

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW BOARD

2nd November 2010

LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY TASK GROUP

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Mrs. J. Dyer – Portfolio Holder for Planning & Regeneration
Relevant Head of Service for Overview and Scrutiny	Claire Felton – Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Overview Board held on 27th July 2010 a Task Group on the Local Food Economy was established. The Task Group is to consider the importance of the local food economy in the Bromsgrove District.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are requested to:

- (a) consider and agree the membership of the Task Group (completed membership forms are attached at Appendix 1);
- (b) invite Ms. A. Houghton and Mr. M. Draper of Transition Town Bromsgrove, to become co-opted Members of the Task Group (completed membership forms are attached at Appendix 2);
- (c) agree the terms of reference of the Local Food Economy Task Group (as set out in 3.6 of this report); and
- (d) request the Task Group to commence its investigation as soon as possible.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Overview Board held on 27th July 2010, the Local Food Economy Task Group was established.

Membership

- 3.2 Under the Constitution, up to seven Members of the Council may participate in a Task Group. As requested by the Board at its last meeting, Task Group Membership Forms were sent out to all Members of the Council (with the exception of Members of the Cabinet) inviting anyone who had an interest in becoming a Member of the Task Group to complete a membership form.

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- 3.3 Group Leaders were informed of the new Task Group and were asked if they could encourage their Members to complete a membership form if they had an interest in the topic and/or had relevant skills and knowledge which would be useful for the investigation.
- 3.4 Three membership forms have been completed and submitted. They are attached at Appendix 1.

Co-optees

- 3.5 It is suggested that Ms. A. Horton and Mr. M. Draper, of Transition Town Bromsgrove, are invited to sit on the Task Group as co-opted members. (Please note: Co-optees are non-voting members.)
- 3.6 For the Board's information, Ms. Horton and Mr. Draper are two of the founder members of Transition Town Bromsgrove (TTB), a growing community initiative. A Transition Town considers the challenges posed by peak oil and climate change. TTB was formed in August 2010 and through themed working groups they hope to plan a transition to a better low energy future in food, health, work and culture. There are over 140 Transition Town local groups throughout the country and 7 within Worcestershire. The work of the Transition Towns within the district is supported by the Head of Centre at Worcestershire County Council, Bishops Wood Environmental Centre.
- 3.7 Ms. Horton and Mr. Draper have completed and submitted Co-optee Membership Forms and these are attached at Appendix 2 for information.

Chairman

- 3.8 At the meeting of the Overview Board on 27th July 2010, Councillor L. J. Turner was appointed as Chairman of the Task Group.

Terms of Reference

- 3.9 The proposed terms of reference for the Local Food Economy Task Group are:

Aim

To investigate the importance of developing the local food economy in the Bromsgrove District and what can be done to support this sector of the local economy.

Objectives

The Task Group will investigate:

- i. the definition of the “local food economy”,
- ii. the costs and benefits of the local food economy,
- iii. who and where the local food suppliers are for the Bromsgrove District,
- iv. the local food distribution networks for the Bromsgrove District,
- v. what can be done locally to support the local food economy, and
- vi. best Practice elsewhere for local food economy policies and partnerships.

Length of investigation

3.10 Members are reminded that when setting a timescale for a Task Group, it is usually expected that a Task Group will conclude its investigation within four months from the date of the first Task Group meeting. However, the Board can decide that certain topics require more time to ensure complex issues are properly scrutinised.

3.11 It is anticipated that the first meeting of the Task Group will take place in early November (date to be arranged). It is anticipated that the Task Group will report back to the Overview Board on 2nd February 2011.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 There are no financial implications directly relating to this report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications directly relating to this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal implications directly related to this report.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no policy implications directly related to this report.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

8.1 Council Objection Three – One Community.
CO3 – One Community

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9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 None for the purposes of this report.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Effective services for young people.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no implications directly relating to this report for the Council's Equalities and Diversity Policies.

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

12.1 None for the purposes of this report.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

13.1 None for the purposes of this report.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

14.1 None for the purposes of this report.

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

15.1 None for the purposes of this report.

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

16.1 None for the purposes of this report.

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

17.1 None for the purposes of this report.

18. LESSONS LEARNT

18.1 None for the purposes of this report.

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19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

19.1 None for the purpose of this report.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	No
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

21. WARDS AFFECTED

All wards

22. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Completed Membership Forms

Appendix 2 – Completed Co-optee Membership Forms

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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None

24. KEY

None

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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