

## APPENDIX 1

### Overview and Scrutiny Training: Items suggested during the training session on 28th May for Scrutiny

#### **Help me to be Financially Independent (including education and skills)**

- 1) Issue suggested: Council Tax / Bedroom Tax / Housing Benefit (x 3)

Suggested approach: Members suggested that it would be useful for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a presentation covering the following areas:

- An update on how people are affected by rent changes.
- Further information about how the Council has addressed this.
- Data to include the number of residents affected and the number of people contacting the Council about housing benefit changes.
- Further information about what the Council is doing to support people who have been affected by benefit changes.

#### **Help me to live my life independently (including health and activity)**

- 2) Issue suggested: The Alexandra Hospital

Suggested Approach: Members agreed that the future of the hospital and the quality of services provided at the hospital was an important subject for scrutiny. However, Members concurred that it would be more appropriate for Borough Councillors to refer any concerns relating to the hospital to the Council's representative on the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), Councillor Nina Wood-Ford, so that the matter could be raised in an appropriate forum.

#### **Provide good things for me to do, see and visit**

- 3) Issue suggested: Places for young people to go for leisure

Suggested approach: As a first step Members would need to revisit the Youth Services Provision Task Group review's findings (from 2012). If it was felt that limited progress had been achieved a Short, Sharp Review might be necessary of particularly pertinent issues. However, Members were concerned that a review of this subject could become political.

- 4) Issue suggested: Morton Stanley Park (x2)

Suggested approach: Members agreed that a review of this subject might be appropriate for a Task Group. However, as this was not considered to be a key strategic consideration it was noted that a presentation to the Committee on the subject of current facilities, maintenance requirements and the financial costs involved in maintaining the park might be a suitable first step. Members suggested that if a Task Group was to be launched alternative methods of managing the park facilities should be taken into account. (To some extent this links to the current review of leisure facilities that is being undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

## **Help me find somewhere to live in my locality**

- 5) Issues suggested: housing / house building / development (x5)

Suggested approach: There should be a presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee covering the following matters:

- Private landlords.
- The amount of housing in Redditch and whether this is sufficient to meet the needs of residents.
- The mixture of housing in Redditch and whether this is sufficient to meet the needs of residents.
- The housing allocations system.
- The selection of locations for new housing.
- To address the question “is it right to have Redditch homes for Redditch people?”

## **Keep my place safe and looking good**

- 6) Issue suggested: landscaping / tree problems / hedge cutting / dog fouling (x 12)

Suggested approach: Members agreed that a presentation should be requested from the Place Team to be delivered for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Committee Members would need to propose questions for the consideration of the Place Team prior to the meeting. A suggestion was made that all Members should be invited to attend this meeting to consider the information in the presentation.

- 7) Issue suggested: potholes / footpaths / poor pavement surfaces / flooding

Suggested approach: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a presentation on the work of the place teams. This presentation should address:

- The role of the place team.
- The extent to which the place teams’ responses to reports are co-ordinated.

- 8) Issue suggested: Roads / parking / lorries parking (x 6)

Suggested approach: Members suggested that further information might be required about the nature of the parking problems. However, it was noted that this subject was more suitable to refer to the Worcestershire county Council Highways Department in the first instance and to the relevant Worcestershire County Councillor in the second instance. There was some reluctance to undertake a bespoke scrutiny review at a borough level, though it was noted that if complaints persisted it could be suggested that Worcestershire County Council's Overview and Scrutiny process investigate the matter in further detail.

- 9) Issue suggested: Street Lights

Suggested approach: Members noted that this was a responsibility of Worcestershire County Council. It was suggested that further information was required about the problem relating to street lights. However, it was noted that this subject was more

suitable to refer to Worcestershire County Council and the relevant County Councillors. Members suggested that if complaints persisted it could be proposed that Worcestershire County Council's Overview and Scrutiny process investigate the matter in further detail.

10) Issue Suggested: Anti-Social Behaviour in Neighbourhoods

Suggested approach: Members agreed that further information was required about the nature of the anti-social behaviour and the location. It was suggested that in the first instance Members should discuss such cases with the Locality team, Community Safety team and neighbourhood police officer. It was not considered appropriate to launch a bespoke scrutiny review unless specific issues emerged.