

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wed 8 Apr  
2009  
7.00 pm

Committee Room Two  
Town Hall  
Redditch



[www.redditchbc.gov.uk](http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk)

# Access to Information - Your Rights

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The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 widened the rights of press and public to attend Local Authority meetings and to see certain documents. Recently the Freedom of Information Act 2000, has further broadened these rights, and limited exemptions under the 1985 Act.

Your main rights are set out below:-

- Automatic right to attend all Council and Committee meetings unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Automatic right to inspect agenda and public reports at least five days before the date of the meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect minutes of the Council and its Committees (or summaries of business undertaken in private) for up to six years following a meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect lists of background papers used in the preparation of public reports.
- Access, upon request, to the background papers on which reports are based for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting.
- Access to a public register stating the names and addresses and electoral areas of all Councillors with details of the membership of all Committees etc.
- A reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports relating to items to be considered in public must be made available to the public attending meetings of the Council and its Committees etc.
- Access to a list specifying those powers which the Council has delegated to its Officers indicating also the titles of the Officers concerned.
- Access to a summary of the rights of the public to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees etc. and to inspect and copy documents.
- In addition, the public now has a right to be present when the Council determines “Key Decisions” unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Unless otherwise stated, all items of business before the Executive Committee are Key Decisions.
- (Copies of Agenda Lists are published in advance of the meetings on the Council’s Website:  
**[www.redditchbc.gov.uk](http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk)**

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**If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact  
Jess Bayley and Helen Saunders  
Overview and Scrutiny Support Officers**

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Minicom: 595528**

# Welcome to today's meeting.

## Guidance for the Public

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### **Agenda Papers**

The **Agenda List** at the front of the Agenda summarises the issues to be discussed and is followed by the Officers' full supporting **Reports**.

### **Chair**

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the Committee Support Officer who gives advice on the proper conduct of the meeting and ensures that the debate and the decisions are properly recorded. On the Chair's other side are the relevant Council Officers. The Councillors ("Members") of the Committee occupy the remaining seats around the table.

### **Running Order**

Items will normally be taken in the order printed but, in particular circumstances, the Chair may agree to vary the order.

**Refreshments** : tea, coffee and water are normally available at meetings - please serve yourself.

### **Decisions**

Decisions at the meeting will be taken by the **Councillors** who are the democratically elected representatives. They are advised by **Officers** who are paid professionals and do not have a vote.

### **Members of the Public**

Members of the public may, by prior arrangement, speak at meetings of the Council or its Committees. Specific procedures exist for Appeals Hearings or for meetings involving Licence or Planning Applications. For further information on this point, please speak to the Committee Support Officer.

### **Special Arrangements**

If you have any particular needs, please contact the Committee Support Officer.

Infra-red devices for the hearing impaired are available on request at the meeting. Other facilities may require prior arrangement.

### **Further Information**

If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Support Officer (see foot of page opposite).

### **Fire/ Emergency instructions**

**If the alarm is sounded, please leave the building by the nearest available exit – these are clearly indicated within all the Committee Rooms.**

**If you discover a fire, inform a member of staff or operate the nearest alarm call point (wall mounted red rectangular box). In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately following the fire exit signs. Officers have been appointed with responsibility to ensure that all visitors are escorted from the building.**

**Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.**

**Do Not use lifts.**

**Do Not re-enter the building until told to do so.**

**The emergency Assembly Area is on the Ringway Car Park.**

# Declaration of Interests: Guidance for Councillors

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DO I HAVE A "PERSONAL INTEREST" ?

- Where the item relates or is likely to affect your **registered interests** (what you have declared on the formal Register of Interests)

**OR**

- Where a decision in relation to the item might reasonably be regarded as affecting **your own** well-being or financial position, or that of your **family**, or your **close associates** more than most other people affected by the issue,

you have a personal interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? **Declare the existence, and nature, of your interest and stay**

- The declaration must relate to specific business being decided - a general scattergun approach is not needed
- **Exception** - where interest arises only because of your membership of another **public body**, there is no need to declare unless you **speak** on the matter.
- You **can vote** on the matter.

IS IT A "PREJUDICIAL INTEREST" ?

In general only if:-

- It is a personal interest **and**
  - The item affects your **financial position** (or conveys other benefits), or the position of your **family, close associates** or bodies through which you have a **registered interest** (or relates to the exercise of **regulatory functions** in relation to these groups)
- and**
- A member of public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably believe the interest was likely to **prejudice** your judgement of the public interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? **Declare and Withdraw**

BUT you may make representations to the meeting before withdrawing, **if** the public have similar rights (such as the right to speak at Planning Committee).



# Overview and Scrutiny

## Committee

Wednesday, 8 April 2009

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

### Agenda

#### Membership:

Cllrs:	P Mould (Chair)	R King
	D Smith (Vice-Chair)	W Norton
	K Banks	D Taylor
	M Chalk	D Thomas
	W Hartnett	

#### 8. Passenger Transport in Redditch

(Pages 1 - 4)

To consider an update from relevant Officers from Worcestershire County Council regarding the bus service network in Redditch.

**All Wards**





## REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Transport Strategy and Policy Team  
WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

PLEASE CONTACT:

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Martin Rowe	<a href="mailto:mrowe@worcestershire.gov.uk">mrowe@worcestershire.gov.uk</a>

### THE ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

There continues to be a deteriorating access issue at the Alexandra Hospital. The access arrangements are poor, which is having a negative impact on passenger transport service provision. If alternative access arrangements to the hospital (such as passenger transport) become untenable, this will cause dangerous levels of congestion, as staff and visitors are forced to arrive by car or taxi. This will:

- *Reduce air quality in the area (very unsuitable for a hospital site!)*
- *Increase journey times to the hospital (especially concerning for emergency vehicles)*
- *Reduce community health*
- *Cause dangerous parking practices*

This can only be avoided by a commitment by Worcestershire PCT to encourage staff (in particular) and visitors to access the hospital by sustainable modes, such as walking, cycling and passenger transport, saving the parking spaces for those who really need them.

A bus interchange is urgently required at the Alexandra Hospital, which will act as a terminus for bus services in the south and west of the Borough, together with bus priority measures. Bus priority is particularly welcomed by NHS trusts in other areas, since ambulances and other emergency vehicles can be fitted with transponders so that they may use bus priority to access hospital sites faster than general traffic.

### THE WESTERN CIRCULAR BUS SERVICE

Red Diamond began operating a limited version of the Western Circular (55A/56A) in Redditch in September 2008. As a result of the existing situation at the Alexandra Hospital, Diamond Red was unable to operate the Western Circular to this critical facility, with the result that the bus service was not able to operate commercially, and so it has now been terminated. Worcestershire County Council is committed to reinstating this valuable service, potentially through Kickstart 2009 funding), however, this cannot take place without the full engagement of Worcestershire PCT to resolve access to the Alexandra Hospital.



# REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Transport Strategy and Policy Team  
WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## BUS SERVICE CHANGES

The following bus service changes affect the Redditch Area:

BUS SERVICE NUMBER	ROUTE DESCRIPTION	CHANGE TO SERVICE	DATE OF CHANGE
50	Redditch – Cedar Road – Appletree Lane – Batchley (Salters Lane)	2 later subsidised journeys introduced in School Holidays (Mondays to Fridays) and on Saturdays	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
51 Diamond	Redditch - Batchley	This commercial service will now be running every 15 minutes	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
55A	Redditch – Batchley – Webheath – Oakenshaw – Tesco – Alexandra Hospital – Crabbs Cross – Walkwood - Redditch	A reduced subsidised evening service will be operated by Diamond. Sunday service is increased to operate at hourly intervals	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
56A	Redditch – Walkwood – Crabbs Cross – Alexandra Hospital – Tesco – Oakenshaw – Webheath – Batchley - Redditch	A reduced subsidised evening service will be operated by Diamond. Sunday service is increased to operate at hourly intervals	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
57/57A Diamond	Redditch – Woodrow (- Alexandra Hospital) – Matchborough – Church Hill - Redditch	Evening subsidised service will now be operated by Diamond and additional journeys during the daytime period will serve Alexandra Hospital	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
58/58A Diamond	Redditch – Church Hill – Matchborough (- Alexandra Hospital) – Woodrow - Redditch	Evening subsidised service will now be operated by Diamond and additional journeys during the daytime period will serve Alexandra Hospital	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
64 Redditch	Redditch – Smallwood – Lodge Park - Greenlands – Woodrow North – Lodge Park – Smallwood - Redditch	2 later subsidised journeys introduced in School Holidays (Mondays to Fridays) and on Saturdays	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
66	Redditch – Smallwood – Greenlands – Alexandra Hospital – Littlewood Green - Studley	This is a new commercial service, operated by First. Will run at hourly intervals during the daytime and with the 67 service will provide a half-hourly service between Redditch and Studley	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
67	Redditch – Lakeside – Greenlands – Alexandra Hospital – Littlewood Green - Studley	This is commercial service, operated by First, will be revised. With the 66 service it will provide a half-hourly service between Redditch and Studley during the daytime	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
68	Redditch – Bromsgrove Road – Webheath – Bromsgrove Road - Redditch	This commercial service will be increased to operate every 20 minutes during the daytime	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
70 Diamond	Redditch – Crabbs Cross – Astwood Bank	A new commercial service will be introduced by Diamond at 30 minute intervals during the daytime	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2009
70 First	Redditch – Crabbs Cross – Astwood Bank	This commercial service will be increased to operate every 20 minutes during the daytime	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2009





## REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE

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WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### KICKSTART 2009

The Department for Transport's latest round of Kickstart Bus funding has been published. This funding has strict criteria, which limits the use of the funding exclusively for the support and development of passenger transport services. Infrastructure may not be funded through this scheme, unless funding is secured through partner operations. As a result of the Redditch Passenger Transport Area Review, Worcestershire County Council is developing a bid focussed on improvements to passenger transport access to the Alexandra Hospital. The technical evidence proves that securing better passenger transport access and infrastructure at the Alexandra Hospital is essential if passenger transport services are to be enhanced in the south and west of the Borough.

### SCHEDULED DEPARTURE INFORMATION BOARDS

Worcestershire County Council has purchased a suite of scheduled departure information boards (similar to those seen in Oxford) which show when the next bus at a bus stop is due. A large board is to be installed in the bus station, with a series of smaller boards to be installed at key bus stops on the Matchborough Circular bus route. The installation of these boards will take place in approximately 3 months time.

### REDDITCH TAXIBUS

The funding for the Pilot Redditch Taxibus Service, which was secured through the Urban Bus Challenge 2003 Fund, has now ended. Red Diamond, a local leading operator, has won a tender to continue the operation of these bus services using full size vehicles, so provision is now secured for this valuable service into the future.

### REDDITCH BUS STATION

There have been a number of complaints from operators regarding the poor management of the bus station, resulting in stop gazumping (where competing operators vie for passengers) and other unsafe practices. Worcestershire County Council has discussed the matter with Kingfisher Shopping Centre, who are now looking to appoint a Bus Station Manager to improve the situation.

### BUS SHELTER ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Cllr Juliet Brunner is currently spearheading a scheme to renovate a series of bus shelters in the district using an innovative delivery method where local young people are engaged to provide artwork (with guidance from an experienced artist) which is then applied to new bus shelter infrastructure. The implementation of this scheme has been very successful, with significant reductions in vandalism, improved waiting environments and enhanced community pride. Worcestershire County Council is committed to supporting this excellent scheme, and will work with Redditch District Council and partners to expand the scope of the scheme through relevant funding streams as they become available.

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