

additional papers 2

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tue 10 Sep
2013
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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- 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.
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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

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Welcome to today's meeting.

Guidance for the Public

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.

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The emergency **Assembly Area** is on **Walter Stranz Square**.



Overview and Scrutiny

Tuesday, 10th September, 2013

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Committee

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs: David Bush (Chair) Carole Gandy
 Gay Hopkins (Vice- Alan Mason
 Chair) Yvonne Smith
 Andrew Brazier Pat Witherspoon
 Simon Chalk
 Andrew Fry

6. Quarterly Recommendations Tracker

(Pages 1 - 14)

To receive an update on recommendations made through the scrutiny process which have yet to be implemented.

(Reports attached).

(No Specific Ward Relevance)

Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker
Recommendations made directly by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2012/13

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| <p>Access for Disabled People Task Group (<i>considered by the Executive Committee on 21/08/12</i>)</p> <p>Two of the ten recommendations that were approved remain to be implemented.</p> | |
| <p><u>Recommendation 1a</u>: the contents of this map (<i>of disabled parking spaces in the town centre</i>) should be reviewed every twelve months to ensure that the information remains accurate.</p> | <p>The Access for Disabled People Task Group's recommendations were approved by the Executive Committee in August 2012.</p> <p><u>Expected to be completed – September 2013</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 6</u>: a disability awareness session should be delivered as part of the Member Development Programme at Redditch Borough Council.</p> | <p>The Executive Committee agreed on 11th June 2013 that disability awareness training should be delivered to elected Members as part of the induction process for new Councillors. The training is therefore not due to be delivered until May 2014, following the next local Council elections.</p> |
| <p>Dial a Ride Extended Service – Feasibility Study (<i>considered by the Executive Committee on 16/10/12</i>)</p> <p>All four recommendations were approved</p> | |
| <p><u>Recommendation 4</u>: subject to the extended Dial a Ride</p> | <p>The extension of the service was implemented in early 2013.</p> |

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| <p>scheme being approved, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a monitoring update report on the subject 12 months after the scheme's introduction.</p> | <p>A monitoring update report is scheduled to be presented for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4th March 2014.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Concessionary Rents <i>(considered by the Executive Committee on 18/12/12)</i></p> <p>There were ten recommendations. The first three were APPROVED, subject to rewording of recommendation 1.</p> | |
| <p><u>Recommendations 1</u>: the Draft Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved, and implemented with immediate effect for new tenancies, subject to the further recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being approved.</p> <p><u>Recommendation 2</u>: transitional arrangements be introduced with effect from 1st April 2013 to allow the policy to be fully implemented over a three year period taking into account the terms of existing leases.</p> <p><u>Recommendation 3</u>: authority be delegated to the Head of Finance and Resources in conjunction with the Council's Voluntary Sector Grants Co-ordinator to approve concessionary rents/rent relief in line with the draft policy attached at Appendix 1 to the report.</p> | <p>For the following seven recommendations the Executive Committee identified a disconnect between the Overview and Scrutiny proposals and the final report from Officers on the subject of Concessionary Rents (for reasons beyond the control of the Task Group). It was on this basis that the Executive Committee didn't feel it appropriate to adopt the recommendations. The Portfolio Holder was tasked with seeing whether there was anything within the recommendations that might be usefully taken on board. However, no points have been identified in this manner to date. Therefore these final seven recommendations should be regarded as having been REJECTED.</p> <p>The Concessionary Rents Policy is now being reviewed. It is unlikely that a decision will be taken to implement these recommendations until that review has been completed.</p> |

Arts and Culture Centre Task Group (*considered by the Executive Committee on 09/04/13*)

As the recommendations were only endorsed relatively recently an update to Members is not yet expected.

All nine of the group’s recommendations were ENDORSED by the Executive Committee. However, the Committee could not decide on all of the recommendations as it is not the decision making body for outside organisations.

The following conclusions have been reached:

Recommendation 2a, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 were APPROVED.

Recommendations 1, 2, 4a, and 7 were recommendations to the Arts in Redditch Network.

The Arts in Redditch Network has considered the Task Group’s recommendations. The network has reserved the right to submit a more detailed response at a later date and may adapt their response accordingly at this stage. A final decision on these recommendations therefore remains PENDING.

Recommendation 3 was a recommendation to the Arts in Redditch Network and Choose How you Move (Worcestershire County Council). At the time of writing a decision on this recommendations remains PENDING.

Choose How You Move was advised about the outcomes of the Executive Committee’s deliberations in April 2013. Officers from Worcestershire County Council have confirmed that they will be discussing this proposal in further detail in due course. The outcomes of these deliberations will be reported for members’ consideration in due course.

Recommendation 1: the Arts in Redditch Network, and the benefits to be accrued from membership of the network, should be promoted to local arts groups.

Completed in part (see www.artsinredditch.com), however, the group would like to reserve the right to report back to O&S about wider work being done to promote benefits of the

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| | <u>network other than through the website. This will not be possible at this notice until the group next meets in October 2013.</u> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 2:</u> the Arts in Redditch Network should maintain a list of existing arts groups in Redditch on their new website;</p> <p>a) the Council should continue to maintain a link from the local authority's website to the new Arts in Redditch Network website.</p> | <p><u>2. Completed in part, however this remains on-going due to gathering data protection permission from groups. An update will be available following the group's next meeting in October 2013.</u></p> <p><u>2a. Completed</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 3:</u> an online Redditch Arts Map, including an arts trail, outlining the location of public art works and venues in the Borough and linked to an icon on the new information kiosks in the town centre, should be introduced.</p> | <p><u>No funding is currently available for this piece of work. Therefore no deadline can be provided. This piece of work is currently under investigation by the network.</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 4:</u> art exhibition space, where local artists can display their work, should be introduced at the Palace Theatre and the Abbey Stadium:</p> <p>a) the Arts in Redditch Network should promote opportunities to display local artists' work.</p> | <p><u>4. The Abbey Stadium exhibition space has been up and running since approximately the beginning of 2012. Whilst capital works were taking place during 2013, it has been taken out of use. However, the exhibition space is housing an exhibition of the organisation <i>Your Ideas</i> during September 2013. Officers are currently advertising the opportunity for other local groups to use that exhibition space via the Council's website and also through the artsinredditch network contact database.</u></p> |

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| | <p><u>The Palace exhibition space is being costed up and planned currently and endeavours to be up and running January 1st 2014 onwards.</u></p> <p><u>4a. The network is due to discuss this at their next meeting in October 2013.</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 5:</u> the Council should continue to provide support and advice to any community group aiming to introduce a new arts group in the town. In addition:</p> <p>a) action should be taken to increase public awareness of the support and advice provided by the Council to community groups with an interest in the arts;</p> <p>b) any new enquiries should be signposted to the Arts in Redditch Network to facilitate the formation of new arts groups; and</p> <p>c) a new logo be created for the arts in Redditch.</p> | <p><u>5. Done on an ongoing basis</u></p> <p><u>5a. Done on an ongoing basis.</u></p> <p><u>5b. Done on an ongoing basis.</u></p> <p><u>5c. Completed</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 6:</u> the evidence gathered by Members during the course of the review and the information contained in the Arts and Culture Centre Task Group's final report should be taken into account by Officers when producing the new Redditch Arts Strategy;</p> | <p><u>Completed</u></p> |

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| <p><u>Recommendation 7</u>: in an ideal world an arts centre would be established in Redditch by a community group. However, in order for this objective to be achieved the community group needs to be aware of and to address the following barriers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the extent to which local arts groups would make use of an arts centre; b) the financial costs involved in establishing and maintaining an arts centre; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) funding application requirements; b) creating a sustainable business case; c) legal liability and accountability issues; d) availability of volunteers to operate the centre; and e) management arrangements for the centre. | <p><u>The network is due to discuss this at their next meeting in October 2013</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 8</u>: the Council should provide the following support and advice to any community organisation that aims to establish an arts and culture centre in the town:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) guidance on how to complete funding applications for grants b) advice on how to produce a business case; and c) signpost groups to relevant expert contacts for further specialist help; | <p><u>RBC officers attend the network and provide on going support across all areas outlined in recommendations 8a,b,c</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 9</u>: the 'Creative Redditch' artwork</p> | |

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| <p>should be prioritised for use on the next bus shelter that is installed in Redditch town centre.</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Redditch Market Review (considered by Executive Committee on 12/3/13) (Seventeen recommendations)</p> <p>All of the recommendations were all APPROVED subject to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development and Transport taking the lead on working on the detail of proposals and on the adoption of a bold and radical approach to recommendations 1 and 2 in particular, including a full assessment of the options for delivering a vibrant and viable market.</p> <p>Recommendations 2, 10, 14 and 17 have already been implemented.</p> <p>The following update has already been provided for Members' consideration on the remaining thirteen recommendations:</p> <p>In addition to arrangements being in hand to form the working group to develop the five year strategy and as part of the "full assessment of the options for delivering a vibrant and viable market", the North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration Service's Client Management Group has instructed officers to explore various options with a view to potentially externalising the markets function.</p> | |
| <p><u>Recommendation 1</u>: a new strategy for the market be developed which clearly sets out how the market can be revitalised over the next five year period.</p> | <p>Work to produce the Strategy is currently ongoing.</p> <p><u>Estimated target date for first draft of Strategy: December 2013</u></p> |

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| <p><u>Recommendation 3</u>: the number of general retail market operating days should be reduced to no more than three days a week. The working group to consult with existing regular traders about which particular days should be retained.</p> | <p>Consultation to be carried out with trader regarding which days the market should operate</p> <p><u>Estimated target date for trader consultation: September 2013</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 4</u>: consideration is given to holding more speciality markets to take place on non general retail market operating days on a regular basis to help create a niche for the Redditch market. The working group to consider how such markets would be managed within the available resources.</p> | <p>The Core Working Group to compile a list of possible markets and contacts and how they can be implemented and managed</p> <p><u>Estimated target date to consider management of specialist market: November 2013</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 5</u>: the market working group considers the feasibility of introducing an on-site Redditch Market information point.</p> | <p>This will be addressed by the core working group in due course</p> <p><u>Estimated target date to consider feasibility of information point: November 2013</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 6</u>: the market working group considers the feasibility of market customers being provided with an opportunity to pay the traders for goods through their mobile phone and debit and credit card payment facilities.</p> | <p>This can be suggested to traders however cannot be enforced.</p> <p><u>Estimated target date to consult with traders: September 2013</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 7</u>: each trader is required to possess a returns policy which should be clearly advertised.</p> | <p>To be included in the market regulations and traders made aware this needs to be advertised on their stalls.</p> |

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| | <u>Estimated target date to advise traders: September 2013</u> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 8:</u> The working group facilitates further opportunities for local people, especially students and the unemployed, to obtain business experience through operating stalls in the market place at no charge on a short-term basis, to include the introduction of a new mentoring scheme to offer help and assistance to new traders</p> | <p>A discount scheme for “new traders” already exists subject to certain conditions as set out in para 9.1 of the Market Regulations.</p> <p>The discounted period lasts for six calendar weeks as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First two calendar weeks a flat fee of £7.50 on weekdays, or £12.50 on Saturdays. • Weeks three to six a fee of 50% of the applicable Casual Trader fee for the relevant day of trading and stall type. <p>It is proposed to offer the proposed “no charge” scheme for a period of 4 weeks, subject to stall availability and introduce the mentoring scheme through the Worcestershire County wide “Enterprising Worcestershire” New Business Start up programme which includes a small grant. The trader would then be entitled to start the existing discount scheme subject to the usual conditions.</p> <p>Note that the current Regulations may require amending to reflect this Recommendation.</p> <p><u>Estimated target date to promote opportunities: October 2013</u></p> |
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| <p><u>Recommendation 9</u>: the working group facilitates further opportunities for local businesses to showcase their goods and services on market stalls.</p> | <p>An “informal” scheme exists regarding showcase of goods and services. This needs to be regularised and consideration given to expanding it subject to stall availability.</p> <p><u>Estimated target date: October 2013</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 11</u>: the market working group explores the possibility of realigning and extending the layout of the market past its current location.</p> | <p>This will be addressed by the core working group in due course</p> <p><u>Estimated target date to explore options: November 2013</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 12</u>: the market working group explores the feasibility of introducing a covered food court area.</p> | <p>This will be addressed by the core working group in due course</p> <p><u>Estimated target date to explore feasibility: November 2013</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 13</u>: the market working group explores the suitability of the design of the current market stalls and to consider whether the introduction of alternative stalls would improve the overall visual appearance of the stalls.</p> | <p>This will be addressed by the core working group in due course</p> <p><u>Estimated target date to explore options: November 2013</u></p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 15</u>: the market working group works with local bus operators to help further promote the market.</p> | <p>This will be addressed by the core working group in due course</p> <p><u>Estimated target date to explore options: November 2013</u></p> |

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| <p><u>Recommendation 16</u>: the Council should engage with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association with a view to reaching an agreement to regulate the working days and areas of charity street fundraisers in Redditch Town Centre.</p> | <p>Officers are in the process of working with Licensing and the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association to organise something called a 'Site Management Agreement' in the town centre. This will enable Officers to regulate who, where and how many charities are allowed to collect in the town centre on any given date.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Access for Disabled People Task Group – Monitoring Update Report <i>(considered by the Executive Committee on 11/06/13)</i></p> <p>Both of the recommendations were endorsed, subject to changes to the wording of both recommendations.</p> <p>As the recommendations were only endorsed relatively recently an update to Members is not yet expected.</p> | |
| <p><u>Recommendation 1</u>: a disability awareness session should be delivered on an annual basis as part of the Member Development Programme at Redditch Borough Council; and</p> | <p>The Executive Committee agreed on 11th June 2013 that disability awareness training should be delivered to elected Members as part of the induction process for new Councillors. The training is therefore not due to be delivered until May 2014, following the next local Council elections.</p> |
| <p><u>Recommendation 2</u>: an in year bid, to be paid for from balances, should be made to fund the installation of a canopy over the ramp access to Shopmobility.</p> | <p>The Executive Committee recommended on 11th June that a canopy should be installed at this location. However, the Committee proposed that the installation of this canopy should be paid for using funds from the Shopmobility donated reserves.</p> |

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| | <p><u>Approval will be required from the Kingfisher Centre due to the land being in their ownership. Following this planning permission would also be required. Estimated to be completed April 2014</u></p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Healthwatch Worcestershire <i>(considered by the Executive Committee on 09/07/13)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Executive Committee has APPROVED the only recommendation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">As the recommendation was only endorsed relatively recently an update to Members is not yet expected.</p> | |
| <p><u>Recommendation:</u> the Borough Council make representations to Healthwatch Worcestershire on behalf of local residents.</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Crime and Disorder Scrutiny <i>(considered by the Council on 9th September 2013)</i></p> | |
| <p><u>Recommendation:</u> the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel hold at least one scheduled meeting during the year to scrutinise the work of the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.</p> | <p><u>This recommendation was approved. The next meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel is due to take place on 3rd October 2013.</u></p> |

Housing Density Targets Task Review
(considered by the Executive on 9th July 2013)

There was one recommendation within the final report:

Recommendation: Policy 5 of the emerging Draft Borough of Redditch Local Plan No. 4 be revised as per Appendix 1 (to the report) to incorporate the following headline points:

- a) all new housing developments within the Borough on sites less than 0.16 hectares should be exempt from the Council's housing density requirements;
- b) all new self-build housing developments on sites larger than 0.16 hectares within the Borough should meet a minimum housing density requirement of 15 dwellings per hectare; and that
- c) all new bungalow developments within the Borough on sites larger than 0.16 hectares should meet a minimum density requirement of 15 dwellings per hectare.

At its meeting on 9th July 2013, the Executive Committee resolved that:

Planning Officers be tasked with developing an amended form of words for Policy 5 of the emerging Draft Borough of Redditch Local Plan No. 4 which would ensure an appropriate level of flexibility in housing density requirements, to be submitted for consideration at a future meeting of the Planning Advisory Panel.

The wording to Policy 5 was subsequently amended following the meeting of the Planning Advisory Panel on 20th August 2013 to reflect this.

