

## **APPENDIX 1: OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY TRAINING ITEMS 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016**

### **GROUP 1**

**Group 1 comprised the following Members: Councillors Baker-Price, Hartnett, Hill, King and Thain**

### **Potential Items suitable for Task Groups and/or Short Sharp Reviews**

#### **Idea 1: Promoting Redditch (Short Sharp Review)**

- The focus would be on promoting Redditch as a place to do business and as a location where young people have employment/training/apprenticeship opportunities.
- Members were keen to ensure that any review took into account work to date to address this and determined how this could be measured (e.g. by the Executive).
- As part of a review Members would need to work out how the Council and businesses could actively engage with schools, including multi-academy trusts, to promote employment opportunities to young people. This could entail consulting with Head Teachers.
- The review could take into account the role of careers services.
- The group agreed that this review would need to assess action that could be taken to make a positive impact in the long-term.
- Members noted that a review had previously been conducted concerning promoting Redditch primarily from a tourism perspective. The group did not want to duplicate this work.
- A review of this subject would help to address issues raised by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) for Members' consideration.

#### **Idea 2: Mental Health (Task Group)**

- The group felt that it would be helpful for scrutiny to investigate the support available to people with milder mental health problems who do not have immediate access to mental health services.
- A review of this subject would need to take into account the impact on Council services (e.g. the housing and locality teams).
- This exercise could also take into account the impact on demand for support from Members (e.g. both to support individuals struggling with mental health problems and to support families / neighbours).
- The group noted that this could have crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour implications and could impact on demand for other services from external organisations (e.g. the police).
- A review of this subject would need to explore the potential for support to be enhanced through more effective partnership working with other agencies.

- A review of this subject would be timely given forthcoming changes to primary care and mental health services.
- A review of this subject would help to address issues raised by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) for Members' consideration.

### Idea 3: Working in a Two Tier Authority Area (Task Group or Short, Sharp Review)

- Members discussed the potential for the County and Borough Councils to work closer together in the interests of residents.
- A review into this area could focus on specific areas such as capital investment and the respective roles of the two Councils in economic development within the town.
- An investigation could also assess the potential role of Redditch as the gateway to Worcestershire.
- Members concurred that the timing of a review of this subject would need to be considered carefully. The group noted that it might be better to launch this review after the County Council elections in 2017.
- County bus services, and the impact that this has on the ability of residents to travel to work, were also discussed. The group noted that Worcestershire County Council recently considered a proposal to scrutinise bus services and, if this review is launched, Members may wish to provide evidence for the consideration of this group and / or to request that this be undertaken as a joint exercise.

### **Item suitable for a presentation to the Committee**

#### Idea 4: The Council's Corporate Plan

- The group felt that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee might identify further items suitable for scrutiny based on the content of the plan.
- However, this should not prevent Members from identifying items for scrutiny from other sources. (E.g. through ward work).
- The group suggested that this report should be debated by the Committee in the form of pre-scrutiny.

#### Idea 6: Dangerous Driving

- Members raised concerns about recent press coverage indicating that there may be a problem with dangerous driving.
- The group felt that scrutiny could help to bring relevant groups together to discuss how to resolve this matter to the benefit of community safety (e.g. the police, dangerous drivers, speed awareness course representatives).

#### Idea 7: Protecting Pets

- Members noted that there has been recent coverage in the local press of the disappearance/abuse/killing of pets.
- Cases involving abuse of puppies and kittens have also been highlighted.
- Members discussed the potential for a Committee debate to help clarify what advice could be provided to pet owners in respect of this matter.
- However, the group agreed that any criminal behaviour involving the abuse of pets should be referred to the police.

## **GROUP 2**

**Group 2 comprised the following Members: Councillors Bennett, Brookes, Chalk, Potter and Wood-Ford**

### **Potential Items suitable for Task Groups and/or Short Sharp Reviews**

#### Idea 8: Community Engagement

To include such areas as:

- How Councillors feedback information and concerns received from residents to the Council (to include how these are received i.e. face to face, email).
- Raising aspirations within the Borough.

#### Idea 9: Encouraging businesses to come to Redditch

To include:

- What types of business come to Redditch and how do we as a Council engage with the larger businesses?
- Eastern Gateway – how can the Council get involved and influence how it can have a positive impact on Redditch.

#### Idea 10: Ensuring the Young People of Redditch meet the employment needs of the Borough

- Engaging those people furthest from the job market in the process.
- Ensuring the right information is available in schools in order for young people to be able to make the right choices (i.e. careers advice, further education choices).
- Apprenticeship Levy – how does this work, and how is this being used together with details of the benefits to the Borough from it.

## **HEALTH**

#### Idea 11: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Although countywide it would be possible to drill down to Borough level and to look at:

- What specific areas are of most concern?
- What preventative work is being carried out in respect of those areas?
- How will the services needed be delivered?

Idea 12: Sustainability and Transfer Plan

- The impact of being included within the Hereford area.
- To feed into the process before the plan is put in place.

**Item suitable for a presentation to the Committee**

Idea 13: Disabled People's access to employment and the choices available to them.