

additional papers 1



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Mon 8 Jul
2024
6.30 pm

Oakenshaw Community
Centre,
Castleditch Lane
Redditch
B98 7YB

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
Mat Sliwinski**

**Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: (01527) 64252 (Ext. 3095)**

e.mail: mateusz.sliwinski@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Overview and Scrutiny

Monday, 8th July, 2024

6.30 pm

Oakenshaw Community
Centre

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Matthew Dormer
(Chair)
Craig Warhurst
(Vice-Chair)
William Boyd
Claire Davies
Joanna Kane

Wanda King
Sachin Mathur
David Munro
Rita Rogers

5. Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Productivity Plans (Pages 5 - 14)

7. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 15 - 22)

An updated copy of the Executive Committee's Work Programme, published on 1st July 2024, has been attached to this supplementary pack for Members' consideration.

9. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports (Pages 23 - 24)

- a) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Council representative, Councillor Kane;
- b) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Transport Delivery Overview and Scrutiny – Council Representative, Councillor Munro; and
- c) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Council representative – Councillor Kane.

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Executive

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Productivity Plan

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder | | Councillor Spilsbury – Portfolio Holder for Performance Councillor Woodall – Portfolio Holder for Finance |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted | | Yes |
| Relevant Head of Service | | Sue Hanley – Chief Executive Pete Carpenter – Deputy Chief Executive |
| Report Author | Job Title: Business Improvement Manager Contact email: H.mole@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: | |
| Wards Affected | | All |
| Ward Councillor(s) consulted | | No |
| Relevant Strategic Purpose(s) | | All |
| 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:

- 1) The Productivity Plan, as set out in Appendix A, to be approved, the plan to be published on the Council's website and forwarded to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities before the 19th July 2024.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On the 16th April 2024, The Minister for Local Government Simon Hoare MP wrote to Chief Executives. In this letter he thanked Local Government for the huge amount that it had delivered in recent years to improve productivity and efficiency.
- 2.2 He also set out that Government was reviewing productivity across all public services, including local government, and they were now looking at new ways to go further. These new plans would help the Government understand what was already working well across the whole country, what the common themes are, whether there are any gaps and what more we can do to unlock future opportunities.
- 2.3 The purpose of these plans is to ensure we as a sector, and the Government overall provide value for money for Residents. These plans do not have a formal template to follow or criteria to meet but are limited to 3-4 pages in length. The plans must

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**Executive****9th July 2024**

- Set out what Councils have done in recent years, alongside current plans, to transform themselves and their services.
- The plans need to set out how Councils will monitor and assess themselves to assure delivery.
- Plans must be returned to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) by the 19th July.

2.4 The Government guidance suggested that the plans should consider the following themes and if possible should reference work the Council undertakes alongside other public services:

- How you have transformed the way you design and deliver services to make better use of resources.
- How you plan to take advantage of technology and make better use of data to improve decision making, service design and use of resources.
- Your plans to reduce wasteful spend within your organisation and systems.
- The barriers preventing progress that the Government can help to reduce or remove.

2.5 Redditch Borough Council's response, covering these themes, is set out in Appendix A which forms the Council's formal Productivity Plan.

2.6 The Key points of these plans are:

- We already undertake significant Shared Service work and have done so since 2008.
- We are leveraging Towns Fund Funding to regenerate the Town Centre.
- We are using ICT to drive service efficiencies.
- Partnerships drive our effective Service Delivery.
- We link finance and performance monitoring with regular reporting.
- We are using Benchmarking and data to drive service improvement.
- Staff, and their skills, are core to delivery.
- We listen to our communities' requirements.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The initiatives set out in appendix A reflect where the Council is at the moment. Investment will be required, over and above what is in the Capital and Revenue Budgets, to drive transformation at the Council forward. This will be project specific and these requirements will have individual business cases.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising as a result of this report. The Productivity Plan has been requested by DLUHC, it is not a statutory requirement.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 The current Strategic purposes are included in the Council's Corporate Plan and guides the Council's approach to budget making ensuring we focus on the issues and what are most important for the borough and our communities.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 The Climate Change green thread runs through the Council Plan. Any future options that relate to climate will be individually evaluated.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising as a result of this report.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 Operational implications have been dealt with as part of the 2023/24 Budget process.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Non delivery of savings options (efficiencies as requested by the Minister), depending on their financial magnitude can have either a small or significant effect on the Council's finances. As such mitigations need to be in place to deal changes to what was agreed by Council in February 2024.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A – Productivity Plan

Executive

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

| Department | Name and Job Title | Date |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Portfolio Holder | Cllr Splisbury Cllr Woodall | |
| Lead Director / Head of Service | Pete Carpenter | |
| Financial Services | Debra Goodall | |
| Legal Services | Claire Felton | |
| Policy Team (if equalities implications apply) | | |
| Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply) | | |

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Appendix A – Redditch Productivity Plan

1. How have you transformed the way you design and deliver services to make better use of resources?

We are pleased to share our progress in transforming the way we design and deliver services, optimising the utilisation of resources effectively. Through analysis, strategic planning, and innovative approaches, we have embarked on a journey towards enhancing efficiency, transparency, and accessibility across all facets of service provision, namely.

- Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) and Redditch Borough Council (RBC) have shared a leadership team since 2008.
- RBC still has a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which is not a shared service.
- Implemented agile working. We have not imposed targets for being in the office. Work patterns are based on business need, whilst ensuring enhanced face-to-face contact with customers. This has led to less travel (reduced carbon footprint).
- Establishing a Town Hall Hub to improve Town Centre Regeneration with sharing of workspace with other Local Government/Government/voluntary sector bodies.
- Established Rubicon Leisure, an arms-length delivery vehicle of leisure services (not Parks, Green Spaces & Development Services).
- Implementation of an updated Workforce Strategy in the summer 2023 - including updated working culture (4Ps – Purpose, People, Pride & Performance).
- Housing and Community Services working closely with NHS, Starting Well fund and other funding partnerships to tackle homelessness, anti-social behaviour (ASB), community housing, through establishing a comprehensive strategic partnership.
- Land and Building Asset Group (LBAG) - looking at the effective use of surplus assets across the council's brownfield sites.
- Towns Fund (£16m) to regenerate the town centre of Redditch and deliver a Digital Manufacturing and Innovation Centre by 2026.
- Data use includes National Fraud Initiative (NFI) and other sharing initiatives with Government Departments.

We measure productivity through: -

- Quarterly Finance and Performance Reporting to Executive, linked to strategic objectives.
- Members' corporate dashboard is available online.
- Line Management one to ones - measuring progress against specific, measurable, achievable, timely (SMART) targets.
- MTFP follows a two-tranche process and links finance to strategic direction.
- Services detail methods of operation i.e. agile, timesheets, workstreams and KPI's are detailed in Service Business Plans (360 view with feedback).
- The appointment of a new portfolio for performance on the Executive.

To improve services, we have:

- Joined up/collaboration of enabling services (with Service Protocols for Support Service).

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- Strengthened procurement protocols for Officer Key Decision Notices, and created a fully updated Contract Register.
- Updating of Members as part of the quarterly Finance and Performance Report on upcoming procurements over the next year.

Our plans for transformation over the next two years are:

- Data Prioritisation Programme to establish clean data and inform effective decision-making using clean data (measure cleanliness pre and post).
- Performance reporting review will include a summary sheet and detail using Power Bi) clean data to measure progress against key performance indicators (KPIs) and comparison with other similar authorities.
- Digital Improvements through robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), and the customer portal.
- Progressing the ABCD Community Builder approach.
- Introduce updated Service Business Planning in 2024/5, using the LGA Transformation Tool to measure pre and post implementation (measure).
- New Strategic Objectives are being formulated with Executive for implementation in 2024.
- Community Engagement Proposal through the introduction of Citizens' Assemblies and moving to quarterly targeted surveys and quarterly performance reporting, including "You said, we did" reports.
- Full establishment review carried out in May 2024 - with the aim to reduce the current reliance of consultants which currently stands at circa 18% of the workforce and establish a workforce that reflects the Council's needs.
- Monthly Officer Assurance meeting, reviewing performance and learning from issues.

Looking ahead, our greatest potential for savings is:

- Use of LG Futures and Performance/Benchmarking Data to target high cost services.
- Reviewing housing structures and linking these to productivity gains from using new technology for service improvements.
- Review of the Waste Service considering the impending changes to regulations and use of technology to implement route optimisation / integration of street scene tasks.
- Reviewing structures of enabling services to ensure cost effective and supporting front line services requirements.
- Progress workforce planning.

We have used capital spend to boost growth and/or improve services. Examples include:

- Investment in Redditch Town Hall of £6.2m to utilise excess capacity post C-19 with other Government/Voluntary Sector Agencies (DWP/NHS) reducing costs to the Council.
- Utilising regeneration and Towns' Fund to regenerate the town centre and boost growth.
- Section 106 funding used on capital projects such as Morton Stanley Park Cafe to boost growth and generate income for the council.
- Garden waste - additional fleet / staff to deliver a new service in Redditch, which in turn will generate income. Energy efficiency measures installed at the town hall, funded by government grants, including new windows, boiler and solar panel, which has resulted in

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a reduction in repairs, savings in utilities charges and making the building more attractive to rent out.

- Investment in the Waste Fleet - once Government requirements have been finalised.
- Use of more Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) Fuel in Waste Fleet, which although more expensive, significantly reduces carbon emissions.

We have undertaken the following preventative approaches:

- 'No procurement, No order' initiative – implemented April 23 to control expenditure.
- Contracts are linked to finance system to monitor spend and only raise orders on approved contracts - April 2023.
- ICT Phishing tests - to increase staff awareness and reduce potential downtime.
- Investment in ICT Cyber Security to reduce downtime and risk of catastrophic failure.

Locally-led reforms that help deliver high-quality public services and improve the sustainability and resilience of RBC are:

- Joined-up working between RBC and Worcestershire County Council.
- Closer collaboration between council and central government departments such as DWP and Health Services- as many services link closely to each other.
- Promotion of the One Public Estate (OPE) initiative - and ensuring the best decision is made - not requiring all parties to have savings.

2. How you plan to take advantage of technology and make better use of data to improve decision making, service design and use of resources.

We recognise data as an asset and are committed to implementing robust systems for collection, analysis, and interpretation. By leveraging advanced analytics and artificial intelligence, we aim to gain deeper insights into community needs, trends, and preferences. This proactive approach will enable us to make informed decisions, tailor services to meet evolving demands, and allocate resources more efficiently. We plan:

- A new customer-facing interface which ensures that data input duplication is reduced, increasing efficiency and data quality at the council and improving the stakeholder customer experience, which could produce 20% efficiency savings.
- Revised processes to ensure data is clean (single source) and links across the council to maximise the functionality of ICT system changes and upgrades.

Our existing plans are to improve the quality of the data we collect:

- The extensive data prioritisation project will identify data quality, programme validation, data cleansing and invest in customer portal to enable "one account."
- Continue with gold standard quality recognition Geographic Information System (GIS), achieved throughout 2023/24.

Barriers we experience from our legacy systems are:

- Configuration restrictions (which are historic but costly to change).
- Reporting duplication - similar systems reporting on same customers in different ways.
- Lack of standardisation of data requirements.
- Updating and data progression is limited and not standardised across the council.
- Limited budget to invest in quality systems with required capabilities to improve.

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We regularly share data with our partners, DWP, HMRC, Police, Cabinet Office. This is useful as it enables collaborative decision making, improved service delivery, resource optimisation (avoiding duplication), enhanced problem solving and transparency and accountability (track progress, evaluate outcomes and hold each other accountable for their actions). Opportunities we are driving forward to use new technology are:

- Data Prioritisation/audit/standards to improve data quality and validity / importance of data, single source, sharing and reducing repetition and promote blended data for better insight and understanding across services and partners.
- Implementation of a new Customer Interface.
- Systems audit - targeted on systems where there are higher risks.
- GIS Gold Standard.
- Robotics and AI work programme including:
 - Human Resources / Finance – Establishment accuracy & updating.
 - Housing – communications relating to:
 - Aids & Adaptions, Disrepair Claims, Complaints, Councillor and General Enquiries.
 - Revs and Bens scoping out opportunities for:
 - Council Tax Recovery, EBilling, the National Fraud Initiative.

3. Your plans to reduce wasteful spending within your organisation and systems. (You should set out your plans to reduce wasteful or "gold-plated" spending.)

Our approach to identifying and reducing waste include:

- Performance Dashboard (real time) & Quarterly Performance reporting via Corporate Management Team (HoS) and then Executive.
- Updating Performance Indicators/Format reflecting new Corporate Strategy and Business Plans to enable senior officers and elected members to monitor the delivery of service and evaluate impact, benchmarking performance against other similar authorities.
- Revised Strategic Priorities to focus on political priorities.
- Data - Single source data (across multiple systems)

Invest to save:

Only Towns Fund schemes can be seen as "Invest to save"; however, funding is from the Government with tight reporting requirements and a high bar to reach to obtain it.

We moved to Opus platform in May 2023 for hiring agency workers, spend to end March 2024 has been £3,203.453. The number of agency workers more than 12 months placement is 18. RBC will invest in our own housing stock to reduce the reliance on private, expensive, temporary accommodation and BNB (currently c £500k). This will reduce the amount of housing stock taken out of use and reserved for temporary accommodation and through this investment, RBC will generate income.

To ensure we have accountability of spend, we have:

- A two-tranche budget process, challenged by cross-party Budget Working Group.
- Budget managers received training, and refresher training, on the financial systems.
- Quarterly formal finance reporting to members.

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- Full demarcation of duties in the finance system between budget managers, approvers and requisitioners. All transactions, including monitoring, delivered online.

4. The barriers preventing progress that the Government can help to reduce or remove.

Examples of service-wide barriers preventing us from improving productivity further are:

- Recruitment difficult in some areas i.e.: ICT / Planning/ Housing.
- Silo working with other local authorities and government bodies.
- Lack of flexibility in recruiting competent workforce - consider market supplements etc.
- Limited investment in training and progression historically /potential incentive for growth and development.
- Capacity / resources (both at the Council and in Worcestershire)
- Capability issues, right people in right job at right time (especially current data skills)
- Compliance to documented process.
- Impact of reduced funding and the need to ensure investment is cost effective.

To remove these barriers, we will need to:

- Invest in recruiting the right people for the right jobs at the right time, including apprenticeships.
- Invest in opening career and development pathways and opportunities.
- Invest in staff and managerial training, succession planning and progression training.
- Further embrace automation and AI.
- Ability to have autonomy to change.
- Reduce bureaucracy and some processes while still being compliant.
- Ensure ownership and robust accountability.
- Use of packages such as Modern.Gov to encourage members and officers to access data electronically.

To achieve transformation, we must enhance data quality, improve systems and processes, as well as invest in staff training, succession planning, recruitment, and automation, government funds are imperative. Additionally, allocating resources towards AI integration would significantly streamline and enhance processes and accuracy across various services.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

29 July 2024 to 30 November 2024

(published as at 1st July 2024)



This Work Programme gives details of items on which key decisions are likely to be taken by the Borough Council's Executive Committee, or full Council, in the coming four months. "Key Decisions" are ones which are likely to:

- (i) result in the Council incurring expenditure, foregoing income or the making of savings in excess of £200,000 or which are otherwise significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (ii) be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in the area comprising two or more wards in the Borough;
- (iii) involve any proposal to cease to provide a Council service (other than a temporary cessation of service of not more than 6 months).

If you wish to make representations on the proposed decision you are encouraged to get in touch with the relevant report author as soon as possible before the proposed date of the decision. Contact details are provided. Alternatively, you may write to the Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Property Services, The Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH or e-mail: democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

The Executive Committee's meetings are normally held at 6.30pm on Tuesday evenings at the Town Hall. They are open to the public, except when confidential information is being discussed. If you wish to attend for a particular matter, it is advisable to check with the Democratic Services Team on (01527) 64252, ext: 3072 to make sure it is going ahead as planned. If you have any other queries, Democratic Services Officers will be happy to advise you. The full Council meets in accordance the Council's Calendar of Meetings. Meetings commence at 6.30pm.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Joe Baker - Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Governance
Councillor Ian Woodall - Portfolio Holder for Finance
Councillor Monica Stringfellow - Portfolio Holder for Community Services and Regulatory Services
Councillor Sid Khan - Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services
Councillor Juliet Barker Smith - Portfolio Holder for Leisure
Councillor Bill Hartnett - Portfolio Holder for Housing
Councillor Sharon Harvey - Portfolio Holder for Climate Change
Councillor Jane Spilsbury - Portfolio Holder for Performance
Councillor Jen Snape

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision | Decision Taker Date of Decision | Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting | Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List | Contact for Comments |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| Update Report on the Town Hall Hub Key: Yes | Executive 29 Jul 2024 Council 29 Jul 2024 | This report may contain exempt information that would need to be considered in private session. | Report of the Deputy Chief Executive | Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205 |
| Financial Recovery Programme Report Key: No | Executive 3 Sep 2024 | | Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) | Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205 |
| Food Waste Business Case and Associated Waste Related Issues Key: Yes | Executive Not before 3rd Sep 2024 | | Report of the Executive Director (Leisure, Environment and Community Services) | Guy Revans, Executive Director (Leisure, Environment and Community Services) Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3292 |
| Initial Budget Setting Report Key: No | Executive 3 Sep 2024 Council 16 Sep 2024 | | Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) | Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205 |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision | Decision Taker Date of Decision | Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting | Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List | Contact for Comments |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Q1 Revenue and Performance Monitoring 24/5 Key: No | Executive 3 Sep 2024 | | Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services | Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205 |
| Treasury Management Outturn Report Key: No | Executive 3 Sep 2024 Council 16 Sep 2024 | | Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services | Debra Goodall, Head of Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |
| Young Persons Independent Living Supported Accommodation Key: Yes | Executive 3 Sep 2024 | | Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services | Amanda Delahunty, Acting Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1269 |
| Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy Key: No | Executive 15 Oct 2024 | | Report of the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services | Mark Cox, Technical Services Manager Tel: 01905 822799 |
| Council Tax Support Scheme (prior to consultation) Key: No | Executive 15 Oct 2024 | | Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services | Debra Goodall, Head of Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision | Decision Taker Date of Decision | Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting | Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List | Contact for Comments |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Medium Term Financial Plan - Tranche 1 Budget including Fees and Charges (prior to consultation) Key: No | Executive 15 Oct 2024 | | Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources | Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205 |
| Carbon Reduction Strategy and Implementation Plan Annual Review Key: No | Executive 26 Nov 2024 Council 27 Jan 2025 | | Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services | Matthew Eccles, Climate Change Manager Tel: 01527 881259 |
| Half Yearly Treasury Management Report Key: No | Executive 26 Nov 2024 Council 27 Jan 2025 | | Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services | Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205 |
| Homelessness Prevention Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant Key: No | Executive 26 Nov 2024 | | Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services | Amanda Delahunty, Acting Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1269 Councillor Bill Hartnett |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision | Decision Taker Date of Decision | Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting | Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List | Contact for Comments |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Medium Term Financial Plan - Tranche 1 Budget including Fees and Charges (following consultation) Key: No | Executive 26 Nov 2024 Council 27 Jan 2025 | | Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) | Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205 |
| Q2 Revenue and Performance Monitoring 2024/2025 Key: No | Executive 26 Nov 2024 | | Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services | Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205 |
| Council Tax Base 2025/2026 Key: No | Executive 14 Jan 2025 Council 27 Jan 2025 | | Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) | Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205 |
| Council Tax Empty Homes Discounts and Premiums Key: No | Executive 14 Jan 2025 Council 27 Jan 2025 | | Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services | Debra Goodall, Head of Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision | Decision Taker Date of Decision | Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting | Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List | Contact for Comments |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Discretionary Reduction - Council Tax Section 13a1(C) Policy Key: No | Executive 14 Jan 2025 Council 27 Jan 2025 | | Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services | Debra Goodall, Head of Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |
| Final Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/2026 Key: No | Executive 14 Jan 2025 Council 27 Jan 2025 | | Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services | Debra Goodall, Head of Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |
| HRA Rent Setting 2025/26 Key: No | Executive 14 Jan 2025 Council 27 Jan 2025 | | Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) | Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205 |
| Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy Key: No | Executive 14 Jan 2025 Council 27 Jan 2025 | | Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services | Debra Goodall, Head of Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision | Decision Taker Date of Decision | Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting | Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List | Contact for Comments |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Medium Term Financial Plan - Tranche 2 Budget including Fees and Charges (following consultation) Key: No | Executive 4 Feb 2025 Council 24 Feb 2025 | | Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) | Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205 |
| Pay Policy 2025/26 Key: No | Executive 4 Feb 2025 Council 24 Feb 2025 | | Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) | Becky Talbot, Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3385 |
| Council Tax Resolutions 2025/2026 Key: No | Executive 24 Feb 2025 Council 24 Feb 2025 | | Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) | Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205 |
| Finance Recovery Programme Report Key: No | Executive 18 Mar 2025 | | Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) | Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205 |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision | Decision Taker Date of Decision | Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting | Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List | Contact for Comments |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Q3 Revenue and Performance Monitoring 24/5 Key: No | Executive 18 Mar 2025 | | Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services | Debra Goodall, Head of Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |

Report from WMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Monday 1 July 2024

Terms of Reference include the following:

Membership

- Birmingham City Council x 3
- Coventry City Council x1
- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council x 1
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council x 1
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council x 1
- Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council x1
- City of Wolverhampton Council x 1
- Association of Black Country Authorities x 1
- Non-Constituent Authorities (Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Warwickshire) x 4

Voting

Members appointed from constituent authorities have one vote each.

Members appointed from non-constituent authorities are non-voting representatives but can speak at the meetings.

Skills Scrutiny Review

This was an update to note the progress made and next steps on the implementation of the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Skills Scrutiny Review, which started last September.

The aim of the review is to understand the impact of the devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) to the WMCA on the delivery of local skills training within the region, and to identify the challenges and ways in which the WMCA and local authorities can most effectively use skills development to address short and longer term challenges in the region, particularly in relation to its big economic challenges.

We heard that the devolved AEB is approximately £170m. It is for adults aged 19 and over who live in one of the WMCA constituent authorities (see list above). It doesn't cover non-constituent authorities. I asked the skills lead officers how residents living in non-constituent areas, such as Worcestershire, might be able to benefit from the initiatives outlined in the report, and the answer was:

The WMCA shares best practice with the Department for Education so that other regions across the country can benefit. They felt that what had worked best in the West Midlands region was wraparound support with employers. This was particularly important in the construction sector, as, in addition to qualifications, people need practical experience to get the essential 'tickets' they need to work on site. The skills leads also highlighted the importance of strong partnerships with employers and the Department for Work and Pensions.

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