

additional papers 1

Executive Committee

Wed 1 July
2009
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2
Town Hall
Redditch



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- 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.
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- 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

**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
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Executive

Committee

1 July 2009

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

<p>4. Minutes (Pages 221 - 228) Chief Executive</p>	<p>To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 10 June 2009. (Minutes attached)</p>
<p>9. Redditch Economic Development Strategy (Pages 229 - 230) Acting Head of Planning and Building Control</p>	<p>To seek endorsement of the Redditch Economic Development Strategy, which provides a means of delivering the adopted Economic Priorities. (Appendix B attached) (No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>12. Local Validation Checklist Review Acting Head of Planning and Building Control</p>	<p>To receive Officer's annual review of the Local Validation Checklist following its adoption in April 2008 and consider recommendations to amend aspects of the Checklist to improve clarity and usability. (Appendix 1 now available on the Council's website, unless a specific request is received from Councillors or others who require a copy) (No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>



Executive Committee

10 June 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors P Anderson, J Brunner, B Clayton, W Hartnett, N Hicks, C MacMillan and M Shurmer

Also Present:

M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

K Dicks, R Griffin, S Hanley, A Heighway, T Kristunas, A Marklew, S Mullins, Jackie Smith, J Staniland and L Tompkin

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

15. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following items of business, scheduled on the Forward Plan to be dealt with at this meeting, had been re-scheduled to a later meeting:

- Revised Constitutional Model;
- Energy Strategy; and
- Asset Disposal Programme.

The Chair also advised that she had accepted the following matters as Urgent Business:

- Item 7 – Capital Programme – Outturn 2008/09; and
Item 8 – Consolidated Revenue – Outturn 2008/09.

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Chair

18. MINUTES

Members noted that the minutes included a correction at Paragraph 300 (1) following publication of the Decision Notice as follows:

“applications be invited from house owners in the Borough aged 60 or over, living in a Council Tax band A to D property and not in full time employment or in receipt of benefits, to have loft and / or cavity wall insulation installed in their homes free of charge;”

RESOLVED that

Subject to the above correction, the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2009 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19. FUNDING OF VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS - POLICY

Members considered a report which requested approval for two new policies, which had been produced in line with the recommendations of the Third Sector Task and Finish Group that had been approved by Council in January 2009:

- a) Policy for Funding Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations using the Shopping, Investing and Giving Framework (Appendix 1 of the report); and
- b) Policy for the Award of Grants by Redditch Borough Council to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (Appendix 2 of the report).

Officers reported that a number of amendments had been made to each of the policies as follows:

Appendix 1

3.2 **Shopping** refers to the procurement and contractual arrangements with external providers to deliver services on behalf of the Council that the Council has a statutory duty to provide **or priority areas the Council wishes to invest in.** *(The remainder of this paragraph was unaltered.)*

3.5 The Executive Committee will consider and make a decision on which services and funding mechanisms the Council will seek to provide under the Shopping element of this framework subject to agreement by full Council. **e.g. Advice Services, Waste Management / recycling services.**

Appendix 2

- 3.2 **Shopping** refers to procurement and contractual arrangements with external providers to deliver services on behalf of the Council and that the Council has a statutory duty to provide **or priority areas the Council wishes to invest in.** *(The remainder of this paragraph was unaltered.)*
- 4.3 The Council will require that all grant awards ~~will~~ support Council objectives. *(The remainder of this paragraph was unaltered.)*
- 6.4 **Full cost recovery will not be considered for any grant awarded projects under £5,000 (small grants).**
- 9.12 Unsuccessful applicants will be offered feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of their application. ~~and will be signposted to appropriate organisations for support with securing funding from alternative sources.~~
- 10.3 *(The following sentence to be added at the end of the paragraph.)* **The length of the bidding process will be proportionate to the type and value of the grant.**

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the policy for funding Voluntary and Community Sector organisations using the Shopping, Investing and Giving framework, attached to the report at Appendix 1, be approved subject to amendments to paragraphs 3.2, and 3.5 as detailed above;**
- 2) **the policy for the award of grants by Redditch Borough Council to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, attached to the report at Appendix 2, be approved subject to amendments to paragraphs 3.2, 4.3, 6.4, 9.12 and 10.3 as detailed above; and**
- 3) **further work be undertaken on the Council's relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector, as recommended by the Third Sector Task and Finish Group, in the manner outlined in paragraphs 5.10 to 5.15 of the report.**

20. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Members considered a report which detailed a review of the Financial Management processes and arrangements within the Council following the 2009/10 – 2011/12 budget process.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Action Plan, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;**
- 2) **the business planning timetable, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report , be approved;**
- 3) **the proposed format for revenue budget monitoring, as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report, be approved;**
- 4) **any consequential changes to the Constitution arising from the above decisions be made; and**
- 5) **reports to Executive Committee be included in the performance management cycle.**

21. CAPITAL PROGRAMME -OUTTURN 2008/09

The Committee received a report on the actual expenditure and funding of the Capital Programme for 2008/09. Officers reported that the approved Capital Programme for 2008/09 totalled £14.2 million and that the Programme included a number of schemes that spanned more than one financial year. Members were informed that Appendix 1 of the report showed actual expenditure of £11.9 million of which £1.4 million had been included for work in progress. Appendix 1 also showed the variances between the budget and actual spend.

Officers advised that there had been an overspend on Disabled Equipment and Adaptations (C1222) because two jobs, both subject to internal audit investigations, had cost significantly more than originally anticipated. It was also reported that a further report on the Redevelopment of Church Hill (C1120) would be prepared for a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted; and**

RECOMMENDED that

- 2) **the reported overspend of £53,000 on Disabled Equipment and Adaptations be met from the Housing Revenue Account.**

22. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE OUTTURN 2008/09

Members considered a report which detailed the Council's overall outturn for the 2008/09 financial year. The report showed the actual income and expenditure for the 2008/09 financial year and compared it to the budget for General Fund Services and the Housing Revenue Account.

Officers reported that savings of £363,000 above estimate had been made. The majority of the additional outturn savings were accounted for as follows:

	£
Corporate Activities - year end accounting adjustment to reserves	36,468
Concessionary Travel - demand led, outturn uncertain. First year of new scheme	132,437
Housing Benefit Subsidy - savings not clarified until last week of March 2009	100,000
Crematorium - additional income due to closure of Oakley Wood Crematorium and increased demand during last quarter	65,658
Total	334,443

Members noted that two different formats for figures had been used in the preparation of the report and suggested that there was a need for consistency to ensure clarity.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

23. BENEFITS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Members received a report which sought approval of an Improvement Plan for the Benefits Service in line with the recommendations made by the Audit Commission following their inspection of the service in February 2009.

Officers were asked amend the Action Plan to include contact with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in Redditch with a view to negotiating a similar agreement to that concluded with Redditch Co-operative Homes.

Members congratulated Officers on the work undertaken in the preparation of the Action Plan.

RESOLVED that

the Benefits Services Improvement Plan be approved.

24. PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The Committee considered a report which sought agreement to adopt a Partnership Governance Framework and Toolkit together with a definition of the partnerships to which the Framework and Toolkit would apply. Members were informed that the report had been amended following consideration by the Audit and Governance Committee on 26 May 2009.

Officers reported that the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) would place more emphasis on partnership working.

RECOMMENDED that

the draft Partnership Governance Framework and Toolkit set out at Appendix 1 of the report be adopted.

25. CCTV - AUDIO AND HELP POINT SCHEME - REVIEW

The Committee received a 12 month review of the 6 Audio Points and 1 Help Point linked to the Council's CCTV since its introduction in the Town Centre area in May 2008.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the outcome of the review of the Interactive CCTV and the evidence of its effectiveness be noted; and**
- 2) the scheme continue with a further review in 12 months time.**

26. SHARED SERVICES BOARD

The Committee received the Minutes of the Shared Services Board held on 28 May 2009. There were no matters for the Executive Committee's decision.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Shared Services Board held on 28 May 2009 be noted.

Executive Committee

10 June 2009

27. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 30 April 2009. There were no matters for the Executive Committee's decision.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 30 April 2009 be received and noted.

28. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS, NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS ETC.

There were no minutes of referrals to this meeting.

29. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

Members considered an update report on the work of the Executive Committee's Advisory Panels and similar bodies.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

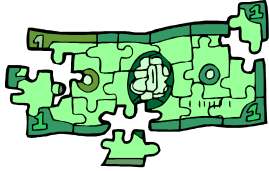
30. ACTION MONITORING

Members noted the Action Monitoring Sheet. Officers were requested to provide Councillor Hartnett information on employment of agency staff.

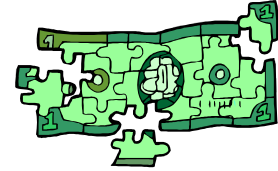
The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 9.00 pm

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Chair

Economic Strategy for Redditch



2009 - 2018



- To Encourage...
- To Support...
- To Promote...

The Economic Strategy for Redditch is a tool designed to help ensure the future economic growth in the Borough, with a focus on reducing the output gap, and attracting inward investment. Ultimately, it intends to increase employment opportunities, and have a positive impact. The strategy is accompanied by an *Action Plan*, which aims to be the aid to delivering these objectives successfully. Economic issues affecting Redditch were established from a variety of sources and inform the direction of the Strategy.

Its Strategic Objectives revolve around four specific categories:

Business

People

Place

Powerful Voice

BUSINESS

To encourage businesses to seize market opportunities, improve competitiveness and harness knowledge.

Within the understanding of the dominance of the manufacturing industry, 7 relevant economic priorities have been created. We aim to portray RBC as a “Business Friendly Council”, and develop close relationships with local businesses. Start-ups are an important focus alongside those that already exist. We want to **encourage, support and promote them.**

PEOPLE

To raise economic aspirations and encourage residents to obtain the skills needed to realise them.

We prioritise encouraging entrepreneurialism in young people, as it is fundamental to our success as a Borough, and to give them ambition and motivation, aiming to improve links between education providers and potential employers. We aim to reduce out-migration of skilled young people. We need to minimise the impact of the loss of highly skilled workers to retirement etc. Skills need to be passed through generations to make workers more adaptable to change. The final economic priority is to *minimise worklessness.*

To Encourage, Support and Promote.

PLACE

To optimise the benefits of being located adjacent to the economic powerhouse of Birmingham City.

To ensure appropriate infrastructure is in place to create a thriving business environment.

To deliver the economic aspirations of today, without significantly affecting the aspirations of future generations.

Redditch needs to be **promoted** as a business location, with an adequate supply of employment land by preventing loss of it. We seek to retain and enhance the vitality of Redditch Town Centre, and expand its business base. We also wish to address any issues that may arise about security and continue to provide a commercial property service to assist businesses.

POWERFUL VOICE

To ensure that the economic interests of Redditch are effectively represented at all levels.

Our reputation must be strengthened, from regionally through to internationally. We must keep abreast of economic development matters and funding opportunities.

We must work with partner organisations to maximise the advantages of such opportunities.

We must promote skills needs of residents and businesses to strategic bodies, such as the LSC. Rigorous monitoring of the Economic Development Strategy is paramount to ensure the effectiveness of actions taken, with the Action Plan intended to help deliver these targets successfully.

To Encourage, Support and Promote.