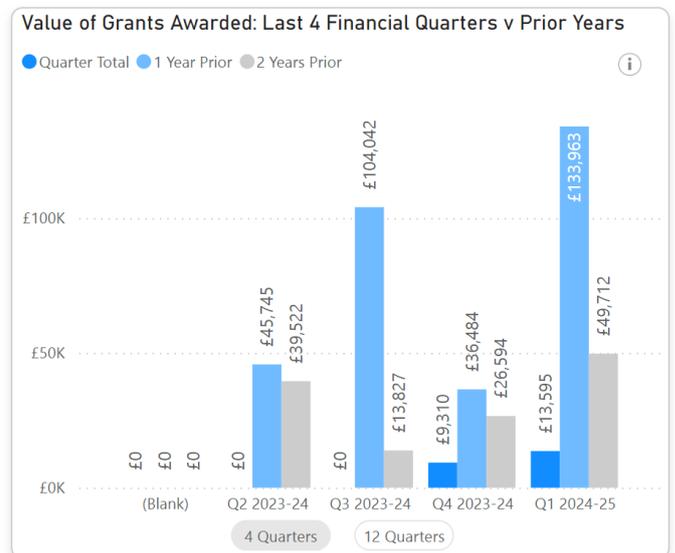
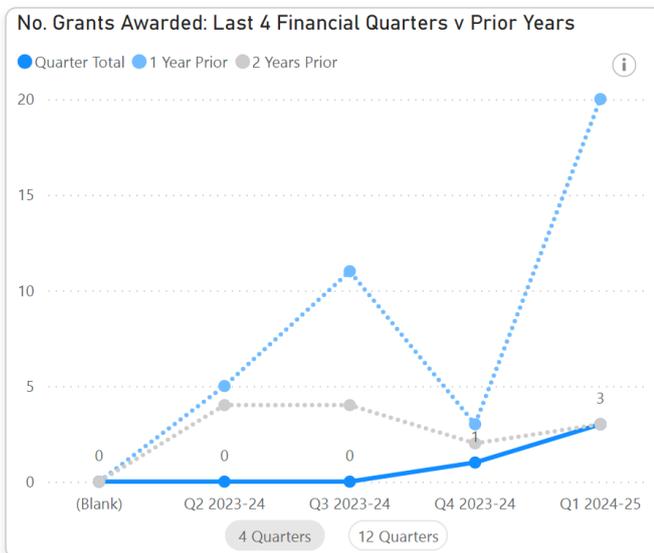
**11<sup>th</sup> September 2024**



### Update

9 grants were awarded this quarter: 8 from the Enterprising Worcestershire Programme and 1 Centre Enhancements Grant. The recipient businesses include retailers, financial services, professional services, hospitality, manufacturing and software development. All of the businesses supported are in their first 3 years of trading.

### Growth Grants



**Update**

Grants awarded this quarter were from the Bromsgrove Centres Enhancement grant programme and the Elevate Worcestershire programme. Businesses supported include a retailer, personal services and commercial flooring supplier.

**3.1.2 Regenerating our Town and Local Centres**

**Performance Measure:**

Former Market Hall Project

**Update**

- There has been a delay to the start onsite due to a Value Engineering Exercise. Start onsite is now forecast for October 2024.

**Performance measure:**

Windsor Street Project

- Contractor has taken possession of the site; works are due to start 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

**3.1.3 Improved Integrated Transport (Bromsgrove)**

**Performance measure:**

- Increased number of sustainable transport projects being progressed or implemented across the district.

**Update:** Officers are working with Worcestershire County Council to establish a full pipeline of sustainable schemes. To better inform the list of schemes funding has been secured by WCC for a Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), the inception meeting has now taken place and work is ongoing.

**Actions:** Will be liaising with WCC appointed consultants. Work is progressing with draft reporting to be discussed as soon as possible.

**3.2 Housing Growth**

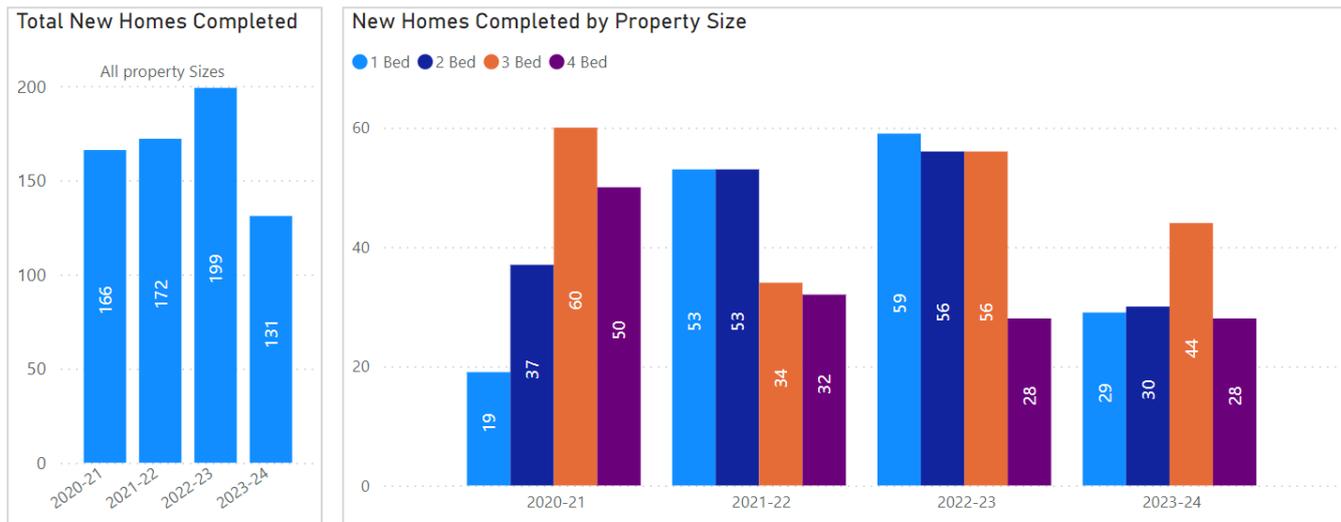
**Performance measure:**

- Number of new homes built - total and affordable (annual measure)

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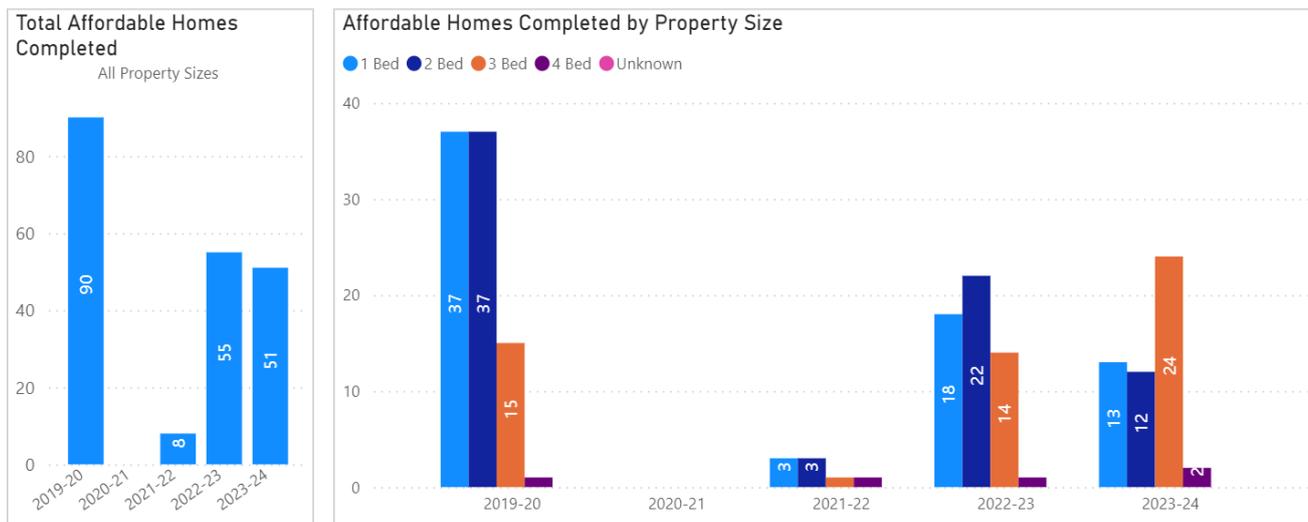


The final data for the 2023/24 is:

- Total Homes Built (including affordable) -131 (net)
- Total affordable homes built - 51 (net)

**Performance measure:**

- Affordable Homes Completed (annual measure)



There are 601 affordable housing commitments as of 1 April 2024, reflecting the number of strategic sites which have gained consent but not started construction or just started construction. A small but not insignificant number of these commitments are from the redevelopment of former garage sites across the District which have yet to be started.

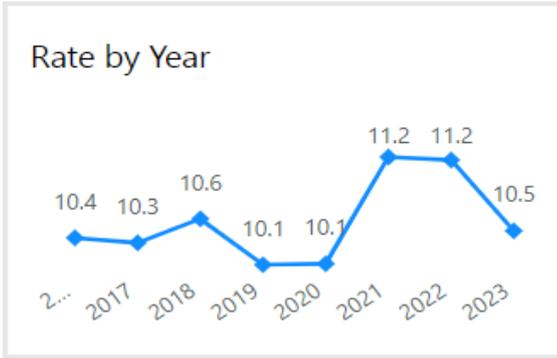
**Performance measure:**

- Local housing affordability rate (annual, calendar year, 1 year lag- ONS)

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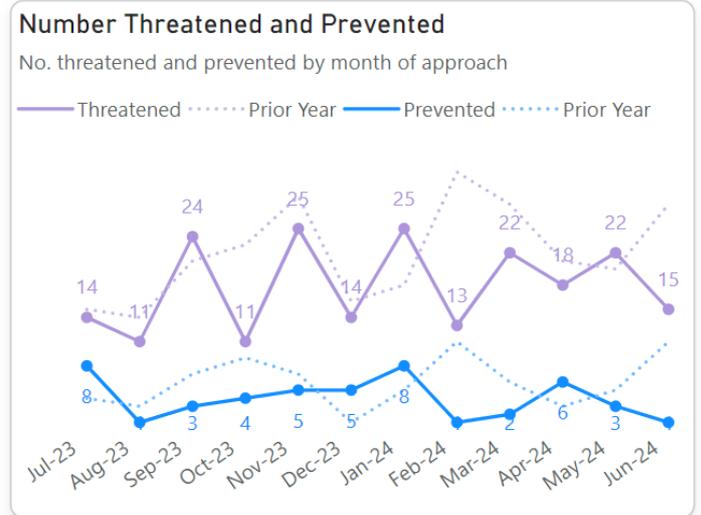
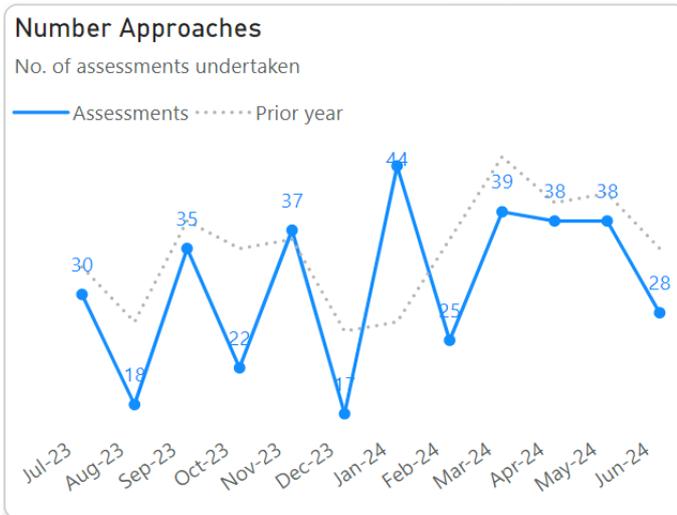


	Rate
Bromsgrove	10.46
Worcestershire	8.63
England	8.26

**Update:** The affordability ratio relates to workplace-based income which uses the median earnings of those employed in Bromsgrove District, which rose from £29,285 to £32,993, a 12.66% increase. The median house price in the district rose from £327,000 to £345,000, a 5.5% increase. Bromsgrove District has the second highest in the West Midlands, despite the small drop in the ratio.

**Performance measure:**

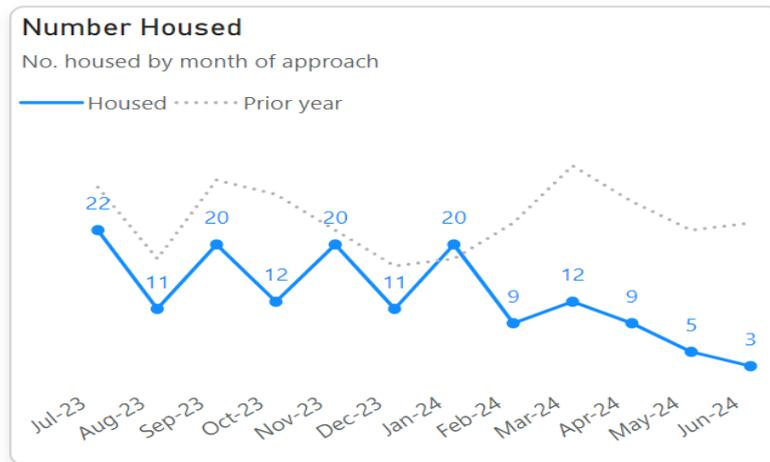
- Number of homeless approaches
- Number of threatened with homelessness preventions
- Number of homeless applicants housed



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**Update:** There has been a slight decrease in the number of approaches but a slight decrease in the percentage of those presenting as threatened with homelessness.

The ability to prevent homelessness and obtain housing in the PRS still remains an area that is impacting on homelessness and the length of time applicants remain in temporary accommodation. The majority of applicants housed is into social housing.

### 3.3. Work and Financial Independence

#### Performance measure

- Number of Financial Independence Team client contacts. This measure records the number of FI Team cases opened.

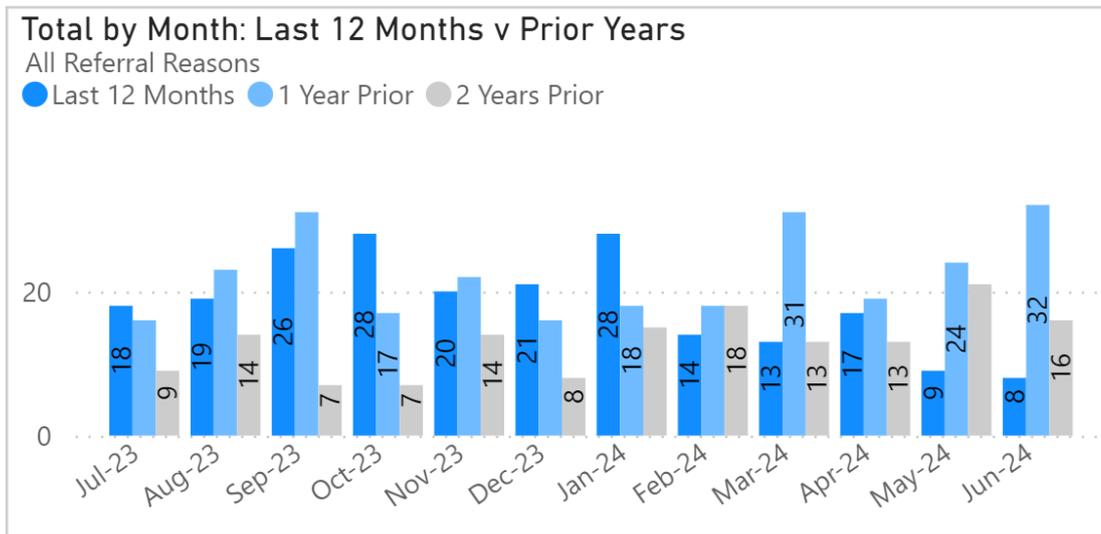
**Update:** the top five referral reasons (where a value has been provided) for the last 12 months are:

- 'Under occupancy charge' (45)
- 'Rent advance/deposit' (37)
- 'Debt' (29)
- 'Other' (16)
- 'Loss of employment' (12)

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For Q1, 2024/25, the top 3 referral reasons were:

- 'Under occupancy charge' (8)
- 'Rent advance/deposit' (5)
- 'Debt' (4)

The Financial Inclusion Team continue to assist residents in the current cost of living crisis, looking for the best ways to support, be this through internal work or signposting to partners to help maximise income and budgets.

### **3.4. Improved Health and Wellbeing**

#### **Performance measure**

- Deliver improved outcomes from the actions in the Leisure Strategy

#### **Update**

The health outcomes programme in line with Leisure and Culture strategy recommendations is ongoing. The service is currently focusing on key priorities and to build and develop its resources within the team. This will start to take more shape continue through 2024/25 and increase our delivery outcomes.

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Update</b>
Develop an environmental management strategy for parks and environmental services.	Project lead identified to progress strategy. Working towards April 2025 completion.
Develop a volunteer plan and a clear approach to working with Friends groups tied to its aspirations for Green Flag Award across its priority parks.	Green flag award successful for Sanders Park for 2024, working on recommendations for 2025 submission and scheduled awards over the next 4 years.

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Develop a rolling programme of applications to the Green Flag Award.	Working on annual applications for awards for Sanders Park, Lickey End Park, King Georges Recreation Ground and St Chads Park.
Engage more regularly with potential partners at a county wide level.	Officers working with partners to maximise potential of offers within parks and open spaces.
Develop a better understanding of the biodiversity value of the district's green assets.	Biodiversity plan established, focus and priorities, developing a Biodiversity Network with Planning, County Council and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sector. Commencement 2024/25.
Develop a clear marketing plan for green spaces that includes new web pages, social media, and targeted work with key audiences.	Work started on website development and modernisation. Social media use improved to promote, biodiversity, events, and mental health in respect of Parks and Green Spaces.
Carry out a feasibility study to establish a roadmap for the self-management of allotment sites across the district.	Action plan implemented: new tenancy agreements with legal, service level agreements for new formed associations, website information, management of day-to-day issues, bills

## **Performance measure**

- Number of Community Builders in post.

**Update:** Two community builders remain in post:

- Sidemoor
- Rubery

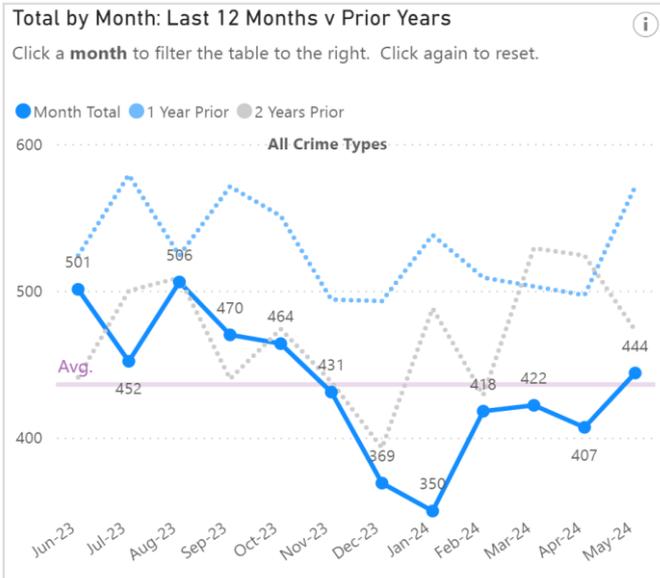
The Bromsgrove and Redditch Shared Learning Network continues to meet, supported by Public Health at Worcestershire County Council. The community builders are working in partnership not only with local residents but organisations and community groups, with the aims of connecting people, supporting wellbeing, understanding community assets and enabling community influence on public sector decisions.

Community Builders are on fixed term contracts, but funding has been confirmed to extend the posts until end of March 2025, although the funding is less. Reduced funding has led to New Starts supporting the roles financially; as a result, work has expanded into other local areas. The longer-term aim remains for the voluntary sector services to source other funding by evidencing impact through community stories and Ripple Effect Mapping.

**3.5. Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour**

**Performance measure**

- Levels of crime. (Data extracted from 'data.police.uk' below – there is a lag in data reporting)



Crime Type	Total	% of Total	v 1 Mth Prior	v 1 Yr Prior	12 Mth. Avg.
Violence and sexual off...	2,088	39.9%	30 ↑	-396 ↓	174.0
Shoplifting	542	10.4%	5 ↑	-83 ↓	45.2
Vehicle crime	496	9.5%	-12 ↓	-3 ↓	41.3
Criminal damage and a...	485	9.3%	6 ↑	-117 ↓	40.4
Other theft	469	9.0%	-5 ↓	-211 ↓	39.1
Public order	380	7.3%	-2 ↓	-201 ↓	31.7
Burglary	372	7.1%	10 ↑	-59 ↓	31.0
Other crime	141	2.7%	1 ↑	18 ↑	11.8
Drugs	126	2.4%	2 ↑	0 ▬	10.5
Possession of weapons	51	1.0%	0 ▬	-29 ↓	4.3
Robbery	44	0.8%	2 ↑	-26 ↓	3.7
Bicycle theft	22	0.4%	0 ▬	-10 ↓	1.8
Theft from the person	18	0.3%	0 ▬	-3 ↓	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,234</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>-1,120</b>	<b>436.2</b>

**Update:** At the time of report creation, the Police.UK website included data up to and including May 2024, as shown in the chart above. Due to the Partnership Analyst being unwell, the previously quarterly analysis (one quarter in arrears) is not available; a detailed commentary covering Q1 2024-25 will be included in the Q2 performance report.

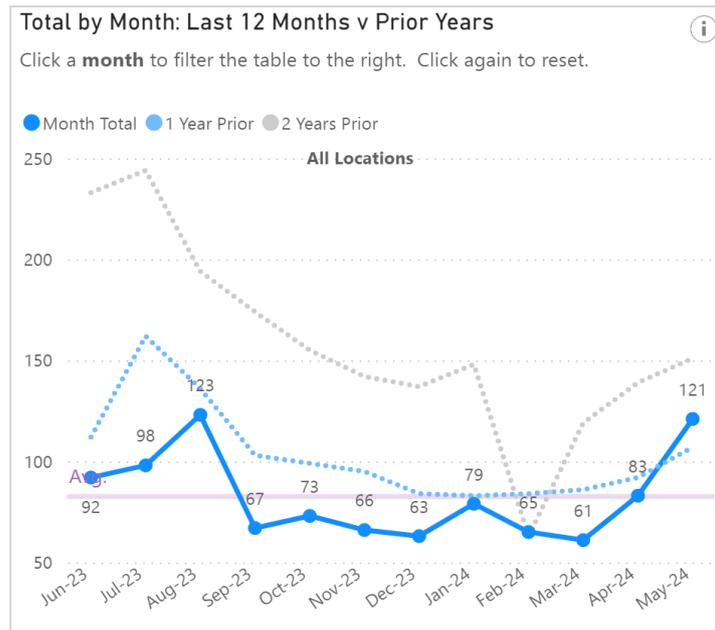
**Performance measure**

- **ASB** (Data extracted from 'data.police.uk' below – there is a lag in data reporting)

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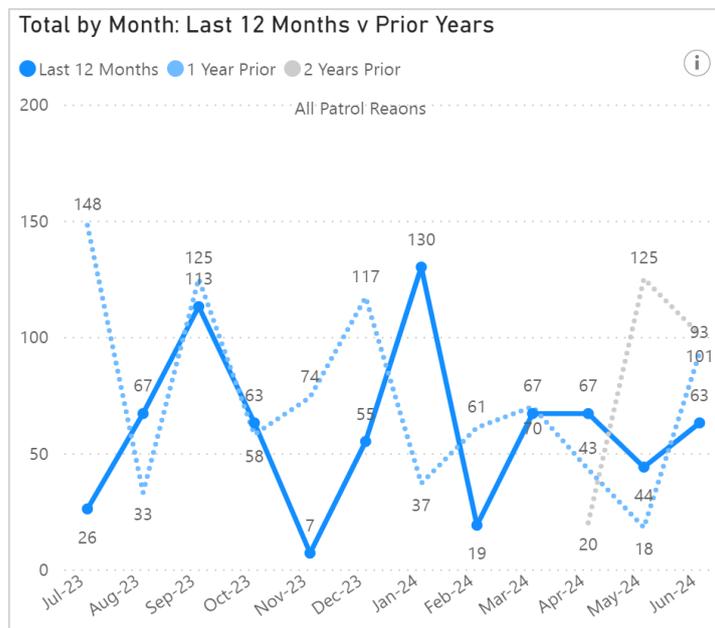
**11<sup>th</sup> September 2024**



**Update:** As with the crime data above, analysis will be provided in the Q2 report.

**Performance measure**

- Number of young people engaged through Detached/Outreach youth work.



**Update:** Routine youth outreach patrols were carried out each month in Bromsgrove Central, Sanders Park, Sidemoor and Charford. Moving into the spring there was a greater number of young people out in the community; youth workers had meaningful conversations about vaping, energy drinks and making saver choices, as well as their thoughts on crime and ASB, their thoughts about the local area and town and concerns about youth employment. Where the young people were already known to the workers, deeper conversations could be had. Teams were able to engage with young people to divert them into

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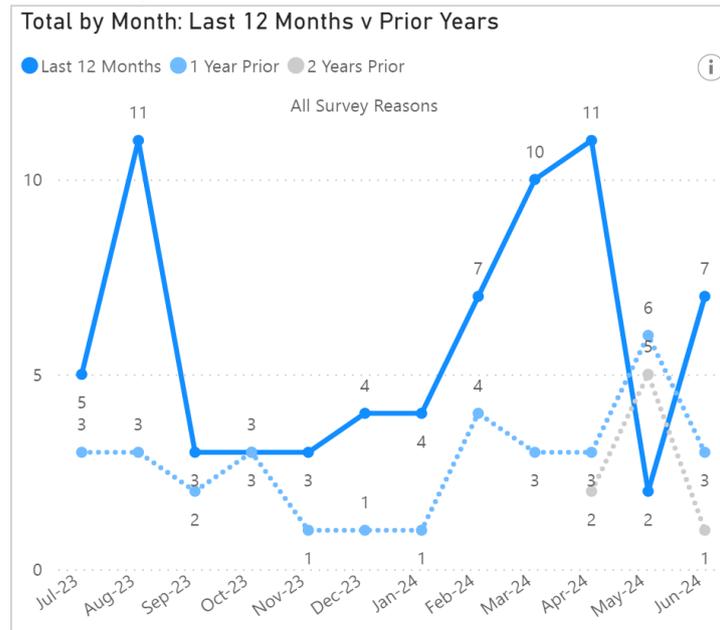
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open access sessions that are delivered across the district and promoted local clubs and activities. They were encouraged to engage with the local Volunteer IT Yourself program which could support them with gaining qualifications and future job opportunities. The young people were always pleased to engage with the youth team.

### Performance measure

- Number of crime risk surveys carried out



**Update:** During April, DA Sanctuary recommendations were provided for properties in Charford, Stoke Prior, Sidemoor, Stoke Prior and Bromsgrove Central. Home security recommendations were also provided to vulnerable residents and various security measures installed.

In May, crime prevention surveys were conducted in Hagley and Charford. Requests for surveys related to Sanctuary recommendations for survivors of DA, reports of ASB and neighbour disputes, alongside a report about the safety of livestock on a local farm.

In June, crime prevention surveys were conducted in Alvechurch, Sanders Park, Sidemoor and Hagley West. Requests for surveys related to Sanctuary recommendations for survivors of DA, reports of ASB and neighbour disputes.

### 3.6 SLM Leisure (Everyone Active)

**Update:** For SLM Leisure there is a lag in the data; as a result, Q4 data and comments can be found below; Q1 information will be available for the Q2 2024/25 report.

The number of visits were slightly down on this time last year. The gym membership base has remained stable with only a slight change. Swimming lessons numbers have dropped which is why the overall numbers have dropped compared to last year. The expected recovery on swimming has not been as expected, primarily down to the closure at the start of the year. This will not be the only reason and we do

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acknowledge that company-wide swimming lesson growth is behind where we would like it to be. It is difficult to judge the consequences of a closure until you get to the end of the financial year and although our swimming programme is healthy, we do not believe it is where it should be.

We still believe that the cost-of-living crisis is influencing peoples' outgoings and leisure to some is still a luxury they cannot afford. Casual users are more discerning in what they spend and where they spend it.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Quarter Total</b>	<b>Same Q 23/24</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Total no. of visits (including EA cards and non-card holders)	109566	114271	<b>-4,705</b>
EA Cards added in this period	1862	1738	<b>124</b>
Total EA Cards to date	73202	67043	<b>6,159</b>
No. of Gym members	2838	2859	<b>-21</b>
Swimming Lessons – children enrolled on scheme	1357	1572	<b>-215</b>
Swim Lesson Occupancy	83%	85%	<b>-2%</b>
RIDDOR Reportable Events	0	0	<b>0</b>

### **3.7. Green Thread**

#### **Performance Measure:**

- Have an agreed and funded plan and capital replacement programme for the Council's fleet subject to any budget constraints.

**Update:** The current Capital Replacement Programme has been approved for 2024/25, but it has been identified that amendments are needed to maintain service provision. The existing capital replacement plan is currently being reviewed for BDC across all services to address this, and ensure services have the right assets to deliver on our duties across the district. Amendments to domestic waste service were approved in Q1 and additional changes to the programme will be submitted for consideration during Q2 of the 2024/25 financial year where required.

#### **Performance Measure:**

- Reduce carbon emissions arising from the councils' vehicles

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**Update:** Funding has been built into the Medium-Term Financial Plan to support a partial transition for all Diesel vehicles and equipment operated from the Depot to be run on HVO (Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil) from 2024/25, with an approved increase to fuel budgets to reflect an expected 30% HVO/70% Diesel across the Environmental Services fleet. Due to the increased cost of HVO in comparison with Diesel, officers will review the affordability of increasing this further as a phased transition beyond 2024/25 in order to further reduce our carbon emissions. This will be presented for consideration as part of the budget process for future years.

## **Performance measure**

- Households supported by the Council's energy advice service

<b>Period</b>	<b>Households</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Households</b>
Q1 2023/24	138	<b>Q1 2024/25</b>	<b>216</b>
Q2 2023/24	145		
Q3 2023/24	202		
Q4 2023/24	162		

**Update:** The energy advice service is provided by Act on Energy on behalf of the council; in the first quarter of 2024/25 a total of 216 households received a range of energy advice, and guidance. The vast majority of people then access the Household Support Fund (40%) or Bromsgrove Shared Prosperity Funding (31.4%). The rise in calls can still be related to cost of living, potentially people who have been trying to cope with price rises up until now.

## **3.8. Financial Stability**

Council resources will continue to be constrained. We will continue to work on ensuring our people, assets and financial resources are focused on the priorities and activities that most effectively deliver wellbeing and progress for our population.

### **Performance measure (included as an earlier section of this Report)**

- Financial performance – actuals consistent with budget (overspend mitigated)
- Levelling Up Fund Project delivered within budget.

## **3.9. Organisational Sustainability**

The Council will work to maximise the use of digital infrastructures, including cloud technologies, to enhance its support for customers. Ensuring the Councils infrastructure can securely process the increased demand placed on it by the expanding use of Internet of Things devices will be key to its digital success.

**Performance measure**

- Number of corporate measures accessible through the dashboard.

**Update:** The organisation continues to move from the legacy dashboard to a new Power BI dashboard. Power BI is an interactive data visualisation software product with a primary focus on business intelligence. We have recently undertaken a review of all the data currently held on the two dashboards and are working on a programme for moving all relevant measures over to PBI, in line with the priorities and measures identified in the new Council Plan. There are currently 43 measures and associated measures available on PBI (including complaints and accidents), but this will increase over the next few quarters as wider reviews of data and performance continue.

**Performance measure**

- % of staff able to work in an agile way (annual measure – first reported Q3, 2023/24)

**Update:** The current overall percentage of staff able to work in an agile way is 56%. This measure is aligned with the ongoing agile project.

**3.10. High Quality Services**

Council people are key to its success. We need to recruit, retain, and motivate the right employees, with the right knowledge, skills, and attitude to deliver excellent services and customer care.

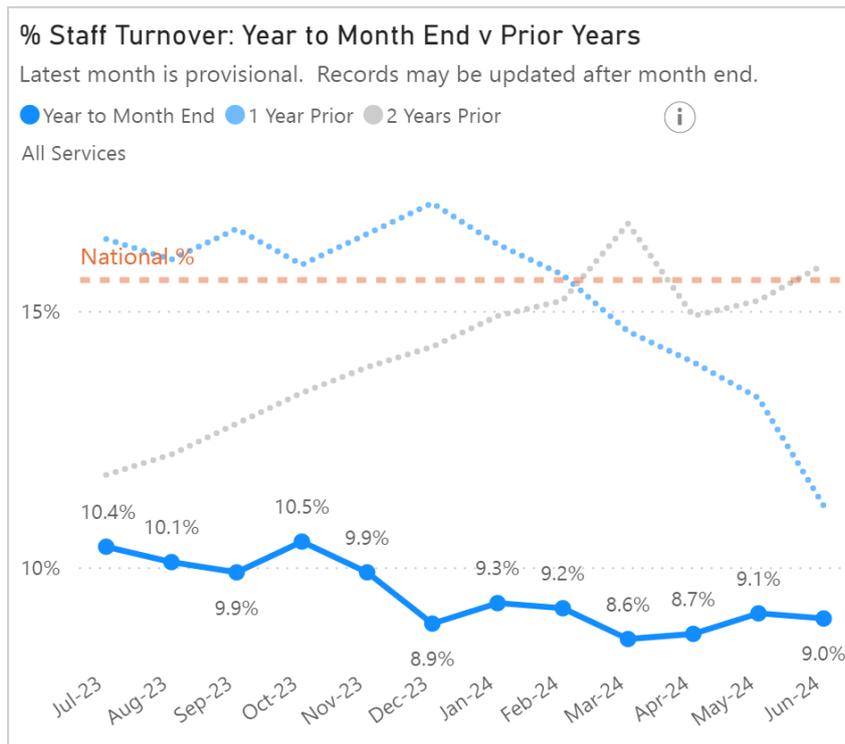
**Performance measure**

- **Staff turnover rates in relation to national rates**

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**Update:** Since July 2023, it can be seen there has been a downward trend, showing an improvement in turnover rates, with the authority remaining under the national average. The exit interview process continues which we are continuing to monitor and promote.

**Performance measure**

- Customer satisfaction with service delivery, measured through the Community Survey.

The percentage of respondents who say they are satisfied with service delivery is:

Year	Satisfied
2021	47.4%
2022	38.6%
2023	35.5%

**Update**

This is an annual measure. Data is extracted from the annual community survey. 2021 was the first year the public were asked about their level of satisfaction with the way the council delivers its services. National satisfaction with LA's, according to the Local Government Chronicle is currently at 40%.

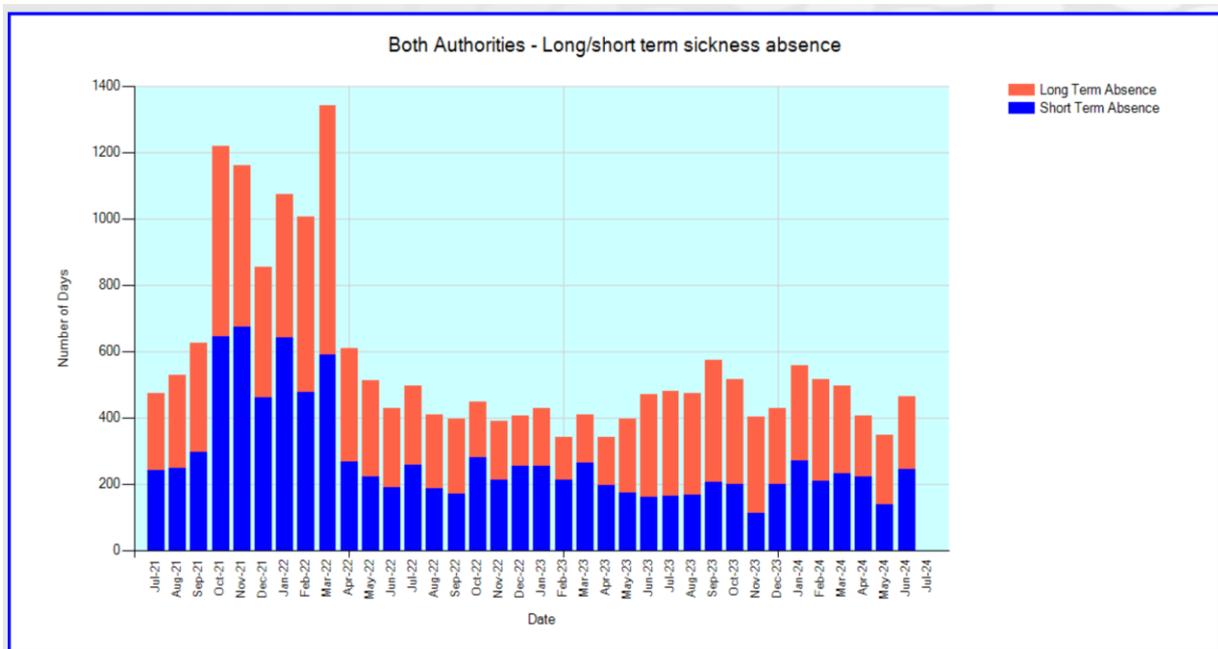
The 2023 survey was carried out in October/November 2023; the satisfaction rate has dropped slightly. The reason for this is unclear but corporately there is a new quarterly approach to corporate surveys to try to increase the response rate and get a better and broader understanding of the customer experience.

### 4. Operational Measures

#### 4.1 Business Transformation, Organisational Development & Digital Services

##### Performance measure

- Sickness absence



**Update:** We are continuing to undertake the fundamental review of the data, in order to be able to utilise the increased functionality of PowerBI, which will enhance both the overview and more in-depth analysis for this measure and in turn enable actions from the understanding gained. System issues continue to hinder the speed of progress; however, it is part of the workplan for PBI development. We continue to work with service managers around sickness absence on a monthly basis based on the data.

#### 4.2 Environmental Services

##### Domestic Waste Collection

##### Performance Measure

- Percentage of Household Waste sent for re-use, recycling & composting.

**Update:** This is a National Indicator measuring the percentage of household waste arisings which have been sent by the Authority for reuse, recycling, and composting, and is used in the national league tables

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ranking Local Authority performance. In 2022/23 Bromsgrove was ranked 176<sup>th</sup>. 2023/24 saw a noticeable drop in recycling performance during the latter part of Qtr 3 and Qtr 4 as a result of increased residual waste, and lower than average garden waste material. Recycling performance has improved over Q1.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
19/20	48.67	45.17	46.72	48.41	54.12	50.03	46.64	41.77	32.63	39.05	34.74	45.16
20/21	29.19	55.98	55.73	59.33	51.32	48.46	44.04	48.03	48.60	42.55	42.03	43.26
21/22	44.40	49.24	59.99	57.58	49.75	48.45	36.71	50.72	50.87	39.59	33.89	42.89
22/23	46.69	55.59	57.51	55.97	45.18	46.41	49.69	50.63	46.41	33.70	37.34	43.16
23/24	50.74	57.40	54.66	48.13	47.01	48.01	51.06	46.29	37.54	28.15	33.31	43.86
24/25	53.12	60.42	54.39									

### Performance Measure

- Residual Waste per household (kg)

**Update:** This measures non-recyclable waste thrown away per household and shows a continued reduction per household in 2024/25 when compared with the previous two years, with an average weight of 442kg per household in 2023/24, down from 455kg in 22/23. This is likely reflecting the gradual return to work for some residents who were working from home, as well as the increasing cost of living pressure on households. Waste Composition Analysis was carried out across the district to sample waste during 2022 and identify what is being thrown away in our residual waste to support discussions on the future of our services, and any communication/education campaigns we may need to implement to support further recycling. In the samples taken, up to 18% of the residual waste put out for collection could have been collected as recycling, and up to 35% of the residual waste was food waste (45% of that was still in its packaging unused). This information is being considered as part of the ongoing Task and Finish project to consider options for how we collect our residents waste in the future.

### Residual Waste per Household (Kg)

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
19/20	40.70	47.92	48.80	38.18	38.07	39.47	42.75	48.99	39.38	46.96	38.77	38.89
20/21	51.01	46.30	40.02	39.05	36.92	46.96	46.74	41.06	40.23	40.36	37.78	50.06
21/22	50.01	38.81	39.35	38.16	40.89	45.06	41.50	39.36	35.86	39.86	35.58	49.26
22/23	42.43	37.22	37.28	31.36	41.03	42.83	34.20	39.64	32.76	41.78	32.59	42.08
23/24	32.75	35.28	34.05	34.15	45.88	36.42	34.48	36.52	32.32	45.00	38.38	37.01
24/25	35.51	35.13	34.04									

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**Actions:** In partnership, Bromsgrove and Redditch (with support from the Waste Partnership Strategy Officer) are continuing to explore how existing resources could be used differently to support more proactive engagement and education with residents, particularly to reduce contamination levels.

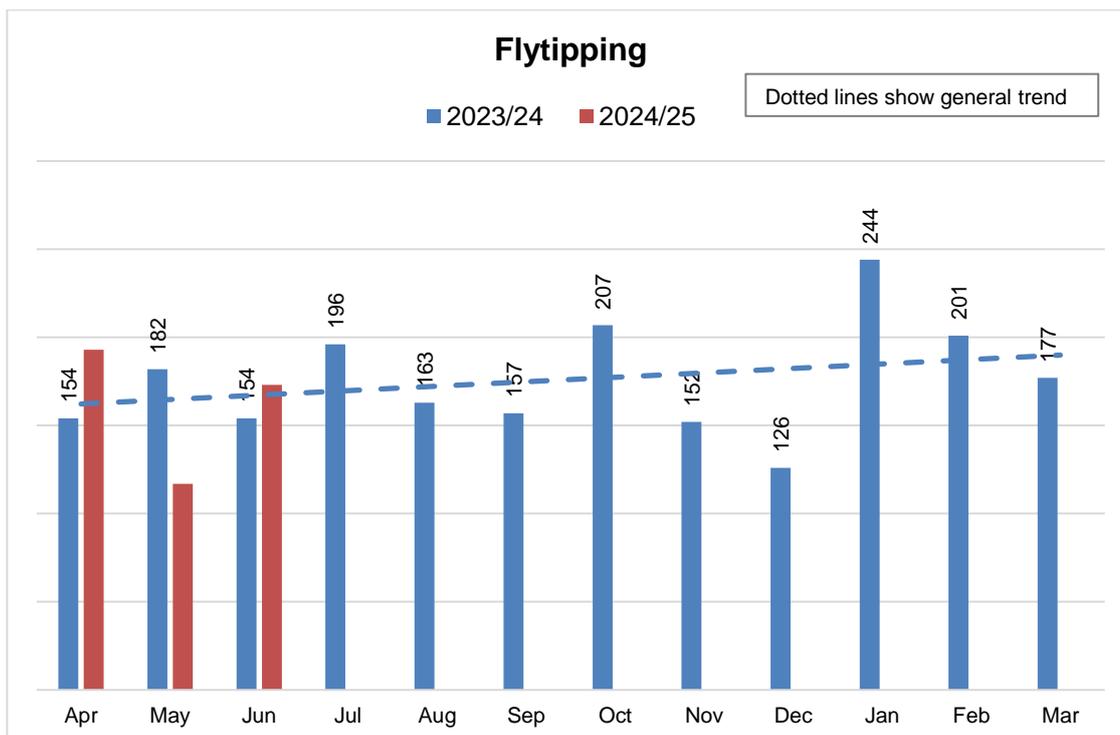
Work is also on-going to consider the future of waste collection services alongside new legislative requirements that will see the introduction of a weekly food waste collection from April 2026 and potential changes to how we manage both residual waste and dry recycling. Resources remain available via the WCC website to support households in using our services and reducing waste:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lets-waste-less> .

### **Performance Measure**

- Fly Tipping

This overview reflects the number of fly tips identified across the District requiring resources to remove and indicates the scale of the problem and any trends resulting from enforcement and education actions. The detailed data is used to identify patterns of behaviour and geographic locations that can be targeted with signage and cameras to identify those responsible and deter behaviour or support further enforcement action against those who continue to illegally dump their waste.



### **Actions:**

TBC

### **4.3 Finance and Customer Services (inc Revenues & Benefits)**

#### **Performance measure**

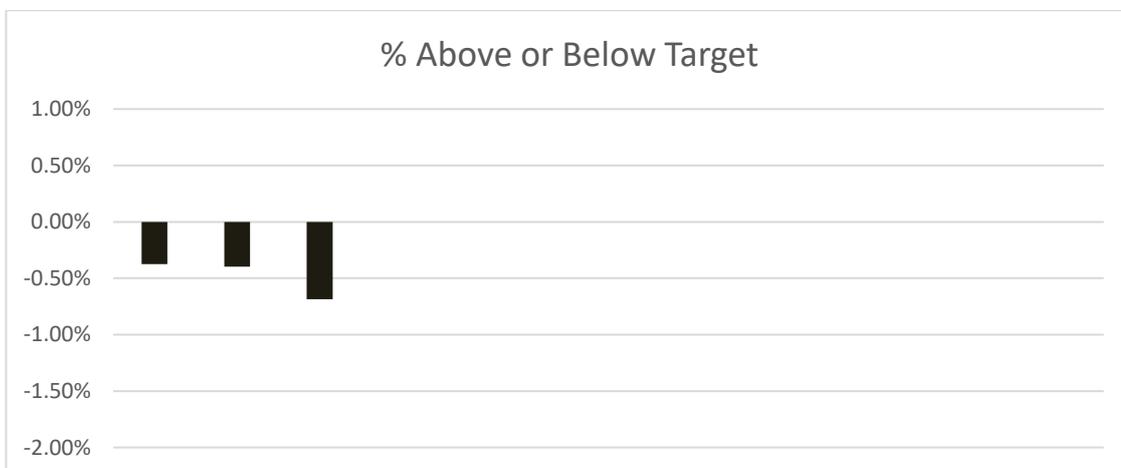
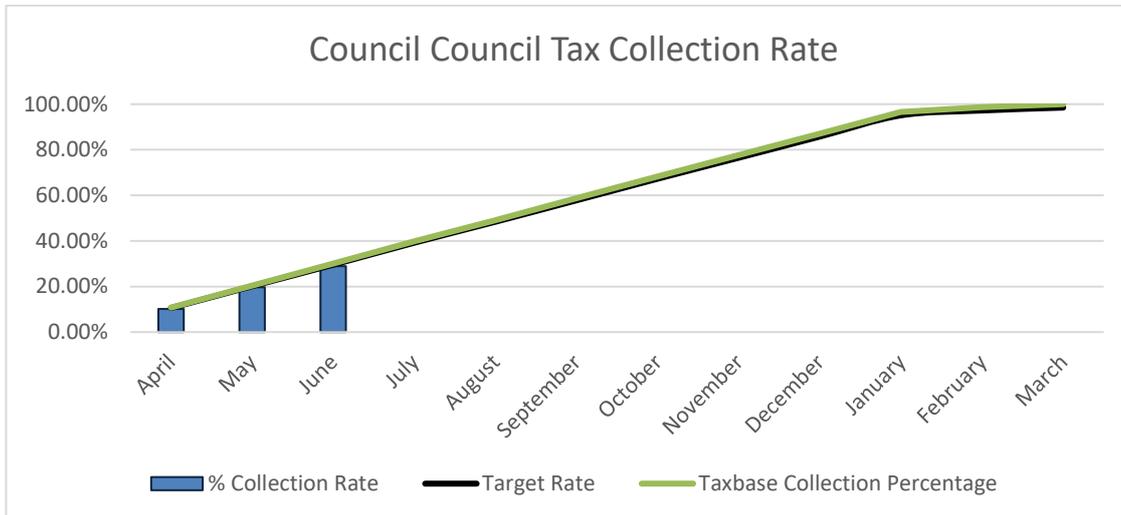
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- Council Tax Collection Rate

The collection rate percentage has been very close to the target rate this quarter, each month it has been under 1% below.



### Performance measure

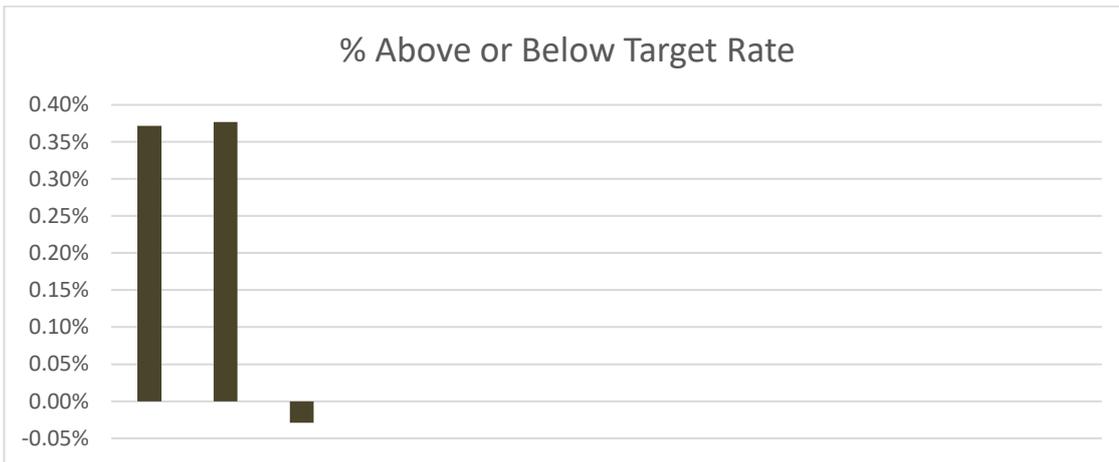
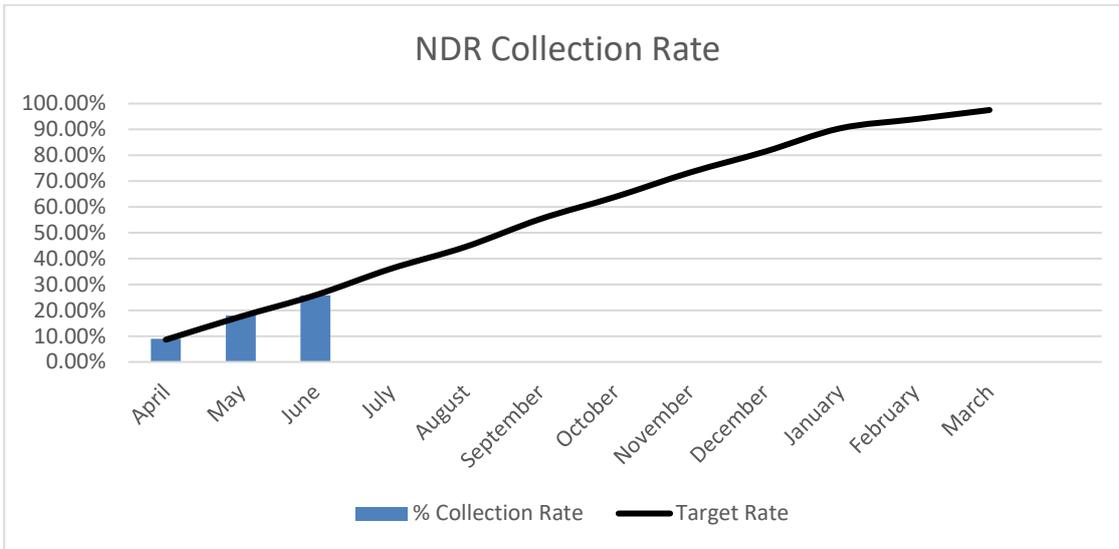
- NDR Collection Rate

The collection rate percentage has been consistent with target rate this quarter.

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## Performance measure

- Online Customer Interactions

This report is not able to be produced, however, the Data PA reporting tool is now functional, so going forward, this will enable more streamlined and effective data reporting in future performance reports.

## Customer Services

### Performance measure

- Revenues Calls (shared service)

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Date	Calls Answered	Avg in Queue	Avg Wait (mm:ss)	Avg Logged in	Avg call length (mm:ss)
Apr 2024	3537	0.69	04:19	5.91	07:57
May 2024	2984	0.36	04:06	6.55	07:50
Jun 2024	2316	0.07	02:33	7.10	08:19

## **Update**

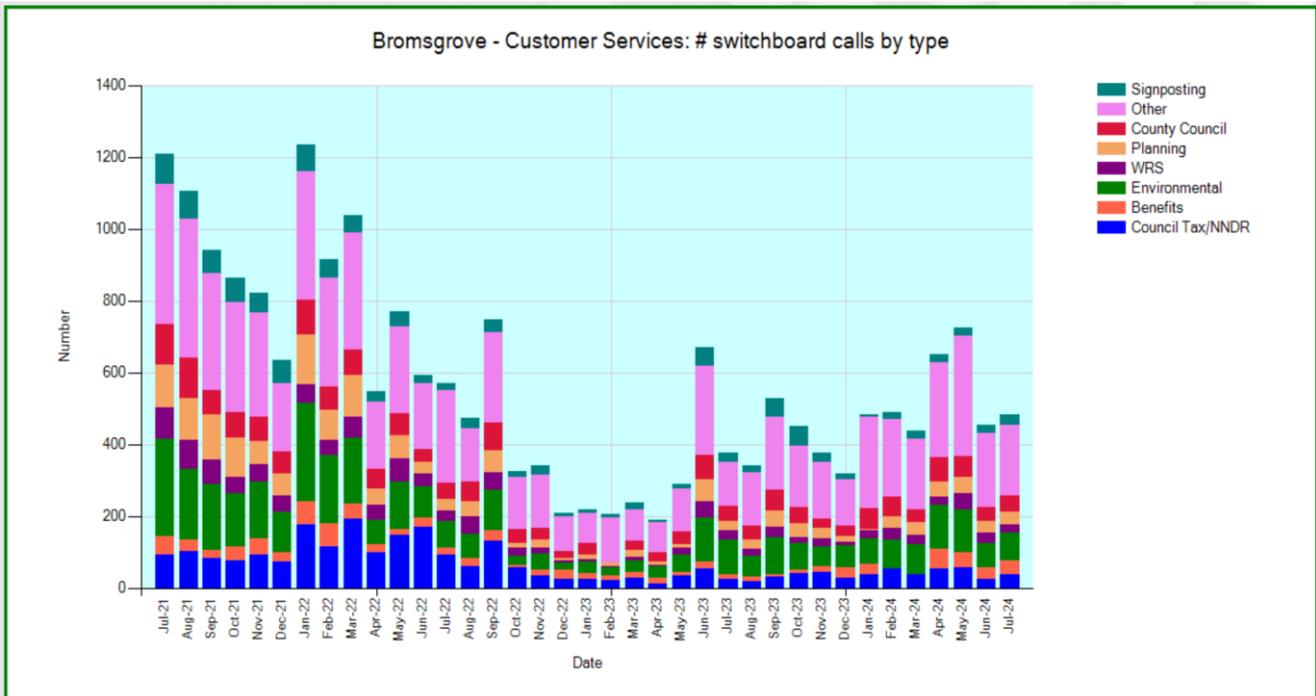
The service met expectations with regards to answering calls during the quarter with an average queue fewer than 1 person and an average call answering time between 4-6 minutes. April-June is a busy time for calls as residents receive their annual council tax bills and request payment arrangements/clarifications.

## **Performance measure**

- Customer Service calls (Switchboard)

Date	Calls Answered	Avg in Queue	Avg Wait (mm:ss)	Avg Logged in	Avg call length (mm:ss)
Apr 2024	932	0.01	00:39	1.88	00:55
May 2024	1005	0.02	00:38	1.98	01:09
Jun 2024	948	0.02	00:40	1.97	01:00

**Switchboard** - The service met expectations with regards to answering calls during the quarter. 2 FTE officers that provide switchboard service across both Bromsgrove and Redditch Switchboard.

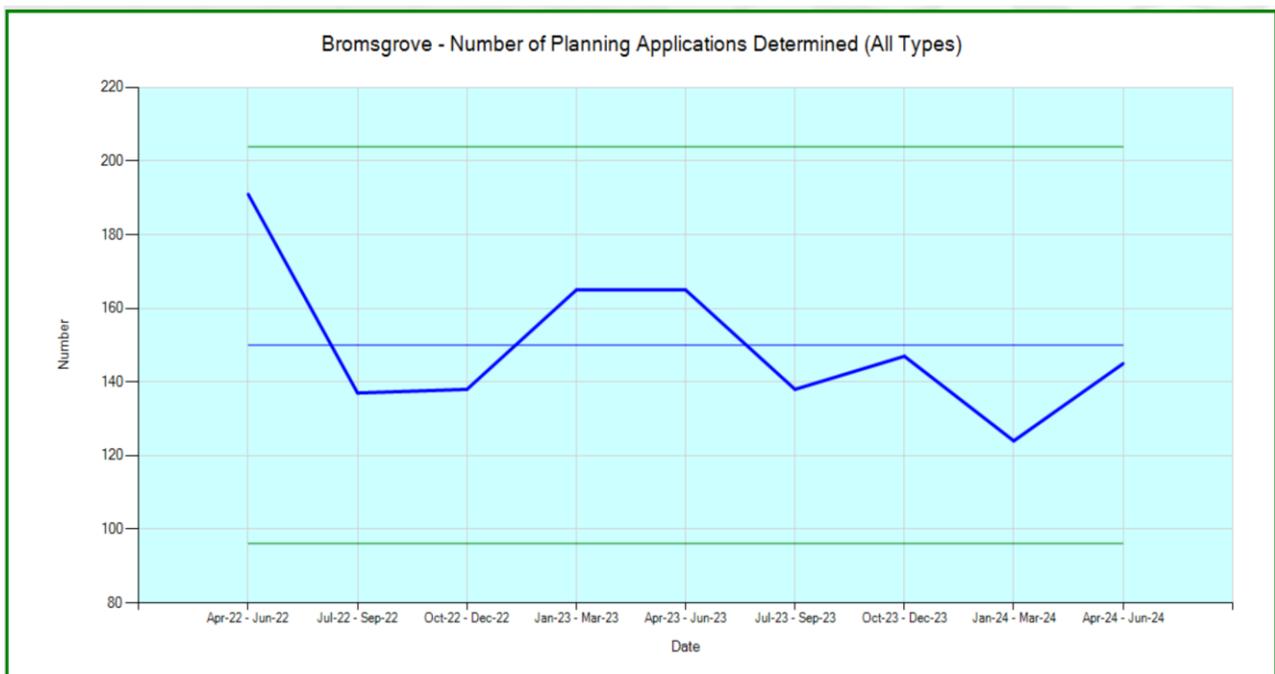


**4.4 Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services**

The Leisure and Cultural Strategy has been formally endorsed. Its recommendations have been prioritised for delivery and delivery has commenced.

**Performance measure**

- Total number of planning applications determined in quarter (all types)



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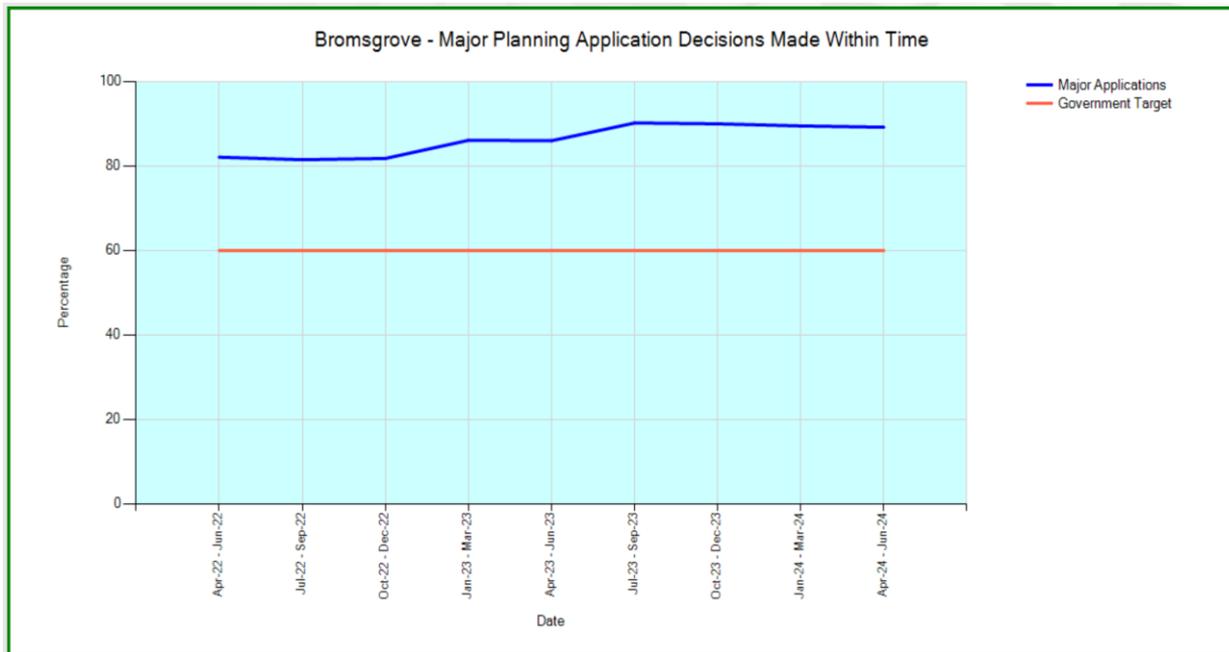
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**Update:** Determination rates remain below average.

## Performance measure

- Speed of decision making for 'major applications' (over a rolling 2-year period) (Governmental targets for determining applications in time (or within an agreed extension of time) on major applications is 60%)



**Update:** The assessment of 2 year rolling period for speed is 89.2%. This remains well in excess of government targets which is 60%.

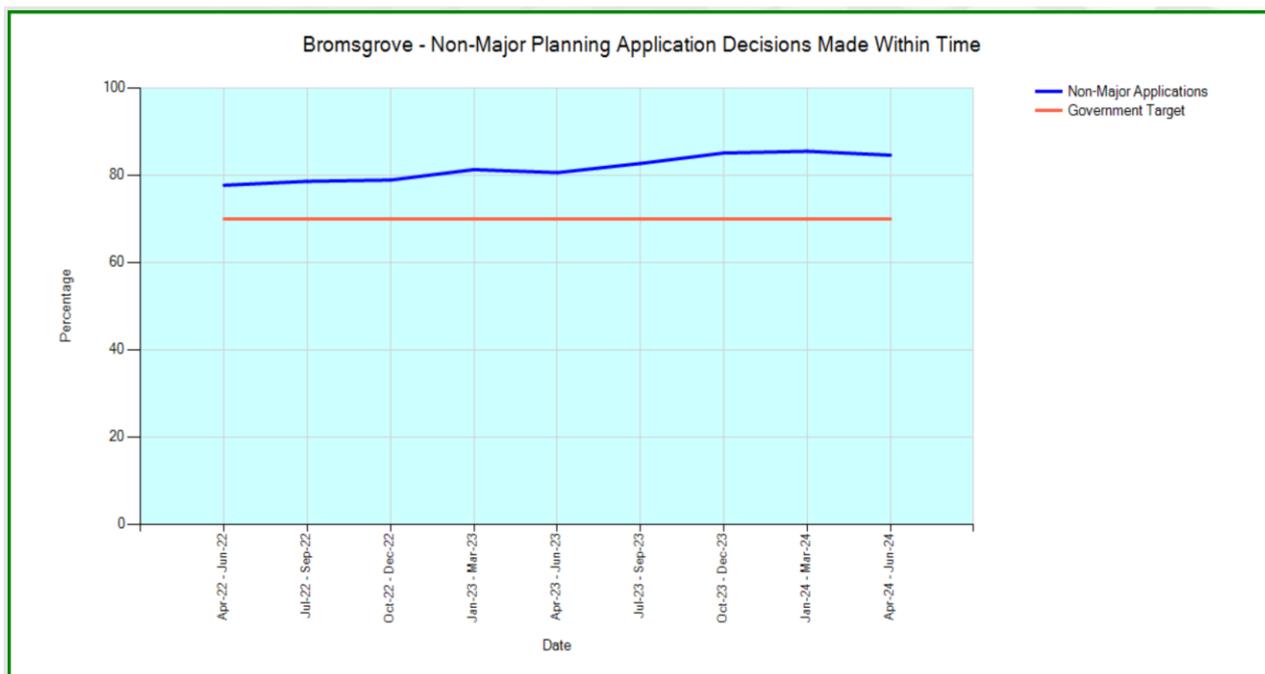
## Performance measure

- Speed of decision making for 'non-major applications' (over a rolling 2-year period) (Governmental targets for determining applications in time (or within an agreed extension of time) on non-major applications is 70%)

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**Cabinet**

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



**Update:** The 2-year rolling period for speed is 84.6% remains well in excess of government requirements which is 70%

**Performance measure**

- Quality of Major Planning Decisions

The threshold for designation for the relevant assessment period of 24 months is 10% or more of an authority’s decisions on applications for major development made during the assessment period, including those arising from a 'deemed refusal', being overturned at appeal.

Period of Assessment	Result	Gov.uk last updated
April 2020 – March 2022	18.5%	June 2023
July 2020 – June 2022	20%	October 2023
Oct 2020 – Sept 2022	10.7%	Also, October 2023
Jan 2021 – Dec 2022	9.1%	March 2024
April 21 – March 23	5.7%	Also, March 2024
July 21 – June 23	4.8%	June 2024

Source; Live tables on planning application statistics Gov.uk. Table 152a. [Live tables on planning application statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics)

# **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

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**Update:** The threat of designation exists when more that 10% of decisions are overturned at Appeal. The Councils quality of decision making against this measure has been steadily improving and now sits at 4.8%.

### **Performance measure**

- Quality of Non-Major Planning Decisions

The threshold for designation for the relevant assessment period of 24 months is 10% or more of an authority's decisions on applications for non-major development made during the assessment period, including those arising from a 'deemed refusal', being overturned at appeal.

<b>Period of Assessment</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Gov.uk last updated</b>
April 2020 – March 2022	1.4%	June 2023
July 2020 – June 2022	1.4%	October 2023
Oct 2020 – Sept 2022	1.5%	Also, October 2023
Jan 2021 – Dec 2022	1.8%	March 2024
April 21 – March 23	1.8%	Also, March 2024
July 21 – June 23	2.1%	June 2024

Source; Live tables on planning application statistics Gov.uk. Table 154. [Live tables on planning application statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics)

**Update:** The threat of designation exists when more that 10% of decisions are overturned at Appeal. The Councils quality of decision making against this measure remains fairly static and sits comfortably below at 2.1%.

# BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Appendix F - New Corporate Plan Measures

Measure	Owner	Comments
Monitor the number of jobs created by supported businesses		Quarterly
Business births, deaths & survival rates		Annual
Earnings (by residence & place of work)		Annual
Track the delivery of the Centres Strategy action plan		Quarterly
Community and business engagement		Annual survey
Tracking affordability index - house prices, rental costs		Quarterly
Monitor Housing supply		Annual
Number of private, affordable, and social houses delivered each year		Annual
Number in temporary accommodation		Quarterly
Number of homeless preventions		Quarterly
Number of empty homes		Quarterly
Grant funding for energy improvements of Private Housing		Quarterly
Number of enforcement cases, planning and environment (number opened, number closed, number open for investigation)		Quarterly
Time taken to remove Fly-tipping		Quarterly
Track delivery of the actions in the Environment Act 2021 project		Quarterly
Reduction in the amount of waste generated by households		Quarterly
Percentage of household waste recycled or composted		Quarterly
Track the delivery of the Carbon Reduction Strategy action plan		Annual
Energy efficiency improvements in municipal buildings, facilities, and public infrastructure		Biannual
Increase Community Engagement and Awareness around the environment		Quarterly & Quarters 2 & 4 Corporate Surveys
Report on the stages of the new Local Plan development & adoption		Biannual
Monitor the rate of planning approvals and appeals in alignment with the agreed policies and proposals (domestic & business)		Quarterly Inc By Type
Track investment in infrastructure projects identified in the local plan (including section 106 monies spent)		Annual
Track the delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy action plan		Quarterly
To Achieve the Green Flag Award for the following parks: Sanders Park, Lickey End LNR, St Chads Park, Rubery and King George Vth Park over the next 10 years		Annual
Engagement with WCC on the implementation of the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the development of the Local Transport Plan 5		Biannual