

Additional papers 1



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thu 20 Oct
2022
6.30 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
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Overview and Scrutiny

Thursday, 20th October, 2022

6.30 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Bill Hartnett (Chair)
Joanna Kane (Vice-
Chair)
Salman Akbar
Imran Altaf
Tom Baker-Price
Michael Chalk

Brandon Clayton
Sid Khan
Timothy Pearman

5. Leisure Strategy - Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Pages 1 - 18)

The covering report and an extract from the strategy, detailing a number of recommendations, have been included in this additional papers pack main. The report, including all of the appendices, has been published in a separate supplementary pack.

6. Asset Disposal Strategy - pre-scrutiny (Pages 19 - 32)

7. Climate Change/Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan- pre-scrutiny (Pages 33 - 68)

8. Voluntary Bodies Scheme Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Pages 69 - 90)

9. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 91 - 98)

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Leisure and Culture Strategy

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder | | Councillor Beecham |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted | | Yes |
| Relevant Head of Service | | Ruth Bamford – Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services. |
| Report Author | Job Title: Parks & Events Service Manager Contact email: Ishrat.karimifini@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 07713 085872 | |
| Wards Affected | | All Wards |
| Ward Councillor(s) consulted | | No |
| Relevant Strategic Purpose(s) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Living independent, active & healthy lives.• Communities which are safe well-maintained & green.• Aspiration, work and financial independence.• Run and Grow Successful Business. |
| Key Decision / Non-Key Decision: Non-Key Decision | | |
| If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting. | | |

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive resolutions that:-

- 1) The Leisure and Culture Strategy at Appendix A is endorsed**
- 2) That delegated authority is given to the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure services to implement the following Recommendations 1, 2,8,9,10,11,12 13,15,16,17,20,22,24,25, 40,41, 42,43,44,45,46 and 47 as set out in the Leisure and Culture Strategy at 6.0**

2. BACKGROUND

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-
- 2.1 Redditch Borough Council resolved that delegated authority be granted to the then Head of Leisure and Culture Services to produce a Leisure and Culture Strategy.
- 2.2 Given the current context for the public sector, as well as the wider economy, budget constraints and increasing costs, it is becoming necessary for expenditure on leisure and culture services, to be objectively justified, developed, and delivered against a strategic framework. Consultants, Strategic Leisure and Community First Partnership, were appointed in February 2021 to produce a Leisure and Culture Strategy for Redditch Borough Council.
- 2.3 This Leisure and Culture Strategy ('the Strategy') for Redditch Borough sets out our future direction of travel for Leisure and Culture services (LCS) and identifies the priorities for provision of these important, and highly valued community services. This Strategy is aligned to the Corporate Plan which recognises the contribution that leisure and culture can make to the achievement of our corporate and community priorities, and in particular community health and wellbeing.
- 2.4 The Strategy comprises the following supporting evidence, these documents can be viewed at appendix B-F. These documents have informed the recommendations contained within the Strategy (Appendix A).
- :
- Playing Pitch Strategy. - Supply and Demand, Quality and Priority Needs Assessments by location and sport type followed by recommendations (by sport and site).
 - Built Facility Strategy - Supply and Demand, Quality and Priority Needs Assessments by location and sport type followed by recommendations (by sport and site).
 - Facility Planning Model - an assessment of whether the capacity of existing facilities are capable of meeting local demand for a particular sport
 - Arts and Culture Strategy. – Analysis of existing provision, key issues, priority needs, followed by recommendations.
 - Parks and Open Spaces Strategy – Analysis of existing provision, key issues and priority needs, production of management plans for key sites followed by recommendations.

For the purposes of this Strategy, leisure and culture includes arts, culture, heritage, physical activity and sport, events, parks, open space facilities, venues, and sites.

Appendices A,B,C and E are available to view at the time of writing this report. By the nature of the process attached to producing the Playing

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Pitch Strategy and the Built Facilities Strategy the time required to produce this work means that these will be brought back to the council for endorsement later. It is anticipated that this will be in the new year.

2.5 The Strategy in summary focuses on four key areas:

- (2.6.1) the value of LCS
- (2.6.2) the existing LCS
- (2.6.3) the vision for LCS
- (2.6.4) the delivery of that vision.

2.6.1 The value of LCS: this makes the case for the benefits that LCS can have on people's lives and then takes the findings found in a community and stakeholder survey to support that case.

2.6.2 The existing LCS: this identifies the current leisure and culture offer as a whole across Redditch, and clearly identifies where improvements can be made to it. The reports such as the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Built Facilities Strategy support the process of identifying those required improvements.

2.6.3 The vision for LCS: this brings together the information in 2.6.1 and 2.6.2 and goes on to set out the vision as well as specific aims and objectives for LCS across Redditch. Here is a section of this replicated below:

VISION: Healthier and happier communities actively engaged in leisure and culture.

AIM: To improve community health and wellbeing through inclusive access to parks, open spaces, sport, physical activity, arts, heritage, culture and everyday creativity. This way we will inspire our communities to lead longer, happier, healthier and more successful lives.

2.6.4 The delivery of that vision: This is arguably the most significant section of the Strategy. Table Four at paragraph 6.0 in the strategy lists 47 projects which when read as a whole, describe all the key recommendations required to achieve the vision for LCS in Redditch Borough between 2022 and 2032. These projects have been placed in colour coded priority order: i) short term priorities, ii) short-medium term priorities, iii) medium term priorities, iv) medium-long term priorities, v) long term priorities, and finally a small number which are vi) ongoing priorities.

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The short and short - medium term recommendations are those to be completed in years 1-2. The medium and medium long term in years 3-5. The long-term recommendations are expected to take longer than 5 years to implement.

- 2.7 All of the “ongoing” and the short-term recommendations numbered **Recommendations 1, 2,8,9,10,11,12 13,15,16,17,20,22,24,25, 40,41, 42,43,44,45,46 and 47 as set out in the Leisure and Culture Strategy at 6.0** re able to be implemented straight away should members endorse the strategy. They will be undertaken using existing resources.
- 2.8 All of the remaining recommendations need to be fully costed before being reported back to members in due course. This process is outlined in Recommendation 47.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The officer **Recommendation 2** found above seeks delegated authority for the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure Services, to implement those Recommendations set out in the Leisure and Culture Strategy, within section 6.0, that have no financial implications. On that basis there are no financial implications to this report.
- 3.2 Moving forwards, aspects of the implementation of The Strategy that could have a financial impact will be reported separately to members, for consideration, in due course. Recommendation 47 of The Strategy which is replicated below describes the process:

Develop a costed action plan to deliver the 3 stage recommended actions identified in the leisure and culture strategy:

1. Officers to progress with immediate effect projects categorised as “ongoing” or “short term” priorities and that have no need for additional staff or cash resources
2. Officers to prioritise the production of costed action plans for all “ongoing” and “short term” priorities that have an additional cost implication and to bring these forwards to Council for agreement
3. Officers to schedule the production of costed action plans for all “short to medium”, “medium to long term” and “long term” priorities and to bring forward to Council for agreement

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- 3.3 The production of these costed plans will clarify at that future stage what any additional resource could be, and as stated above, will be presented to members for their consideration in due course

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The provision of leisure and culture services by local authorities is a non-statutory service which Councils, including Redditch Borough Council, provide and incur expenditure on, under discretionary powers.
- 4.2 The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy component of this project includes reference to Redditch Borough Council's allotment services. Allotments fall under the auspices of "The Allotments Act 1925" an Act to facilitate the acquisition and maintenance of allotments, and to make further provision for the security of tenure of tenants of allotments
- 4.3 Due regard to the implications of the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Equalities Act (2010) is described within Equalities and Diversity Implications below at 6.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The most relevant strategic purposes are:
- Living independent, active & healthy lives.
 - Communities which are safe well-maintained & green.
 - Aspiration, work and financial independence.
 - Run and Grow Successful Business.
- 5.2 The strategy describes how accessible and high quality LCS facilities and opportunities can have a positive impact upon peoples' lives. Access to Leisure and Culture helps people to live independent, active, and healthy lives, and contribute to providing communities which are safe, well maintained, and green. When communities engage well with LCS aspiration increases and people are more likely to volunteer, be successful at work and be financially independent.

6 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

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- 6.1 The implementation of The Strategy can make a positive change in terms of climate change objectives. Services can be provided and enabled more sustainability, In particular, in terms of our green and open spaces, the sustainable management opportunities and contribution to biodiversity net gain. The climate change officer has reviewed the strategy document, further suggestions will be reviewed by the consultant team and incorporated in the final strategy document.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Inherent in this Leisure and Culture Strategy is the significant opportunity for Redditch Borough Council to bring forwards a positive difference to the quality of life for residents from the broadest range of backgrounds
- 7.2 The identification of community needs (including the broad range of demographic representation to be found in Borough like Redditch) is of paramount importance to the effective delivery of any quality Leisure and Culture Strategy. Subsequently recommendations made as part of this strategy work have made clear the requirement for service users to be engaged on an ongoing basis.
- 7.3 The Equalities Act of 2010 sets out clearly the requirement for public authorities to comply with the public sector equality duty. In summary this provides a need to “remove or reduce disadvantages suffered by people because of protected characteristics”.
- 7.4 Due process in relation to equality impact assessment will be delivered throughout the term of the strategy

8 OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None at this stage.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 Failure to deliver the opportunities for better quality of life described in the Leisure and Culture Strategy

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10. APPENDICES

None

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

| Department | Name and Job Title | Date |
|---|---|----------------|
| Portfolio Holder | Councillor Beecham | September 2022 |
| Lead Director / Head of Service | Ruth Bamford - Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils | October 2022 |
| Financial Services | Peter Carpenter | August 2022 |
| Legal Services | Claire Felton | |
| Policy Team (if equalities implications apply) | Deborah Poole | July 2022 |
| Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply) | Kath Manning | September 2022 |

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6. Recommendations

6.1. To deliver our Vision for community health and wellbeing through leisure and culture services our priority actions and recommendations across leisure and culture services are described in Table 4 (below). The table presents a sliding scale in terms of prioritisation (ongoing-short term- short term to medium term- medium term – medium term to long term – long term).

Key:

| Timescales | | |
|------------|----------------------|---------------|
| | Long term | 5 years + |
| | Medium to long term | 3 – 5 years + |
| | Medium term | 3 – 5 years |
| | Short to medium term | 2 – 5 years |
| | Short term | 1 – 2 years |
| | Ongoing | |

Redditch Borough Council

Leisure and Culture Strategy

Table 4: Recommendations

| Recommendations | Priority for Action | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Health and Safety | Contribution to Strategic Priorities | Asset Condition/Quality | Timescale | Resources (Internal/External) |
| Parks and Open Spaces | | | | | |
| Recommendation 1 Develop a better understanding of the biodiversity value of the borough's green assets. | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal and External |
| Recommendation 2 Positively engage in partnership working at a local and county level to improve biodiversity, nature recovery and deliver wildlife-rich landscapes. | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal |
| Recommendation 3 Develop a clear approach to Biodiversity Net Gain and Green Infrastructure to provide a measurable approach to develop and manage land. | | ✓ | | Short-Medium Term | External |
| Recommendation 4 Carry out a natural capital assessment of the value of the Borough's parks and open spaces. | | ✓ | | Medium Term | External |
| Recommendation 5 Develop a plan to identify priorities for delivering further carbon capture and natural capital gains. | | ✓ | | Medium Term | External |
| Recommendation 6 Develop targeted programmes of activity in parks and open spaces that contribute to improved health and wellbeing outcomes. | | ✓ | | Short-Medium Term | Internal |
| Recommendation 7 Apply robust approaches to the Local Standards in relation to planning development to address deficiencies in the accessibility and quantity of open spaces across the borough. | | ✓ | ✓ | Short-Medium Term | Internal and External |

Redditch Borough Council

Leisure and Culture Strategy

| Recommendations | Priority for Action | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Health and Safety | Contribution to Strategic Priorities | Asset Condition/Quality | Timescale | Resources (Internal/External) |
| Recommendation 8 Carry out a detailed assessment of the play value, quality and accessibility of equipped play spaces across the Borough. | | ✓ | | Short Term | |
| Recommendation 9 Deliver a pilot project to test how Council managed land can deliver offsite Biodiversity Net Gain through the development process. | | ✓ | | Short Term | External |
| Recommendation 10 Develop an overall capital investment plan for enhancing parks and open spaces to provide a more strategic approach to the use of s106 funding. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Short Term | Internal and External |
| Recommendation 11 Develop an application to the Levelling Up Parks Fund by October 2022. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Short Term | Internal and External |
| Recommendation 12 Develop an environmental management strategy for parks and environmental services. | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal and External |
| Recommendation 13 Develop a clear marketing plan for green spaces that includes new web pages, social media and targeted work with key audiences. | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal and External |
| Recommendation 14 Promote active travel routes within parks and open spaces. | | ✓ | | Short-Medium Term | Internal |
| Recommendation 15 Develop a volunteer plan and a clear approach to working with Friends groups tied to its aspirations for Green Flag Award across its priority parks. | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal |

Redditch Borough Council

Leisure and Culture Strategy

| Recommendations | Priority for Action | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Health and Safety | Contribution to Strategic Priorities | Asset Condition/Quality | Timescale | Resources (Internal/External) |
| Recommendation 16 Carry out a feasibility study to establish a roadmap for the self-management of allotment sites across the borough. | | ✓ | | Short Term | External |
| Recommendation 17 Start a pilot project to explore the process of transfer to self-management and share this learning across the borough. | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal |
| Recommendation 18 Develop a consistent approach to signage across all priority parks. | | ✓ | ✓ | Short-Medium Term | Internal and External |
| Recommendation 19 Develop engaging interpretation on those sites of significant biodiversity or heritage interest. | | ✓ | | Short-Medium Term | Internal and External |
| Recommendation 20 Pilot an approach to establish a new model for event delivery that allows local organisations to deliver programmes of events and activities. | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal and External |
| Recommendation 21 Develop programmes of support to increase skills and capacity amongst local organisations and to ensure the successful delivery of new programmes of events and activities. | | ✓ | | Short-Medium Term | Internal |
| Recommendation 22 Evaluate the success of the pilot projects and implement any required changes to the new delivery model. | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal and External |
| Recommendation 23 Engage more regularly with potential partners at a county wide level. | | ✓ | | Short-Medium Term | Internal |

Redditch Borough Council

Leisure and Culture Strategy

| Recommendations | Priority for Action | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Health and Safety | Contribution to Strategic Priorities | Asset Condition/Quality | Timescale | Resources (Internal/External) |
| Recommendation 24 Develop a partnership with the National Trust to deliver the 8 Hills project. | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal |
| Recommendation 25 Develop service wide Key Performance Indicators to reflect service plan priorities. | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal and External |
| Recommendation 26 Develop a rolling programme of applications to the Green Flag Award: | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Short-Medium Term | Internal and External |
| Built Sports Facilities | | | | | |
| To follow Recommendations 27 to 39 | | | | | |

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| Arts and Culture Provision | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|------------|----------|
| Recommendation 40 Agree the following priorities for the planning and delivery of arts and culture services by the Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic development and regeneration, including skills development; Improving physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing; Reducing crime and disorder; Improved community safety and responding to anti-social behaviour High quality services; Sustainability. | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal |

Agenda Item 5

Redditch Borough Council

Leisure and Culture Strategy

| Recommendations | Priority for Action | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| | Health and Safety | Contribution to Strategic Priorities | Asset Condition/Quality | Timescale | Resources (Internal/External) |
| Recommendation 41 Endorse the Council's engagement with and support for the strategic initiatives identified in this report as appropriate for the delivery of the Council's vision, objectives and milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell Me What You Want; • Heritage Corridor North Worcestershire; • Bromsgrove and Redditch Culture Compact; • Levelling Up for Culture Places; • Levelling Up Fund; • Creative People and Places | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|------------|----------|
| Recommendation 42 The Council develops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A detailed Programme Management Plan, including i) outline timetable, ii) resource requirements, together with iii) outcomes and milestones, for the delivery of the strategic initiatives for incorporation into the Council's Corporate and Community Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimagine Redditch: Creative People & Places Programme; • Bromsgrove and Redditch Cultural Compact • Heritage Corridor North Worcestershire; • Levelling Up for Culture Places; • Tell Me What You Want. | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal |
|--|--|---|--|------------|----------|

| Recommendations | Priority for Action | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| | Health and Safety | Contribution to Strategic Priorities | Asset Condition/Quality | Timescale | Resources (Internal/External) |
| <p>These Programme Management Plans to be regularly monitored and updated to reflect completion of initiatives and any additional initiatives embarked upon</p> <p>b) In partnership with other providers deliver strategies to respond to the key outcomes from Reimagine Redditch and other community consultations:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wish for greater diversity of and community involvement with arts and cultural provision; • A wish for increased delivery of arts and cultural provision in neighbourhoods; • A wish for greater community involvement in the commissioning and choice of arts and cultural activities; • A wish for improved marketing and awareness raising of arts and cultural activities and opportunities. <p>c) That the Leisure and Culture Services team work closely with the Legal Services team on an ongoing basis to contribute to setting out future strategy and direction of travel for the Palace Theatre and Forge Mill Needle Museum/Bordesley Abbey Visitor Centre and in so doing deliver all key priorities as set out in this Arts and Culture Strategy.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Recommendation 43</p> <p>Endorse the delivery of the strategic initiatives and additional arts and culture projects including appraisals of the future operation of performance venues and museums as a single, integrated programme and on a programme/project management basis, as described in the draft strategies to be overseen by the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure.</p> | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal |

Redditch Borough Council

Leisure and Culture Strategy

| Recommendations | Priority for Action | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| | Health and Safety | Contribution to Strategic Priorities | Asset Condition/Quality | Timescale | Resources (Internal/External) |
| Recommendation 44 Review the existing staffing structure for arts and culture in the context of the above changes in functions and responsibility and to implement any changes required to that structure to ensure delivery of the integrated programme. | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal and possibly external |
| Playing Pitches | | | | | |
| TBC when PPS is complete | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| KPIs and Financial Profiling | | | | | |
| Recommendation 45 Develop and then implement KPIs to evaluate the way in which leisure and culture provision contributes to the Council's Plan (vision and priorities including health and wellbeing) | | ✓ | | Short Term | Internal |
| Recommendation 46 Develop and then implement KPIs to evaluate the way in which the leisure and culture strategy and its associated projects contribute to the Council's Plan (vision and priorities including health and wellbeing) | | ✓ | | Short term | Internal |
| Recommendation 47 Develop a costed and resourced 3 stage action plan to deliver the recommended actions identified in the leisure and culture strategy: 1. Officers to progress with immediate effect projects categorised as "ongoing" or "short term" priorities and that have no need for additional staff or cash resources | | ✓ | | Short term | Internal |

Redditch Borough Council

Leisure and Culture Strategy

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Disclaimer

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**Executive Committee**
2022

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Asset Disposal Strategy

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder | | Councillor Matthew Dormer |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted | | Yes |
| Relevant Head of Service | | Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services |
| Report Author | Job Title: Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services Contact c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk email: | |
| Wards Affected | | All wards |
| Ward Councillor(s) consulted | | N/A |
| Relevant Strategic Purpose(s) | | An Effective and Sustainable Council |
| Non-Key Decision | | |
| If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting. | | |

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:-

the Asset Disposal Strategy be approved for Implementation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council holds substantial non Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Land, Property and Equipment. The 2019/20 Statement of Accounts valued these assets at £52m.
- 2.2 This report details the proposed content of the Asset Disposal Strategy for the authority.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Inevitably there are cost implications associated with works necessary to bring these buildings up to the required standard. There are instances where the outlay required will exceed the income potential or value of the premises. Significant material and structural changes may be necessary across the portfolio and cost implications outweigh the existing Repairs and Maintenance budget and return on investment.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council's Facilities Management (compliance) Policy and Statutory Inspections Policy, stipulates that for all assets, there is a requirement

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that they remain compliant in accordance with current legislation and safe and always fit for use. Repairs and Maintenance must be revised, programmed, and completed, to prevent unnecessary closure of buildings resulting in poor service delivery.

- 4.2 Energy Performance Regulation 2012 currently requires all non-domestic rental properties to have a minimum Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of 'E'. By 2026, this requirement increases to a 'C' rating or greater, rising again in 2030 to a minimum 'B' rating. This impacts on much of the public building portfolio. The Council will be prohibited from leasing out buildings that fall short of the requirements.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 5.1 The proposals detailed in this report support the Council's strategic purpose 'An Effective and Sustainable Council'.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 Work by the Council to improve the EPC ratings of the authority's public buildings, as detailed at paragraph 4.2, should have a beneficial impact in the long-term on reducing the Council's carbon emissions.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 No specific equalities and diversity implications have been identified.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 A rolling programme of Condition Surveys and Energy Improvement Audits of the Council's property portfolio is in progress and will continue over the next 2 years; there is a significant cost associated with the surveys alone, but these are required to fully evaluate the extent of works and investment required.
- 6.3 The information obtained will provide valuable data required to make informed decisions that will contribute to a revised overall Property Holding Strategy.
- 6.4 Within this strategy, individual properties and associated land will be further evaluated to determine:
- The operational necessity and benefit.

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-
- Projected cost of ensuring all elements of the buildings continue to meet legislative requirements and performance standards.
 - Planned and cyclical maintenance costs for elements nearing end of their 'life' expectancy, ensuring service provision is maintained without unnecessary interruption.
 - Costs associated with meeting future EPC rating minimum requirements.
 - Rent levels (and net costs for each building) and revised leases.
 - Alternative or rationalised portfolio or joint enterprises for service delivery

6.5 By evaluation of all factors cited above, informed decisions can be made to determine which assets are:

- No longer cost effective to run, where outlay exceeds earning potential.
- No longer viable for effective service delivery
- Surplus to requirements

6.6 Asset considerations will be presented to Executive on a half yearly basis, for approval for disposal, unless there is an urgent requirement for a decision.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There is a risk to the authority that the asset portfolio will diminish in value in the context of the emerging regulations surrounding EPC ratings and it will be necessary for the Council to consider the appropriateness of all assets in line with Council priorities to ensure best value.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A – Asset Disposal Strategy

Appendix B – Current EPC ratings of Commercial Properties

Appendix C – Letter from Savilles in Reference to Work being Undertaken

Appendix D – Redditch Asset Master List

Appendix E – Site Inspection Schedule

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

| Department | Name and Job Title | Date |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Portfolio Holder | Councillor Matthew Dormer | October 2022 |
| Lead Director / Head of Service | Pete Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer | October 2022 |
| Financial Services | Pete Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer | October 2022 |
| Legal Services | Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services | October 2022 |

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Appendix A – Asset Disposal Strategy

- 9.1 The Council has a duty to ensure that its fixed assets are continually reviewed to ensure they are fit for their strategic purpose, comply with legislative and regulatory requirements, and do not lose value. A comprehensive affordable repairs and maintenance programme is required to fulfil this.
- 9.2 In the latest Statement of Accounts (2019/20), there were £350m of Fixed Assets, stratified as:
- £297m of Council Dwellings
 - £10m of Land
 - £31m of Buildings
 - £4m of Vehicles, Plant and Equipment
 - £4m of Infrastructure Assets
 - £1m of Community Assets
 - £0.5m of Assets under Construction
 - £2m of Assets declared as Surplus
- 9.3 This stratification and associated valuation levels is being reviewed and updated for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 Statement of Accounts.
- 9.4 Council dwellings will link to the HRA and as such will be governed by HRA disposal regulations such as Right to Buy. Infrastructure assets generally relate to Highways.
- 9.5 All other classes have a requirement to be repeatedly reviewed, as set out in the report to Executive on the 12th July 2022, for Community Centres and Easemore Road. However, this should not be done in isolation.
- 9.6 Any disposal, as per the present MRP policy, goes into an overall “pot” which can then be reinvested to fund capital programme requirements, including potential acquisitions.

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Appendix B

10.1 August 2022 current EPC levels of the commercial properties

| EPC rating | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 8 | Grade A |
| 3 | Grade B |
| 24 | Grade C |
| 27 | Grade D |
| 17 | Grade E |
| 1 | Grade F |
| 8 | Grade G |
| 7 | Not required below 50m2 |
| 19 | Due complete April 2023 |

Note

- The 'F' has been upgraded and awaiting a New EPC.
- The 'G' form part of Winyates Craft centre, currently under review for redevelopment in conjunction with the Shopping Centre and Flats.
- "Due By April 2023" are part of a batch due for completion by end of November 2022.

20 June 2022
Letter to Claire Felton 22.06.22

The Savills logo consists of the word "savills" in a red, lowercase, sans-serif font, positioned on a yellow rectangular background.

Claire Felton
Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services
Bromsgrove and Redditch Council

(Sent by email only)

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Dear Claire,

Asset Portfolio Evaluation – Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council

Following our previous conversation and the Council Management meeting which took place on the 18th May, we write to provide an update in relation to the portfolio of assets owned by both Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council.

Savills undertook a high level assessment of all assets under the ownership of both Councils. Whilst the following two categories proved to be the most relevant from a development prospective, operational land and buildings, surplus and heritage assets other categories included vehicles and plant equipment, infrastructure and community assets, intangible and council dwellings.

As per your instruction, we reviewed each property on its individual merit with a view to potential development and value add to the respective Council. To categorise each property we used a traffic light system as follows;

- **Green** – we consider the asset has development potential and further analysis should take place
- **Yellow** – we consider the asset has limited development potential
- **Red** – we do not consider the asset has development potential
- **Grey** – Further information required to identify asset

Having undertaken the above exercise for assets across both registers, the results were reported as seen at **Appendix 1 and 2**. Overall, within the Redditch Asset Register Savills identified 10 properties which could be brought forward for development and 11 properties within the Bromsgrove Asset Register, these are identified as green within the appendices. Savills has undertaken site inspections for each of these properties and a photographic schedule alongside our inspection notes can be viewed at **Appendix 3**.

Next Steps

We recommend that both Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council assess the sites which Savills have identified as having development potential and in particular if the assets are deemed surplus to requirements.

Following the outcome of this assessment we would recommend that Savills Planning on behalf of both Councils undertake a more detailed assessment of the assets to determine the principles and potential acceptable uses of each site.

In tandem with this report, the Development team would undertake a bespoke proforma for each property to assess its developability. In the event this is successful and the principal of development at the property is positive, we would recommend that a number of technical reports which address the principal constraints are commissioned. This would be with a view to the potential marketing of the sites on behalf of the respective Councils.



I trust that the above meets with your requirements, should you need anything further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely









Charles Davis MRICS
Associate

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Redditch Asset Register
Appendix 2 – Bromsgrove Asset Register
Appendix 3 – Site Inspection Schedule

| Surplus Assets | Asset | Class | Service Responsible for day to day management | Asset known by any other name | Developable | Comments | Any other Comments | Council Owned | Leased | Other Comments post 2 Feb | NBV | Action Required | Other Notes |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------|---|---|----------------|--------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---|
| Middlehouse Lane | Middlehouse Lane | Surplus Asset | Property | | | Site extends to 1.79 acres, irregular shaped site although potential marriage value with the former fire station buildings for a more comprehensive scheme (3.4 acres). Potential 40 units based on 80% nda | | y | | | 775,500.00 | | Process started for disposal for new fire station |
| Upper Norgrove House | Upper Norgrove House | Surplus Asset | Property | | | Wider site is allocated within Local Plan for 400 to 600 dwellings. RBC document showing ownership split between Housing Revenue Account (0.82 acres) and RBC General Fund (2.2 acres) Part of a development consortium with wider landowners? Building has been demolished. Contact landowner to the rear (HWB8719) 18.35 acres | | y | | | 1,510,500.00 | | Part of site HRA part is GF , process started for disposal |
| Forge Mill Museum (HERITAGE ASSET) | Forge Mill Museum (HERITAGE ASSET) | Heritage asset | Property | Forge Mill Lane | Redditch | B98 BHY | Country Park land status, Grade II listed buildings within curtilage Beorley Paper Mill and stables | CJM - Rubicon? | y | | 57,342.95 | | Grade II listed Mill and water wheel |
| Bordesley Abbey - Grounds | | | Property | Needle Mill Lane | Redditch | B98 BHY | Country Park land status, Grade II listed buildings within curtilage Beorley Paper Mill and stables | CJM - Rubicon? | y | | | | Scheduled monument and SS9 Land. , this is not Bordesley visitors or Forge mill |
| Church Green Fountain | | | Property | | | | Country Park land status, Grade II listed buildings within curtilage Beorley Paper Mill and stables | | | | | | Grade II fountain and bandstand |
| Park Wood Camp | | | Letsure Services | | | | Significant archaeological interest on site which will prevent development | y | | | | | |
| Feckenham Memorial Moated Site | | | Letsure Services | | | | Scheduled monument | y | | | | | |

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| No. | Address | Photos | Comments | Developable Y/N? |
|-----|--|--|--|---|
| 1 | Winyates Shopping Centre Operational Land, B98 0NR |   | <p>A large site on the edge of Redditch Town centre with a number of mixed used allocations. A mix of local and national retails on site. Shops with residential flats above with ample parking to the rear and three tier parking. Poor quality site with uneven topography high gradient. Surrounding area residential flats and semi detach properties. Access via Walton Cl and Woodcote Cl. Subject to tenancy agreements on site and title restrictions redevelopment could be considered.</p> | Y |
| 2 | Woodrow Shopping Centre Operational Land, B98 7RY |   | <p>A medium site with mixed used allocations of residential and retail with parking on site. School and other residential in close proximity and low covenant strength. Site has a mid gradient sloping topography. Surrounding areas consists of both commercial and residential. Access via Studley Rd and Fladbury Cl.</p> | Y subject to tenancies and use / public realm |
| 3 | Crossgate Depot Operational Land, B98 7SN |   | <p>A large site in a central location within a heavy industrialised estate with carpark a on site. Site within close proximity to the recycling centre and a number of commercial sites. Site has a flat topography and is situated on Crossgate Rd. Nearby main route is Birmingham Rd. Limited retail sites within surrounding area.</p> | Y |
| 4 | Crossgate House Operational Land, B98 7SN |   | <p>Heavily industrialised area in close proximity to the waste recycling plant. Medium sized site with parking provision on site, need clarification on whether the site includes the industrial units to the rear. The site is relatively flat.</p> | Y |



5 Heming Rd Ind Units Operational building, B98 0DH

A small site in a prime location within a busy industrial estate. Minimal parking provision on site with multiple small sized units . A flat topography. Access via Heming Rd. Both east and west of site are other large commercial sites. Minimal retail sites nearby and residential site access via other roads.

Y



6 Community House Operational Land, B98 8EY

A small site with a flat topography situated on a busy residential street. Terraced housing on both sides of road. Current use of site community house and dance studio. The site is nearby to local amenities such as retail spaces like Lidl and a shopping centre. Parking provision to the rear of the site. Access via Easmore road with nearby main route A441.

Y



7 Walkwood CcOperational Land, B97 5YE

A small site in a central location with flat topography. Parking provisions at the front of the site. Access via Rye Grass Lane. Residential site on AvonBank Close and Bilbury Close. Close proximity to local amenities.

Y



8 Pitcheroak Golf Course Operational Land, B97 4PB

Sloping topography of low gradient, golf course is made up of various slopes and makes the site much larger (need clarification). Good access from Plymouth Road and the site site is in close proximity to a plethora of residential units.

Y

9 Church Hill Cc(Stif) Operational Land, B98 9JW



Small square site with parking provision, low gradient sloping topography. Access via Loxley Close, in close proximity to residential but no nearby local amenities. Current use as a community centre which could make any development prospects more difficult, also has a small park on site.

Y subject to use

10 Greenlands Business Centre Operational Land, B98 7HD



Medium site with potential for both residential and commercial with both in the immediate vicinity, however current industrial use raises potential for contamination on site. Access via Studley Road, flat topography with parking provision on site.

Y

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CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder | | Councillor Anthony Lovell |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted | | Yes |
| Relevant Head of Service | | Judith Willis, Guy Revans |
| Report Author | Name: Judith Willis Job Title: Head of Community and Housing Services Contact email: Judith.willis@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: Ext 3348 | |
| Wards Affected | | No specific ward relevance. |
| Ward Councillor(s) consulted | | N/A |
| Relevant Strategic Purpose(s) | | Communities which are safe, well maintained & green |
| Non-Key Decision | | |
| If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting. | | |
| | | |

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive RECOMMEND that

The Council's Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan be endorsed and adopted

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. Globally, governments have committed to keep within a 1.5°C increase in temperature to avoid catastrophic impacts from climate change. The UK Government has committed to Net Zero by 2050.

2.2 Redditch Borough Council has a significant role to play in taking and influencing action on climate change due to the services it delivers, the regulatory functions, strategic functions, procurement powers and responsibilities as a major employer. Evidence supports that Redditch Borough Council should make carbon reduction key to what it does as a council to support national, regional & local targets.

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- 2.3 Redditch Borough Council declared a climate emergency at Council on 24th July 2019. On declaration of a climate emergency, an LA is affirming that it will place the Climate Emergency at the centre of its decision-making process. LA's are then expected to develop carbon reduction targets and action plans to assist in the reduction of carbon emissions, from their own council functions and, using their sphere of influence.
- 2.4 Each of the council's service areas have contributed to the Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (attached as Appendix 1) in order to produce 'carbon reduction pathways'. Through this approach carbon reduction will become 'business as usual' and truly embedded throughout the organisation.
- 2.5 The views of residents and partners are reflected in this plan and they have helped to shape the actions that we are going to take. Redditch Borough Council undertook a residents consultation in 2020 and a partners consultation in 2021 to gather an understanding of how our residents and partners wanted us to react to the climate emergency. Questions were asked around energy, renewables, travel, transport, biodiversity and land management. The consultation ran online and was very successful with nearly 500 responses in Redditch.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The strategic objectives and projects outlined in the strategy and action plan will require financial and resource investment to be made to achieve carbon reduction. In some instances this may lead to longer term savings e.g. reduction in energy consumption costs.
- 3.2 Delivery of this strategy and Implementation plan will need to be properly managed with both project management and service support. Whilst we currently have a climate change officer in post who covers both Redditch and Bromsgrove, it is acknowledged that given the importance of this area of work additional staffing resources are required at a more strategic level. The Climate Change Officer is currently supported by an Environmental Policy and Awareness Officer, with both posts shared across both Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils. The latter post has been assisting greatly with this agenda but it is likely this postholder will be required to return fully to Environmental Services in light of the major changes to waste services that will be required over the next few years, as a result of the Environmental Act 2021 and the government's Waste and Resources Strategy 2018. The additional staffing resource required to deliver this agenda will form part of the financial budget bid process later this year.

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- 3.3 All projects and proposals detailed in the action plan that are not currently resourced and which have financial implications, will be subject to business plans which including all of the financial requirements (staffing costs and all revenue and capital resources) which will be considered and require endorsement via the appropriate decision-making processes.
- 3.4 The 3 year Implementation plan identifies that the latest carbon emission figure for Redditch Borough Council is 1,746 tonnes.. In order to reach an interim target of 50% by 2030 we will need to reduce our emissions by approximately 110 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. To achieve net zero in the remaining 10 years to 2040 we will need a target of approximately 87 tonnes of savings per year. Officers will work on proposals to close this gap with initiatives needing to be fully costed and included in the medium term financial strategy. In addition, closing this gap will be a key factor in reviewing the Strategy and Implementation Plan in 2025 and addressing this in the next 3 year Strategy

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 sets the legally binding UK-wide target to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- 4.2 The Environment Act, 2021, acts as the UK's new framework of environmental protection. The Act provides the Government with powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction.
- 4.3 As a requirement of the Climate Change Act, the government published the Clean Growth Strategy in October 2017. This strategy has two key aims: To meet domestic emissions reduction commitments at the lowest possible net cost to UK taxpayers, consumers and businesses; and to maximise the social and economic benefits for the UK of doing so.
- 4.4 The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995, obliges us to submit biennial reports setting out the practical, cost-effective measures, which are likely to significantly improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in our area.
- 4.5 Chapter 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework covers meeting the challenge of climate change.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purposes

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- 5.1 The Strategy and Action Plan support the Council's strategic purpose of 'Communities which are safe, well maintained & green'. In addition, it underpins the green thread that runs through the Council Plan and supports the delivery of achieving carbon reduction across council services. It also contributes to each of the Council's four other Strategic Purposes all of which have measures that support climate change initiatives.
- 5.2 It is recognised that the Council needs to concentrate on areas of work that will deliver the highest levels of carbon reduction. The strategy and action plan detail these areas but also acknowledges other actions of lower importance from a carbon reduction point of view, but which contribute to the overall greening of the authority.
- 5.3 In addition to the Strategic purposes, the Council's Plan also sets out its organisational priorities, and within a sustainability framework a requirement on any review of services to understand how we can adapt to climate change. The development of this Strategy supports this action.
- 5.4 To deliver on the Council's declaration of a climate emergency, it will be essential that carbon reduction projects are prioritised. Further that there is Officer capacity to deliver on the Strategy's Action Plan and the ability to secure appropriate grants and sufficient resources to deliver the targets.

6. Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 This Strategy is specifically to achieve carbon reduction and net zero for our internal activities. Further, the Strategy also identifies our influencing role in supporting the reduction of carbon emissions from other organisations eg our contractors.
- 6.2 The Section on Measuring and Setting Emissions Targets in the Strategy outlines the targets to be achieved to ensure net zero by 2040. The Strategy is key to addressing Climate Change. The Strategy and action plan seek to deliver a 50% reduction by 2030 and 100% by 2040. As part of our current work to establish a figure for the council's activities we have arrived at an estimated figure of 1,746 tonnes of carbon emissions per year for 2021. In order to reach an interim target of 50% by 2030 we will need to reduce our emissions by approximately 110 tonnes of carbon per year. To achieve net zero in the remaining 10 years to 2040 we will need a target of approximately 87 tonnes per year.
- 6.3 The Council was able to achieve radical change in response to a pandemic by the many actions taken and so there is every opportunity to

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respond and develop our actions in response to global warming and biodiversity collapse

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 7.1 Any equality implications of carbon reduction proposals changing will be considered on a project by project basis through the use of Equality Assessments, if required.

Operational Implications

- 7.2 The proposals set out in the Action Plan will require changes to or new ways of working and operating by service areas. Any operational changes brought about as a consequence will be considered in the business case for each project and as part of any project planning.
- 7.3 This Strategy and Action Plan will be our route map to 'net zero' for our internal activities. It also highlights where we are trying to influence the reduction of carbon emissions from other places outside the council's activities.
- 7.4 This plan will be refreshed every 3 years, and reviewed annually. Progress against targets will be reviewed twice a year and by the Climate Change Panel and annually by Executive.
- 7.5 The key actions of the strategy and action plan will provide the focus, steer and priority for the Climate change Panel for the next 3 years.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The Strategy sets out the Council's plan to achieve net zero by 2040. This target will only be achieved if all services deliver on the actions set out in the Strategy over the next three years and beyond.
- 7.2 To ensure the actions are implemented the Strategy will be reviewed a by an Internal Officer Group and the Climate Change Panel will receive regular reports on progress and at least twice yearly.
- 7.3 Failure to provide adequate resources will mean an increased risk that the strategy and action plan will not be delivered.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

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Appendix 1 – Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

| Department | Name and Job Title | Date |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Portfolio Holder | Cllr Anthony Lovell Portfolio Holder for Climate Change | 4.10.2022 |
| Lead Director / Head of Service | Judith Willis Head of Community & Housing Services Guy Revans Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services | 16.08.22 |
| Financial Services | Peter Carpenter Interim Director of Finance | 17.08.22 |
| Legal Services | Clare Flanagan Principal Solicitor | 16.08.22 |
| Policy Team | Deb Poole Head of Transformation, Organisational Development & Digital Services | 18.08.22 |
| Climate Change Officer | Kath Manning Climate Change Officer | 16.08.22 |

04/10/2022

Redditch Borough Council Carbon Reduction Strategy & Implementation Plan V4.4

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Background & Introduction

Globally, governments have committed to keep within 1.5°C increase in temperature to avoid catastrophic impacts from climate change¹. UK Government has committed to Net Zero by 2050. Local Authorities (LA's) are key in taking and influencing action on climate change due to the services they deliver, their regulatory functions, strategic functions, procurement powers and responsibilities as social landlords and major employers. This evidence supports that Redditch Borough Council should make carbon reduction key to what we do as a council.

Redditch Borough Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. On declaration of a climate emergency, an LA is affirming it will place the Climate Emergency at the centre of its decision-making process. LA's are then expected to develop carbon reduction targets and Implementation plans to assist in the reduction of carbon emissions, from their own council functions and, using their sphere of influence.

Our thanks go to Alex Pearson from Nottingham City Council and the Midlands Net Zero Hub for his support and work authoring this document.

This plan will be refreshed every 3 years, and reviewed annually.
Progress against targets will be reviewed twice a year.

Climate Change is a very real and existing threat and is no longer an issue we can afford to ignore. Redditch Borough Council has acknowledged the climate and environmental crisis declaring a climate emergency.

Our outline Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan sets out how we will work collaboratively, to protect our future together in the uncertain times ahead.

To achieve our target date of carbon neutrality, we need to radically rethink how we live, work and invest in the Borough. To do this we have to work effectively.

We therefore call on you, as people who live, work, visit and invest in our borough, to join us in creating a Redditch Borough that is resilient to the impacts of climate change and work towards a zero carbon, sustainable future for all.

Councillor Anthony Lovell, Portfolio Holder



Figure 2 Kevin Dicks - Chief Executive, Bromsgrove & Redditch Councils



Figure 1 Councillor Anthony Lovell, Portfolio Holder - Climate Change

Commitment & Integration

Background: The council is committed to carbon reduction through its declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. Our commitment to reducing our carbon emissions and influencing the reduction of local carbon emissions goes hand in hand with the 'net zero by 2050' target set by the UK Government, a goal that requires us and all sectors to pull together to achieve.

What we are currently doing? We have embarked on a journey of delivering Carbon Literacy Training to our Staff and Councillors and this will put climate action into the hands of everyone and can deliver between 5-15% real carbon savings per individual. Each of the council's service areas has contributed to this plan in order to produce 'carbon reduction pathways'. Through this approach carbon reduction will become 'business as usual' and truly embedded throughout the organisation. The Council employs a Climate Change and Energy Support Officer currently supported by an Environmental Policy and Awareness Officer, these posts are shared across both Bromsgrove & Redditch Councils. Each service area in Redditch Borough Council has been involved in the formulation of this plan and are committed to delivering the actions in the implementation plan.

What further actions are we going to take? This Plan will be our route map to 'net zero' for our internal activities. It will also highlight where we are trying to influence the reduction of carbon emissions from other places outside the council's activities.

The views of residents and partners are reflected in this plan and they have helped to shape the actions that we are going to take. We are committed to considering the environmental impact of our decisions as a council at every stage.

Our implementation plan (forming part of this strategy) will deliver real and quantifiable carbon reductions. This strategy will be monitored twice yearly by the Climate Change Panel within the council with annual progress reports being sent to the Executive committee. Key to the delivery of this strategy is the integration of plan objectives and targets with every aspect of council service delivery. To this end a collaborative approach involving all heads of service and their teams has been taken. We will link this strategy to corporate performance indicators, and provide a specific 'project based' focus for the council.

Our Key Successes and Top Five Future Actions

Key successes: The council has been successful in securing funding through to install new more efficient glazing, better heating controls and a heat pump at the town hall. When this project is completed over 100 tonnes of carbon emissions will be saved per year. Over the past year the council has also participated in a 'micro mobility trial' seeing hi tech electric scooters available for hire by Redditch residents. The crematorium has been supplying surplus heat to the Abbey Stadium leisure centre for nearly 10 years now, saving both costs and carbon emissions from the sports facility. Greenlands business centre has also received funding in order to improve the fabric of the building and install a low carbon heating system. We will be looking to continue these successes with similar projects as shown in the table below.

Top five future actions:

| Measure | Estimated Saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date |
|---|--|---|--|
| Assess low carbon fleet fuel options | 486 | Environmental Services | Review Spring 2023, completion of fuel switch 2040 |
| Refurbish Crossgates depot to include renewable energy & resource efficiency | 100 | Environmental & Housing Property Services / Legal, Democratic & Property Services | June 2023 for review |
| Apply for funding to improve energy efficiency of the council's housing stock | 250 | Community & Housing Services | June 2023 for completion of some funded schemes |
| Set up a rolling programme of works to improve energy efficiency / renewable generation in the buildings with the highest consumption | 100 | Legal, Democratic & Property Services | Various deadlines for applications to the Salix funding scheme |
| Work with Rubicon leisure to further reduce carbon emissions at Abbey Stadium, Needle museum & Forge Mill visitor centre | 66 | Legal, Democratic & Property Services | Dec 2025 |

Partnership Working

Background: In order to deliver this it is vital that we work closely with our partners, in order to reduce the carbon emissions of the district as a whole. The council's own emissions are a small part of the overall figure and it is important that we use our sphere of influence to encourage others to address their own emissions. Shared learning is a powerful tool to enable carbon reduction and the council can both learn from and influence a wide range of stakeholders across the Borough. The council can also benefit from partnership working with county, regional and national organisations by seeking out and engaging the support that may be available.

What are we currently doing? We currently work closely on a borough level with partners such as 'Rubicon Leisure' who run our sports and leisure facilities. Rubicon Leisure have benefitted from council led actions to reduce energy usage at sites such as Abbey Stadium where waste heat from the crematorium makes a meaningful contribution to the facility's annual energy needs. Our Housing team work closely with Act on Energy, an energy advice charity - to advise tenants on the best ways to cut carbon and reduce bills. Our 'Local plan' will ensure that new developments meet new higher standards for building efficiency. We work closely with the county council to ensure that homes and businesses can benefit from the advice and grants that are made available through the sustainability team. The council is also part of the Joint Worcestershire and Herefordshire Waste Partnership group working towards waste reduction and better waste management across the county. We are also working closely with Worcestershire Regulatory Services to promote Electric Taxi's through the licencing system. Another county wide organisation that we enjoy a close working relationship with is the Local Enterprise Partnership and some of the targets set in this strategy reflect the LEP Energy Strategy of 2019. On a regional level we work with the Midlands Net Zero Hub on several carbon reduction projects (some of which form part of the implementation plan), the West Midlands Combined Authority, and Sustainability West Midlands. On a national Level we have recently worked with the Energy Saving Trust to look at carbon reduction options across our vehicle fleet.

What further actions are we going to take? Redditch Borough Council will continue to work with local, regional & national partners to share learning, refine our carbon reduction plans and make the best possible use of funding opportunities. We will investigate opportunities for carbon reduction with our suppliers and delivery partners whilst ensuring that our carbon reduction strategy is in line with the other Worcestershire district councils. We will work with Worcestershire Regulatory Services to investigate how we might develop street trading policy to encourage low carbon and sustainable trades to operate in the local area. We will also continue to explore options with Worcestershire County Council & local businesses to encourage walking and cycling to work.

Community Engagement & Communication

Background: The residents of Redditch have expressed a wish for their council to address the climate emergency and lead the way through carbon reduction. A recent survey indicated that 85% of residents are concerned about climate change and the impact it is having and 76% told us that dealing with climate change should be a key priority for the Council.

What we are currently doing? Carbon reduction has a dedicated webpage on the council's site and there is consistent messaging around waste & Recycling. Community engagement events are held regularly on a diverse range of subjects relating to energy, waste & environment. The green fair & 'fun-day' is a key event to communicate the message of a low carbon future to the wider community and 2022 will see the return of this popular event in Arrow Valley Country Park. Within the council a regular electronic internal staff newsletter is used when there is news relating to carbon savings projects that staff should be aware of.

What further actions are we going to take? All service areas will have Email footers promoting carbon saving and resource reduction, we will update our website more regularly with news on carbon reduction in addition to regular e-mail newsletters and a refreshed social media policy. Develop a communications plan to promote biodiversity and land management actions within the authority and engage residents in conversations around increasing biodiversity in the residential settings, and the importance of biodiversity in relation to climate change. There are also opportunities at Arrow Valley Country Park to engage with the public on carbon reduction issues and we will work with our partner Rubicon Leisure to explore options. We will apply for funding to install further renewable technologies on the building in the park that serves as a visitor centre. Our housing teams will apply for funding to ensure that the council owned housing stock is as efficient as possible – taking carbon saving to the heart of the community. We will include energy efficiency advice in 'tenant packs' for householders moving into council housing in addition to information on waste & recycling. We will also seek to learn from other comparable local authorities in order to make the most of the opportunity presented by the 'Green Fair'.

Co – benefits

Co-benefits of Climate Action



Health

- Addressing **air quality**, **mental health**, lifestyle **diseases** (heart disease, diabetes etc).
- Less pressure on the **NHS**.



Jobs & Economy

- New **green jobs**.
- E.g. to **create** and **build** the necessary **infrastructure**, and to maintain new services.



Equity & Community

- Safe, prosperous communities **for all**, regardless of status, wealth, race, religion etc.
- **Accessibility** and mobility for residents.



Co-benefits of Climate Action



Green space

- Increased area or access to **green space**.
- Green spaces include **tree planting** but can also be created in less obvious projects.



Resilience

- The ability to **prepare**, **recover** and **adapt** to climate impacts.
- This can be related to **extreme weather** events, access to **resources**, economic recovery etc.



Council capacity

- Climate actions that **raise money** for the **council**.
- These additional funds can be spent on other **green initiatives**.



Background: Co benefits can be described as an outcome linked to a carbon reduction action. An example could be cleaner air in a town centre as a benefit of the adoption of zero emission vehicles, or financial benefits accruing to the council as a result of energy efficiency measures. Co benefits can also be related to habitat creation and improved access to existing green spaces, development of the low carbon economy, skills and training or job creation and retention.

What we are currently doing? We are making use of our open spaces such as Arrow Valley Country Park to promote health and well-being through our cultural and leisure services in order to lift levels of physical activity. We are also delivering efficiency improvements to council owned housing stock and sheltered accommodation through a government funded scheme, which will improve living standards for the tenants and help reduce fuel poverty.

What further actions are we going to take? Clean air is an important co benefit associated with low and zero carbon transportation and we will continue to evaluate the most appropriate size and location of electric vehicle charge points. The council will examine the type of fuel used in its fleet vehicles in order to build on work commissioned from the Energy Savings Trust to assess the current fleet and provide guidance. Further the Council will promote reduced use of cars through active travel initiatives as part of its Leisure Strategy. If the council is successful in securing government funding for the retrofit of council housing stock, 200 households per year will see their living standards improved through energy and resource efficiency. Our new Parks Strategy will provide opportunities for further health & well-being co-benefits to the wider community through the use of our open spaces. The council will also look to use a standardised method of assessing co benefits to help inform investment decisions in the future. We will also assess how we can better signpost business to available funding in order to stimulate and grow the green economy within the Borough of Redditch.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Background: Carbon reduction and social justice have historically gone hand in hand in support of the United Nations Sustainable development goals. Green spaces are open to all residents and facilities will continue to be improved. Through the Boroughs social housing it will be ensured that low carbon technologies and energy saving will not be the privilege of a select few.

What we are currently doing? As an employer and deliverer of services, **Redditch Borough Council** has stated in its Equality Strategy 2022-2026 that it is committed to eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equal opportunities and fostering good relations between people from all communities.

What further actions are we going to take? We can align our equality strategy with the United Nations Sustainable development goals, when the review occurs in 2026. We will work with local training providers to ensure that opportunities in the green economy are available to all. Redditch Borough Council will ensure that where funding is available to support green entrepreneurs from all backgrounds, it will be effectively applied.



Ecological emergency

Background: The natural environment is vital to the health and wellbeing of society and provides 'eco system services' to regulate our environment, produce clean air and pollinate our crops. An ecological emergency is when the natural environment has been damaged and the ability to provide 'eco system services is reduced'. The ecological and climate emergencies are linked. Significant carbon dioxide emissions are caused by land use change, which is also a key driver for ecological loss. The interdependencies between the species in the natural world are not all fully understood and it is vital that we act to protect bio-diversity on a local, national and global level.

The borough of Redditch contains several areas of land ranked moderate to high value for conservation and wildlife. Corridors of land linking these areas are also important for the ecology of the area. In areas where the public has access co benefits such as improved health and well-being should be considered and opportunities explored.

What are we currently doing? Redditch Borough Council works closely with Worcestershire County Council to manage sites for wildlife where possible. Currently we are implementing new management techniques for road verges in certain agreed areas, this allows native species to flourish and set seed, whilst providing a useful wildlife corridor and habitat for pollinators. We also have a Water courses and wildlife scheme of work managing land to reduce flooding and improve diversity. Our woodland management plan ensures that individual trees and wooded areas are maintained across the borough. The council has been communicating this policy through a dedicated web page and newsletter, in order to keep the public informed.

What further actions are we going to take? Conduct a survey of council sites for wildlife, continue and expand wild verges policy. and ensure. We could also investigate the use of urban space for living walls, and investigate opportunities for local carbon offsetting through tree planting and habitat creation. We will ensure that any such schemes are appropriate and do not degrade the biodiversity value of the existing land. We will look to ensure that the right species in the right place will enhance bio-diversity in the local area. Communicating policies to protect the natural environment is key to public acceptance. The Council will develop a communications plan to promote biodiversity and land management actions within the authority. Where new facilities are planned we will include habitat creation and biodiversity from the start. Where landscapes and habitat areas are managed by the council we will look to eliminate petrol powered hand tools such as strimmers and chainsaws as soon as is practicable. The Council will ensure that new developments include biodiversity net gain. Amongst other things this means that if flora or fauna is to be lost from a site to enable development to occur, the biodiversity lost on site will be more than compensated off site, so that in biodiversity terms there is a net gain. So, for example a tree lost due to development would have to be replaced elsewhere in the Borough or biodiversity net gain provided in some other way. The Council via its parks could be a receiver of biodiversity net gain opportunities and the developer would be expected to make a contribution to the council for related management costs.

Education skills and training

Background: High quality jobs in the growing 'clean tech' sector will ensure that the borough of Redditch remains an attractive place for people to live and work. It is vital that we support our further education establishments to deliver high quality vocational training to our young people and those who wish to retrain for roles in the 'Low carbon economy'. The 'heart of Worcestershire College' has a campus in Redditch and there are opportunities for local companies to provide apprenticeship places through national, regional and county wide schemes.

What are we currently doing? We are working with the Midlands Net Zero Hub to understand the findings of their 'Low carbon Goods & Services' study of Worcestershire. Potential skills gaps have been identified that our local further education providers could help resolve. We work with the colleges through the Redditch Partnership Executive Group, Redditch Towns Deal Board and both the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership and the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership on the skills agenda.

What further actions are we going to take? As part of the Towns Deal funding we are considering establishing a 'Youth council' to cover the issues surrounding climate change and ensuring that training is available for the future skills required for the low carbon economy in Redditch. We will work closely with further education training providers and both local enterprise partnerships to ensure that any new suitable funding streams can be sign posted. We will also continue to work with the Midlands Net Zero Hub to make use of the findings in the Low Carbon Goods and services report.

Governance, Development & Funding

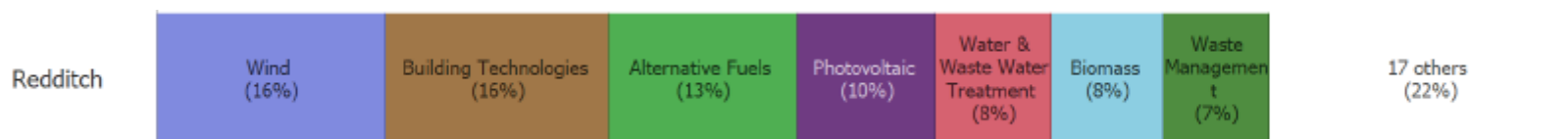
Background: The climate emergency declaration means that the current governance structure of the council is used to provide direction and oversee delivery of low and zero carbon initiatives. Carbon reduction projects are currently developed within the council and resourced through existing service areas. To make the best use of council resources, other funds are sought in order to maximise carbon savings. Government funding for decarbonising homes and buildings becomes available periodically in funding 'rounds'. In addition to these funds from central government there are regional and county administered schemes that the council is able to make use of. There are also investment opportunities in areas such as renewable heat and power generation through joint ventures and direct investment.

What are we currently doing? Currently many of our community buildings and sheltered accommodation are benefitting from solar panels on the roof and other efficiency measures. The council has also been successful in securing over £1million from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for Redditch town hall and Greenlands Business Centre. There are over 200 tonnes of carbon savings per year associated with these projects. The council was also successful in bids for funding to improve its housing stock under the Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LADS) and this will not only yield carbon reductions but improve health and well-being for the residents.

What further actions are we going to take? The governance required to deliver this plan will be provided by the Climate Change Panel in order to monitor progress against targets and evaluate potential new projects, before submission to the Executive Committee. The council will ensure that it is in a position to take advantage of future funding opportunities by maintaining a pipeline of suitable projects, the steering group will have a role to play in recommending schemes and projects to the Executive, particularly where there is a resource implication. Where projects are funded directly through council resources, a measure of best value for carbon reduction will be applied in conjunction with affordability to ensure the most efficient and effective use of council resources.

Low Carbon Economy

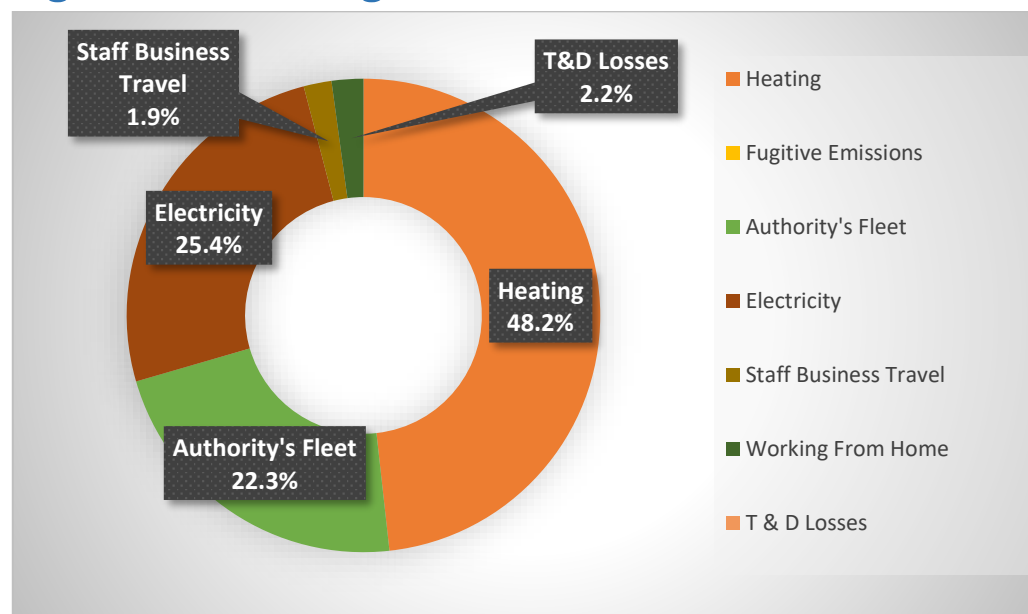
Background: The borough of Redditch has 17% of the overall Worcestershire sales figure for the low carbon economy. Redditch also has 25% of the companies engaged in this sector, and 14% of the total number of this sectors employees. The low carbon economy in Redditch grew by 14.6% in 2019/20 and employs 1,388 people across the borough. A breakdown of the local low carbon economy is shown below:



What are we currently doing? The economic strategy for Redditch is delivered by North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration. Appropriate grants administered by the County Council and others are signposted to local businesses. Both Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnerships have growth hubs that cover the area.

What further actions are we going to take? At present the low carbon economy does not feature in the 'North Worcestershire Economic Growth Strategy' document and when this strategy is reviewed, the opportunity will be taken to include the findings of the Midlands Net Zero Hub 'low Carbon Economy Goods & Services report'.

Measuring and setting emissions targets



A breakdown of the council's current carbon emissions is shown above

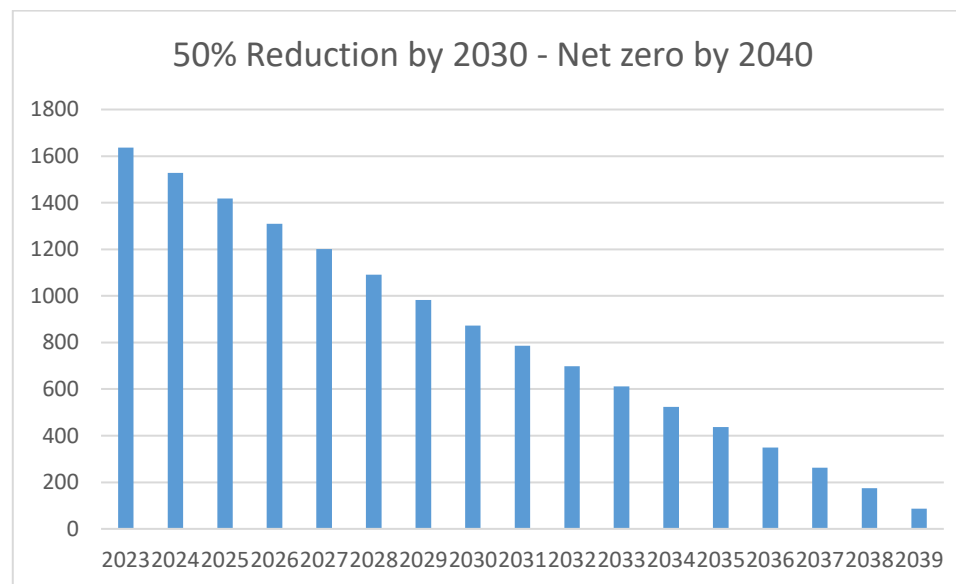
Background: Official carbon emission figures for the Borough of Redditch are currently available from the department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). These figures are for the activities that take place within the borough, the totals represent both the direct emissions from the activities of the council and the emissions that the council has influence over. All councils must be 'net zero' by 2050, this means that direct emissions from services must be as low as possible and the remaining emissions are likely to require 'offsetting'.

What are we currently doing? Redditch Borough Council is working hard to quantify and understand the emissions associated with our activities. By using the latest data resulting from this exercise we can set meaningful targets that inform our implementation plan and lead to effective carbon reduction projects and measures.

What further actions are we going to take? The council will re commence carbon reporting, and these figures will be used to monitor performance against this plan. Carbon reduction targets in line with the other Worcestershire districts are adopted through this plan in addition

to the Local Enterprise targets of 50% by 2030 and net zero by 2040. Currently the carbon emission figure for the Borough of Redditch is 326,000 tonnes per year (2019). As part of our current work to establish a figure for the council's activities we have arrived at an estimated figure of 1,746 tonnes of carbon emissions per year for 2021. In order to reach an interim target of 50% by 2030 we will need to reduce our emissions by approximately 110 tonnes of carbon per year. To achieve net zero in the remaining 10 years to 2040 we will need a target of approximately 87 tonnes per year.

The implementation plan has been designed to deliver these savings and will be reviewed bi-annually by the Climate Change Panel and annually by the Executive Committee.



Mitigation & Adaptation

Background: The actions that the council can take to reduce carbon emissions and address the ecological emergency fall into two categories, measures that influence others and direct measures with an associated figure for carbon reduction. The first actions are to address the emissions associated directly with council activities such as service delivery. Mitigation is where we adapt our services to try and prevent the severity of climate change, Adaptation is where we have to change what we do as a consequence of the impacts of climate change we can't affect. Like selecting water resistant species in parks or emptying bins in the cooler part of the day as temperatures increase.

What are we currently doing? All heads of service and managers have provided input to help formulate this plan. Most of the mitigation and adaptation measures have grown from projects and practices that are already in place. As an organisation we appreciate that we can always do more, whilst recognising the resources that we have available within the council. Projects such as switching to a lower carbon fuel for our vehicle fleet and the low carbon heating installed in the town hall are key to reducing our emissions and playing out part in achieving the nationwide target of net zero by 2050.

What further actions are we going to take? The implementation plan included in this document details what we are going to do over the coming years and how much carbon we expect to save (for direct measures). The implementation plan has been produced from discussions with the heads of service covering all areas of council operations. We are continually improving the level of data that we have on the energy consumption of our buildings from the offices and buildings that we use for the delivery of our services, to our council owned housing stock. In terms of adaptation we must ensure that these buildings are able to maintain a comfortable internal temperature in winter but also to cope with hotter summers and extreme weather events. We could look at other actions that we could take to reduce the effects of climate change locally, for example increasing tree cover in urban areas to reduce the temperature in summer, or creating wetland habitat to control flooding. We have considered our transport fleet, our sports and leisure facilities (managed by Rubicon Leisure for us), our infrastructure and our natural environment and we are looking for carbon saving opportunities. We are also keen that the messages of carbon reduction, resource efficiency and nature conservation are communicated to our citizens in a clear and concise way through a variety of channels.

Waste & Recycling

Background: The 'Environment Act 2021' is a piece of legislation that affects all local authorities in England. The Bill will require us to deliver consistent and frequent recycling collections and it will also require us to operate weekly separate food waste collections, preventing food waste from going to landfill or being incinerated. Waste collection and disposal has carbon emissions associated with it. These emissions are from the vehicles that transport the waste, and whatever process the waste undergoes once disposed of.

What are we currently doing? Redditch Borough Council is a 'collection authority' and the disposal of the waste collected is the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council. Currently the County Council has a 'Waste Core Strategy' that covers the period to 2027. Our council website provides information to help residents find their local recycling centre, in addition to guidance on what can and can't be recycled. We also provide links to inform residents about waste reduction (The let's waste less programme). Teachers can find learning resources for schools on our web page and we are keen to encourage children to take the message of waste reduction and recycling home to their parents.

What further actions are we going to take? According to the 'Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) the recycling rates in the borough of Redditch are at 29% (2019 / 2020 figures). There is clearly more that we can do to promote waste reduction and recycling through existing channels and we will do this as part of a wider net zero communications strategy. New legislation will require changes to our waste collection service including the requirement for us to separate and collect food waste in the near future and we will investigate the potential to turn this waste into a resource through conversion to gas. (Anaerobic Digestion). We are working with the 5 other district Council's and the County Council through the Worcestershire Waste Partnership on how all the changes required by the Environment Act can be implemented.

Implementation Plan – Measures with quantified carbon savings

| Measure | Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date | Co- benefits | Comment |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| Assess low carbon fleet fuel options | 486 | Environmental & Housing Property Services | Review Spring 2024, completion of fuel switch 2040 | Positive effect on local air quality. Healthier community | Vegetable oil as a replacement for diesel will be a transitional measure providing a pathway to other fuels such as hydrogen / biomethane or electricity. Use of EST fleet review data / Midlands Net Zero Hub electrification of council depots guide will assist with this measure. This measure will also require a report to Executive Committee regarding options and costs. |
| Refurbish Crossgates depot to include renewable energy & resource efficiency | 100 | Environmental & Housing Property Services / Legal Democratic & Property Services | 01/06/2023 for review | Positive effect on local air quality, continuation of the site secures employment. The project will help to facilitate a fuel swap to reduce vehicle emissions. | Successful grant applications required to maximise carbon savings for this project. The carbon saving figure is estimated at this stage |

| Measure | Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date | Co- benefits | Comment |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Set up a rolling programme of works to improve energy efficiency / renewable generation in the buildings with the highest consumption | 100 | Legal, Democratic & Property Services | 01/06/2023 for review | Reduction in running costs and contribution to net zero target. | Successful grant applications required to maximise carbon savings. Estimate based on 10 buildings saving a minimum of 20% |
| Improve energy efficiency of current housing stock making use of LADS and other government schemes | 250 | Environmental & Housing Property Services | To coincide with release of funding and deadlines for 2023/4 | Important positive health outcomes for residents, enhanced health and well-being, reduction in fuel poverty | Key team members to receive training on Air Source heat-pumps. When work takes place on a property the opportunity to facilitate future low and zero carbon options will be considered. |

| Measure | Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date | Co- benefits | Comment |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Report on carbon saving as a result of streamlining operations | 2 | Transformation & Organisational Development | ongoing | Helps the council to put a value on carbon saving, and assists with the monitoring of this implementation plan | Good practice examples from other local authorities to be shared |
| Energy audit of server rooms to enable energy saving practices | 1 | Legal, Democratic & Property Services | To be completed by Dec 2022 | Reduction in running costs and contribution to net zero target. | Assistance available from Midlands Net Zero Hub |

| Measure | Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date | Co- benefits | Comment |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Moving more IT capacity to cloud based servers | 1 | Transformation & Organisational Development | Review annually | Reduced running costs for the council in relation to IT | It should be ensured that cloud servers are using low carbon power sources in order for the carbon saving to be claimed |
| Reduce staff travel and make further use of video conferencing | 0.5 | All service areas | To be completed by Dec 2022 | Reduces the number of payments for staff travel and cuts down on unproductive travelling time | This measure fits in with the council's desire to further adopt agile working |

| Measure | Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date | Co- benefits | Comment |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Walk through energy assessment of shop mobility hub at kingfisher centre | 1 | Community & Housing Services | To be completed by Dec 2022 | Reduced running costs for the council and contribution to overall carbon reduction target | Assistance available from Midlands Net Zero Hub |
| Implement Recommendations of the 2020 EST report for the 'grey fleet and include' Travel plans across all service areas and encouraging wider use / accessibility of public transport through partnership working | 36 | Transformation & Organisational Development Service./All Service areas | 2025 to review progress. | Improvements in local air quality & Savings of £34k quoted in the EST report. | Travel plans are a low cost way of reducing emissions associated with staff travel. This measure will preempt the government's bans on the sale of petrol & diesel Vehicles. Ultimately one or more 'Electric pool cars' could be the aim for staff |

| Measure | Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date | Co- benefits | Comment |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Cut the council's paper waste by offering papers electronically | 2.5 | All Service Areas | Review by Spring 2023 | Will save more money than it costs. Should be relatively easy to implement. | This is a measure that many other councils have implemented successfully |
| Work with Rubicon leisure to further reduce carbon emissions at Abbey Stadium, Needle museum & Forge Mill visitor centre | 66 | Legal, Democratic& Property Services/Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services / Environmental & Housing Property Services | Dec-25 | Reduced running costs and contribution to overall carbon reduction target | Midlands Net Zero hub to assist with funding applications for this work |
| Grid decarbonisation | 443 | * Grid electricity to be net zero by 2035 - electricity use from the council & our service delivery partners | | | |
| Total of above measures | 1046 | | | | |
| Target | 1746 | | | | |
| Remainder | 257 | | | | |

Implementation Plan – Enabling Measures without quantified carbon savings

| Measure | Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date | Co- benefits | Comment |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| Assess the viability of Council Car Parks and other sites for EV chargers and work with Worcestershire County to Council to implement the County Wide Electric Vehicle strategy contributing to toward a comprehensive network for Worcestershire | | EV Project Working Group | Projects to be aligned with funding deadlines where possible | Air quality & Health and Well-being benefits accrue to the wider area | We will consider carefully both on street and off street locations, to ensure that residents without off street parking will have more charging options where practical. Savings can be calculated when sizes of chargers and locations are known. Assessment of charger locations for council owned leased housing stock will also form part of this measure. |
| Investigate options for heating & cooling networks across the borough as part of a place based approach | | Legal, Democratic & Property Services/Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services | Projects to be aligned with funding deadlines where possible | Air quality & Health and well-being benefits accrue to the wider area | Capacity Support available through Midlands Net Zero Hub |

| Measure | Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date | Co- benefits | Comment |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Work in partnership with Worcestershire County Council to Manage verges and other council owned parks and open spaces for nature | | Environmental Services / Leisure Services | Ongoing | Benefits for nature, insects and pollinators, can act as wildlife corridors | Pilot scheme in progress. Can be one of a suite of schemes to help address the ecological emergency. This measure will require a report to Cabinet regarding areas and costs. |
| Eliminate petrol powered tools (chainsaws, etc) | | Environmental & Housing Property Services / Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services | Reviewed annually | Better working environment, less noise. | Legislation may bring the deadline forwards as petrol and diesel is banned in other areas |

| Measure | Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date | Co- benefits | Comment |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Continue to evaluate green tariffs and local energy purchase agreements | | Finance & Customer Services / all service areas | Ongoing | Supports local renewable energy projects / creates a demand for renewable energy | Though the focus should always be demand reduction and renewable energy generation, green tariffs can be a good way to deal with any remaining carbon emissions |
| Use a recognised standardised carbon calculation methodology | | Finance & Customer Services / all service areas | Ongoing | Improved accuracy of 'carbon accounting' can be applied to validate the claims of suppliers who tender for council contracts | The Treasury green book provides the methodology and standardised assumptions to be used. |
| Record the impact of financial decisions on carbon emissions as part of a wider aim to record emissions across all council operations | | Finance & Customer Services | ongoing | Helps the council to put a value on carbon saving, and assists with the monitoring of this implementation plan | Essential to the monitoring of this plan |

| Measure | Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date | Co- benefits | Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Include questions on Carbon to evaluate tenders for services during the procurement process | | Legal, Democratic & Property Services | To be completed by Dec 2022 | Helps the council to better understand emissions that are not directly in its control | This is the start of the councils journey to understand 'scope three' emissions (emissions other than those directly from fuel and power) |
| Mapping exercise to link forthcoming Parks & Open spaces strategy with this strategy | | Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services | To be confirmed when the open spaces strategy is complete | Better health and well-being outcomes for residents through improved access to open spaces / opportunities to engage with the natural environment | Opportunities for funding should be explored with Worcestershire County Council, such as the 'Natural Networks' scheme. |

| Measure | Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date | Co- benefits | Comment |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| Review local plan where there is particular reference to renewables / provision for renewables in the future or heat networks | | Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services. | To coincide with local plan review dates. | Ensures that local plan is in line with the other districts to avoid inconsistency in requirements for low & zero carbon technologies. | Good opportunities for learning and sharing best practice with the other districts of Worcestershire and beyond. |
| Reduce waste production across the borough | | Environmental Services | ongoing | Co- benefits include reduction in direct emissions, but also fleet mileage of refuse collection vehicles leading in improvements to local air quality | Ongoing work with learning opportunities available from other local authorities. |

| Measure | Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date | Co- benefits | Comment |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Encourage zero carbon and sustainability through the supply chain | | Finance & Customer Services / all service areas | Ongoing | Encourages further carbon savings where the council has influence and is a step towards addressing scope 3 emissions | This measure will be incorporated into the forthcoming 'Social Value Policy' This is also currently the subject of a study to produce template documents and procedures by GBSLEP. |
| Assess all existing assets and new assets for suitability for renewable energy generation and energy storage | | Housing Property Services / Legal, Democratic & Property Services | Ongoing | New generation opportunities can contribute to the overall target and lead to cost savings / incomes for the council. | Ensures new opportunities are not missed, some of this work has been completed as part of a wider building energy audit process. Any projects identified will be subject to a detailed business case accompanying the proposal. |

| Measure | Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂ | Service area | Target Completion Date / Review Date | Co- benefits | Comment |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| Evaluate current e-micro - mobility pilot in Redditch (e-scooters) with a view to establishing a more permanent scheme | | Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services | To be confirmed when the current trial is complete | Increased mobility for residents without access to their own transport/ improved access to education and employment opportunities | Learnings from other Councils experience with cycle hire and micro mobility. Carbon savings can be estimated from the results of the evaluation. This project will require a report to Executive Committee regarding options and costs |
| Complete Carbon Literacy training for Corporate Management Team, 4th Tier managers and Councillors | | All service areas | Ongoing | Better understanding of carbon reduction and related issues will | This programme is almost complete and the majority of CMT and tier 4 managers have received this training. Councillor training is being rolled out in 2022. |

**Executive
2022**

25th October

Support to the Voluntary and Community Sector 2023/24 – 2025/26

| | |
|--|---|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder | Councillor M. Dormer -Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnership |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted | Yes |
| Relevant Head of Service | Judith Willis |
| Report Author | Job Title: Head of Community and Housing Services Contact email: Judith.willis@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: |
| Wards Affected | All |
| Ward Councillor(s) consulted | No |
| Relevant Strategic Purpose(s) | Aspiration, work & financial independence Living independent, active & healthy lives Communities which are safe, well maintained and green |
| Key Decision | |
| If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting. | |

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee RECOMMEND that:-

- 1. the funding for the VCS Grants Scheme be agreed for a further three year period with either option 1 or 2 as set out in section 6.12**

The Executive Committee RESOLVE that:-

- 2. delegated authority be given to the Head of Community and Housing Services following consultation with the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnership, to agree a revised VCS Grants Policy in accordance with the proposals within this report.**

2. BACKGROUND

**Executive
2022**25th October

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- 2.1 The current VCS Grants Policy was set up following consideration of a report at the Executive Committee and Council meetings in January 2020, when a number of options were put forward. In 2022-23 the final year of the current VCS Grants Policy, £101k was available for the Main Grants Pot and applicants could apply for between £500 and £10k.
- 2.2 It was also agreed that there would be a Financial Advice and Problem Solving Grant which was granted to Bromsgrove and Redditch Citizens Advice (CA). This grant was awarded for three years 2020-23 and quarterly monitoring is required and subject to satisfactory information being provided payment is made to CA quarterly. Data covering the period 2021/22 and the first quarter of 2022/23, is attached at appendix 1.
- 2.3 It was agreed that in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and following consultation with the VCS sector, that two funding rounds would be held per year with £5k from each round being used for a separate Mental Health and Wellbeing pot. This continued for 2021-22, however for 2022-23 the Policy reverted to one round, whilst retaining the £10k for a separate Mental Health and Wellbeing pot.
- 2.4 Appendix 2 shows the grants which have been paid out during the three years that the current Policy has been in place. For 2022-23 a total of 31 applications were received for the Main Grants pot and 3 applications for the Mental Health and Wellbeing Pot, with an overall total of 18 grants being awarded (appendix 3 provides a summary of those grants and projects). It should be noted that only three applications were received for the Mental Health and Wellbeing Pot and that only £5k was paid out, with the remainder returned to the Main Grants Pot for distribution.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Should Members wish to continue to provide a VCS scheme it is proposed that £100k be allocated for each year, together with £50k for the Financial Advice and Problem Solving Grant, giving an annual total of £150k. This would be reviewed in three years. The removal of the concessionary rents element of the policy provides a saving of £25k per year.
- 3.2 See also paragraph 6.6 and 6.7 in respect of savings made to the budget via other sources of income to support the VCS.

**Executive
2022**25th October

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council needs to continue to ensure that it has a transparent and fair grants scheme, ensuring that we comply with the 2015 Local Government Transparency Code.
- 4.2 Whilst grant funding and concessions to the VCS are not statutory function, under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to incur expenditure which in its opinion is in the interest of and will bring direct benefit to its area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants. The direct benefit accruing must also be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred.
- 4.3 There is a further power to make grants to voluntary organisations providing recreational facilities under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Depending on the option within this report that is approved, a new VCS Grants Policy will be required.
- 4.4 Local Authorities must comply with the 2015 Local Government Transparency Code and Best Value duties.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

The Grants to Voluntary Bodies scheme supports work across this 3rd sector that support the following Council Strategic purposes:

- Aspiration, work & financial independence
- Living independent, active & healthy lives
- Communities which are safe, well maintained and green

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 It is proposed that should the scheme continue for 2023/24 an additional question would be included within the application form, although not included within the scoring process, which would ensure that applicants were giving consideration to the impact of Climate Change moving forwards.

**Executive
2022**25th October

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 The VCS support many members of the community and add social value, alongside this the sector support community relations and cohesion. In submitting funding applications, organisations are asked “Who is your targeted audience and how do you ensure that your proposed project/service reaches them and will be open and accessible to all?” and the Panel score this element of the applications. Organisations are also asked, where appropriate, to confirm that they have an Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy in place.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 The current Policy has generally worked well, although a number of recommendations have been put forward following a review by the Internal Audit Team and should the Policy be extended for future years, then those recommendations could be included within the Policy going forwards. The recommendations were:
- Limit how many times an organisation can apply, and review what organisations are being targeted and broaden the advertising. This was due to the funds being distributed in two rounds during 2019/20 and 2020/21. For 2021/22 and following consultation with BARN it was agreed to revert back to one round per year, which would partially address this concern, with an organisation only being able to make one application per funding pot in a 12 month period and the promotion of the scheme will be reviewed to ensure every opportunity is given to VCS organisations to apply for funding.
 - Consider the possibility of having a smaller grants fund with a less onerous application form for smaller organisations – a short online survey has been carried out with the VCS community and from the results it shows that they are in support of this suggestion. A summary of the findings of the survey can be found at appendix 4.
 - Review unsuccessful applications to ascertain if there are any trends that can be used for learning. Officers will carry out a review at the conclusion of each application process.

**Executive
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- 6.3 Due to the pandemic, it was agreed that the policy would set aside funds for projects specifically related to Mental Health. It is suggested that the policy should be amended to include an element of flexibility to allow grants to reflect the changing needs of the local community in the future. For example, the cost of living, suicide prevention, carbon reduction.
- 6.4 It is proposed that the VCS Grants Policy be amended to take account of the removal of the concessionary rents element and the above recommendations. This would include £100k for the main grant pot with a further £50k continuing to be used for the Financial Advice and Problem Solving Grant. Giving a total of £150k to support the VCS community. This would be an annual amount for the next 3 years.
- 6.5 Under the current Policy grants of £3k or less are paid in one instalment with larger grants being paid in 2 instalments, the second of which is subject to satisfactory monitoring.
- 6.6 Following consultation with the VCS community it is suggest that the terms of the policy continue to support both specific projects and the overall core costs for organisations.
- 6.7 In September 2018, the Executive Committee approved the establishment of a local lottery. As part of its commercialism programme, The Council has a contract in place with its External Lottery Manager (ELM), Gatherwell Ltd. who delivers the online lottery on the Council's behalf. On average this generates approximately £10k per annum.
- 6.8 Periodically the Council receives community donations through the procurement process, where a not-for-profit organisation it uses, chooses to distribute all operating surplus to its membership in the form of Community Donations. These donations are split proportionately between members based on their spend through the organisations' frameworks. On average this generates £8k.
- 6.9 The new UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which is part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda as presented to this Committee on 26 July 2022, contains two interventions that could support the VCS: E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects and E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups. The process for any funding allocated to the VCS could be through the Grants Policy and offset against the Council's Grant budget.
- 6.10 To support commercialisation and the Council's financial position, it is proposed that funds received from the above three sources are put into

**Executive
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the following years Voluntary Sector Grants Budget. An associated savings is then made to the Council's VCS grant scheme.

- 6.11 Further support provided by the Council to the VCS goes in helping to identify which VCS groups receive funding through the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) Recycling of Metal Recovered from Cremation Scheme. The national scheme provides that this funding is ring fenced to local bereavement charities. Local Authorities are able to send (with permission of the families) metal parts recovered after cremation for recycling for money which is then gifted back to the Local Authority to be redistributed to the local VCS. The Grants Panel reviews the applications received and makes its recommendation to the ICCM, who make the final decision on whether to award the grant. The average annual funding is approximately £15k.

6.12 Options

Option 1 - Continue with current scheme (removing the element in respect of the concessionary rents) for a 3 year period. With a total grant pot of £150k, which would include £50k being available for a Financial Advice and Problem Solving Grant.

Option 2 – As detailed in option 1 above, but also to update the current policy and break down into 2 types of application – smaller £500 to £2k and larger over £2k up to £10k.

Option 3 - Something completely different.

Option 4 – As this is not a statutory service, it is determined that the Council no longer funds and operates a scheme.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 By reducing the amount available in the VCS Grants pot, the Council will not be able to fund the breadth and diversity of projects it currently funds. However, Members have decided to retain the VCS Grants Co-ordinator post as a means of helping to build capacity in the sector and to support more inexperienced groups in finding and applying for other sources of funding.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – CAB Monitoring Data 2021/22

Appendix 1a – CAB Monitoring Quarter 1 2022/23

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Appendix 2 – Summary of grants paid 2020-2023

Appendix 3 – VCS Grants Awarded 2022-23

Appendix 4 – Results of VCS Online Survey

Background Papers

- VCS Grants Policy 2020-2023
- Financial Advice and Problem Solving Contract Quarterly Monitoring Reports submitted by Bromsgrove and District Citizens Advice 2020-2022.
- Various Executive Committee and Council agendas/minutes

**Executive
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| Department | Name and Job Title | Date |
|---|---|-------------|
| Portfolio Holder | Councillor Matthew Dormer | |
| Lead Director / Head of Service | Judith Willis, Head of Community & Housing Services | 21.09.22 |
| Financial Services | | |
| Legal Services | Mike Rowan, Interim Legal Services Manager | 21.09.22 |
| Policy Team (if equalities implications apply) | | |
| Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply) | Judith Willis, Head of Community & Housing Services | 21.09.22 |



Redditch Statistics

2021 – 2022

Q4

Client Numbers

(Clients are only counted only once per month even if they have contacted us a number of times during that month)

| Month | Clients | Simple Queries | Total |
|---------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| April | 193 | 52 | 245 |
| May | 192 | 48 | 240 |
| June | 218 | 64 | 282 |
| Totals | 603 | 164 | 767 |
| July | 211 | 35 | 246 |
| August | 212 | 47 | 259 |
| September | 239 | 24 | 263 |
| Totals | 662 | 106 | 768 |
| October | 201 | 29 | 230 |
| November | 217 | 15 | 232 |
| December | 162 | 7 | 169 |
| Totals | 580 | 51 | 631 |
| January | 254 | 16 | 270 |
| February | 243 | 28 | 271 |
| March | 248 | 27 | 275 |
| Totals | 745 | 71 | 816 |

*We are now able to pick up Redditch clients that have been helped by other offices. These numbers have been included to show all Redditch clients helped in the period

Appointments

When clients need further help with their advice issue, they are given an appointment with an adviser.

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| April - June | 85 |
| July - September | 77 |
| October - December | 94 |
| January - March | 135 |

Visits to our Website

Number of people who have accessed our CABR website during this quarter was **1,475**.

Client Advice Issues

| | Issues | | Issues |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| Q1 | 1,306 | Q3 | 1,410 |
| Q2 | 1,494 | Q4 | 1,631 |

Areas of Main Advice

| | Benefits | U.C. | Employment | Debt | Housing | Relationships | Other | Totals |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| Q1 | 277 | 160 | 93 | 259 | 103 | 92 | 322 | 1,306 |
| % | 21% | 13% | 7% | 20% | 8% | 7% | 24% | 100% |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Q2 | 296 | 200 | 128 | 252 | 87 | 123 | 408 | 1,494 |
| % | 19% | 12% | 9% | 18% | 7% | 9% | 26% | 100% |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Q3 | 358 | 196 | 82 | 177 | 96 | 88 | 413 | 1,410 |
| % | 24% | 14% | 6% | 13% | 7% | 6% | 30% | 100% |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Q4 | 538 | 154 | 86 | 152 | 179 | 121 | 401 | 1631 |
| % | 33% | 10% | 5% | 9% | 11% | 7% | 25% | 100% |
| | | | | | | | | |

Appendix 1a**Redditch Statistics 2022 – 2023****Q1 April – June 2022 – 2023**

Clients - Clients are only counted once per month even if they have contacted us a number of times during that month

No. Clients = 605

No. Simple Queries = 60

Total = 665

Partner Referrals = 25

Outcomes

Debts Managed = £158,281

Income gained = £40,137

Volunteers

Total no. = 26

Q1 April – June 2022**Clients**

(Clients are only counted only once per month even if they have contacted us a number of times during that month)

| Month | Clients | Simple Queries | Total |
|---------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| April | 201 | 14 | 215 |
| May | 192 | 21 | 213 |
| June | 212 | 25 | 237 |
| Totals | 605 | 60 | 665 |

Appendix 1a**Visits to our Website**

Number of people who have accessed our CABR website during this quarter was 1,808 (not included: clients searching for us through Citizens Advice main website).

Client Advice Issues

| | Issues | | Issues |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------|
| Q1 | 1,662 | Q3 | |
| Q2 | | Q4 | |

Areas of Main Advice

| | Benefits | U.C. | Employment | Debt | Housing | Relationships | Other | Totals |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| Q1 | 439 | 133 | 99 | 308 | 152 | 116 | 415 | 1,662 |
| % | | | | | | | | |
| Q2 | | | | | | | | |
| % | | | | | | | | |
| Q3 | | | | | | | | |
| % | | | | | | | | |
| Q4 | | | | | | | | |
| % | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Appendix 2

| Applicant (highlighted in yellow if successful - Y if applied but unsuccessful - N if did not apply for that round) | RBC Grants 2022/23 | RBC Grant 2021/22 - Round 1 | RBC Grant 2021/22 - Round 2 | RBC Grant 2020/21 - Round 1 | RBC Grant 2020/21 - Round 2 |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Your Ideas | Spectrum Clubs | Y | N | N | £3,226 |
| 2 Youth Engagement Partnership - | Anti Knife Crime & ASB Project | N | Y | N | Y |
| 3 Oasis Christian Centre | Community Shop Woodrow | N | Y | N | N |
| 4 Building Bridges | Community Shop & Café | N | N | N | N |
| 5 Redditch First Responders / H&W First Responders | First Resonder Vehicle | N | N | N | N |
| 6 Relate - | Future Proofing the Service | Y | Counselling Service £3,000 | Counselling Services | N |
| 7 Carers Careline - | Running costs | N | Core Costs £7,500 | Telephone & Email Services | N |
| 8 Old Needleworks - | Step Forward Work Plaement Project | Problem Solving Parents £5,745 | Media & Marketing Project £5,640 | Parenting Provision £2,530 | Positive Me Project £2,912 |
| 9 New Road Parenting Support Group - | Running Costs & Pride Event | N | N | N | Y |
| 10 Redditch & Bromsgrove Talking Newspaper - | Running Costs | N | N | N | N |
| 11 Acorns Children's Hospice - | Sibling Support Service | N | N | N | N |
| 12 Age UK - | Info hub at Matchborough Charity Shop | N | N | Y | £1,000 |
| 13 NewStarts - | Furniture Outreach | Y | N | N | N |
| 14 Church Hill Big Local | Queen's Patinum Jubilee Celebrations | N | N | N | N |
| 15 WhereNext Assoc - | Glasshouse Repairs | Bulbs, Plants & Seeds £2,000 | Y | Y | £2,499 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| 16 Astwood Bank Welfare Assoc - | Rent & Promotion | N | N | Y | N |
| 17 Reach CIC - | Running Costs | N | Y | N | N |
| 18 HomeStrart North - | Addressing the impact of loneliness | N | N | N | N |
| 19 Redditch Common Neighbour Trust - | Community House | N | N | N | N |
| 20 What's Your Point - | Improving how we feel | N | N | N | N |
| 21 Astwood Bank Community Group - | running costs | N | N | N | N |
| 22 The Koala Tree - | Running Costs | N | N | Y | N |
| | Dads Group | N | N | N | N |
| 23 Redditch Skatepark / Redditch Wheels | Transfiguration | Y | Redditch Wheels Project £5,500 | Vision 2020 £5,000 | N |
| 24 BluWave Community - | Community Transport | N | Y | Y | £2,000 |
| 25 GlastonBeoley - festival | Festival | N | N | N | N |
| 26 Primrose Hospice - | Community Day | Y | Y | N | N |
| | Mental Health & Wellbeing | Y | N | N | N |
| 27 ARCH Redditch - | sport with ARCH | N | N | N | N |
| 28 Boomerang Re-use - | New vehicle | N | N | N | N |
| 29 Redditch Nightstop - | Accommodation & Support Project | SAS Project £7,500 | N | N | N |
| 30 Redditch Carnival - | Carnival event | N | N | N | N |
| 31 Redditch Pentacostal Church - | The Craft Table | N | N | N | N |
| | MBSR 8 week Programme | N | N | N | N |
| BARN | N | Volunteer Centre £7,171.68 | N | Volunteer Centre £4,709.80 | N |
| ISOC UK | N | Sports £3,000 | Y | N | N |
| Reddithc Local History Museum | N | £3,000 | N | N | Y |
| Sandycroft | N | Core Costs £6,500 | Y x 2 | Y | Y |
| YMCA | N | Mental Health Champions £5,000 | N | N | N |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| BENS Groups | N | N | Core Costs £6,750 | Community Groups £2,350 | Y |
| Disability Support Project | N | N | £5,000 | N | N |
| Touchstones | N | N | N | N | Child Bereavement £5,000 |
| Redditch Scouts | N | N | N | N | £4,719 |
| Moons Moat Community Group | N | N | N | N | £2,500 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
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Appendix 3**Welcome to Redditch Borough Council's Voluntary & Community
Sector Grant Funding Programme for 2022/23****Grants Awarded****Main Grant Pot**

VCS groups can bid for funding from £500 up to £10,000 to help with their core costs or to support them to deliver great community projects and activities. This year the Council ringfenced £10,000 of this funding to create a separate 'Mental Health and Wellbeing' pot. VCS groups could bid for between £500 to £5k to help them deliver specific projects to support those Redditch residents who have suffered from mental health and wellbeing issues or increased mental health and wellbeing issues as a direct result of the Coronavirus pandemic. However, it has been agreed to only make one payment under the Mental Health and Wellbeing pot on this occasion and the remaining funds have been used to fund additional projects under the Main Grants pot.

| Group / Organisation | Project | Grant Award |
|---|--|--------------------|
| Relate | Future proofing the service | £5,500 |
| Carers' Careline | Running Costs | £10,000 |
| The Old Needleworks | Step Forwards Work Placement Project | £9,780 |
| New Road Parenting Support Group | Running Costs and Pride Event | £2,000 |
| Redditch & Bromsgrove Talking Newspaper | Running Costs | £2,500 |
| Acorns Children's Hospice | Sibling Support Group | £5,000 |
| Age UK | Information Hub at the Matchborough Charity Shop | £1,100 |
| NewStarts | Furniture Outreach | £5,000 |
| Church Hill Big Local | Platinum Jubilee Celebrations | £3,000 |
| Where Next | Glasshouse Repairs | £7,000 |
| Astwood Bank Welfare Association | Rent and promotion of the service | £920 |
| Reach CIC | Running Costs | £10,000 |
| Home Start North East Worcestershire | Addressing the impact of loneliness | £10,000 |
| Redditch Common Neighbourhood Trust | Community House | £8,497 |
| What's Your Point | Improving How We Feel | £1,675 |
| BluWave Community | Community Transport | £2,925 |
| Redditch Nightstop | Accommodation and Support Project | £10,000 |

Mental Health and Wellbeing Pot

| Group / Organisation | Project | Grant Award |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Primrose Hospice | Mental Health and Wellbeing for Terminal Illness | £5,000 |

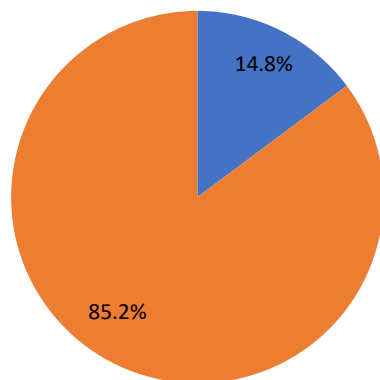
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Future of how Redditch Borough Councils Grants Scheme will support the Redditch Voluntary and Community Sector

Currently the scheme provides organisations the opportunity to apply for support in the delivery of a specific project and/or core costs such as rent and staffing. Thinking about this, which option do you think the future scheme should support?

| Answer Choice | | Response Percent | Response Total |
|---------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Funds to cover specific projects only | 14.8% | 4 |
| 2 | Funds to cover specific projects and/or core costs | 85.2% | 23 |
| | | | |
| | | answered | 27 |
| | | skipped | 0 |

Currently the scheme provides organisations the opportunity to apply for support in the delivery of a specific project and/or core costs such as rent and staffing. Thinking about this, which option do you think the future scheme should support?



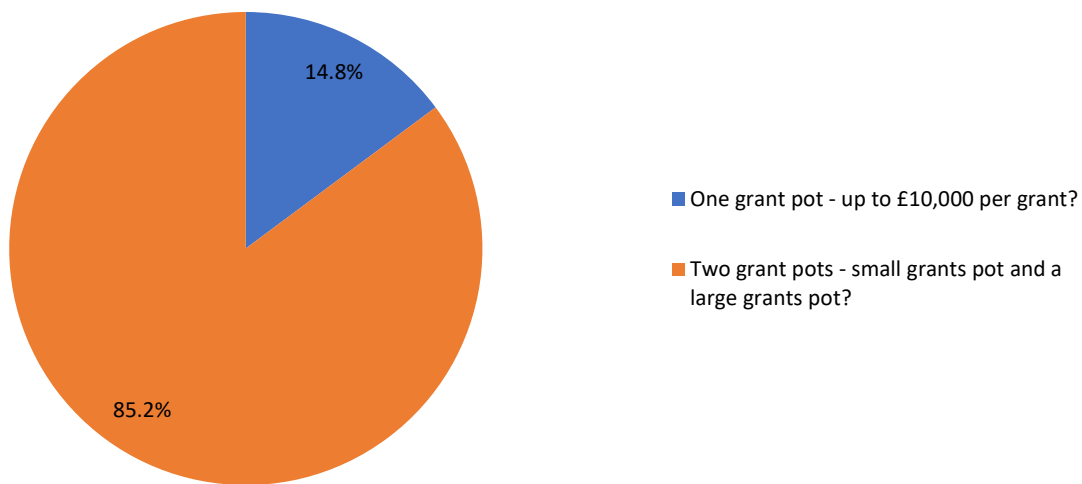
- Funds to cover specific projects only
- Funds to cover specific projects and/or core costs

Future of how Redditch Borough Councils Grants Scheme will support the Redditch Voluntary and Community Sector

The current scheme provides organisations the opportunity to apply for grants up to £10,000 from one grant pot. Would you like to see the current scheme stay the same or a scheme where funds are split into a smaller grants pot, with a less onerous application form, e.g. between £500 to £2,000 and a larger pot for grants between e.g. £2,000 to £10,000? The total amount in the pot would be the same with either option. Please provide your preferred option below

| Answer Choice | | Response Percent | Response Total |
|---------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | One grant pot - up to £10,000 per grant? | 14.8% | 4 |
| 2 | Two grant pots - small grants pot and a large grants pot? | 85.2% | 23 |
| | | | |
| | | answered | 27 |
| | | skipped | 0 |

The current scheme provides organisations the opportunity to apply for grants up to £10,000 from one grant pot. Would you like to see the current scheme stay the same or a scheme where funds are split into a smaller grants pot, with a less onerous applica

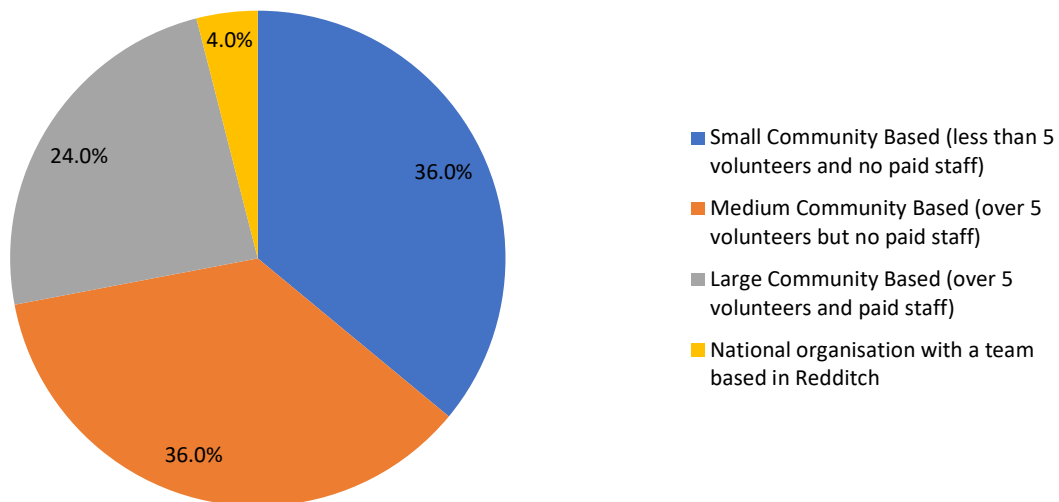


Future of how Redditch Borough Councils Grants Scheme will support the Redditch Voluntary and Community Sector

To help us understand the needs of those VCS organisation we are supporting, please could you let us know the size of your organisation. Please note: One survey response per organisation.

| Answer Choice | | Response Percent | Response Total |
|---------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Small Community Based (less than 5 volunteers and no paid staff) | 36.0% | 9 |
| 2 | Medium Community Based (over 5 volunteers but no paid staff) | 36.0% | 9 |
| 3 | Large Community Based (over 5 volunteers and paid staff) | 24.0% | 6 |
| 4 | National organisation with a team based in Redditch | 4.0% | 1 |
| | | | |
| | | answered | 25 |
| | | skipped | 2 |

To help us understand the needs of those VCS organisation we are supporting, please could you let us know the size of your organisation. Please note: One survey response per organisation.



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Executive Committee

Tuesday, 11th October,
2022

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), Councillor Nyear Nazir (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Karen Ashley, Joanne Beecham, Peter Fleming, Lucy Harrison, Anthony Lovell and Emma Marshall

Also Present:

Councillors Joe Baker, Sharon Harvey and Ann Isherwood

Mr N. Stote

Officers:

Gavin Day, Kevin Dicks, Peter Carpenter, Claire Felton, Michelle Howell, Clayton Maponga and Victoria Swashorne

Principal Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley-Hill

54. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Craig Warhurst.

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Matthew Dormer advised that he had been granted a dispensation by the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee to speak and vote on town centre regeneration matters as a member of the Redditch Business Improvement District (BID) and Town's Deal Board. He therefore remained present for the debates and votes in respect of the Redditch TIP Library Business Case and Town Hall Hub at Minute Item No.s 59 - 60.

Councillor Joanne Beecham declared that she would be leaving the room during consideration of Minute Item No. 58 – Petition – Save the Community House in Redditch - as she had professional contacts with representatives of the tenants of community house at Easemore Road, due to her business operating in a similar environment to Gemini Dance Studio. She therefore left the room

Chair

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 11th October, 2022

during consideration of the item and was not present during the debate or vote thereon.

56. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader explained that at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6th October 2022, Members had pre-scrutinised the Redditch TIP Library Redevelopment - Business Case and the Town Hall Hub reports. The reports had been discussed in detail and, whilst an amendment had been proposed to the Library business case, this had not been approved. The recommendations had been endorsed for the Town Hall Hub item.

57. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday 6th September 2022 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

58. PETITION - SAVE THE COMMUNITY HOUSE IN REDDITCH

Mr Neal Stote presented a petition, for which the petition prayer called to 'Save the Community House in Redditch'.

In presenting the petition, Mr Stote commented that community house on Easemore Road was a vibrant asset for Council tenants, their customers, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups and groups and people from outside Redditch.

There had been some anger within the local community, particularly with respect to the way that the process followed by the Council for the disposal of the community house at Easemore Road had been handled. The tenants had expressed concerns that they felt that they had been involved at the end of the process. However, the tenants had subsequently met with representatives of the Council and clarification had been provided at these meetings.

Alternative premises remained to be found for many of the tenants. A decision had therefore been taken to hand in the petition, which had been signed by well in excess of 1,200 people. This demonstrated how much many people in the local community valued this asset.

Following the presentation of the petition, the Leader thanked Mr Stote for attending the meeting and for speaking to the Committee on the subject of the petition. The Leader explained that the Council was in the process of exploring the support that could be

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 11th October, 2022

provided, wherever possible, to the tenants of community house, Easemore Road. However, this needed to be balanced alongside wider considerations about the Council's asset portfolio. Mr Stote was advised that the petition would be passed on to the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services, who would consider the matter further.

59. REDDITCH TIP LIBRARY REDEVELOPMENT - BUSINESS CASE

The Programme Delivery Manager from the North Worcestershire Economic Development Unit (NWEDR) presented the Redditch TIP Library Redevelopment – Business Case report.

Officers were proposing that there should be a public plaza and a pavilion in Redditch town centre. The pavilion would consist of three floors, comprising a ground floor dedicated to food and beverage and the other two floors used for office space. The proposal was for the library, subject to the outcomes of public consultation and decisions taken by Worcestershire County Council, to be relocated to a community hub, which was subject to consideration as part of the review of the Town Hall Hub.

During consideration of this item, Members noted that the report had been pre-scrutinised at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 6th October 2022. During this meeting, an amendment had been proposed to the recommendations detailed in the report but this had been defeated. The actual proposals had not been voted on.

Subsequent to the presentation of the report, Members discussed the following matters in detail:

- The shopping habits that people had developed during the twenty-first century, mainly involving the increasing use of online retail, and the implications of this for the High Street.
- The potential for High Streets in the UK to offer leisure activities and food and beverage outlets in order to entice people to the town centre.
- The need for economic growth in Redditch and the potential for regeneration of the town centre to contribute to that growth.
- The possibility of relocating the library to a public sector community hub and the benefits of retaining a library in the town centre.
- The libraries that had been closed in other parts of the country.
- The beneficial impact that the urban design associated with the proposals could have on rates of anti social behaviour (ASB) in the town centre.

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 11th October, 2022

- The number of visitors who might be attracted to visit Redditch, should these plans be approved.

RESOLVED that

the Redditch TIP Library Redevelopment business case be endorsed and used to present summary information for submission to the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities on the 14th October 2022.

60. TOWN HALL HUB

The Interim Section 151 Officer presented a report on the subject of the proposed Town Hall Hub.

The Executive Committee was informed that the report detailed proposals to convert Redditch Town Hall into a community hub. Redditch Borough Council no longer required office space on all of the floors in the Town Hall and could operate on the second and third floors only. This would include a new Members' and civic suite on the second floor of the Town Hall. As part of the proposals, external organisations would rent space in the community hub, including potentially Worcestershire County Council and representatives of the NHS. Subject to the outcomes of public consultation and to deliberations by the Cabinet at Worcestershire County Council, there was the potential to relocate the central library in Redditch to the community hub. Worcestershire County Council had been consulted on the initial specification for the plans.

The cost of the scheme would be £5.2 million and funding would be via capital receipts and borrowing (depending on the timing of receipts to give maximum value). The scheme would lead to revenue savings of circa £400,000 a year. In addition, one of the partner organisations would also invest significantly in the building's infrastructure if this proposal was taken forward.

Following the presentation of the report, Members discussed a number of points in detail:

- The introduction of community hubs in other parts of the country and the impact that these buildings had had within local communities.
- The timescales for the Cabinet at Worcestershire County Council to review the proposals. Members were advised that the County Council's Cabinet was scheduled to discuss this matter further at a meeting on 27th October 2022.
- The date by which public consultation would be held in respect of proposals for the library. Officers clarified that further detail on this subject would be provided in the report that was due to

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 11th October, 2022

be considered by Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet later in the month.

- The important role of public consultation in respect of any changes to the library, both as an opportunity to hear from the public and to outline plans for the future.
- The funding required to support the proposals detailed in the report and the extent to which there were any risks associated with accessing this funding. Officers explained three specific capital receipts had been identified for funding purposes and with this source of funding the aim was to achieve best value. In addition, all other suitable options would be considered as part of the overall process.
- The condition of the building in which the library in Redditch town centre was currently located and the long-term maintenance costs that would be required to continue to locate the library in that building.
- The support services that could be accessed at the library.
- The fact that a library would continue to be available to access in Redditch town centre should the proposals be approved.

During consideration of this item, Members noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had pre-scrutinised the Town Hall Hub report. At the end of a detailed debate, the Committee had endorsed the recommendations detailed in the report.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **subject to the agreement of the Town's Fund Library Business case, which itself is subject to the required public consultation, the Town Hall be repurposed as a Community Hub;**
- 2) **subject to approval of recommendation 3 below, authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer and the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services to finalise and implement the community hub business case and to procure and appoint contractors to undertake and deliver the works;**

The Executive Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that

- 3) **building works on the Town Hall of up to £5.2m, (or reduced amount in the event that for any reason the Town's Fund Library Business Case does not proceed to fruition) to be funded from Capital Receipts, for the purpose of remodelling the Town Hall in accordance with the Town's Fund Library business case, be approved; and**

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Tuesday, 11th October, 2022

- 4) the capital programme is increased by £5.2m to deliver these works.

61. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Leader advised that there were no outstanding recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5th September 2022 be noted.

62. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS ETC.

The Leader advised that there were no referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any of the Executive Advisory Panels on this occasion.

63. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

The following updates were provided on the Executive Advisory Panels and other relevant groups:

- a) Climate Change Cross Party Working Group – Chair, Councillor Anthony Lovell

Councillor Lovell confirmed that there had been no meetings of the group since the previous meeting of the Executive Committee.

Members were asked to note that the Climate Change Strategy / Carbon Reduction Implementation Plan would be presented for Members' consideration at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny and Executive Committees later in the month.

- b) Constitutional Review Working Party – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

Councillor Dormer advised that the following meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party would be postponed to take place in November 2022.

- c) Corporate Parenting Board – Council Representative, Councillor Nyear Nazir

Councillor Nazir explained that she had not been able to attend the latest meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board

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Tuesday, 11th October, 2022

held in early October. However, she advised that she would review the content of the minutes of the meeting, once published, and would subsequently report back to the Executive Committee.

- d) Member Support Steering Group – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

The Executive Committee was informed that a meeting of the Member Support Steering Group was scheduled to take place on Thursday 13th October 2022.

- e) Planning Advisory Panel – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

Members were advised that there had not been any meetings of the Planning Advisory Panel since the previous meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.00 pm

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