

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 Jane Potter	Date of referral	22/07/14
Proposed topic title	Obesity Levels Task Group		
Link to national, regional and local priorities and targets	<p>Council Strategic Purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help me live my life independently (including health and activity). • Provide me with good things to do, see and visit. <p>Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health inequalities – with particular focus on smoking, obesity and alcohol. 		
Background to the issue	<p>The health of the people of Redditch has been an issue of concern at the local level for a number of years. In 2010 the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) identified health inequalities as an issue impacting on the population of Redditch. These inequalities were particularly noticeable when compared to the rest of Worcestershire.</p> <p>Whilst the CAA was subsequently discontinued those health inequalities remained. This was recognised by the Redditch Partnership and tackling health inequalities was incorporated as one of the key priorities in the Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). In the year in which this strategy is due to be refreshed (2014) it would seem timely to undertake a scrutiny review to investigate the progress that has been made at the local level by partner organisations in addressing health inequalities.</p> <p>There is the potential for Members to investigate every aspect of health inequalities. However, it is likely that by focusing on such a wide remit a Task Group would take a significant amount of time to complete their exercise and might only be able to identify broad solutions that would not necessarily address specific problems. With this in mind I am proposing that this particular review should focus on action that can, is and has been taken to address obesity levels within the Borough.</p>		

	<p>Obesity can be a contributory factor to a number of medical conditions including diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. These conditions can have a significant impact on the quality of an individual's life and can lead to them needing to access specific health care services for the rest of their lives. However, there is the potential, through lifestyle changes, for obesity levels to be addressed and potentially to prevent those health conditions from developing. A scrutiny group could help to identify actions that could be taken to address this problem.</p> <p>I am particularly keen to identify support that can be provided to people from deprived communities. Individuals from deprived backgrounds may struggle to access some forms of support that are currently available, especially if they are required to pay to participate or need to be able to access transport to reach the support that is available. I am also concerned about childhood obesity levels because children and young people are the future for Redditch and it is important that they have a healthy start in life so that they can go on to achieve their potential.</p> <p>The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), a national body with expertise in the field of Overview and Scrutiny, has led efforts in recent years to tackle health inequalities through scrutiny. As part of this process the CfPS has been working with various local authorities on a Health Inequalities Programme since 2009. Using funding provided by the Department of Health, the Health Inequalities Scrutiny Programme "<i>...was created to develop innovative solutions to long-standing inequalities...</i>" including obesity. A Redditch review of obesity could make use of this knowledge and potentially identify whether solutions applied at other local authorities as a result of scrutiny could equally be applied in Redditch.</p> <p>I am aware that traditionally scrutiny of health matters is led by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in Worcestershire. However, this issue has such significance at the local level for the people of Redditch that I believe a scrutiny review could justifiably be undertaken by a Redditch Borough Council scrutiny group.</p> <p>There are some key outcomes that a scrutiny review of this subject could help to address if constructive proposals are brought forward and accepted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in the number of people living within the local community who are classified as obese. • A reduction in the levels of health conditions associated with obesity amongst the local population, particularly obesity.
<p>Key Objectives Please keep to SMART objectives (Specific,</p>	<p>1) To investigate the action taken by the Redditch Partnership to tackle obesity levels in the Borough. (This should include reviewing the work of the Area of Highest Need project).</p>

<p>Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) To assess the contribution made by Redditch Borough Council to tackling obesity levels amongst local residents. 3) To consult with relevant local representatives of the NHS (including the Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group) regarding the action that already have and could in future be taken to address obesity levels locally. 4) To review relevant outcomes from the CfPS Health Inequalities Programme and to identify any solutions arising from this programme (including from scrutiny reviews conducted by other local authorities as part of the programme) that could be applied in Redditch. 5) To investigate other actions taken in the country or internationally to tackle obesity levels and the potential for similar action to be taken in Redditch. 6) To consult with local residents about the barriers to losing weight and actions that could be taken to motivate weight loss. 7) To identify any legal and financial implications to proposals brought forward by the group at the end of the review.
<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 think that a review of this subject, if it is to lead to constructive outcomes, would take some time to complete. If the review starts in the summer of 2014 I would anticipate that it could be completed by March 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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