

additional papers 1



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thu 2 Jun
2016
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2
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

Thursday, 2nd June, 2016

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs: Jane Potter (Chair) Andrew Fry
Gay Hopkins (Vice-Chair) Paul Swansborough
Joe Baker Jennifer Wheeler
Tom Baker-Price Nina Wood-Ford
Matthew Dormer

5. Overview and Scrutiny Training - Feedback Report

(Pages 1 - 8)

To consider feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny training that took place on 31st May and to determine whether to add any suggested items for scrutiny to the Committee's Work Programme.

(Report attached)

(No Specific Ward Relevance)

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

2nd June 2016

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TRAINING – POTENTIAL ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY
IDENTIFIED DURING TRAINING ON 31ST MAY 2016**

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	All wards.
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to consider items for scrutiny suggested by Members who attended scrutiny training on 31st May 2016. Members are asked to determine which, if any, of these items should be added to the Committee's Work Programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE:**

- 1) to identify items from the list attached at Appendix 1 to this report which should be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme; and
- 2) that the report be noted.

3. KEY ISSUES**Background**

- 3.1 An Overview and Scrutiny training session was held on 31st May 2016. This session provided an update on the role and powers of the process and an opportunity for Members to suggest items that could be scrutinised over the next two years.
- 3.2 Every Member of the Council was invited to attend this session, though a number had provided their apologies in advance. The following Councillors did attend: Councillors Baker-Price, Bennett, Brookes, Chalk, Hartnett, Hill, King, Potter, Thain and Wood-Ford.
- 3.3 During the training in two groups Members identified topics that might be suitable for further scrutiny. To assist in this process the following was considered by Members:

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- A list of policies and reports due to be considered shortly by the Executive Committee and listed on the Executive Committee's Work Programme.
- A list of recent past decisions made by the Executive Committee.
- Suggestions from the Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT).
- A summary of key issues impacting on the local community reported on by the press in recent months.
- A list of topics that have previously been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- 3.4 At the end of this exercise Members had identified thirteen potential items for scrutiny which are detailed in Appendix 1 to this report. Some of these topics have been proposed as suitable for Task Group exercises whilst other topics were considered more appropriate for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to debate.

Financial Implications

- 3.5 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 3.6 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.7 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee previously agreed that there should only be two Task Groups or Short, Sharp Reviews at any one time. However, Members are asked to note that as there are no elections in Redditch in 2017 and the Committee can schedule items for consideration at any time over the next two years.
- 3.8 Scoping documents, containing the proposed terms of reference for a review, would need to be completed before any decision could be taken to launch a Task Group / Short, Sharp Review. This report therefore simply provides an opportunity to identify topics which Members may wish to progress to the scoping stage.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.9 A small number of the topics that were proposed during the training on 31st May do have equalities and diversity implications. The specific implications should be explored in further detail on a case by case basis as and when required.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

No specific risks have been identified.

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5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Training Items 31st May 2016.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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APPENDIX 1: OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY TRAINING ITEMS 31st May 2016**GROUP 1**

Group 1 comprised the following Members: Councillors Baker-Price, Hartnett, Hill, King and Thain

Potential Items suitable for Task Groups and/or Short Sharp Reviews**Idea 1: Promoting Redditch (Short Sharp Review)**

- The focus would be on promoting Redditch as a place to do business and as a location where young people have employment/training/apprenticeship opportunities.
- Members were keen to ensure that any review took into account work to date to address this and determined how this could be measured (e.g. by the Executive).
- As part of a review Members would need to work out how the Council and businesses could actively engage with schools, including multi-academy trusts, to promote employment opportunities to young people. This could entail consulting with Head Teachers.
- The review could take into account the role of careers services.
- The group agreed that this review would need to assess action that could be taken to make a positive impact in the long-term.
- Members noted that a review had previously been conducted concerning promoting Redditch primarily from a tourism perspective. The group did not want to duplicate this work.
- A review of this subject would help to address issues raised by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) for Members' consideration.

Idea 2: Mental Health (Task Group)

- The group felt that it would be helpful for scrutiny to investigate the support available to people with milder mental health problems who do not have immediate access to mental health services.
- A review of this subject would need to take into account the impact on Council services (e.g. the housing and locality teams).
- This exercise could also take into account the impact on demand for support from Members (e.g. both to support individuals struggling with mental health problems and to support families / neighbours).
- The group noted that this could have crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour implications and could impact on demand for other services from external organisations (e.g. the police).
- A review of this subject would need to explore the potential for support to be enhanced through more effective partnership working with other agencies.

- A review of this subject would be timely given forthcoming changes to primary care and mental health services.
- A review of this subject would help to address issues raised by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) for Members' consideration.

Idea 3: Working in a Two Tier Authority Area (Task Group or Short, Sharp Review)

- Members discussed the potential for the County and Borough Councils to work closer together in the interests of residents.
- A review into this area could focus on specific areas such as capital investment and the respective roles of the two Councils in economic development within the town.
- An investigation could also assess the potential role of Redditch as the gateway to Worcestershire.
- Members concurred that the timing of a review of this subject would need to be considered carefully. The group noted that it might be better to launch this review after the County Council elections in 2017.
- County bus services, and the impact that this has on the ability of residents to travel to work, were also discussed. The group noted that Worcestershire County Council recently considered a proposal to scrutinise bus services and, if this review is launched, Members may wish to provide evidence for the consideration of this group and / or to request that this be undertaken as a joint exercise.

Item suitable for a presentation to the Committee

Idea 4: The Council's Corporate Plan

- The group felt that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee might identify further items suitable for scrutiny based on the content of the plan.
- However, this should not prevent Members from identifying items for scrutiny from other sources. (E.g. through ward work).
- The group suggested that this report should be debated by the Committee in the form of pre-scrutiny.

Idea 6: Dangerous Driving

- Members raised concerns about recent press coverage indicating that there may be a problem with dangerous driving.
- The group felt that scrutiny could help to bring relevant groups together to discuss how to resolve this matter to the benefit of community safety (e.g. the police, dangerous drivers, speed awareness course representatives).

Idea 7: Protecting Pets

- Members noted that there has been recent coverage in the local press of the disappearance/abuse/killing of pets.
- Cases involving abuse of puppies and kittens have also been highlighted.
- Members discussed the potential for a Committee debate to help clarify what advice could be provided to pet owners in respect of this matter.
- However, the group agreed that any criminal behaviour involving the abuse of pets should be referred to the police.

GROUP 2

Group 2 comprised the following Members: Councillors Bennett, Brookes, Chalk, Potter and Wood-Ford

Potential Items suitable for Task Groups and/or Short Sharp Reviews

Idea 8: Community Engagement

To include such areas as:

- How Councillors feedback information and concerns received from residents to the Council (to include how these are received i.e. face to face, email).
- Raising aspirations within the Borough.

Idea 9: Encouraging businesses to come to Redditch

To include:

- What types of business come to Redditch and how do we as a Council engage with the larger businesses?
- Eastern Gateway – how can the Council get involved and influence how it can have a positive impact on Redditch.

Idea 10: Ensuring the Young People of Redditch meet the employment needs of the Borough

- Engaging those people furthest from the job market in the process.
- Ensuring the right information is available in schools in order for young people to be able to make the right choices (i.e. careers advice, further education choices).
- Apprenticeship Levy – how does this work, and how is this being used together with details of the benefits to the Borough from it.

HEALTH

Idea 11: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Although countywide it would be possible to drill down to Borough level and to look at:

- What specific areas are of most concern?
- What preventative work is being carried out in respect of those areas?
- How will the services needed be delivered?

Idea 12: Sustainability and Transfer Plan

- The impact of being included within the Hereford area.
- To feed into the process before the plan is put in place.

Item suitable for a presentation to the Committee

Idea 13: Disabled People's access to employment and the choices available to them.