

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	28/03/17
Proposed topic title	Homelessness Task Group		
Link to local priorities including the strategic purposes	<p>The subject of this proposed review links to the following strategic purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help me to find somewhere to live in my locality. • Help me to live my life independently (including health and activity). • Help me to be financially independent. 		
Background to the issue	<p>In recent months there has been increasing public awareness of homelessness in Redditch. In particular, rough sleeping in areas located close to the Redditch ringway has received significant media attention. Residents I have spoken to are understandably concerned about homelessness and are keen to find out what action the Council can take to address this.</p> <p>I am aware that the causes of homelessness are varied and often multi-faceted. In some cases people can make themselves intentionally homeless. There can also be hidden homelessness, with people relying on friends for a bed for the night. I feel that given the current level of public interest in this situation it would be helpful if a scrutiny exercise could provide some clarity about the situation and identify any additional action that could be taken, either by the Council or partner organisations, to address homelessness levels.</p> <p>Earlier in my career I worked with homeless people in Scotland. I therefore feel I have useful background knowledge and would appreciate the opportunity to Chair this review if it is endorsed by Members.</p>		
Key Objectives Please keep to SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To review relevant Council policies and practices in respect of people experiencing or at risk of becoming homeless. 2) To establish the current levels of homelessness in Redditch, taking into account any official statistics. 		

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) To clarify the potential causes of homelessness. (This could take into account issues such as recent Benefits changes and drug and alcohol addictions). 4) To analyse the potential impact of homelessness on a person's physical and mental health. 5) To assess the existing support available to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This should take into account support provided by public, private and Voluntary and Community Sector organisations. 6) To scrutinise the potential impact of the new Homelessness Reduction Bill on homelessness levels. 7) To review the findings of any scrutiny Task Groups that have investigated homelessness in other parts of the country and to identify any actions arising from these reports which could be usefully replicated in Redditch. 8) To investigate any opportunities for organisations to work in partnership to enhance support to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This could include working in partnership to provide hostel accommodation. 9) To identify any additional action that the Council could take to address homelessness in the Borough.
<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>Subject to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsing the review I am suggesting that this Task Group should be launched in the new municipal year. I believe that the Task Group would require nine months to complete their investigations.</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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