

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE CABINET

4TH APRIL 2007

WATERCOURSES TASK GROUP

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor Mrs. M.A. Sherrey J.P.
Responsible Head of Service	Mike Bell, Head of Street Scene and Waste Management Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider the findings and recommendations of the Watercourses Task Group which are contained within the attached report and which have been approved by the Scrutiny Steering Board.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are requested to approve and implement the recommendations contained within the attached report, together with an additional recommendation made at the Scrutiny Steering Board meeting where officers were requested to devise an action plan on how the recommendations contained within the report could be implemented using officer time only and built into their work programme.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following a number of incidences of flooding, together with concerns expressed over the untidy state of some of the watercourses throughout the district, the Task Group was formed to investigate ownerships, upkeep and maintenance, and this remit was extended by the Scrutiny Steering Board to include flooding, contamination and health issues.
- 3.2 During their deliberations, the Task Group heard evidence from representatives of the Environment Agency, the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Worcestershire County Council, a local Biodiversity specialist, together with officers from within the Council

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It should be noted that the enhancement of the Spadesbourne Brook was made a priority by the Task Group at the outset, and, in this regard, a provisional recommendation was submitted at the time of the budget bids for an additional £7,500 to be added to the Street Scene and Waste Management budget for immediate improvement and subsequent maintenance works, but as it was included in the Medium Term Financial Plan as a medium pressure, only unavoidable and high pressure bids gained approval

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Possible enforcement and/or prosecution issues.

6. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

6.1 The objectives meet the Council's Vision, Values and Objectives insofar as, it accords with the Council's Objective Two (Environment).

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 Health and Safety considerations will be paramount in any "clean-up" operations involving outside organisations.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues	None
Personnel Implications	Possibly (see recommendation 13)
Governance/Performance Management	None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This report has considered Sn. 17 of the CDA and the duty it imposes, and there are no implications arising from it.	
Policy	None
Environmental	Yes – visually and environmentally beneficial
Equalities and Diversity	Yes

10. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Acting Chief Executive	Yes
Corporate Director (Services)	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

11. APPENDICES

Terms of Reference
Guide to Health & Safety at Work Requirements – Voluntary Workers
Poster
Leaflet

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report of the Bromsgrove Society

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