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# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Mon 12 Jan  
2026  
6.30 pm

Oakenshaw Community Centre  
Castleditch Lane  
Redditch  
B98 7YB

**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact  
Jo Gresham**

**Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH**

**Tel: (01527) 64252 (Ext. 3031)**

**e.mail: [joanne.gresham@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.gresham@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)**

# Overview and Scrutiny

Monday, 12th January, 2026

6.30 pm

Oakenshaw Community Centre

## Agenda

### Membership:

Cllrs:	Matthew Dormer (Chair)	Andrew Fry
	Craig Warhurst (Vice-Chair)	Sachin Mathur
	William Boyd	Rita Rogers
	Claire Davies	Paul Wren
	James Fardoe	

- 5. Biodiversity Duty First Consideration Report - Pre-Scrutiny (Pages 5 - 14)**
- 6. Homelessness Prevention Grant Funding 2026/27 to 2028/29 (including Rough Sleeper Grant) and Domestic Abuse Grant - Pre-Scrutiny (Pages 15 - 22)**
- 7. Executive Committee Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 23 - 28)**

Included in this additional papers pack is the latest version of the Executive Work Programme published on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026.

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# Executive Committee

## 2026

13<sup>th</sup> January

### Biodiversity First Consideration Report

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jen Snape
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Judith Willis, Assistant Director of Community and Housing Service
Report Author	<p>Job Title: Climate Change Manager</p> <p>Contact email: <a href="mailto:matthew.eccles@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">matthew.eccles@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Contact Tel: 07816 112073</p>
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Council Priority	The green thread
<del>Key Decision/ Non-Key Decision</del>	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Executive Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:-**

- 1) the findings of the Biodiversity Duty First Consideration Report be noted;**
- 2) Members agree to publish the full Biodiversity Duty First Consideration Report to the Council's website;**

### **2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Environment Act 2021 places a legal duty on public authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Redditch Borough Council must publish a Biodiversity Duty Report covering the period up to 1st January 2026 and publish this by 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The Biodiversity Duty Report reviews current activity, identifies gaps, and sets out recommended actions across all service areas.

### **3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

3.1 The council is actively implementing measures to enhance local biodiversity. Initiatives include leaving grass uncut in designated areas to create habitats for wildlife and support pollinator species, alongside planting wildflower meadows and pollinator-friendly spaces as part of

## Executive Committee 2026

13<sup>th</sup> January

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the Sustainable Community Strategy. Additionally, revised management plans at Morton Stanley Park have expanded meadow areas, introduced mowing patterns to encourage flowering plants, and repurposed grass cuttings to create reptile habitats.

3.2 Follow consultation with relevant departments the report identifies existing policies and actions across Planning, Leisure, Environmental Services, Housing, and Regeneration. It highlights opportunities for improvement, including:

- Continued engagement with the Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Monitoring and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) through planning.
- Enhancing biodiversity on council-owned land.
- Promoting citizen science and community engagement

3.3 A new biodiversity report is required every 5 years

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Some actions may require capital investment, e.g., new mowing equipment for grass verge management and individual departments will bring forward to Executive Committee any capital/revenue requirements.

4.2 Officers will explore funding opportunities (e.g., Defra grants) if available and where required.

### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Council is legally required to publish a Biodiversity Duty Report covering the period up to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 by 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

5.2 The biodiversity report has the following mandatory elements that it must cover.

- Policies, Objectives and Actions
- How Other Strategies Were Considered
- Future Actions
- Biodiversity Net Gain Information

### **6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Local Government Reorganisation**

6.1 No direct implications identified at this stage. Any new authority as a result of LGR will also have this legal duty to produce a biodiversity report.

**Executive Committee  
2026**13<sup>th</sup> January**Relevant Council Priority**

6.2 The proposals detailed in this report support the Council's Green Clean and Safe priority.

**Climate Change Implications**

6.3 Biodiversity actions contribute to climate resilience, carbon sequestration, and nature-based solutions.

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

6.4 The report and associated documents will be made accessible. Equality impact assessments will be undertaken where relevant.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 Risks include non-compliance with statutory duties and insufficient monitoring of biodiversity outcomes. Mitigation includes establishing a central reporting mechanism and appointing a lead officer.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Appendix A: Biodiversity First Duty Report

**Executive Committee  
2026**13<sup>th</sup> January**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Jen Snape	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Judith Wills	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Financial Services	Debra Goodall,	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principle Solicitor, Governance	02/12/2025
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Rebecca Green	02/12/2025

# Redditch Borough Council Biodiversity Duty Report

## Executive Summary

This Biodiversity Duty Report complies with Section 40 and 40A of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021). It includes mandatory and optional sections recommended by DEFRA guidance, providing a comprehensive overview of Redditch Borough Council's biodiversity actions, achievements, and future plans.

## 1. Policies, Objectives and Actions

The Council has adopted multiple strategies embedding biodiversity considerations:

- Redditch Borough Local Plan No.4 (Policies 5 and 16)
- Leisure and Culture Strategy (2022)
- Open Space Study (2022)
- Parks and Open Space Strategy (2022)
- Green Infrastructure Baseline Report (2014)
- BNG Supply and Demand Assessment (2024)
- Tree management policy (2023)

Key actions completed include:

- Green Flag Awards for Morton Stanley Park and Overdale Park (2025)
- Citizen Science biodiversity monitoring via iNaturalist
- Grass verge biodiversity initiative (70% verges managed for pollinators)
- Tree planting and species diversification
- Pesticide reduction and alternative weed control methods

## 2. How Other Strategies Were Considered

The Council actively engaged with Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and will integrate its priorities into planning and land management operations.

### 3. Future Actions

Planned actions for 2026-2031 include:

Action	Timescale	Responsibility
Continue LNRS engagement and integrate priorities	2025 onwards	Planning & Leisure
Implement Parks and Open Space biodiversity recommendations	2024/25 onwards	Parks Team
Submit additional Green Flag applications	2025/26 onwards	Parks Team
Develop BNG policies in emerging Local Plan	2024/25	Planning Policy
Prepare and publish Biodiversity Duty Report	By 26/03/26	Climate Change Manager
Include in the council's climate change strategy monitoring and reporting on Biodiversity	February 2026	Climate Change Manager
Develop engagement activities to involve communities and schools for education and awareness of Biodiversity	2026 Onwards	Climate Change Manager

### 4. Biodiversity Net Gain Information

BNG became mandatory on 12 February 2024. Redditch Borough Council has:

- Monitored planning applications subject to BNG requirements
- Commissioned BNG Supply and Demand Assessment (2024)
- Identified Arrow Valley Country Park as a key offsite BNG supply site (84 units, rising to 96.6 units with LNRS multiplier)
- Explored policy options for a local hierarchy for offsite BNG delivery

### 5. Information about the Authority

Redditch Borough Council serves approximately 87,000 residents across 54.35 km<sup>2</sup> (21 sq mi). Functions include planning, leisure, housing, environmental services, and community engagement. The Council manages parks, open spaces, and influences biodiversity through planning decisions, operational practices, partnerships and through community leadership.

Land holdings include Arrow Valley Country Park, Morton Stanley Park, Overdale Park, Brockhill Park & Batchley Pool. The council maintains the highway verges on behalf of Worcestershire County Council. The council's planning decisions shape biodiversity outcomes through Local Plan policies and development management.

## 6. Top Achievements

The council has been successful in achieving a number of awards that have a direct impact on improving biodiversity.

- Green Flag Awards for Morton Stanley Park and Overdale Park (2025)
- Citizen Science biodiversity monitoring via iNaturalist
- Grass verge biodiversity initiative (70% verges managed for pollinators)
- Tree planting and species diversification
- Pesticide reduction and alternative weed control methods

## 7. How Policies and Actions Have Helped

The council has introduced a number of policies and actions that have contributed to improved biodiversity in parks, enhanced pollinator habitats through verge management, and reduced pesticide use. Working in partnerships such as with LNRS engagement have enabled the council to strengthen its landscape recovery.

## 8. Awareness and Education

The council has led a number of community engagement initiatives including Citizen Science projects using iNaturalist, signage on biodiversity-friendly verge management, and partnership communications through local networks.

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring includes ecological surveys for verge management, Citizen Science data collection, and Green Flag Award criteria compliance. The council will include in its new climate change strategy biodiversity as one of its key actions and performance monitoring requirements.

## 10. Highlights and Challenges

Highlights: Green Flag Awards, successful community engagement, partnership working.

Challenges: limited land for offsite BNG, resource constraints for monitoring, balancing biodiversity with development.

## Case Study: Managing Tree Health and Biodiversity Resilience – Ash Dieback Strategy

### Context

Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) is a serious fungal disease affecting native European ash trees, leading to crown dieback and eventual tree death. Nearly **1,000 species** are associated with ash, including **69 species highly dependent on ash** (fungi, bryophytes, invertebrates, lichens). The loss of ash trees poses a significant biodiversity risk and impacts ecosystem functions such as nutrient cycling and carbon storage.

### Council Response

Redditch Borough Council has implemented a comprehensive approach to managing tree health and biodiversity resilience through its Ash Dieback Strategy (2025–28) and Tree Management Policy. The strategy prioritises risk-based inspections across high, medium, and low-risk zones, ensuring public safety while retaining ecological value. Key actions include:

- **Risk-Based Tree Inspections**
  - High-risk zones (busy parks, roads): inspected every 12–18 months.
  - Medium-risk zones: every 2 years.
  - Low-risk zones: every 4 years.
- **Habitat Retention**
  - Retain standing deadwood and habitat piles where safe to support fungi, bats, and invertebrates.
  - Identify and preserve disease-tolerant ash for future propagation.
- **Replanting and Recovery**
  - Target: up to **100,000 trees over 15 years** using diverse species for resilience.
  - Apply **canopy volume approach** and **2:1 replacement ratio** to restore ecological function.
- **Community Engagement**
  - Public awareness campaigns: signage in parks, local media, and nature walks.

- Citizen involvement: tree census, seed collection, propagation, and planting events.
- **Standards and Best Practice**
  - All works comply with **BS3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations** and **BS5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction**.

### **Biodiversity Benefits**

- Maintains habitat for specialist species during decline phase.
- Builds long-term resilience through species diversification.
- Enhances carbon sequestration and climate adaptation.

### **Future Commitments**

- Annual ash dieback surveys and monitoring using Visual Tree Assessment (VTA).
- Integration of tree health data into GIS for strategic planning.
- Continued engagement with stakeholders (Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Friends Groups, Parish Councils).

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**EXECUTIVE****13<sup>th</sup> January 2026****Homelessness Prevention, Rough Sleeper and Domestic Abuse Grants  
Funding 2026/27**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Hartnett
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community and Housing Services
Report Author	Job Title: Amanda Delahunty, Housing Development and Enabling Manager Contact email: a.delahunty@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881269
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Not Applicable
Relevant Council Priorities	• Community and Housing
Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS****The Executive Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that:-**

- 1) **That Temporary Accommodation Services currently met by Homelessness Prevention Grant are now met from the Temporary Accommodation element of the Revenue Support Grant 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29.**
- 2) **Subject to approval of recommendation 1 above by Council, the initiatives detailed at 4.4 be approved to receive the Council's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant allocations of funding for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29, subject to satisfactory performance; and should additional funding be announced at a later date by the Government for subsequent years then this would need to be the subject of a further report.**

**The Executive Committee is also asked to RESOLVE that**

- 3) **Subject to the agreement of recommendations 1 and 2 above, delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to use any unallocated Grants, or Homelessness Prevention Grant mid-year top up, during each year or make further adjustments and uplifts as necessary to ensure full**

**EXECUTIVE****13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**utilisation of the Grants for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 in support of existing or new schemes.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 From 2026/27, the government is consolidating several existing grants into a single Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Grant. This new grant will encompass funding for prevention and relief activities currently supported through the Homelessness Prevention Grant, as well as the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant. The Grant will be awarded for a three year period.

2.2 Officers propose that the grants awarded under this funding are also for a three-year period with any uplift of grant allocation agreed by members in advance of the award period. Grant funding will be subject to satisfactory performance of the services with targets set for continual improvement.

2.3 The Government has made changes to the provision of Homelessness Prevention Grant in relation to its' use towards Temporary accommodation. It is proposed that a proportion of Homelessness Prevention Grant will be transferred to the Revenue Support Grant from 2026–27.

2.4 This funding will be allocated using the new Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA), which will include a dedicated Temporary Accommodation formula. The purpose of ringfencing the Homelessness Prevention Grant fund is to give the Council control and flexibility in managing homelessness pressures and supporting those who are at risk of homelessness. The Government expects local authorities to use it to deliver the following priorities:

- To fully enforce the Homelessness Reduction Act and contribute to ending rough sleeping by increasing activity to prevent single homelessness.
- Reduce family temporary accommodation numbers through maximising family homelessness prevention.
- Eliminate the use of unsuitable bed and breakfast accommodation for families for longer than the statutory six-week limit.
- The Government requires that at least 49% of the grant is spent on prevention and relief activities and staffing.

2.5 The Council received a number of applications for this funding and the above criteria has been used to support the award of this grant for the next three years.

**EXECUTIVE****13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

2.6 Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant funding has been allocated to ensure that councils can comply with the requirements to provide safe and supported accommodation for those fleeing domestic abuse and provide monitoring of services to central government via Worcestershire County Council who are responsible for the overall duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The grant will continue to contribute to the specialist County co-ordinator post and a specialist County Research and Intelligence Officer post and will also be used to support existing services that meet the needs of this cohort.

**3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

3.1 The management and administration of grants forms a significant part of the Homelessness and Housing Solutions and Strategic Housing day to day operations.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Council is expecting

	Homelessness Prevention Grant	Domestic Abuse Grant	Total
2026/27	700,638	35,697	736,335
2027/28	744,361	35,697	780,058
2028/29	772,087	35,697	807,784

4.2 Costs currently met through Homelessness Prevention Grant for Temporary Accommodation will need to be met through Revenue Support Grant from April 2026 currently:

- Temporary Accommodation Management £ 66,380
- Emergency Crash Pad for 16/17 yr olds £ 37,554
- Total £ 103,934

The Crash pads rents are paid for in advance and when occupied the Council receives housing benefit income towards these costs.

4.3 The Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rough Sleeping Grant will be ring fenced by MHCLG for activities that prevent and deal with homelessness based on this year's award. However, this is unlikely to be confirmed until late in December 2025 or early January 2026 and may be higher or lower than the anticipated amounts set out below.

4.4 Proposed Allocation of Homelessness Prevention Grant.

**EXECUTIVE****13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

<b>Initiatives</b>	<b>2026/27 (up to £700,638)</b>	<b>2027/28 (up to £744,361)</b>	<b>2027/29 (up to £772,087)</b>
St Basils Young Persons Supported Housing	67,005	67,005	67,005
Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership Co-ordinator – contribution towards county-wide development and delivery of housing initiatives in partnership with other agencies	10,500	10,500	10,500
Severe Weather Emergency Provision	33,460	33,460	33,460
Redditch Nightstop – Accommodation and Support	44,518	44,518	44,518
Redditch Nightstop Core Funding	13,000	13,000	13,000
Maggs Rough Sleeper Outreach Service	106,822	106,822	106,822
GreenSquare Accord – 6 units of supported accommodation for Ex Offenders or those likely to offend	15,586	15,586	15,586
Newstarts - Furniture Project to provide furniture for homeless households.	10,000	10,000	10,000
Homelessness Prevention - Spend to Save budget for use by Housing Options Officers	17,060	17,060	17,060
St Basils Young Persons Pathway Worker	31,116	31,116	31,116
Onside Advocacy Mental Health Support Worker	39,100	39,100	39,100
Homelessness Prevention Officers	150,000	150,000	150,000
Part Time Empty Homes Officer	7,681	7,681	7,681
Batchley Support Group	15,000	15,000	15,000
CAB financial advice for home owners and private renters	27,611	27,611	27,611
No First Night Out/No Second Night Out	18,394	18,394	18,394
St Pauls Housing Led/Housing First Support Service	60,642	60,642	60,642

**EXECUTIVE****13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

County Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator	5,000	5,000	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£672,495</b>	<b>£672,495</b>	<b>£672,495</b>
<b>Underspend</b>	<b>£28,143</b>	<b>£71,866</b>	<b>£99,592</b>

Proposed allocation of Domestic Abuse Grant

Initiatives	2026/27 (up to £35,697)	2027/28 (up to £35,697)	2028/29 (up to £35,697)
Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator	4,813	4,813	4,813
Domestic Abuse Research and Intelligence Officer	4,884	4,884	4,884
Domestic Abuse Housing Solutions Officer Top Up	6,000	6,000	6,000
New Starts	5,000	5,000	5,000
Batchley Support Group	5,000	5,000	5,000
St Basil's Young Persons Pathway Worker (YPPW)	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£35,697</b>	<b>£35,697</b>	<b>£35,697</b>
<b>Underspend</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

4.5 There are a number of initiatives that could be supported utilising the underspend of Homelessness Prevention Grant including increasing support available for those who are vulnerable or have complex needs and for 2026/27 this will be agreed under delegated authority during the year. For the 2027/28 and 2028/29 years a report will be brought to members to confirm the spend for the following year.

4.6 These are voluntary organisations and without this funding the support provided would cease which will lead to an increase in homelessness pressures and have a negative impact on council finances and reputation.

4.7 The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) have submitted a bid for a new service for £27,611 for targeted Debt Intervention for home owners who are facing repossession with an aim to intervene and provide advice to prevent homelessness.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**EXECUTIVE****13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

- 5.1 The Council has statutory duty under the Housing Act 1996 (as amended) to assist those who are threatened with homelessness or experiencing actual homelessness and has placed additional duties on the Council regarding preventing and relieving homelessness.
- 5.2 The Homelessness Prevention Grant has been ring fenced to homelessness prevention and tackling homelessness by the MHCLG.
- 5.3 The Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant has been provided to ensure that councils comply with the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

**6. OTHER- IMPLICATIONS****Local Government Reorganisation**

- 6.1 The new unitary authority/authorities will be required as (a) local housing authority(ies) to provide duties under Homelessness legislation. The three-year funding allocation to organisations would be subject to any implications arising from Local Government Reorganisation.

**Relevant Council Priority**

- 6.2 Community and Housing - Homelessness Prevention Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant allows the Council to support a range of holistic services to help prevent or tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the Borough. The combination of practical support such as furniture compliments those services that provide outreach support to help clients access accommodation, sustain tenancies, manage budgets, engage in positive activities and access employment.

**Climate Change Implications**

- 6.3 The recycling of furniture supports the Council's green thread as it minimises waste and provides reuse and recycling of household items wherever possible.

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.4 The Homelessness Grant and Homelessness Prevention Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant will benefit customers by offering households more options to prevent their homelessness, support them to remain in their own homes or help the Council to manage and support households in Temporary Accommodation.

**EXECUTIVE****13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

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- 6.5 The grant will also benefit the larger community as opportunities to prevent homelessness will be maximised.
- 6.6 Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant will ensure that there are resources to support the provision of a range of services available to meet the needs of those victims/survivors of domestic abuse who become homeless and need support to set up a new home and recover from their experience. The majority of those experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic abuse are women.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 If the recommended schemes are not approved there is a risk that more households who are threatened with homelessness, or who are in housing need, will have limited alternative options. There is also therefore the risk that they may have to make a homeless approach and this could consequently lead to the following negative outcomes:
  - Increased B&B costs with 80% having to be picked up by the local authority.
  - Increased rough sleeping in the Borough
  - Impacts on physical and mental health, educational achievement, ability to work and similar through increased homelessness
- 7.2 All recipients of grant funding will enter into a grant agreement and have regular monitoring with officers on the delivery of the service and a monitoring report will be taken to the Executive Committee annually.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**EXECUTIVE****13<sup>th</sup> January 2026****9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Hartnett, Portfolio Holder for Housing	25 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Assistant Director	Judith Willis Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Financial Services	Deb Goodall, Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor Governance	1st December 2025
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Bough, Strategic Housing and Business Support Manager	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2025

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

**1 February 2026 to 31 May 2026**

(Published as at 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026)

This Work Programme gives details of items on which key decisions are likely to be taken by the Borough Council's Executive Committee, or full Council, in the coming four months. "Key Decisions" are ones which are likely to:

- (i) result in the Council incurring expenditure, foregoing income or the making of savings in excess of £200,000 or which are otherwise significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (ii) be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in the area comprising two or more wards in the Borough;
- (iii) involve any proposal to cease to provide a Council service (other than a temporary cessation of service of not more than 6 months).

If you wish to make representations on the proposed decision you are encouraged to get in touch with the relevant report author as soon as possible before the proposed date of the decision. Contact details are provided. Alternatively, you may write to the Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Property Services, The Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH or e-mail: [democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

The Executive Committee's meetings are normally held at 6.30pm on Tuesday evenings at the Town Hall. They are open to the public, except when confidential information is being discussed. If you wish to attend for a particular matter, it is advisable to check with the Democratic Services Team on (01527) 64252, ext: 3072 to make sure it is going ahead as planned. If you have any other queries, Democratic Services Officers will be happy to advise you. The full Council meets in accordance the Council's Calendar of Meetings. Meetings commence at 6.30pm.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Sharon Harvey – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Environmental Services

Councillor Jane Spilsbury - Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Performance, Engagement and Governance

Councillor Ian Woodall - Portfolio Holder for Finance

Councillor Monica Stringfellow - Portfolio Holder for Community Services and Safeguarding Responsibilities

Councillor Juma Begum - Portfolio Holder for Community Spaces and Voluntary Sector

Councillor Juliet Barker Smith - Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Recreation

Councillor Bill Hartnett - Portfolio Holder for Housing

Councillor Jen Snape – Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Biodiversity



Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Climate Change Strategy 2026 to 2031 <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Feb 2026  Council Not before 23rd Feb 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	Matthew Eccles, Climate Change Manager Tel: 01527 881259
Grants to Voluntary Bodies Awarding of Grants <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Feb 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	Tara Day, Support Manager Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3162
Inclusive Play Policy Statement <b>Key:</b> Yes	Executive 9 Feb 2026		Report of the Assistant Director of Planning and Leisure Services	Ishrat Karimi-Fini, Parks and Events Service Manager Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1204
Medium Term Financial Plan Budget Report 2026/2027 to 2028/29 including Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy and Investment Strategy) <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Feb 2026  Council Not before 23rd Feb 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Pet Cremation Service <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Feb 2026  Council Not before 23rd Feb 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services	Doug Henderson, Environmental Services Manager, Adam Smith, Bereavement Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252, Tel: 01527 64252
Quarter 3 Housing Improvement Plan Update <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Feb 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services	Simon Parry, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services, Judith Willis Assistant Director Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3201, Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3348
Quarter 3 Housing Performance <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Feb 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services	Simon Parry, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services, Judith Willis Assistant Director Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3201, Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3348

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Repairs and Maintenance Policy <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Feb 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services	Andrew Rainbow, Housing Property Services Manager (Interim) Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1678
Council Tax Resolutions 2026/27 <b>Key:</b> No	Executive Not before 23rd Feb 2026  Council Not before 23rd Feb 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	David Riley, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3382
Leisure Concession Policy Review <b>Key:</b> No	Executive Not before 1st Mar 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services, Assistant Director of Planning and Leisure Services	Chris Wells, Contracts & Utilities Officer Tel: 01527 64252 ext 2559
Auxerre House Refurbishment and Regeneration <b>Key:</b> Yes	Executive 17 Mar 2026	This report may contain exempt information that would need to be considered in private session	Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services	Andrew Rainbow, Housing Property Services Manager (Interim) Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1678

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Construction of Redditch Innovation Centre <b>Key:</b> Yes	Executive 17 Mar 2026	This report may contain exempt information that would need to be considered in private session	Report of the Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services	Neil Batt, Regeneration Project Delivery Manager Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3119
Empty Homes Strategy <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 17 Mar 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	Maria Bailey, Senior Housing Strategy Officer Tel: (01527) 881327
Permission to Revoke the First Homes Policy <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 17 Mar 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	Amanda Delahunty, Acting Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1269
Quarter 3 2025/26 Finance Monitoring Report (including Financial Savings) <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 17 Mar 2026  Council Not before 1st Jun 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Quarter 3 2025/26 Performance Monitoring Report <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 17 Mar 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services	Rebecca Green, Policy Manager Tel: 01527 881616
Renter's Right Act 2025 <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 17 Mar 2026		Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	Matthew Bough, Acting Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager, Katie Sharp-Fisher Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3120,