



Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker

Project / recommendation and date proposed	Action	Team responsible	Date for completion	Rating on progress	Comments
Access for Disabled People (August 2012)					
Recommendation 2	Installation of a canopy over the ramp access to Shopmobility.	Property Services and Community Services	To be confirmed but subject to the outcomes of the planning process.		<p>Approval will be required from the Kingfisher Centre due to the land being in their ownership. Following this planning permission would also be required.</p> <p>A planning application has been submitted for an amendment to access for Car Park 3 and an additional access point to Car Park 1. Officers are therefore currently unable to take any further action on this recommendation until planning has been either accepted or refused as they will need to assess how any outcomes of this planning process will affect the erection of the canopy.</p>
Access for Disabled People (August 2012)					
Recommendation 6	A disability awareness session to be provided as part of the Member Development programme.	Policy and Democratic Services teams.	Completed		The disabilities awareness training formed part of the equalities training on 18th September (which replaced the session which had been due to take place on 24th July but was postponed at the request of Members). Three Members attended the training.

Sickness Policy (November 2012)					
Recommendation 3	An A5 laminated guide to the Sickness Absence Policy to be made available for staff.	HR	Completed	☺	An A5 guide has now been produced. A copy was sent to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by email on Monday 6th October 2014.
Arts and Culture (April 2013)					
Recommendation 4	Exhibition space to be introduced in the Palace Theatre and the Abbey Stadium	Leisure Services	Partly completed	☺	An exhibition space has been introduced in the Abbey Stadium. The theatre's art exhibition space remains a viable option subject to funding. The Arts in Redditch (AIR) Network is currently concentrating on "pop-up" exhibition spaces, the next one of these will be at the Kingfisher Centre from 22nd to 30th November 2014, supported by the Arts Development Service.
Arts and Culture (April 2013)					
Recommendation 7	The AiR Network should address seven key barriers (detailed in the report) before establishing an arts centre.	AiR Network (external body)	To be confirmed though likely to take time.	☹	The AIR Network has received and considered the group's report. Establishing an Arts Centre in Redditch remains the long-term objective of the network.
Arts and Culture (April 2013)					
Recommendation 9	The "Creative Redditch" artwork to be used on the next bus shelter to be installed in the town centre.	Community Safety	To be confirmed	☹	It has not proved possible to use the artwork on a bus shelter to date. However, action has been requested to deal with the long-standing damage to the former Poundstretcher unit in the town centre. In view of its prominent position Officers are keen to progress this ASAP

					and it is possible this could involve using the Creative Redditch artwork.
Medium Term Financial Plan (February 2014)					
Single recommendation	The budget position for 2014/15 to 2016/17 to be noted and Officers asked to identify additional savings.	All services, to be led by Financial Services	Ongoing	☺	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is due to receive the Future Years Financial Plan on 21st October which will provide further detail on proposed savings.
Landscaping (April 2014)					
Recommendation 1	New Members to be invited to visit the place, tree and landscaping intervention teams as part of the member induction process.	Environmental Services	Completed	☺	Invitations were sent out to all new Members in July. A message was also included on this subject in the July edition of the Members' newsletter.
Landscaping (April 2014)					
Recommendation 1a	A short briefing on the subject of the work of the trees, place and landscaping teams to be provided prior to a Council meeting early in the municipal year.	Environmental Services	December 2014.	☺	The presentation is due to take place before full Council on 8th December.
Landscaping (April 2014)					
Recommendation 2	A contact list of key senior Officers and operational Officers to be provided for Members' consideration.	Democratic Services and Environmental Services.	Completed	☺	A contact list of senior Officers was provided to Members in May 2014 as part of the Member Induction process. A document containing the contact details for key Environmental services Officers was circulated by email to all Members on 28/08/14.

Landscaping (April 2014)					
Recommendation 4	Data for landscaping cases to be reported per ward area to Members on an annual basis. This will initially be trialed to find out whether Members wish to continue to receive the information.	Environmental Services	March 2015	☺	Officers have developed a report to allow this data to be reported and Members will be sent a copy of the information relating to their wards at the end of the financial year.
Landscaping (April 2014)					
Recommendation 6	A feasibility study of the potential to bulk plant trees in Council open spaces and other appropriate locations to be undertaken taking into account eight key considerations (as detailed in the report).	Environmental Services	Unknown - subject to external grant funding becoming available.	☹	The Forestry Commission Woodland Creation Grant Funding Scheme is closed until further notice and there are no other known grant funding opportunities to assist landowners in developing woodlands. The cost/benefit for the Council of carrying out this project is not particularly attractive as potential revenue would take years to materialise. Officers feel that until grant funding is available it would not be appropriate to identify potential sites as the size and location of those sites would be subject to the funding available.
Landscaping (April 2014)					
Recommendation 7	Officers to investigate how to dispose of logs in a way that would maximise income for the Council.	Environmental Services	To be confirmed	☹	Loose firewood timber from the Council's in-house arboriculture operations is priced at £30 per cubic metre (+ VAT). This is for unconverted timber and there is currently demand. Officers are investigating ways to increase the value of the timber that the Council sells. However, there are local and national suppliers selling timber at

					competitive prices.
Abbey Stadium (June 2014)					
Recommendation 1	The potential for a trust to manage Council leisure facilities including the Abbey Stadium to be investigated further.	Leisure Services	To be confirmed though it is likely that this will take some time.	☺	Officers will commence a review of this work in the near future and will feed back key dates when they are available.
Abbey Stadium (June 2014)					
Recommendation 2	The O&S Committee to pre-scrutinise the final business case for trust management of Council leisure facilities.	Leisure Services and Democratic Services	To be confirmed though it is unlikely that the business case will be available for some time.	☺	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme has been amended accordingly.
Abbey Stadium (June 2014)					
Recommendation 5	Appropriate marketing measures to promote membership of the Abbey Stadium to people aged 55 or more to be identified and used.	Leisure Services	Autumn 2014	☺	<p>Officers are aiming to launch a new Health and Wellbeing Activity Programme at the stadium for the over 50s this autumn and were scheduled to advertise the programme during the summer.</p> <p>This programme has been advertised through local newspaper with a double page spread and through partner organisations such as Age UK, church groups and through our community exercise instructors.</p> <p>Within the first week of advertisement we had 72 people enrolled onto activities which include Tai Chi, Swimming Lessons</p>

					and Health and Well Being Sessions. After the initial taster sessions participants will be offered membership of the fitness suite to help sustain their exercise journey and also increase off peak usage of the facility. All of the activities provided within the programme are provided in daytime, off peak periods.
Abbey Stadium (June 2014)					
Recommendation 6	Retail offers and marketing displays at the Abbey Stadium to be expanded.	Leisure Services	Completed	😊	New displays have been introduced which are three times larger than the previous displays. There is a greater range of merchandise available to purchase. The Council has now increased sales by 11% and the new display is located at the entrance to the Village Change.
Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 1a	The timescales for the Council's grants programme to be reviewed.	Community Services	Completed	😊	The timescales were reviewed in July 2014 and the dates of the Grants Panel meetings were brought forward to ensure that decisions can be reported to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Groups at an earlier date.
Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 1b	The geographical spread of the customers for VCS groups to be taken into account by as part of the grants scoring process.	Community Services	Completed	😊	The Grants Panel considered this recommendation during a meeting on 5th August and brought forward proposals on 8th September to the Executive Committee to change the scoring process.

Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 1c	The template for the Council's grants application form to be reviewed.	Community Services	To be confirmed	☹	Officers are currently considering how to implement this recommendation.
Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 1d	Action Points to be recorded at meetings of the Grants panel.	Community Services and Democratic Services	November 2014.	☺	Action Points will be taken during meetings of the Grants Panel when Members will be scoring applications. The first meeting when this is due to occur will take place on 17th November 2014.
Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 2a	Formal training to be provided to Members of the Grants Panel.	Community Services and Democratic Services	To be confirmed.	☹	Officers are currently considering how to implement this recommendation.
Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 2b	Members of the Grants Panel to visit groups in receipt of funding as part of the Monitoring process wherever possible.	Community Services	Ongoing	☹	Officers are currently considering how to implement this recommendation.
Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 3	The implications of the Local Government Transparency code 2014 for the Grants Panel to be taken into account.	Community Services	Ongoing	☺	Relevant Officers have been provided with a copy of the code and had already started to adapt the Council's grants process as and where required to comply with the code.

Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 4	The Council to consider employing an apprentice to support the work of the Grants Officer.	Community Services and HR.	To be confirmed.	☹	Officers are currently considering how to implement this recommendation.
Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 5	The framework for provision of financial management and debt advice to be supported by the council for the foreseeable future.	Housing and Financial Services	February 2015	☹	The Chair of the O&S Committee has asked Officers to deliver a presentation on the outcomes of the Framework at a meeting in February. This will provide Members with an opportunity to assess whether the framework is working.
Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 6	An informal working group of Officers to be established to share information about services working with VCS groups and volunteers.	Community Services to co-ordinate.	To be confirmed.	☹	Officers are currently considering how to implement this recommendation.
Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 6a	Dedicated space to be introduced on the intranet to share information about the work services are doing with VCS groups.	Community Services to co-ordinate	To be confirmed	☹	Officers are currently considering how to implement this recommendation.
Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 7a	The staff volunteering policy to be refreshed and promoted.	HR	To be confirmed	☹	Officers have confirmed that the policy will be refreshed and promoted. However, a number of HR policies which have direct implications for staff are due to be issued

					and will be prioritised.
Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 7b	A taster list of volunteering opportunities to be advertised on the Orb.	HR	To be confirmed	☹	Officers are currently considering how to implement this recommendation.
Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 8	A new staff award to be introduced recognising the voluntary work carried out by staff.	Office Services	In time for the next Making a Difference Staff Awards	☹	Officers support this idea in principle but wonder how this would work. For all other categories it is one person nominating another. Apart from the small group of staff who have volunteered in line with the Staff Volunteering Policy (5 people) the Council does not know who volunteers. Officers could only find out by asking all staff what they do. Also, clarity is required as to how the Council should define volunteering (e.g. formal arrangements, helping out with the school fete, running a Brownie pack etc.?). Also staff cannot nominate themselves so how would nominations work? Unless everyone who replied received a certificate maybe as a one off in one year. Members are also asked to consider the implications for staff who do volunteer but don't reply (including those who do not have access to email) and whether they would be upset about not being included. Officers are therefore not sure if this suggestion is workable.

Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 9	The Council to consider working with businesses and VCS groups to establish a “Redditch Hour” on social media platforms.	Town Centre Partnership	To be confirmed	☹	<p>The Town centre partnership discussed the ‘Redditch Hour’ at its meeting on Monday, 8th September and whilst supportive of the idea did not feel that they had capacity to take this project on or to coordinate it at the present time.</p> <p>In these circumstances Members may wish to consider who to approach regarding this matter. The involvement of the Town Centre Partnership was suggested by the Executive Committee.</p>
Voluntary and Community Sector (July 2014)					
Recommendation 10	A Voluntary Sector event to be held and to include a prize giving ceremony.	Community Services to work with VCS groups.	To be confirmed.	☹	No update was available in time for the meeting.