



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thu 6 Sep
2018
6.30 pm

Committee Room Two
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Thursday, 6th September, 2018

6.30 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Joe Baker (Chair)	Pattie Hill
	Debbie Chance (Vice-Chair)	Anthony Lovell
	Joanne Beecham	Gemma Monaco
	Michael Chalk	Jennifer Wheeler
	Andrew Fry	

1. Apologies and named substitutes
2. Declarations of interest and of Party Whip

To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and / or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests, and any Party Whip.
3. Minutes of the meetings held on the 5 July and 9 August 2018 (Pages 1 - 22)
4. Safeguarding and Early Help - Worcestershire County Council Update (Pages 23 - 32)
5. Pre-decision Scrutiny - Draft Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Wider Support Framework - TO FOLLOW
6. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 33 - 52)
7. Task Groups, Short Sharp Reviews and Working Groups - Update Reports
 - a) Budget Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Wheeler
 - b) Performance Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Wheeler
8. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports
 - a) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Council representative, Councillor Chalk; and
 - b) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Council representative, Councillor Chalk.

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9. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 53 - 56)

10. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Borough Director, during the course of the meeting to consider excluding the public from the meeting on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be divulged, it may be necessary to move the following resolution:

“That, under S.100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter(s) on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs (to be specified) of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act”.

These paragraphs are as follows:

Subject to the “public interest” test, information relating to:

- Para 3 – financial or business affairs;
- Para 4 – labour relations matters;

11. Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Leisure Services Business Plan - TO FOLLOW

12. Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Leisure Services Re-Structure - TO FOLLOW

13. Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Housing / HRA Overview and Recovery Plan - TO FOLLOW



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MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Joe Baker (Chair), Councillor Debbie Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Michael Chalk, Pattie Hill, Anthony Lovell, Gemma Monaco, Michael Rouse and Jennifer Wheeler

Also Present:

Mr Raymond Groves, RYCE

Officers:

Helen Broughton, Sue Hanley and Jayne Pickering

Democratic Services Officers:

J Bayley, L Morris and F Mughal

10. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies were received from Councillor A. Fry.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor any party whip.

12. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 30 MAY 2018

The Chair alerted the Committee to an urgent request that he had received following the last Committee meeting to give permission for the Town Centre Regeneration item to be considered at the July Executive. After consideration he had declined this request recognising the importance of the item and the need to give time for proper scrutiny.

The Chair also made the suggestion that going forward the use of PowerPoint should be banned at Committee meetings to ensure that presenters engage better with the Committee.

.....
Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the Thursday 31st May 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair; and
- 2) the use of PowerPoint be prevented at future Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings.

13. REDDITCH PARTNERSHIP - MONITORING UPDATE REPORT

The Redditch Partnership Manager presented a report on the Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). This update was provided to the Committee on an annual basis in response to a recommendation from a 2010 Task and Finish Group considering the Redditch Partnership. In the course of the presentation it was highlighted that;

- The SCS set the priorities for the Redditch Partnership.
- There were four priorities – health inequalities; educational attainment, school readiness and raising expectations of young people; the economy of Redditch with a focus on providing a larger and more diverse job offer and; lead on transformational change of services for citizens of Redditch.
- There should be good information flow between the local level groups and the County level groups.
- The Redditch Partnership Group had in collaboration with the Connecting Families Team agreed to focus on Mental Health. It would be challenging to focus on all priorities and the Group had been encouraged to focus on one.
- Mental health data would be considered and key partners would be asked about communication and barriers to getting things done. The focus would be on preventative work.
- The Redditch theme groups considered each area, with each meeting providing the opportunity for focussed presentations. At the last Economic Development Theme Group meeting for example information had been shared about the work of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.

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- Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust worked with public health to refresh the Redditch Health profile. There was a focus on an asset based approach and building on what was positive.
- In 2017 the assets in Redditch to improve community wellbeing, for example the voluntary groups and parks, had been mapped. This was a useful process and could be used to benchmark the current position and feed into the mental health work being undertaken by the Redditch Partnership Executive Group and Connecting Families; and taken into account when recommissioning services.
- A Wellbeing Newsletter was produced and shared with all Councillors providing an update on projects and services. A directory of services across Bromsgrove and Redditch called the Knowledge Bank was also available with a searchable directory on the Council's webpages. Partners were encouraged to update their details regularly.

Members' queried which Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) the Council worked with and it was confirmed that the Council's Leader and the Chief Executive had links with both the Great Birmingham and Solihull LEP and the Worcestershire LEP.

The Committee requested a copy of the Redditch Assets Report and it was explained that this was available on the Worcestershire County Council webpages.

It was queried if the work of the Mental Health Task Group would be considered by the Redditch Partnership Executive Group. The Redditch Partnership Manager confirmed that the findings had already been considered and she would bring anything further that may be of relevance to the Group's attention.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the progress update on the Redditch Community Strategy and the work of the Redditch Partnership be noted; and**
- 2) the Redditch Assets Report be circulated to Committee Members for information.**

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14. REDI CENTRE LEASE ARRANGEMENT - PRE DECISION SCRUTINY TO FOLLOW

The Executive Director of Finance and Resources discussed the report detailing the proposal to grant a twelve year lease to Redditch Youth and Community Enterprise (RYCE) for the use of the REDI Centre.

In the course of the presentation it was highlighted that;

- The item would be discussed at the Executive Committee on the 10th July 2018.
- RYCE currently used the REDI Centre and had done so since January 2014 under a meanwhile lease arrangement whereby no rent was paid.
- As detailed at 3.2 – 3.7 of the report RYCE had successfully secured grant funding for feasibility and design reports for the building to ensure that it was fit for purpose for the future.
- A final Stage 3 bid had been presented to the Big Lottery to provide £465k, £350k of which would be for capital works. Part of the condition of any grant allocation will be that the lease arrangement in place had to be ten years or over following the completion of the building work so a lease of twelve years was being proposed.
- The improvements would help ensure better access for all, in particular disabled people and also enable additional community services to be based there.
- It was proposed that the rent would be £7k for the lease period.
- All the arrangements would be subject to further discussion with the Big Lottery.
- The Council had to consider Best Value and the report included consideration of the financial value and community value. The social value included over 1,200 attendances each month.
- Risks included that the RYCE income appeared ambitious but RYCE had confirmed that it could achieve an income of £30-40K per year.
- There were a lot of legal considerations to take into account due to the involvement of the Big Lottery and this would limit what the building could be used for over the next twelve years.

In response to Members' queries the Executive Director of Finance and Resources confirmed that;

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- In relation to the risks associated with the grant and the dependence on RYCE diversifying income streams, the Council would be meeting with RYCE quarterly going forward to ensure that they could meet the Big Lottery expectations.
- Regarding the impact on other organisations in the vicinity no challenge had been presented as yet. The potential risk referred to was that hirers could move to the centre from elsewhere.

A representative from RYCE explained that the improvements would provide for a Changing Place in Redditch. For there to be a Changing Place there had to be a number of things in place, for example a shower hoist, a moveable wash basin and a privacy area. A Changing Place contractor would be involved. The funding would also provide the opportunity to put in place new lifts and three new toilets capable of taking a wheelchair and improvements to the grounds. The focus was on improving access for disabled people.

The Chair referred to the good work of RYCE and proposed that the Committee recommend that the Executive Committee consider recommendations 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 in the report.

This was seconded by Councillor Chance, with the whole Committee voting in favour of the proposal.

RECOMMENDED that

the Executive Committee take into account the following three recommendations;

- 1) a 12 year lease is granted to RYCE for the use of the REDI Centre subject to commence when the Lottery funding for works on the building is approved;**
- 2) approval of a rent of £7k per annum is agreed for the period of the lease; and**
- 3) should the Lottery grant be unsuccessful that a further report be presented to Members on the future opportunities for the centre.**

15. FINAL REPORT OF THE SUPPORT FOR CARE LEAVERS SHORT SHARP REVIEW TASK GROUP TO FOLLOW

RESOLVED that

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this item be deferred to the next meeting.

16. TASK GROUP REVIEWS - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT TO FOLLOW

Councillor Rouse introduced the scoping document. He highlighted that he was aware of anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues in Church Hill Ward and across Redditch which had been embodied by young people climbing up the side of a bus following the England football match. The issue had also been discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme event. He suggested that the Group could consider the definition of ASB. He referred to ASB in Church Hill Ward being committed by sixteen and seventeen year old young people but that eleven and twelve year old children who were innocently playing on their bikes were being mistaken for taking part in ASB too. It would be useful to consider where intervention was working to reduce ASB, how ASB was being monitored in the Borough and what could be learnt. The review would be timely as ASB could increase during the summer school holidays.

A Member referred to a previous Task Group on the matter which was undertaken in 2006.

Members commented that;

- The incident with people climbing onto a bus involved adults and not children or young people.
- The Police had visited the families of children and young people in Church Hill when matters had arisen.
- The situation in Matchborough had been addressed locally.
- It was important to narrow down the scope of the work.
- It would be helpful to focus on something specific and undertake a Short, Sharp Review.
- ASB had an impact on the town and anything that the Council could do to improve the situation was worth considering.

Councillor Rouse suggested that it was important to consider the issue as a whole as ASB could be generational.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **A Short Sharp Review be undertaken to consider the issue of ASB.**

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2) Councillor Rouse to Chair the Review.

3) Members to notify their Group Leader if they want to serve on the review.

17. RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER

The Senior Democratic Services Manager introduced the report and highlighted where the recommendations had been completed. A number of recommendations remained in progress and some had been abandoned.

Members' expressed disappointment that the recommendation to employ an apprentice to support the works of the Grants Officer had been abandoned and the Deputy Chief Executive gave reassurance that providing apprentice opportunities and work experience opportunities was something that was corporately supported, although the individual needs of the service also had to be considered, and in this case it had been felt that a different approach was required with a full time member of staff being recruited.

Members' referred to young people having access to work experience at the Council and having the opportunity to see all Council departments. Reference was made to some of the apprentices currently employed by the Council.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted and that completed recommendations be removed from the tracker.

18. CONSIDERING THE OUTCOMES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME EVENT HELD ON THE 25 JUNE 2018

The Committee Chair thanked all those who had contributed to the Work Programme event.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer referred to the report which detailed the potential items for scrutiny going forward and a number of matters which could form the basis of a question to residents in the Community Panel Survey later in 2018.

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The Committee Chair suggested that the following items should be included in the Committee Work Programme for scrutiny;

- Town centre regeneration and improvements.
- Homeless policy and the impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act
- The lack of sexual health services in Redditch

Committee Members agreed with these items and also referred to the need to incorporate;

- The Housing Attitudes Survey
- The Council's website
- Public transport

The Senior Democratic Services Officer commented that an item on homelessness would be shared at the 6 December 2018 Committee meeting as previously requested by the Committee.

Members' suggested the following additional items also be included in the scrutiny work programme;

- The management of waste in relation to housing of multiple occupation.
- How businesses in Redditch could benefit from the HS2 development.

It was commented by Members' that the previous Leader had undertaken some work with businesses regarding what they could offer in terms of HS2 and officers suggested that there could be an opportunity to discuss the matter with North Worcestershire Economic Development Unit.

Members' felt that the additional items suggested at the Work Programming event should be included in the Work Programme for consideration at a later date. The Senior Democratic Services Support Officer confirmed that the Work Programme would be amended to include both the items prioritised by the Committee and the remaining items would be recorded for potential scrutiny at a later date.

Members' referred to the issue of looked after children and Council tax and it was confirmed that this would be discussed when the final report of the Support for Care Leavers Short Sharp Review was presented to the Committee.

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RESOLVED that;

- 1) **The Committee note;**
 - a) **the issues raised as potential items for scrutiny, including pre-scrutiny in 2018/19**
 - b) **the subjects raised as potential items for scrutiny in 2019/20 which will form the basis of a question to residents in the Community Panel Survey later in 2018.**

- 2) **That the items suggested by Members during the discussion be incorporated into the Committee Work Programme and the remaining items be included for future consideration.**

19. SCRUTINY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME - SELECTING ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY

The Senior Democratic Services Officer highlighted to Members the recent amendments made to the Executive Committee's Work Programme.

In response to Members' queries it was confirmed that items on the Leisure Services Business Plan, the Town Centre Regeneration and the HRA Gas Maintenance Service Delivery Options would be included on the Committee's Work Programme. Issues in relation to finance were likely to be considered by the Budget Scrutiny Working Group.

RESOLVED that

the Committee Work Programme be updated to reflect the suggestions made by the Committee.

20. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Senior Democratic Services Officer informed the Committee that as requested at the previous meeting an item on homelessness would be presented at the December Committee meeting. In addition permission had been sought and approved by the Chairman to bring forward the Emergency Planning Annual Update to the 18th October 2018 meeting.

RESOLVED that

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the above amendments to the Work Programme be approved.

21. TASK GROUPS, SHORT SHARP REVIEWS AND WORKING GROUPS - UPDATE REPORTS

A. Budget Scrutiny Working Group

Councillor J. Wheeler confirmed that the Budget Scrutiny Working Group would be meeting during the following week and she would provide an update at the next Committee meeting.

B. Performance Scrutiny Work Programme

Councillor J. Wheeler explained that the Performance Scrutiny Working Group would be meeting on the 12th July 2018 and she would provide an update at the next Committee meeting.

22. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

a) Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP (GBSLEP) Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Rouse had attended a meeting of the GBSLEP Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This meeting had focussed on the governance and accountability arrangements.

b) West Midlands Combined authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Chalk had not yet attended the West Midlands Combined authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee but would be discussing the role with the Senior Democratic Services Officer as well as the Chairman of the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a later date.

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c) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

Councillor Rouse had attended the HOSC that day. There had been consideration of the winter pressures on hospitals and patient flow in and out of hospital. There had been an ambulance divert pilot where by ten patients a day had been diverted to the Alexandra Hospital. The pilot was due to end at the end of July and would be reviewed to determine the approach going forward.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.05 pm

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Thursday, 9th August, 2018

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Joe Baker (Chair), and Councillors Salman Akbar, Joanne Beecham, Michael Chalk, Pattie Hill, Wanda King, Gemma Monaco and Mark Shurmer

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Dean Piper and Sarah Sellers

Democratic Services Officers:

Jess Bayley and Farzana Mughal

23. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Debbie Chance, Andrew Fry, Anthony Lovell and Jennifer Wheeler.

Members were advised that Councillor Salman Akbar was attending as substitute for Councillor Anthony Lovell, Councillor Wanda King was attending as substitute for Councillor Debbie Chance and Councillor Mark Shurmer was attending as substitute for Councillor Jennifer Wheeler.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

Councillors Joe Baker and Mark Shurmer declared an other disclosable interest in respect of Minute no. 27, Redditch Town Centre Regeneration, as they were both part of the Executive Committee when it made a decision about the One Public Estate in March 2018. During the item being considered they took no part in the discussions and left the room.

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Chair

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25. MINUTES

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 5th July, 2018 were deferred for consideration at the next meeting to be held on 6th September, 2018.

26. FINAL REPORT OF THE SUPPORT FOR CARE LEAVERS SHORT SHARP REVIEW TASK GROUP

The Committee was presented with the final report in relation to the Support for Care Leavers Short Sharp Review Task Group.

At the meeting of the Council on 29th January, 2018, it was agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, working with officers, would undertake a review and bring forward proposals to the Council to introduce any changes to either exempt or reduce the amount of Council Tax paid by care leavers for the age group of 18 to 25.

The report set out the work that the group had undertaken to investigate support for care leavers in Redditch, and in particular, the options for making changes to Council Tax Support arrangements for care leavers. The report also highlighted the positive work carried out by the agencies in supporting care leavers.

Councillor Pattie Hill, Chair of the group, gave an overview of the work carried out by Members. She stressed that all Members had responsibility as corporate parents and a duty in respect of care leavers and young people.

Councillor Pattie Hill highlighted the challenges that young people experience after leaving care and the difficulties they faced at the start of their adult lives. It was important to ensure that care leavers continued receiving the appropriate support and access to services to help them at an early stage. The group was proposing three recommendations to support care leavers.

Members welcomed the proposals set out in recommendations 1 and 2 but raised concerns that some care leavers residing in Redditch would not be entitled to assistance under the interim arrangements proposed in recommendation 3. Officers clarified that the support proposed under recommendation 3 would only apply for 12 months. Members also stated that it was important that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognised the vulnerability of young people leaving care and ensured that they

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were getting the help and support needed to reduce any problems they might experience.

The Committee requested clarity in relation to how the proposed means testing for the 22 to 25 age group would operate. In addition, information was requested as to why the actions proposed in the third recommendation would not apply to care leavers from outside of Worcestershire in that interim period. The Chief Executive confirmed that information would be requested from the Revenue Services Manager.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Councillor Pattie Hill for the information provided and for her contribution.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **in recognition of the financial pressures faced by care leavers, and the Council's role as a corporate parent, that the Council Tax Support Scheme be amended to include:-**
 - a) **a new category for care leavers aged 18 to 21 under which care leavers liability for Council Tax will be reduced to nil; and**
 - b) **a new category for care leavers aged 22 to 25 under which tapered relief from Council Tax will be provided based on the means of individual applicants; and**
- 2) **subject to the outcome of the public consultation on the proposed changes, the measures referred to in Recommendation 1 are brought into force in April 2019 as part of the 2019/2020 Council Tax Support Scheme; and**
- 3) **pending the review and adoption of the 2019/2020 Council Tax Support Scheme, interim measures are put in place by making changes to the Council Tax Support Hardship Policy under which net liability for young adults leaving the care of Worcestershire County Council in the age group 18 to 25 will be reduced to zero until the care leavers 25th birthday whilst they are living independently in the Borough and liable to pay Council Tax.**

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27. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - REDDITCH TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

Members considered the report in relation to the Redditch Town Centre Regeneration. The Head of Economic Development and Regeneration for North Worcestershire provided an overview outlining the work proposed to be undertaken during the next twelve months.

On 6th March, 2018, the Executive Committee received a number of proposals contained within a Regeneration Prospectus relating to the Redditch Town Centre. The outcome of the One Public Estate review for Redditch Town Centre was reported to the Executive Committee. The key findings and recommendations of the strategic review were endorsed.

It was reported that, whilst the regeneration of Redditch Town Centre was central to the proposals, and the establishment of a Council-led Public Services Hub, the proposed site at Church Road was no longer considered an appropriate location due to the costs involved and weak office market, which undermined the rationale for a 'Business Quarter' to be developed around Church Road. The Council would work with the NHS and Homes England to identify other viable options for the Church Road site.

It was proposed that the Council should progress the detailed business case for the Public Services Hub and would commission external support to identify site options, partner requirements, funding and delivery options and benefits for the scheme. In addition, the Council was to ensure that the public was consulted prior to any decisions being made in respect of the location.

A number of ideas and concepts contained within the Regeneration Prospectus would continue to be supported by the Council.

Arising from Members' questions, the following points were considered:

- The Council would continue to work with Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and West Mercia Police to develop a joint Blue Light Hub facility and ensure that the existing sites were re-developed to support the regeneration of the Town Centre.
- Middle House Lane would be a potential site for the Blue Light Hub. It was vital that the Police were located in the Town Centre and was part of the Hub.

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- An assessment would be undertaken to established suitable proposals in respect of the Police Station at Grove Street, in terms of market value.
- A number of proposals would be discussed with representatives of the Railway Station and the West Midlands Combined Authority in relation to the Railway Quarter to identify both residential and commercial development opportunities that would be exciting and dynamic.
- In respect of Edward Street and Britten Street, the Council would work with landowners to look at suitable developments. It was important that the Council had a clear delivery strategy to identify any funding opportunities.

Members were informed that the Council would continue to identify any potential funding opportunities to support the regeneration proposals and would be progressing an application for £5m of funding to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP).

The Chief Executive stated that it was important that the Council had a long-term vision for Redditch Town Centre that provided an exciting opportunity to make improvements for the people in Redditch.

RESOLVED

that the Redditch Town Centre Regeneration Report be noted.

(During consideration of this item Councillors Joe Baker and Mark Shurmer declared other disclosable interests as they had been members of the Executive Committee when a decision had previously been taken in respect of the One Public Estate. As such they left the room during consideration of this item and took no part in the debate or voting thereon. In the absence of the Chair Councillor Pattie Hill chaired the meeting during consideration of this item).

28. ANTI SOCIAL-BEHAVIOUR SCRUTINY REVIEW - VERBAL UPDATE

At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5th July, 2018 it was proposed that a Short Sharp Review should be undertaken to look at the issues around Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Redditch. The Chair informed Members that there were only two Members who

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had been appointed to the review and a minimum of three Members would be ideal.

Therefore, Members agreed not to continue with the review. The main concern amongst Members was that the focus of the proposed review was too broad.

It was noted that the last review of ASB was undertaken in 2006.

Subsequently, as Members felt that the topic was important, The Committee requested that a presentation be delivered in respect of ASB and the work of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership to address this at the next meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel that was scheduled to take place on 26th September, 2018. The main focus would be on providing an update on ASB levels over the last twelve months in Redditch, to include ASB figures.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Anti-Social Behaviour Short Sharp Review be dissolved;**
- 2) a presentation to be delivered in respect of Anti-Social Behaviour and the work of the partnership at the next meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny held on 26th September, 2018.**

29. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES AND SCRUTINY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME - SELECTING ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY

Members considered the Executive Committee minutes held on 10th July, 2018 and the Committee's Work Programme. Members were advised that the Executive Committee had reached the same conclusions as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the REDI Centre and this was reflected in the minutes.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer informed Members in respect of Matchborough and Winyates District Centre Redevelopment Consultation that this was to be considered by the Executive Committee in October, 2018. The Committee was further informed that there was an additional item in respect the Council Housing Growth Programme – Proposed Development Sites was to be considered by the Executive Committee in October, 2018.

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The following items were agreed to be pre-scrutinised:

- Housing / HRA Overview and Recovery Plan;
- Redditch Business Improvement District;
- Service Delivery Options – HRA Gas Maintenance.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the Executive Committee held on 10th July, 2018 be noted;**
- 2) **the Executive Committee's Work Programme be noted; and**
- 3) **the following items to be pre-scrutinised as agreed:**
 - a) **Housing / HRA overview and Recovery Plan;**
 - b) **Redditch Business Improvement District; and**
 - c) **Service Delivery Options – HRA Gas Maintenance.**

30. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Senior Democratic Services Officer presented the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for 2018/19. It was noted that the draft Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Wider Support Framework would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee due to be held on 6th September, 2018.

Members were further informed that the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing and the relevant officer from Worcestershire County Council had been invited to the meeting in December, 2018 to provide an update in relation to Sexual Health Services in Redditch. An initial response had been received from the officers and it was anticipated that this item would be progressing.

Furthermore, Members welcomed news that senior representatives of Diamond Buses had been invited to the meeting in December, 2018 to provide an update in relation to the bus services in Redditch.

The Chair proposed that future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should start at 6:30 pm.

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RESOLVED that

- 1) **the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme be noted; and**
- 2) **future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commence at 6:30 pm.**

31. TASK GROUPS, SHORT SHARP REVIEWS AND WORKING GROUPS - UPDATE REPORTS

The Senior Democratic Services Officer provided verbal updates in respect of the following Working Groups:

a) Budget Scrutiny Working Group

It was reported that two meetings of the Group had taken place. At the first meeting the Group considered a document produced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) which outlined best practice in relation to budget scrutiny Best Practice, taking into account lessons learnt from the difficulties experienced by Northamptonshire County Council when trying to balance their budget in 2017/18. Members felt that the document was useful and adopted the approach to budget scrutiny that had been suggested by the report authors.

During the second meeting of the group Members had considered the contents of the existing Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and had compared this to the Financial Outturn report for 2017/18. Based on this assessment Members had agreed to invite the Head of Environmental Services to their next meeting to discuss the budgets for his service. This would be considered alongside an initial overview of the Council's fees and charges and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

It was noted that the next Working Group was scheduled to take place on 10th September, 2018.

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b) Performance Scrutiny Work Programme

Members were advised that the first meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Working Group would be held in September, 2018.

32. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

The following updates were provided in respect of External Scrutiny Bodies:

a) West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Michael Chalk advised that he had attended the West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting that was held on 16th July, 2018 at Sandwell Council House and the next meeting was scheduled to take place on 4th September, 2018.

b) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

Councillor Michael Rouse had provided a written update in relation to Worcestershire HOSC. Members were advised that he had attended this meeting before he had been appointed to the Executive Committee. Councillor Michal Chalk would attend future meetings of HOSC on behalf of the Council.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.30 pm

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee 6 September 2018

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE ON SAFEGUARDING AND EARLY HELP

WCC officers attending

Sarah Wilkins **Interim Assistant, Director Early Help and Commissioning**
Emma Brittain **Group Manager, Safeguarding Services**

Contents

1. Ofsted update
2. ADM update
3. Local Early Help preventative measures on how the County Council works with the local council

1. OFSTED Update

1.1 Worcestershire Children's Services was subject to a full Safeguarding Inspection in October 2016 and since that time has been subject to regular Monitoring Visits by Ofsted the purpose of which is to monitor the improvement progress. The dates and key headlines from the Ofsted inspection and visits are listed below:

- **October 2016:** Full Safeguarding Inspection of Children's Services. Ofsted judged that there were widespread and serious failures in the services provided to children in Worcestershire who need help and protection and children looked after
- **May 2017:** Monitoring Visit to Family Front Door. Ofsted concluded that the Improvement Plan is not yet resulting in progress in a number of key areas
- **September 2017:** Monitoring Visit to Family Front Door. Ofsted acknowledged the hard work that had gone on to improve services, with many actions quite recent or too new to have yet had a significant impact, but noted achievement of some tangible improvements.
- **January 2018:** Monitoring Visit to Family Front Door and Children in Care Proceedings. Ofsted acknowledged that whilst services still require much work to be of a good standard, progress has been made
- **April 2018:** Monitoring Visit to Through Care Service. Ofsted noted that the Local Authority is making progress in improving services to children and young people and that Corporate Parenting is now a strength
- **July 2018:** Monitoring Visit Child Protection and Children In Need: Overall the LA is making satisfactory progress, good progress in quality of assessment and Quality Assurance

1.2 Positive progress has been noted in the context of life long positive impact for the children and young people we are working with. There has been an overall

increase in confidence of social workers resulting in creative, resourceful and reflective practice.

- 1.3 The next monitoring visit is scheduled for 2nd and 3rd October 2018. The focus will be on the Family Front Door & Partnerships. In addition to this, we will continue to work on the sustainability in our improvements and how we evidence this.

Supporting Information:

Latest Ofsted Monitoring Visit letter

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/worcestershire>

2. Alternative Delivery Model Update (Worcestershire Children First)

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 On the 29 March 2018, Cabinet agreed to the development of a wholly owned council company to deliver children's social care. The aim being at the point of transferring services into this Company, the Service will be performing well and the Company will have a positive platform in which to sustain the improvement as well as further improve outcomes for children and young people. Following ratification of this decision by the Secretary of State, a revised statutory direction was published on the 25 May 2018 that included an expectation that the Company would go-live on the 1 April 2019. (Appendix 1)
- 2.1.2 Following Cabinet's decision in March 2018, work commenced on developing a detailed implementation plan for the set up and smooth transition of services to the Company by 1 April 2019. The implementation plan has been overlaid with other service improvement and transformation plans to ascertain the wider impact on children's social care. This highlighted a significant level of activity throughout December 2018 to July 2019 which creates a critical risk of service failure and/or loss in productivity and improvement in this time.
- 2.1.3 Discussions with the DfE's appointed Children's Commissioner and DfE civil servants have focused on ways of reducing the expected pressure on the business throughout this time. These discussions have concluded in a proposal that has been approved by Minister to establish the Company in shadow format by 1 April 2019, with the go-live date moving to the 1 October 2019. This would allow the priority to remain on improving services and outcomes for children and young people.

2.2 Implementation: Wholly Owned Council Company

- 2.2.1 Working toward the Council's preferred go-live date of the 1 October 2019, the programme plan has been broken down into three distinct phases:-
- Phase 1: Design and Development (April – March 2019)
 - Phase 2: Shadow and Testing (April 2019 – September 2019)
 - Phase 3: Operational and Programme Closure (October – December 2019)

Further still, the full range of actions which underpin the completion of key milestones have been categorised into 13 interrelated workstreams as outlined in Appendix 2.

- 2.2.2 A memorandum of understanding has been developed between the DfE and Worcestershire County Council to record the following matters:
- the establishment of the Company to enable the development and delivery of high quality and innovative children's social care services that meet the requirements of the Directions and the needs of children, young people and their families in Worcestershire
 - the overarching agreed principles regarding the proposed:
 - i) legal form of the Company;

ii) corporate governance of the Company; and
iii) operational framework within which the Company shall operate and be held accountable, which will address key aspects of the proposed Service Delivery Contract, including matters relating to agreeing the Company's proposed budget and the scope of children's social care services that it will be delivering

- the proposed timetable from the signing of the MoU, through to 1 October 2019 (the "**Service Commencement Date**") when the Company will formally commence the performance of the Relevant Functions on behalf of the Council pursuant to the Service Delivery Contract and
- the commitments of each Party in relation to the transition of children's social care and related services to the Company ("**the Programme**") and the processes and the structures that they will put in place to periodically and effectively review, monitor and manage progress in accordance with the agreed timetable.

2.2.3 The DfE have agreed to contribute a fixed sum of £3.15million to the setup/ transition costs of the Company. The £3.15m has been negotiated as a fixed sum contribution and would only be reviewed in the light of an exceptional unforeseen change which significantly impacts the scope/cost of ICT and or property requirements.

2.2.4 Good progress is being made across all of the 13 workstreams and this includes launching the recruitment campaign for the Company's Chairperson, who will play a pivotal role in the development and implementation of the Company. This role will be a joint Council/DfE appointment and funded by the DfE whilst the Council remains under statutory direction. The campaign for the Chairperson has commenced via a national campaign. Shortly following this appointment will be the recruitment and confirmation of further Board Members including the senior management roles within the company (Executive Directors) and Council appointed Non-Executive Directors. Progress on the recruitment of Board Members along with a detailed financial assessment of the Company will be included in a update to Worcester County Cabinet in October 2018. Meanwhile the programme remains on track for completion by the 1 October 2019.

2.3 Company name

2.3.1 The Company name is the first impression people will have of the new organisation. It should be appropriate to the services the Company provides and the people it serves and reflect our vision for Worcestershire to be a wonderful place for all children and young people to grow up.

2.3.2 The process for developing the name of the Company has included capturing what is important to key stakeholders including staff and children and young people. There have been face to face workshops with social workers, children's social care managers, at schools and importantly with looked after children and care leavers. Desktop research was also undertaken into existing company names and there has been analysis into the online search terms that are currently used for children's social care services in Worcestershire.

- 2.3.3 A shortlist of company names was approved by the ADM Steering Group on 4 June and considered by the ADM Board on 13 June. Further views were sought from staff to identify the recommended option.
- 2.3.4 Overwhelmingly the preferred name that staff feel best captures the purpose and values of the company is **'Worcestershire Children First'**. This name has been endorsed by the ADM Board and was recommended to Worcestershire County Council Cabinet and approved on 12 July 2018. The process of registering the company with Companies House has begun.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 - Statutory Direction to Worcestershire County Council
- Appendix 2 – ADM Workstream overview

APPENDIX 1

STATUTORY DIRECTION TO WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL IN RELATION TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES UNDER SECTION 497A (4B) OF THE EDUCATION ACT 1996

WHEREAS:

1. The Secretary of State for Education ("the Secretary of State") has noted in respect of Worcestershire County Council ("the Council") that following earlier 'in adequate' judgements, performance in respect of services for children who need help and protection has remained 'inadequate' as detailed in Ofsted's inspection report of 24 January 2017 ("the 2017 Ofsted report").

2. The Council's failure led the Secretary of State to issue a statutory direction on 8 March 2017 ("the first direction") requiring the Council to take a number of steps to improve the quality of services, including to work with Trevor Doughty, as the appointed Commissioner of Children's Services in Worcestershire. A revised direction issued on 19 September 2017 ("the second direction"), required the development of an options analysis and business case for an alternative delivery model.

3. The Secretary of State has carefully considered:

a. The 2017 Ofsted report, which found that children's services were 'inadequate'. The sub-judgements for children who need help and protection, children looked after and achieving permanence, and leadership, management and governance were all rated as 'inadequate';

b. The Children's Services Commissioner's report, of 9 June 2017 ("the Commissioner's report"), which highlighted a lack of evidence to that date that the improvement plan was delivering genuine benefits for children, young people and their families beyond process and structural change, and that the Council should develop an alternative model of delivery for children's services;

c. The findings of Ofsted's monitoring visits since June 2017, and the progress made to date in service improvements; and

d. The Council's business case for the establishment of a wholly-owned council company for Worcestershire's Children's Social Care Services.

4. The Secretary of State is satisfied that the Council is still failing to perform to an adequate standard, some or all of the functions to which section 497A of the Education Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act") is applied by section 50 of the Children Act 2004 ("children's social care functions"), namely:

a. social services functions, as defined in the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, so far as those functions relate to children;

b. the functions conferred on the Council under sections 23C to 24D of the Children Act 1989 (so far as not falling within paragraph a. above); and

c. the functions conferred on the Council under sections 10, 12, 12C, 12D and 17A of the Children Act 2004.

5. The Secretary of State appointed Trevor Doughty as Commissioner for Children's Services in Worcestershire ("the Children's Services Commissioner"). An updated terms of reference ("the Terms of Reference") are set out in the Annex to this direction.

6. The Secretary of State, having considered representations made by the Council, considers it expedient, in accordance with his powers under section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996, to direct the Council as set out below in order to ensure that all of the Council's children's social care functions are performed to an adequate standard.

NOW THEREFORE:

7. Pursuant to his powers under section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996 Act, the Secretary of State directs the Council as follows:

a. To comply with any instructions of the Secretary of State or the Children's Services Commissioner in relation to the improvement of the Council's exercise of its children's social care functions and provide such assistance as either the Secretary of State or the Children's Services Commissioner may require;

b. To co-operate with the Children's Services Commissioner, including on request allowing the Commissioner at all reasonable times access:

i. to any premises of the Council;

ii. to any document of, or relating to, the Council; and

iii. to any employee or member of the Council,

which appears to him to be necessary for achieving the purposes of, and carrying out the responsibilities set out in, the Terms of Reference;

c. To provide the Children's Services Commissioner with such amenities, services and administrative support as he may reasonably require from time to time for the carrying out of his responsibilities in accordance with the Terms of Reference, including:

i. providing officers' time or support;

ii. providing office space, meeting rooms or computer facilities;

d. To work with the Commissioner towards the establishment of a wholly-owned council company for the delivery of children's social care services in Worcestershire, including:

i) Establishment of the company board to operate alongside existing arrangements in shadow form from December 2018; prior to

ii) Transfer of operational control for children's social care services from the Council to the company, from April 2019.

e. To continue to work with Children's Services Commissioner on a long-term improvement plan to address the findings of the Commissioner's report of 9 June 2017, monitoring progress and reviewing the improvement plan as appropriate;

f. To co-operate with the Secretary of State and the Commissioner, including by:

i. Attending and participating in reviews of progress on dates to be notified to the Council;

ii. Preparing and making available to the Secretary of State's advisers, when requested, up to date improvement plans and assessments of progress evidenced by performance data;

iii. Reporting to the Secretary of State on the nature and rate of improvement of children's services when instructed to do so.

8. In consequence of this direction, the Secretary of State for Education revokes the second direction.

9. This direction will remain in force until it is revoked by the Secretary of State.

Signed on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education SUZANNE LUNNA Senior Civil Servant in the Department for Education Dated the 21 day of May 2018.



Worcestershire Children First (ADM) for children's social care services

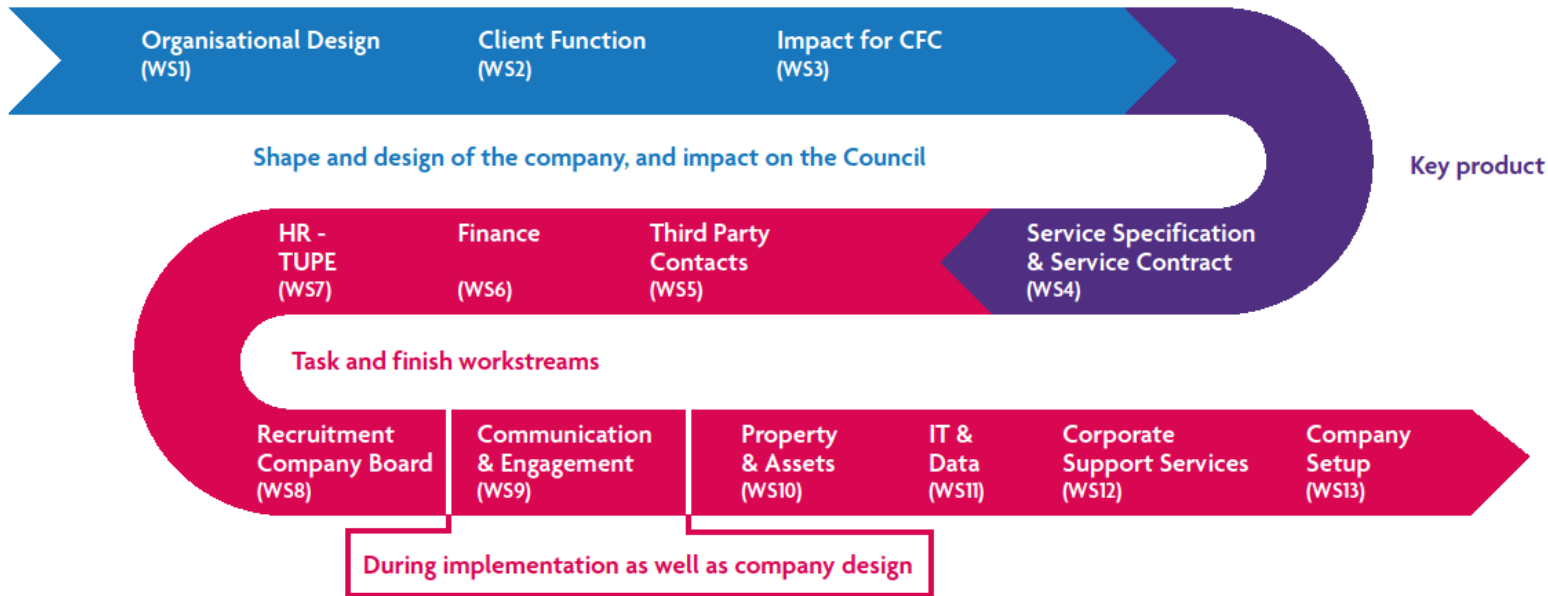
Governance

WORKSTREAMS



Governance arrangements for the ADM programme

Workstreams





3. Local Early Help preventative measures on how the County council work with the local council.

The Early Help Strategy was approved in September 2017 by Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board. An update of the Strategy in relation to developments as part of the social care improvement plan and plans for a refresh of the Early Help Strategy will be presented during the meeting.

Supporting Information

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8802/worcestershire_early_help_strategy_2017_to_2020.pdf

Contact Points

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Executive

Committee

Tuesday, 14 August 2018

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), Councillor David Bush (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Tom Baker-Price, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Bill Hartnett, Gareth Prosser and Michael Rouse

Also Present:

Councillors Roger Bennett and Pattie Hill

Mrs N. Wood-Ford

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Clare Flanagan, Sue Hanley, Dean Piper and Sarah Sellers

Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley

16. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Craig Warhurst.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair thanked all those present for attending the meeting of the Executive Committee at the slightly earlier time of 6.00pm. He explained, as detailed in a written update to Members on his announcements, that he would need to leave the meeting early to attend a meeting with the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority area, Andy Street.

During consideration of this item concerns were raised that the early start time for this meeting was occurring at a time when

.....
Chair

changes were being made to other Committees, including the rescheduling of meetings of the Constitutional Review Working Party in August and full Council in September. Members were urged to ensure that these changes did not compromise the access of Members and the public to information about decisions that were being taken through the democratic process.

It was noted that in some of these cases changes had been made to accommodate the needs of both Members and Officers, for example the meeting of Council in September had been rescheduled to ensure that senior Officers could be present at the Council meeting.

19. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday 10th July 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

20. SCRUTINY OF CARE LEAVERS SHORT SHARP REVIEW - FINAL REPORT

Members welcomed former Councillor, Nina Wood-Ford, who presented the findings of the Scrutiny of Care Leavers' Short Sharp review on behalf of the group. During the delivery of her presentation the following points were highlighted for Members' consideration:

- Following a notice of motion to Council in January 2018 Members had been tasked with undertaking an overview and scrutiny review of the financial support available to care leavers.
- The group had focused on; the legal duties of local Councils towards care leavers; the position of care leavers in Redditch in 2018; the steps taken by other Councils to meet the needs of care leavers; and the options available to assist care leavers.
- Evidence had been gathered from a range of sources including; interviewing officers from Worcestershire County Council, interviewing officers from Redditch Borough Council who managed the Council Tax service, the *Wolf at the Door* report; Worcestershire Care Leavers' Strategy; and information about how other Councils were supporting care leavers.
- The group had found that legal reforms had led to improvements to the support available to care leavers, including better planning for those aged over 18, young people

remaining in foster placements for longer and personal advisors being provided to care leavers.

- As a Corporate Parent Redditch Borough Council had a duty to have regard to care leavers when carrying out its functions.
- Debt problems and difficulties with budgeting had been identified as problems for care leavers, though many received good advice in relation to this.
- The government had no plans to introduce guidance as to how Councils should treat care leavers in relation to Council Tax. This therefore needed to be determined at the local level.
- There were 72 care leavers residing in Redditch, 28 of whom were recorded as having Council Tax liability.
- In total 19 of these care leavers qualified for support under the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme and nine were liable to pay Council Tax.
- In proposing their recommendations the group had aimed to secure actions that would be cost effective, easy to administer and apply for and would be available to care leavers.
- The proposals would require means testing of care leavers aged 22 to 25.
- The group felt the best option for supporting care leavers would be to amend the Council Tax Support Scheme. This was preferred to amending the Hardship Fund as that was meant to be used on a discretionary basis. Changing the Council Tax support scheme would also be cheaper for the Council than amending the hardship fund.
- The group had concluded that the fairest approach would be to include care leavers from outside Redditch. However, Officers could not forecast the costs involved in extending the scheme to care leavers from outside Redditch as it was uncertain how many would move to the Borough.
- The group's third proposal had been made as any changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme would only come into effect in April 2019, following consultation.
- The third recommendation proposed that assistance should be provided to care leavers in the interim period, in 2018/19, for care leavers residing in Redditch from the Hardship Fund.
- This third proposal, if agreed, would cost the Council £10,3000 to implement.

Following the presentation of the report Members discussed a number of points in detail:

- The costs involved in delivering the changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme and the reasons for the different costs associated with the group's third recommendation. Officers explained that the Council needed to cover the full costs of the interim arrangement to support care leavers through the

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hardship fund. The £10,300 that had been quoted was an estimate.

- The potential to extend the scheme only to young people leaving care who lived in Redditch. Mrs Wood-Ford advised that the group had explored this opportunity but had been advised that the Council could then be subject to a legal challenge from care leavers who had moved into Redditch from outside the borough.
- The restriction of the interim support to Redditch care leavers. Mrs Wood-Ford advised that Officers had confirmed that this was acceptable.

Reference was made to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9th August 2018 when Members had considered the report. Following a detailed discussion Members had approved the Scrutiny Group's proposals at that meeting.

During consideration of this item Councillor Tom Baker-Price proposed an amendment to the proposals. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Dormer. This amendment read as follows:

- 1) "The executive affirms its commitment to introduce reforms to the council tax support scheme for care leavers at the earliest opportunity which achieves the following objectives:
 - i) To reduce the net liability for council tax to zero until the care leaver's 21st Birthday.
 - ii) To provide transitional support for care leavers that enables a reduction in liability for council tax up to and including zero from a care leaver's 21st birthday until the care leaver's 25th birthday.
- 2) In the interim to support care leavers, the council tax support hardship policy should be amended to ensure the net liability of care leavers to pay council tax until their 25th birthday is reduced to zero providing they have left Worcestershire County Council care and are living independently. This is an interim measure and support under the hardship policy should end when reform has been implemented.
- 3) The head of customer services is asked to ensure officers whose role includes supporting care leavers experiencing council tax debt, are provided with appropriate training on corporate parenting and in consultation with the portfolio holder for corporate management explores additional measures to support care leavers to achieve financial independence."

In proposing the amendment Councillor Baker-Price explained that many care leavers were very vulnerable, having often experienced abuse in their early life which could cause life-long issues. A significant proportion of those in the criminal justice system had been in care as had many people who were homeless. Councillor Baker-Price suggested that to address this there was a need to introduce a support system based on prevention and all of the precepting authorities had a role to play in this. Members of Redditch Borough Council, as Corporate Parents, needed to recognise the lived experience of care leavers.

Councillor Baker-Price expressed concerns that the group had not consulted with care leavers during their review. Members were advised that he had recently met with some care leavers and they needed support. He also raised concerns that means testing would be highly bureaucratic which would add costs to the scheme proposed by scrutiny Members. Councillor Baker-Price explained that his proposals would correspond with those made by other Councils in Worcestershire in respect of care leavers, which would ensure consistency across the county.

Members discussed the amendment and noted the following:

- The delays that had occurred during the course of the scrutiny review which meant it had been completed in seven rather than six months. The Committee was advised that following the elections the group had lost their Chair and this had caused some delays. Officers had also had to wait to gather information from external sources in respect of the recommendations which had added to the timescales.
- The reasons why it had been felt that a scrutiny review was required to investigate support that could be provided to care leavers.
- The need for Members appointed to scrutiny reviews to attend every meeting where possible.
- The need for any changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme, as detailed in the first amended recommendation, to be subject to consultation with the public. It was suggested that this should be reflected in the Executive Committee's decision on this item.
- The need for the Head of Customer Access and Financial Support to work with the Head of Community Services, as the lead officer for safeguarding, in respect of training officers. Again it was suggested that this should be reflected in any decision to be taken by the Executive Committee.
- The questions that had been raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the means testing and how this would work.

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- The numbers of children and young people living in care in Redditch compared to other districts in the county. Members were advised that when the review was proposed there were two young people living in care in Wyre Forest District compared to 133 young people living in care in the Borough of Redditch.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the Executive Committee affirms its commitment to introduce reforms to the Council Tax Support Scheme for care leavers at the earliest opportunity, subject to statutory consultation on the Council Tax Support Scheme, which achieves the following objectives:**
 - iii) **to reduce the net liability for Council Tax to zero until the care leaver's 21st Birthday;**
 - iv) **to provide transitional support for care leavers that enables a reduction in liability for Council Tax up to and including zero from a care leaver's 21st birthday until the care leaver's 25th birthday;**
- 2) **the Head of Customer Access and Financial Support, with the help of the Head of Community Services, is asked to ensure officers whose role includes supporting care leavers experiencing Council Tax debt, are provided with appropriate training on Corporate Parenting and, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management, explores additional measures to support care leavers to achieve financial independence; and**
- 3) **the Scrutiny of Care Leavers Short Sharp Review Final Report be noted.**

RECOMMENDED that

- 4) **in the interim to support care leavers, the Council Tax Support Hardship Policy should be amended to ensure the net liability of care leavers to pay Council Tax until their 25th birthday is reduced to zero providing they have left Worcestershire County Council care and are living independently. This is an interim measure and support under the hardship policy should end when reform has been implemented.**

(The Chair left the meeting towards the end of this item, prior to a vote on the matter. In his absence the Deputy Leader, Councillor David Bush, chaired the remainder of the meeting).

21. REDDITCH TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

The Chair opened the item by noting that discussion of the matter had been postponed from July at the request of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Joe Baker. This had occurred because the Executive Committee had only provided 17 days' notice of the item in the Executive Work Programme rather than the 28 days' notice that was legally required for key decisions. The matter had been pre-scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, though no recommendations had been proposed and the Chair of the Committee had not taken part in the proceedings for that item. The Chief Executive advised that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been unable to participate as the constitution required that no member who had previously taken part in making a decision on a matter, in this case the One Public Estate regeneration of the town centre considered in March 2018, could subsequently scrutinise the issue. In line with the 1972 Local Government Act's guidelines in respect of chairing Council meetings Councillor Baker had left the room to ensure that another Member could Chair the meeting in his absence.

The Head of Economic Development and Regeneration for North Worcestershire presented the report and highlighted that the report in respect of One Public Estate that had been considered in March 2018 had identified a preferred site for a public sector hub; on Church Road. Officers were now suggesting that this should no longer be the preferred location due to the costs involved. There was also a lack of market evidence that this was the most appropriate location for such a hub. Instead, Redditch Town Hall had been identified as a site that was more appropriate for a public sector hub. Members were advised that the Council would continue to work with partner organisations and work on existing proposals in relation to the railway quarter and relocation of the library into the hub.

Following the presentation of the report the Committee discussed a number of matters in detail:

- The new evidence that had emerged in respect of the most appropriate location for a public sector hub in the town centre. Officers advised that this was based on an assessment of the market conditions, with the market for office accommodation in Redditch being quite weak.
- The extent to which partner organisations were supportive of the change to the proposed location for the public sector hub.

The Committee was informed that the partner organisations had indicated they were supportive of these proposals.

- The potential for the Town Hall to act as a public sector hub and the reason why other options were not being explored. Officers advised that it was important to maintain footfall around the area of the Town Hall.
- The potential for residential properties to be included in the regeneration of the town centre and the reasons why a residential zone was no longer explicitly referred to in the report. Members were advised that this would be considered but was not detailed in the report.
- The option for Redditch Town Hall to be converted into residential properties. The Committee was informed that this did not form part of the town centre regeneration plans.
- The potential to introduce residential properties in the town centre which could be used by those both using public transport and people who used their own vehicles.
- The speed with which the plans for regenerating the town centre had progressed and the timescales in which it would be implemented in the future.
- The consultation that had already been held in respect of the town centre regeneration and how this had informed plans for the future.
- The options that had been considered in March by the Executive Committee and pre-scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In discussing the proposal questions were raised as to whether reference could be made to including residential properties in the recommendation for the Executive Committee to support a new multi-purpose public sector hub. However, Members were advised that this was not possible as the proposal had been based on using the Treasury Five case model, which did not take into account residential matters. However, it could be taken into account as part of the work on the regeneration prospectus.

During consideration of this item Councillor Bill Hartnett proposed an amendment to the proposals detailed in the report. This amendment was seconded by Councillor Greg Chance.

The amendment proposed that the second resolution in the report should be amended to the following:

“To progress proposals outlined in the Redditch Regeneration Prospectus, with the initial focus on commissioning specialist support to produce a new vision and masterplan for the Railway Station Quarter, undertake feasibility work for the Library site and include consideration of residential use in the town centre, utilising the £50,000 already agreed by Council and that delegated authority

Executive Committee

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is given to the Chief Executive to procure this support, after consultation with the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Town Centre and Commercialism.”

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

At the end of discussions on this item Members thanked the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development for his work on the report. The committee noted that he would be leaving the organisation shortly for another authority and Members wished him well for the future.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Council provides in principle support for the creation of a new purpose built multi-agency Public Services Hub, with a final decision to be taken by the Executive Committee following:**
 - a) the production of a detailed business case setting out the strategic, economic, commercial, financial and management case;**
 - b) identification of potential location options for the Hub and a recommended preferred site for the Hub; and**
 - c) negotiations with partner organisations regarding their commitment to transferring services to the Public Services Hub.**

Subject to the approval of recommendation 1 above the Executive Committee RESOLVED:

- 1) that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to procure external specialist support to develop the business case as detailed at paragraphs 3.3 - 3.4, utilising the £150,000 already agreed by Council, after consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Town Centre and Commercialism; and**
- 2) to progress proposals outlined in the Redditch Regeneration Prospectus, with the initial focus on commissioning specialist support to produce a new vision and masterplan for the Railway Station Quarter and undertake feasibility work for the Library site, utilising the £50,000 already agreed by Council and that delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive to procure this support, after consultation with the Deputy Leader and**

Executive Committee

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Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Town Centre and Commercialism.

22. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Officers confirmed that there were no outstanding recommendations for the consideration of the Executive Committee.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5th July 2018 be noted.

23. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS ETC.

Officers confirmed that there were no further referrals for Members' consideration.

24. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORTS

Members provided verbal updates in respect of the following bodies:

- a) Constitutional Review Working Party – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

In the absence of Councillor Dormer Officers advised that the following meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party would take place on Tuesday 21st August and would start at 6.30pm.

- b) Corporate Parenting Board – Council representative, Councillor Gareth Prosser

Councillor Prosser advised that he had attended the first meeting of the Board the previous week. During this meeting a presentation had been delivered by a group of young people who were living in care across Worcestershire. The main issue that had been raised during this meeting had been the frequency with which social workers moved on and it had been reported that there was an issue with the retention and recruitment of social workers. This was in the process of being addressed by Worcestershire Social Services.

Every member of the Board would be attending a training session on 20th September. In the meantime Members were advised that the Board's annual report could be viewed online,

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 14 August 2018

though a paper copy could be accessed at reception in Redditch Town Hall.

c) Grants Panel – Chair, Councillor Greg Chance

Councillor Chance reported that during the latest meeting of the panel Members had considered a number of grant applications. Members were keen to review how decisions were made by the Panel, though it was important to ensure that decisions were based on consideration of the applications. The cross-party panel was working well, as in previous years, and Councillor Chance welcomed the contribution of the new Members who had been appointed in 2018/19.

d) Member Support Steering Group Party – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

In the absence of Councillor Dormer Officers advised that the following meeting of the group would take place in October 2018.

e) Planning Advisory Panel Party – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

In the absence of Councillor Dormer Members were advised that the meeting of the Planning Advisory Panel that was due to take place in August had been cancelled as the lead officer was on leave.

The Chair confirmed that the Planning Advisory Panel would be invited to consider plans for the regeneration of the town centre during meetings in 2018/19.

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm
and closed at 7.20 pm

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 September 2018 to 31 December 2018

(published as at 1st August 2018)



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 £50,000 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, Equalities and Democratic Services, The Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH or e-mail: democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

The Executive Committee's meetings are normally held at 7pm 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: 3268 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 7.00pm.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Matthew Dormer, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Governance and Partnerships
Councillor David Bush, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Town Centre and Commercialism
Councillor Tom Baker-Price, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management
Councillor Michael Rouse, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism
Councillor Brandon Clayton, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services
Councillor Gareth Prosser, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Councillor Craig Warhurst, Portfolio Holder for Housing
Councillor Greg Chance
Councillor Bill Hartnett

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Anti Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 - Implementation of Provisions Key: No	Executive 11 Sep 2018 Council 24 Sep 2018		Report of the Head of Community Services	Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager (Redditch and Bromsgrove) Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3656
Draft Council Tax Support Scheme and Wider Support Framework Key: No	Executive 11 Sep 2018 Council 24 Sep 2018		Report of the Head of Customer Access and Financial Support	Amanda Singleton, Head of Customer Access and Financial Support Tel: 01527 64252
Finance Monitoring Quarter 1 2018/19 Key: No	Executive 11 Sep 2018		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Chris Forrester, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881673
Housing / HRA Overview and Recovery Plan - To include: - HRA Medium Term Financial Plan - Housing Management System Business Case - Strategic Action Plan Key: No	Executive Not before 11th Sep 2018 Council Not before 24th Sep 2018	Parts of the report may need to be considered in exempt session.	Report of the Chief Executive	Sue Hanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Leisure, Environmental & Community Services), Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3601, Guy Revans, Head of Environmental Services, Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3292, Judith Willis, Head of Community Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Leisure Services Business Plan Key: No	Executive 11 Sep 2018 Council 24 Sep 2018		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Jayne Pickering, Executive Director, Finance and Resources Tel: 01527 881207
Matchborough and Winyates District Centre Redevelopment Consultation Key: Yes	Executive Not before 11th Sep 2018		Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning and Regeneration Tel: 01527 64252
Performance Report Key: No	Executive 11 Sep 2018		Report of the Head of Business Transformation	Deb Poole, Head of Business Transformation and Organisational Development Tel: 01527 881256
Private Sector Home Repair Assistance Policy Update Key: No	Executive Not before 11th Sep 2018 Council Not before 11th Sep 2018		Report of the Head of Community Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284
Redditch Local Lottery Key: Yes	Executive Not before 11th Sep 2018		Report of the Chief Executive	Mark Hanwell, ICT Transformation Manager Tel: 01527 881248

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme 2019/20 Key: No	Executive 11 Sep 2018 Council 24 Sep 2018		Report of the Head of Community Services	Helen Broughton, Redditch Partnership Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3237
Write Offs April 2017 to March 2018 - Annual Report Key: No	Executive 11 Sep 2018 Council 24 Sep 2018		Report of the Head of Customer Access and Financial Support	Amanda Singleton, Head of Customer Access and Financial Support Tel: 01527 64252
Budget Framework Key: No	Executive 23 Oct 2018		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Chris Forrester, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881673
Housing Allocations Policy - Update Key: No	Executive 23 Oct 2018 Council 19 Nov 2018		Report of the Head of Community Services	Matthew Bough, Housing Policy and Performance Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3120
Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 - Update report Key: No	Executive 23 Oct 2018		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Chris Forrester, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881673

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Performance Report Key: No	Executive 23 Oct 2018		Report of the Head of Business Transformation	Deb Poole, Head of Business Transformation and Organisational Development Tel: 01527 881256
Redditch Business Improvement District Key: No	Executive Not before 23rd Oct 2018 Council Not before 19th Nov 2018		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Lyndsey Berry, Town Centre Co-Ordinator/Planning Officer Tel: 01527 587002
Service Delivery Options - HRA Gas Maintenance Key: Yes	Executive Not before 23rd Oct 2018	Likely to be considered in exempt session.	Report of the Deputy Chief Executive	Guy Revans, Head of Environmental Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3292
Fees and Charges 2019/20 Key: No	Executive 11 Dec 2018 Council 28 Jan 2019		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Chris Forrester, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881673
Finance Monitoring Quarter 2 2018/19 Key: No	Executive 11 Dec 2018		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Chris Forrester, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881673
Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 - Update Report Key: No	Executive 11 Dec 2018		Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Chris Forrester, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881673

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2022/23 Key: No	Executive 8 Jan 2019 Council 28 Jan 2019		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Chris Forrester, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881673
Council Tax Base 2019/20 Key: No	Executive 8 Jan 2019 Council 28 Jan 2019		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Chris Forrester, Financial Services Manager Jayne Pickering, Executive Director, Finance and Resources Tel: 01527 881673 Tel: 01527 881207
Housing Revenue Account Initial Budget 2019/20 to 2021/22 Key: No	Executive 8 Jan 2019 Council 28 Jan 2019		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Chris Forrester, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881673
Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 - Update Report Key: No	Executive 8 Jan 2019		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Chris Forrester, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881673

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Performance Report Key: No	Executive 8 Jan 2019		Report of the Head of Business Transformation	Deb Poole, Head of Business Transformation and Organisational Development Tel: 01527 881256
Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme - Funding Recommendations 2019/20 Key: No	Executive 8 Jan 2019 Council 28 Jan 2019		Head of Community Services	Helen Broughton, Redditch Partnership Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3237
Council Tax Support Scheme and Wider Support Framework Key: No	Executive 5 Feb 2019 Council 25 Feb 2019		Report of the Head of Customer Access and Financial Support	Amanda Singleton, Head of Customer Access and Financial Support Tel: 01527 64252
Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 and Council Tax Setting Key: No	Executive 5 Feb 2019 Council 25 Feb 2019		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Jayne Pickering, Executive Director, Finance and Resources Tel: 01527 881207
Pay Policy Statement 2019/20 Key: No	Executive 5 Feb 2019 Council 25 Feb 2019		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Kate Goldey, Senior Business Support Accounting Technician Tel: 01527 881208

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Finance Monitoring Quarter 3 2018/19 Key: No	Executive 26 Mar 2019		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Chris Forrester, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881673
Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report 2018/19 Key: No	Council 15 Apr 2019		Report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Jess Bayley, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Redditch) Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3268

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

9th August 2018

WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

(Report of the Chief Executive)

Date of Meeting	Subject Matter	Officer(s) Responsible for report
ALL MEETINGS	REGULAR ITEMS	(CHIEF EXECUTIVE)
	Minutes of previous meeting Consideration of the Executive Committee Work Programme Call-ins (if any) Pre-scrutiny (if any) Task Groups / Short, Sharp Review Groups – feedback Working Groups - feedback Committee Work Programme	Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chair of Task Group / Short, Sharp Review Chair of Working Group Chief Executive
	REGULAR ITEMS Update on the work of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel Tracker Report Updates on the work of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Monitoring Report – Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy	Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service Redditch Borough Council representative on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

9th August 2018

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
6 th Sept 2018	Pre-decision Scrutiny - Draft Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Wider Support Framework	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
6 th Sept 2018	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Housing / HRA Overview and Recovery Plan	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
6 th Sept 2018	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Leisure Services Business Plan	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
6 th Sept 2018	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Leisure Services Restructure	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
6 th Sept 2018	Safeguarding and Early Help - Presentation	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
18 th Oct 2018	Housing Attitude Survey	Councillor Baker
18 th Oct 2018	Hereford and Worcestershire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership Update	Director & Deputy Director of Strategy & Partnerships, Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust
18 th Oct 2018	Emergency Planning – Annual Update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
18 th Oct 2018	Pre-decision Scrutiny - Matchborough and Winyates District Centre Redevelopment Consultation	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

9th August 2018

18 th Oct 2018	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Redditch Business Improvement District (BID)	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
6 th Dec 2018	Pre-decision Scrutiny - Service Delivery Options – HRA Gas Maintenance	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
6 th Dec 2018	The public bus service in Redditch	Diamond Bus Company
6 th Dec 2018	Homelessness Policy (Homelessness Reduction Act)	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
6 th Dec 2018	Sexual Health Services in Redditch (TBC)	TBC
3 rd Jan 2019	Waste collection for houses of multiple occupation (TBC)	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE REVIEW– SCRUTINY PROPOSAL FORM REQUIRED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Credit Impact • How local businesses can benefit from HS2 • Housing suitable for people with needs. • Youth Services • Waste • Grants Programme • Council Website 	
OTHER POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY – DATE NOT FIXED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Gateway • Parking on roads inappropriately • Landscaping • Affordable housing, the mix of housing in the Borough, the size of available housing, houses in multiple occupation and the role of landlords. • Young People’s Housing Options • Local Hospital Service Provision – outcome of Health Commission • Mental health services 	

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

9th August 2018

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health services for young people• Cuts to school budgets and parental choice• Council owned shops and rateable values• The night time economy	
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