

# additional papers 1



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tue 9 Jun  
2015  
7.00 pm

Committee Room 3  
Town Hall  
Redditch



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**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact  
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# Overview and Scrutiny

## Committee

Tuesday, 9th June, 2015

7.00 pm

Committee Room 3 Town Hall

### Agenda

#### Membership:

Cllrs: Jane Potter (Chair) Gareth Prosser  
Gay Hopkins (Vice-Chair) Paul Swansborough  
Joe Baker Jennifer Wheeler  
David Bush Nina Wood-Ford  
Andrew Fry

#### 5. Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Training

(Pages 1 - 8)

Councillor Jane Potter

To consider feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny training held on 9th June 2015 and to determine whether any of the subjects raised during the training are suitable for further scrutiny.

(Report to follow).

**(No Specific Ward Relevance)**



**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

9th June 2015

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TRAINING - OUTCOMES**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor John Fisher, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities, and Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected	No specific ward relevance.
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

This report provides an overview of the outcomes from the Overview and Scrutiny training that took place on 28th May 2015. The report also provides Members with an opportunity to identify items, if any, that arose from the training that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and / or Task Groups and Short, Sharp Review groups could consider during the year.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE**

**1) to identify which of the items proposed during the Overview and Scrutiny training session on 28th May, if any, should be added to the committee's Work Programme for the year 2015/16; and**

**2) that the report be noted.**

**3. KEY ISSUES****Background**

- 3.1 An Overview and Scrutiny training session was held on the evening of Thursday 28th May. All non-Executive Councillors were invited to attend. A total of 12 Councillors participated in the training.
- 3.2 The training consisted of a mixture of presentations and interactive workshop sessions. A key focus of the training was on the links between Overview and Scrutiny and the Council's strategic vision, particularly the strategic purposes.
- 3.3 During the interactive workshop sessions Members discussed the top five issues that had been brought to their attention by local residents. These issues were linked to the Council's strategic purposes. In groups Members subsequently discussed each issue in turn and the extent to which each topic was suitable for further scrutiny, either by the Committee or by a Task Group/Short, Sharp Review.

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COMMITTEE**9th June 2015

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- 3.4 A full list of the issues discussed during the interactive sessions and Members' conclusions regarding these issues is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider this list of items and to determine which of these topics, if any, should be added to the Committee's Work Programme in 2015/16.

**Financial Implications**

- 3.6 There are no direct financial implications directly relating to this report.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.7 There are no legal implications directly relating to this report.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.8 The Committee is asked to note that in previous years it was agreed that there would only be two Task Group activities (including Short, Sharp Reviews) taking place at any one time. This agreement was reached following a reduction in capacity within the Democratic Services team.
- 3.9 Members discussed during the training the value of Overview and Scrutiny to focus on strategic issues and on budgetary matters during the year ahead. In this context Members may want to note that the majority of items suggested for scrutiny linked to the strategic purpose: "keep my place safe and looking good". By contrast no items were suggested which linked to the strategic purpose "help me to run a successful business".

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.10 One of the key powers of the Overview and Scrutiny process is for Members to enable the voice and concerns of the public and local communities. It is therefore appropriate for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the importance of the items suggested to local residents when determining whether to include an item in the Committee's Work Programme.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

No risks have been identified.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – List of items suggested for scrutiny during the Overview and Scrutiny training on 28th May.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
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**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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**APPENDIX 1****Overview and Scrutiny Training: Items suggested during the training session on 28th May for Scrutiny****Help me to be Financially Independent (including education and skills)**

- 1) Issue suggested: Council Tax / Bedroom Tax / Housing Benefit (x 3)

Suggested approach: Members suggested that it would be useful for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a presentation covering the following areas:

- An update on how people are affected by rent changes.
- Further information about how the Council has addressed this.
- Data to include the number of residents affected and the number of people contacting the Council about housing benefit changes.
- Further information about what the Council is doing to support people who have been affected by benefit changes.

**Help me to live my life independently (including health and activity)**

- 2) Issue suggested: The Alexandra Hospital

Suggested Approach: Members agreed that the future of the hospital and the quality of services provided at the hospital was an important subject for scrutiny. However, Members concurred that it would be more appropriate for Borough Councillors to refer any concerns relating to the hospital to the Council's representative on the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), Councillor Nina Wood-Ford, so that the matter could be raised in an appropriate forum.

**Provide good things for me to do, see and visit**

- 3) Issue suggested: Places for young people to go for leisure

Suggested approach: As a first step Members would need to revisit the Youth Services Provision Task Group review's findings (from 2012). If it was felt that limited progress had been achieved a Short, Sharp Review might be necessary of particularly pertinent issues. However, Members were concerned that a review of this subject could become political.

- 4) Issue suggested: Morton Stanley Park (x2)

Suggested approach: Members agreed that a review of this subject might be appropriate for a Task Group. However, as this was not considered to be a key strategic consideration it was noted that a presentation to the Committee on the subject of current facilities, maintenance requirements and the financial costs involved in maintaining the park might be a suitable first step. Members suggested that if a Task Group was to be launched alternative methods of managing the park facilities should be taken into account. (To some extent this links to the current review of leisure facilities that is being undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

**Help me find somewhere to live in my locality**

- 5) Issues suggested: housing / house building / development (x5)

Suggested approach: There should be a presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee covering the following matters:

- Private landlords.
- The amount of housing in Redditch and whether this is sufficient to meet the needs of residents.
- The mixture of housing in Redditch and whether this is sufficient to meet the needs of residents.
- The housing allocations system.
- The selection of locations for new housing.
- To address the question “is it right to have Redditch homes for Redditch people?”

**Keep my place safe and looking good**

- 6) Issue suggested: landscaping / tree problems / hedge cutting / dog fouling (x 12)

Suggested approach: Members agreed that a presentation should be requested from the Place Team to be delivered for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Committee Members would need to propose questions for the consideration of the Place Team prior to the meeting. A suggestion was made that all Members should be invited to attend this meeting to consider the information in the presentation.

- 7) Issue suggested: potholes / footpaths / poor pavement surfaces / flooding

Suggested approach: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a presentation on the work of the place teams. This presentation should address:

- The role of the place team.
- The extent to which the place teams' responses to reports are co-ordinated.

- 8) Issue suggested: Roads / parking / lorries parking (x 6)

Suggested approach: Members suggested that further information might be required about the nature of the parking problems. However, it was noted that this subject was more suitable to refer to the Worcestershire county Council Highways Department in the first instance and to the relevant Worcestershire County Councillor in the second instance. There was some reluctance to undertake a bespoke scrutiny review at a borough level, though it was noted that if complaints persisted it could be suggested that Worcestershire County Council's Overview and Scrutiny process investigate the matter in further detail.

- 9) Issue suggested: Street Lights

Suggested approach: Members noted that this was a responsibility of Worcestershire County Council. It was suggested that further information was required about the problem relating to street lights. However, it was noted that this subject was more

suitable to refer to Worcestershire County Council and the relevant County Councillors. Members suggested that if complaints persisted it could be proposed that Worcestershire County Council's Overview and Scrutiny process investigate the matter in further detail.

10) Issue Suggested: Anti-Social Behaviour in Neighbourhoods

Suggested approach: Members agreed that further information was required about the nature of the anti-social behaviour and the location. It was suggested that in the first instance Members should discuss such cases with the Locality team, Community Safety team and neighbourhood police officer. It was not considered appropriate to launch a bespoke scrutiny review unless specific issues emerged.

