

additional papers 1

Executive Committee

Wed 10th March
2010
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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- 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:
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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.

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.

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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 Walter Stranz Square.

Declaration of Interests: Guidance for Councillors

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).



Executive

Committee

10th March 2010

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>4. Minutes (Pages 207 - 214) Chief Executive</p> | <p>To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 22nd February 2010. (Minutes attached)</p> |
| <p>14. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Pages 215 - 226) Chief Executive</p> | <p>To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd February 2010. (Minutes attached)</p> |
| <p>20. REDI Centre - Update Executive Director - Leisure, Environmental and Community Services</p> | <p>To consider an update of an alternative provider for the REDI Centre. (Report to follow) (Central Ward)</p> |



Executive

Committee

22nd February 2010

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:

Councillors K Banks, M Chalk, A Clayton, J Cookson, D Enderby, J Field, M Hall, G Hopkins, D Hunt, R King, W King, P Mould, W Norton, J Pearce, B Quinney, D Taylor, D Thomas, D Andrews (Chair, Standards Committee) and M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

K Dicks, S Hanley, J Staniland, C Felton, A Heighway, T Kristunas, S Morgan, J Pickering, A Marklew S Skinner and K Bradford

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

253. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

254. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

255. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - RECOMMENDATIONS

The annual report from the Independent Remuneration Panel detailing the recommendations arising from their review of the Scheme of Members' Allowances was considered by the Committee.

Members welcomed the report and generally accepted the recommendations. The matter upon which there was discussion was the reaffirmation of the requirement for an annual inflation increase and whether this should be passed on to Members. All

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Chair

were agreed that there should not be an increase in the amount of allowances accepted by Members but the means for achieving this end was a matter of some debate. It was proposed that the increase be built into the budget reserve to ensure that the Council's Scheme would not fall further behind that of neighbouring and comparable authorities in future years.

The Committee agreed that the 1% minimum increase, added to the Members' Allowances budget as a result of a previous 'Standing' Council resolution, be added to the budget reserves and that Members not accept the increase for the 2010/11 financial year.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the requirement for an annual inflation increase, as a minimum, be re-affirmed with the 1% increase to remain in the Members' Allowances budget reserves for 2010/11 but that Members not take up the increase for 2010/11;**
- 2) **the Council be asked to note the IRP's belief that additional supplementary increases should be made to gradually bring the Borough Council into line with other authorities;**
- 3) **no such additional increase be recommended for 2010/11, in view of the current uncertain financial climate affecting local authorities;**
- 4) **because of a current ambiguity, definitions of "Approved Duties" for mileage/subsistence claims purposes be clarified to specify that SRA is intended to cover the additional costs associated with relevant "Special Responsibility"; and that claims will only be accepted for duties approved in advance by the Council.**

256. COUNCIL TAX SETTING

The Committee received a report setting out the estimated outturn for 2009/10, the General Fund revenue estimates for 2010/11 and the level of Council Tax that was being proposed to fund the Council's spending during the coming year.

It was stated that efforts had been made to keep Council Tax to as low a level as possible whilst trying to maintain and enhance services and take on board other initiatives that Members had proposed. It was stressed that adequate reserves would be maintained to allow worthwhile initiatives from bodies such as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Task and Finish Groups to be funded, when appropriate.

RECOMMENDED that

1) **the 2010/11 General Fund Revenue estimates as set out in Part A of the report be approved;**

2) **it be noted that at its meeting on the 27th of January 2010 Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2010/11 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:**

a) **27,470.42**

Being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year;

b) **Feckenham Parish – 363.54**

being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the regulations, as the amount of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

3) **the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2010/11 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:**

a) **£50,672,330 (excluding bids)**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (2) (a) to (e) of the Act.

(2010/11 Gross General Fund Expenditure)

b) **£38,449,561**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) to (c) of the Act.

(2010/11 Gross General Fund Income)

c) **£12, 222,769**

being the amount by which the aggregate at 3 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3 (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32 (4) of the Act as its budget requirement for the year;

(2010/11 Net General Fund Expenditure)

d) **£6,468,126**

being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-domestic Rates, Revenue Support Grant or additional grant increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97 (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Surplus) and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98 (4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 7 February 1994 (Community Charge Surplus).

(RSG + NDR - Deficit on Collection Fund)

e) **£209.49**

being the amount at 4 (c) above less the amount at 4 (d) above, all divided by the amount at 3 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33 (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year;

(The average amount Band D properties pay for Redditch Borough Council services)

f) **£8,300**

being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act;

(Feckenham Parish Precept)

g) **£209.18**

being the amount at 4 (e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4 (f) above by the amount at 3 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special item relates.

(The amount Band D properties pay (except within the Parish of Feckenham) for Borough Council Services)

h) **£232.01**

being the amount given by adding to the amount at 4 (g) above, the amount of the special item relating to the Parish of Feckenham, divided by the amount in 3 (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in the Parish of Feckenham;

(The amount Band D properties pay within the Parish of Feckenham for Borough Council Services including the Parish Precept)

i)

| Valuation Band | Proportion of Band D tax paid | Part of Council's area | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | Parish of Feckenham | All other parts of the Councils area |
| A | 6/9 | £154.68 | £139.46 |
| B | 7/9 | £180.46 | £162.70 |
| C | 8/9 | £206.23 | £185.94 |
| D | 1 | £232.01 | £209.18 |
| E | 11/9 | £283.57 | £255.67 |
| F | 13/9 | £335.13 | £302.15 |
| G | 15/9 | £386.69 | £348.64 |
| H | 18/9 | £464.03 | £418.37 |

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(g) and 4(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands;

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- 4) it be noted that, for the year 2010/11, the Worcestershire County Council, the West Mercia Police Authority and the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

| Valuation Band | Proportion of Band D tax paid | Precepting Authority | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Worcestershire County Council | West Mercia Police Authority | H & W Fire & Rescue Authority |
| A | 6/9 | £692.71 | £119.15 | £49.10 |
| B | 7/9 | £808.16 | £139.01 | £57.28 |
| C | 8/9 | £923.61 | £158.86 | £65.46 |
| D | 1 | £1,039.06 | £178.72 | £73.64 |
| E | 11/9 | £1,269.97 | £218.44 | £90.01 |
| F | 13/9 | £1,500.87 | £258.15 | £106.38 |
| G | 15/9 | £1,731.77 | £297.87 | £122.74 |
| H | 18/9 | £2,078.13 | £357.44 | £147.28 |

- 5) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4 (I) and 5 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2010/11 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

| Valuation Band | Proportion of Band D tax paid | Part of Council's area | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | Parish of Feckenham | All other parts of the Council's area |
| A | 6/9 | £1,015.64 | £1,000.42 |
| B | 7/9 | £1,184.91 | £1,167.15 |
| C | 8/9 | £1,354.16 | £1,333.87 |
| D | 1 | £1,523.43 | £1,500.60 |
| E | 11/9 | £1,861.99 | £1,834.09 |
| F | 13/9 | £2,200.53 | £2,167.55 |
| G | 15/9 | £2,539.07 | £2,501.02 |
| H | 18/9 | £3,046.88 | £3,001.22 |

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- 6) the level of General Fund balances to be utilised in 2010/11 be £628,600 (this figure excludes the bids; should the bids be approved, the figure will be £986,310); and
- 7) the level of the Redditch Borough Council demand on the Collection Fund be £5,754,643.

The Meeting commenced at 7.25 pm
and closed at 8.06 pm

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Chair



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3rd February 2010

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Phil Mould (Chair), and Councillors K Banks, G Chance, R King, J Pearce, D Thomas and B Quinney (substituting for Councillor Smith)

Also Present:

M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

R Cooke, S Morgan and J Staniland

Committee Services Officer:

J Bayley and I Westmore

157. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Norton, Taylor and Smith. Councillor Quinney attended as a substitute for Councillor Smith.

158. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor of any party whip.

159. ACTIONS LIST

The Committee considered the latest version of the Actions List. Specific mention was made of the following matters:

- a) Action 1 - Shared Services process

It was agreed that, as the shared services process was well-established and nothing had reported to the Committee to date, this item be removed from the list.

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Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3rd February 2010

b) Action 2 – Medium Term Financial Plan

It was agreed that the Committee send a letter to the relevant Officer requesting that this matter be addressed.

c) Action 4 – Disabled Facilities Grant

Officers informed the Committee that the West Midlands Kickstart Partnership had been launched to deal with the matter. It was agreed that the Committee monitor the implementation of the scheme in 6-9 months time.

d) Action 7 – Single Equalities Scheme

It was confirmed that the Committee would scrutinise the Single Equalities Scheme. As a first step it was proposed that the Head of Strategy and Partnerships provide a presentation on gender equality. The Chair also requested that the Committee investigate why there was an apparent lack of younger people employed by the Council.

e) Action 10 - Council Flat Communal Cleaning Task and Finish Group

Officers reported that the revenue bid had now been approved by the Council.

f) Action 12 – Comprehensive Area Assessment

It was reported that this would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED that

the Actions List be noted.

160. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3rd February 2010

161. CALL-IN AND PRE-SCRUTINY

Officers noted that the Joint Flooding ask and Finish Group item was not expected to go to Executive Committee until August 2010 because of staff absences.

Councillor Banks expressed a wish for the Committee to receive additional information on the Private Sector Home Support Service which was not scheduled to go a specific meeting of the Executive Committee at present.

162. TASK & FINISH REVIEWS - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENTS

There were no scoping documents for the Committee to review.

163. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS - PROGRESS REPORTS

The Committee received reports in relation to current reviews:

a) Dial-A-Ride – Chair, Councillor R King

Councillor King provided an update on the attempts to convene a meeting of this Group.

(During the consideration of this item, Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to move to exclude the press and public prior to any further debate on the grounds that information would be revealed in respect of contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with labour relations matters arising between the authority and employees of the authority.)

b) Local Strategic Partnership – Chair, Councillor W Norton

It was reported that the first meeting had considered the scoping document for the review and that a further meeting was scheduled for 17th February. Councillor Thomas noted that the Partnership had become a more effective body of late and had raised its profile, in part through a week long event in the Kingfisher Centre. The reporting mechanisms between the Partnership and the Council were an area that Members considered might be pertinent to review.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3rd February 2010

RESOLVED that

- 1) **continuation of the Dial-A-Ride Task and Finish Group Review be deferred until after the Annual Meeting in May 2010; and**
- 2) **the progress reports be noted.**

164. JOINT WORCESTERSHIRE HUB TASK AND FINISH REVIEW - PROGRESS REPORT

The notes of the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group were tabled. Councillor Robin King reported that, unfortunately, he had not been able to attend but he stressed his commitment to represent the Council in a robust manner. Councillor Thomas noted that she had received reports from local carers that they had experienced difficulty in getting through to the Carers' Unit and requested that these problems be followed up.

RESOLVED that

the progress report be noted.

165. ARROW VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE - PRE-SCRUTINY

Officers introduced a report that was to be submitted to the Executive Committee regarding the options for the future management of the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre.

(During the consideration of this item, Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to move to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed in respect of contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with labour relations matters arising between the authority and employees of the authority.)

166. INITIAL ESTIMATES 2010/11

The report setting out the initial estimates for 2010/11 was received by the Committee. Officers apologised for the late circulation of the report, necessitated by the delay in receiving information from the Government on the application for a capitalisation direction in connection with the creation of the single management team. It was reported that the Executive Committee was being asked to recommend a balanced budget for 2010/11 but that savings would be required for the following two years.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3rd February 2010

Officers explained that the capitalisation would be funded through the use of capital receipts. A number of capital assets, such as Council houses and various pieces of land were to be used to fund the capitalisation and Officers undertook to provide Councillor Chance with further information on the capital assets involved. It was unclear whether all the required capital receipts were held by the Council at the present time. The implication of not pursuing this course of action, with an impact on the proposed revenue spending for 2010/11 was highlighted to Members.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

167. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNTS INITIAL ESTIMATES 2010/11

The Committee received the Initial Estimates for the Housing Revenue Account for 2010/11. It was noted that the Executive Committee was being requested to recommend that funding be agreed for the cleaning and maintenance of the flooring at the Three Storey Flats. This was in response to a recommendation from a Task and Finish Group Report.

Officers informed the Committee that a 2.6% rent increase was being proposed. Members were interested to understand how close the Council was to convergence in respect of registered social landlord and council housing rents given that the date for rent convergence had been reinstated to 2012/13. Officers undertook to provide this information to the Committee following the meeting.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

168. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME PLANNING EVENT

The Chair of the Committee informed the meeting of the necessity to organise a Scrutiny Work Programme planning event in May or June of this year, following the appointment of the new Overview and Scrutiny Committee members for 2010/11.

Members discussed the present shortfall in staffing for the Overview and Scrutiny function. It was noted that measures were being taken to deal with the current situation and it was hoped to fill the existing vacancy before the end of the month.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3rd February 2010

RESOLVED that

the update be noted.

169. CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY PANEL - UPDATE

The Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer informed Members that a training session was to be held on 8th February and that dates for future meetings of the Panel would be established in due course.

It was noted that the Panel would be making recommendations directly to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and, thus, the position of Chair of the Panel was of some importance.

RESOLVED that

the update be noted.

170. GOOD SCRUTINY AWARDS 2010

Members considered information from the Centre for Public Scrutiny on the forthcoming annual conference Good Scrutiny Awards 2010.

The Chair proposed that the Neighbourhood Groups Task and Finish Group report be submitted as a candidate for an award within the Community Influence category. It was noted that endorsements were required from individuals outside of the Scrutiny process. It was proposed that such endorsements of the review be sought from the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and Inspector Ian Joseph of West Mercia Police.

RESOLVED that

- 1) Officers submit the report of the Neighbourhood Groups Task and Finish Group to be a candidate for an award within the Community Influence category at the forthcoming Good Scrutiny Awards; and**
- 2) endorsements for the review be sought from the individuals listed in the preamble above.**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3rd February 2010

171. QUESTIONS FOR THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LEISURE AND TOURISM

Members considered the questions to be put to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism at the meeting of the Committee on 24th February. The following were agreed:

- 1) Can you guarantee that Redditch's Leisure Services will continue to be delivered in the 'Redditch way' and not in the 'Bromsgrove way'? (i.e. We won't be begging Wychavon District Council to run our Leisure Services).
- 2) When will Shopping, Investing and Giving (SIG) be fully implemented?
- 3) What have you instigated to involve more people in the arts in Redditch?
- 4) What do you do in your capacity as Portfolio Holder with responsibility for education?
- 5) What are you doing to help remove the red flag on educational inequalities?
- 6) What are your views about the two tier as opposed to the three tier education system?

RESOLVED that

the above questions be put to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism.

172. REFERRALS

There were no referrals.

173. WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer informed the Committee that a review of how other authorities dealt with the implementation of Scrutiny recommendations had identified the option of introducing measures such as periodic monitoring to ensure compliance. Members agreed that there should be quarterly monitoring reports on progress with regard to implementing approved scrutiny recommendations.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3rd February 2010

It was noted that the Review of Ditches – Update Report scheduled for later in the month needed to be deferred to a meeting in August as a result of the enforced absence of a key Officer.

The Chair understood that Worcestershire County Council were considering operating the Older Persons' bus pass scheme countywide. He suggested that this might be subject to scrutiny. It was agreed that a report be sought on the matter.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the Work Programme be noted; and**
- 2) **the amendments and additions listed in the preamble above be incorporated into the current Programme.**

174. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that

under S.100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matters on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended.

Task and Finish Groups – Progress Reports [as detailed at Minute 163 above]; and

Arrow Valley Countryside Centre – Review of Alternative Management Arrangements [as detailed at Minute 165 above];

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 8.55pm

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Chair

By virtue of paragraph(s) 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

