

Scrutiny Proposal Form

(This form should be completed by sponsoring Member(s), Officers and / or members of the public when proposing an item for Scrutiny).

Note: The matters detailed below have not yet received any detailed consideration. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee reserves the right to reject suggestions for scrutiny that fall outside the Borough Council's remit.

Proposer's name and designation	Councillor Joe Baker	Date of referral	22nd July 2014
Proposed topic title	Provision of Support Networks for LGBT Task Group		
Link to national, regional and local priorities and targets	<p>This review proposal links to the following Council Strategic Purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help me live my life independently (including health and activity) • Keep my place safe and looking good. • Provide good things for me to do, see and visit. 		
Background to the issue	<p>The rights and needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people living within Redditch Borough has recently been the focus of some discussion. To demonstrate solidarity with the LGBT community a gathering took place outside the Town Hall prior to full Council on 9th June, which I organised and attended. Following this gathering I was approached by a number of local residents from within the LGBT community who expressed some concerns about the support available to them and who sought reassurance about the action being taken locally to address homophobia.</p> <p>There are a small number of groups and initiatives, at the local and regional level, which work to address the needs of the local LGBT community. This includes the Bromsgrove and Redditch LGBT History Month. However, I am concerned that these groups are not necessarily engaging effectively with the local LGBT community and in some instances there may be limited awareness that these groups exist. I am also concerned that there are limited social groups locally that specifically address the needs of people from the LGBT community.</p> <p>In 2012 Stonewall published the <i>School Report</i>, research focusing on the experiences of young gay peoples in British schools. This research found that 55% of young lesbian, gay and bisexual people experienced homophobic bullying in school and one in four (23%) of lesbian, gay and bisexual young people had tried to take their lives at some point. I am concerned about how</p>		

	<p>these experiences are manifested at the local level and the extent to which local public agencies are currently providing sufficient support to young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people living in Redditch Borough.</p> <p>I think a review of this subject matter would be useful as it would demonstrate the Council's commitment to supporting the LGBT community and would respond to concerns raised directly with me by some local residents. I would hope that at the end of a review of this subject Redditch Borough Councillors would have an understanding of the needs of the local LGBT community and what action the Council and other public sector agencies can do to support the community more effectively.</p>
<p>Key Objectives Please keep to SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To explore the work currently undertaken by Redditch Borough Council and Redditch Local Strategic Partnership to support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. 2) To investigate the support available from the NHS and Mental Health Services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. 3) To review the support available from public agencies to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people who have or are continuing to experience homophobic bullying and harassment (including hate crime). <p>(This should involve considering the findings of the recent <i>Reducing Crime Against People at Risk</i> scrutiny report undertaken by Worcestershire County Council).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) To assess the support available to young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people locally. 5) To investigate existing social opportunities available to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people locally and the potential to make additional social opportunities available. 6) To determine the financial implications of any actions proposed by a Task Group to meet the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people locally.
<p>How long do you think is needed to complete this exercise? (Where possible please estimate the number of weeks, months and meetings required)</p>	<p>I believe that a Task Group should be provided with six months to complete this review effectively. In the event that the review is launched by the beginning of August I would anticipate that it would conclude by January 2015.</p>

Please return this form to: Jess Bayley or Amanda Scarce, Democratic Services Officers, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH

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