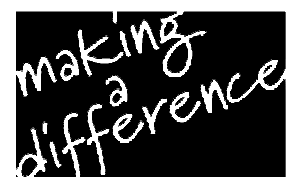


Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 17th March,
2010
2010
7.00 pm

Committee Room Two
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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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.

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- Automatic right to attend all Council and Committee meetings unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
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- 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.
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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:
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
Jess Bayley and Joseph Divala
Overview and Scrutiny Support Officers**

**Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: 01527 64252 (Ext. 3268 / 3267) Fax: (01527) 65216
e.mail: jess.bayley@redditchbc.gov.uk / joseph.divala@redditchbc.gov.uk
Minicom: 595528**

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.

Special Arrangements

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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 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).



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 17th March, 2010
7.00 pm
Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	P Mould (Chair)	W Norton
	D Smith (Vice-Chair)	J Pearce
	K Banks	D Taylor
	G Chance	D Thomas
	R King	

7. Task and Finish Groups - Progress Reports

(Pages 1 - 14)

To consider progress to date on the current reviews against the terms set by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The current reviews in progress are:

1. Local Strategic Partnership – Chair, Councillor W Norton; and
2. Joint Worcestershire Hub – Redditch representative, Councillor R King.

(Oral reports)

All Wards

8. Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel - Chair's Update

(Pages 15 - 20)

To receive a report from the Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel on the work of the Panel.

(Draft minutes attached).

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

No Direct Ward Relevance

17th March 2010

Local Strategic Partnership Task and Finish Group – Interim Report

(Report of the Local Strategic Partnership Task and Finish Group)

1. Summary of Proposals

This report details a number of interim recommendations that have been concluded by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Task and Finish Group. The Group's recommendations are designed to increase local Councillors' familiarity and involvement with the Redditch Partnership, the LSP in Redditch. The Group are also aiming during their review to produce recommendations that will: extend the level of public engagement in the work of the partnership; enhance the accountability of the partnership; and help improve performance management arrangements for the Redditch Partnership.

In addition to the recommendations contained within this report a number of options for improving the performance management of the Redditch Partnership have been discussed. These options have not yet been formalised into recommendations. However, they are detailed in this report to provide advance notice about the areas that remain to be addressed by the Group.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that

Engagement recommendations: ensuring that the Redditch Partnership involves the public in its work:

- 1) following pre-scrutiny by the LSP Task and Finish Group, the proposed format and content of the Redditch Partnership's revamped website coverage, to be hosted by Redditch Borough Council, be endorsed;
- 2) an event, along the lines of the We are Redditch exhibition, be held every year in a form determined appropriate by Officers;
- 3) the Redditch Partnership and appropriate partners should publicise their work and invite public reaction by providing regular updates in Redditch Matters;

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

17th March 2010

- 4) the Redditch Partnership should hold and advertise an Annual Meeting, as required by the terms of the Partnership's protocol, which partners, potential partners and members of the public could attend;

Accountability recommendations: ensuring the transparency and openness of the partnership:

- 5) a new item be added to the full Council agenda requiring the Leader of the Council to deliver regular updates on the work of the Redditch Partnership since the previous meeting of the Council;
- 6) the Leader of the Council formally deliver an Annual Report to the last scheduled full Council meeting of the municipal year covering the work of the Redditch Partnership by formalising the current practice of delivering an annual "State of the Borough" address;
- 7) information about the Redditch Partnership and LSPs should be provided for Members' consideration as part of the Member induction process;
- 8) a training event focusing on LSPs should be provided as a standard part of the Member training programme each year;

and RESOLVE that

- 1) the Changing Places report should be considered as part of the subsequent Local Area Agreement Task and Finish review; and
- 2) the membership of the Local Area Agreement Task and Finish Group should be drawn from the membership of the LSP Task and Finish Group.

3. **Financial, Legal, Policy, Risk and Climate Change / Carbon Management Implications**

Financial

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications. However, appropriate funds need to be allocated to support the member training programme each year. Currently, there is an annual budget of £2,740 for Member training (though each Councillor also receives an additional personal training allowance of £300). Standard training events and additional training activities need to be funded using this budget.

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

17th March 2010

Legal

- 3.2 There are no legal implications.

Policy

- 3.3 The Council's constitution outlines the standard items which are included on a full Council agenda. The constitution would need to be amended to require the Leader of the Council to deliver an update on the work of the Redditch Partnership as a regular item on the full Council agenda. Similarly, the proposed requirement for the Leader of the Council to deliver an Annual Report on the subject of the Redditch Partnership would require amendments to the Council's constitution.

Risk

- 3.4 No risks have been identified.

Climate Change / Carbon Management

- 3.5 There are no climate change or carbon management implications.

Report

4. Background

- 4.1 The LSP Task and Finish review was launched in January 2010. The Group consists of five members: Councillor Norton who chairs the Group and Councillors Cookson, Fry, Hopkins and Thomas.
- 4.2 The Group were commissioned to undertake this review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The review was launched after Members expressed concerns about the degree to which Members, particularly non-executive Members, were involved with and had knowledge about the work of the Redditch Partnership.
- 4.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also agreed that the subject was appropriate for review because of the important role of the LSP in developing the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The Redditch SCS is a three-year strategy which is designed to provide a vision for the local area. The strategy comprises of themes and subsidiary priorities which the partner organisations represented on the Redditch Partnership, including Redditch Borough Council, all commit to deliver. The Redditch SCS is scheduled to be reviewed and refreshed in 2010.
- 4.4 The LSP Task and Finish Group have held a number of meetings and agreed some initial conclusions. This report has been presented at an early stage in the review to provide an opportunity for the

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

17th March 2010

Group's recommendations to inform Council procedures from 2010/11.

5. Key Issues

- 5.1 The Redditch Partnership, as a LSP, is a non-statutory body. However, Redditch Borough Council, as the local authority in the area, has a responsibility to work with local partner organisations to develop the SCS in partnership with other local partner organisations. The coordination of this process through the LSP is considered the most appropriate way to secure collective agreement to the strategic vision and priorities contained within the SCS.
- 5.2 The work of the Redditch Partnership is coordinated by a Management Board, though more focussed, subject specific work is undertaken by various standing Theme Groups and Task and Finish Groups. The LSP's Management Board and subsidiary groups are held to account by the wider membership of the Redditch Partnership.
- 5.3 The work of the Redditch Partnership and content of the SCS is informed by the targets contained within the Worcestershire Local Area Agreement (LAA). This agreement is developed by the County's LSP, the Worcestershire Partnership, and sets the targets against which the performance of local partner organisations is measured.
- 5.4 Some local elected Councillors are actively involved in the work of the Redditch Partnership. The Leader of the Council has traditionally been a member of the LSP Management Board and is currently the Chair of the Partnership. The Deputy Leader of the Council and the leader of the largest opposition group on the Council are also members of the Management Board, alongside a County Councillor for the Borough. However, no non-executive Councillors are currently members of the Management Board or of any of the subsidiary groups.

6. Recommendations and Resolutions

- 6.1 The LSP Task and Finish Group have agreed a number of recommendations and are also suggesting some resolutions for Members' consideration.

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

17th March 2010

6.2 Recommendation 1: We recommend that following pre-scrutiny by the LSP Task and Finish Group, the proposed format and content of the Redditch Partnership's revamped website coverage, to be hosted by Redditch Borough Council, be endorsed.

6.2.1 During the course of the review the Group have concluded that further work needs to be undertaken to communicate the work of the Redditch Partnership to local stakeholders. They have recognised that website coverage is a useful communications tool that could be used to promote the work of the partnership.

6.2.2 The Redditch Partnership does not have a designated website. Instead, information about the partnership is provided on Redditch Borough Council's website. The Group has reviewed the existing content of these Web Pages and concluded that they were not fit for purpose. They suggested that alterations be made to improve these web pages, in accordance with an example of best practice developed by Stevenage Borough Council for their LSP.

6.2.3 The Group subsequently pre-scrutinised Officers' suggestions for altering the relevant section on the Council's website. These alterations include: proposals to provide general information about LSPs, information about the Redditch Partnership; information about the SCS and a link to the current version of that document; and links to the partnership's terms of reference and Worcestershire Partnership's website. The Group were satisfied that this represented a positive set of proposals and recommend that they should be endorsed.

6.3 Recommendation 2: We recommend that an event, along the lines of the 'We are Redditch' exhibition, be held every year in a form determined appropriate by Officers.

6.3.1 The "We are Redditch" event was a consultation event which took place throughout a week in January 2010 in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre. This provided an opportunity for members of the Redditch Partnership to promote their work as well as the work of the LSP to the public. It also provided a useful opportunity for the partnership to consult with approximately 264 members of the public over the issues that they felt should be prioritised by the LSP and relevant partner organisations.

6.3.2 The Group are aware that this is the first time that this type of consultation event has been organised and delivered by the Redditch Partnership. The partnership has already considered the outcomes of the event and recommended improvements for the future. The Group have concurred that these recommended improvements should be endorsed as they would add value to future

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

17th March 2010

consultation events and that similar events should be held every year.

6.4 Recommendation 3: We recommend that the Redditch Partnership and appropriate partners should publicise their work and invite public reaction by providing regular updates in Redditch Matters.

6.4.1 The Group recognises that there is a need to promote information about the work of the Redditch Partnership using a variety of communication tools. Many members of the public do not have access to the internet or are more comfortable referring to traditional forms of written publication. The Council's magazine, Redditch Matters, is one publication which could be utilised to promote the work of the Redditch Partnership to this audience.

6.4.2 The potential significance of Redditch Matters for promoting the work of the LSP has already been recognised by the Redditch Partnership. An article introducing residents to the Redditch Partnership appeared in the Spring 2010 edition of Redditch Matters. The Group have agreed that this practice should be extended to all following editions of the magazine and should encompass reports on both the work of the Redditch Partnership and the related work of partner organisations.

6.5 Recommendation 4: We recommend that the Redditch Partnership should hold and advertise an Annual Meeting, as required by the terms of the Partnership's protocol, which partners, potential partners and members of the public could attend.

6.5.1 The Redditch Partnership has set terms of reference which are detailed in a 'Partnership Agreement and Protocol' (September 2008). This protocol contains a commitment for there to be an annual meeting of the overarching Redditch Partnership to hold the LSP's Management Board, Theme Groups and Task and Finish Groups to account.

6.5.2 The Group are concerned that a meeting of the overarching Redditch Partnership has not taken place since the State of the Borough Conference in 2007. They agree that this urgently needs to be addressed and that the overarching Redditch Partnership meets annually. The meeting should also be organised to take place in time for the overarching partnership to review the contents of the refreshed SCS.

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

17th March 2010

6.6 Recommendation 5: We recommend that a new item be added to the full Council agenda requiring the Leader of the Council to deliver regular updates on the work of the Redditch Partnership since the previous meeting of the Council.

6.6.1 During the course of their review the members of the Group have reached the conclusion that many local Councillors, particularly non-executive Councillors, are unfamiliar with the work of the Redditch Partnership. The majority of elected Members are not members of the Redditch Partnership and do not actively engage with the LSP.

6.6.2 The Group have expressed concerns about this level of Councillor engagement with the Redditch Partnership. They have concluded that this demonstrates that there is both a lack of transparency to the LSP process and a democratic deficit.

6.6.3 The Leader of the Council is, however, actively involved in the work of the Redditch Partnership. The Group have recognised that the Leader of the Council's role on the Redditch Partnership has changed over the past few years, resulting in the relatively recent appointment of the current Leader as Chair of the Management Board. However, the Group believe that it will always be appropriate for the Leader of the Council to be appointed to the Management Board in some capacity.

6.6.4 The Leader of the Council currently delivers regular reports on the subject of the Leader's activities at meetings of full Council. These are delivered as part of a standard 'Leader's Questions' item. Information about the work of the Redditch Partnership could be provided under this item. However, the members of the Group have expressed concerns that this would result in such updates being delivered alongside a variety of other reports. This could lead to a lack of clarity about which activities and initiatives had been delivered by the Redditch Partnership rather than another body.

6.6.5 The Group believe that the LSP is an important subject which should be discussed at the meetings of full Council. The explicit references to the Redditch Partnership in the Leader's reports under a designated item would help to reinforce the transparency of the process for the benefit of both elected Councillors and members of the public.

6.6.6 The Group recognise that whilst full Council meets on a monthly basis the Redditch Partnership's Management Board meets every six weeks. Therefore, at some full Council meeting the Leader may not have any new information to provide for the consideration of Members. However, the Group agrees that the report on the subject of the LSP should be retained as a standard item at each full Council

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

17th March 2010

meeting to ensure that Members have a source of information about the LSP where needed and an opportunity to ask regular questions about the work of the partnership.

6.7 Recommendation 6: We recommend that the Leader of the Council formally deliver an Annual Report to the last scheduled full Council meeting of the municipal year covering the work of the Redditch Partnership by formalising the current practice of delivering an annual “State of the Borough” address

- 6.7.1 The Redditch Partnership’s protocol contains a commitment for an Annual Report on the subject of the Redditch Partnership to be delivered at a meeting of full Council. However, this Annual Report has not been delivered since the protocol was approved in September 2008.
- 6.7.2 The Group have recognised that informal reference might have been made to the work of the Redditch Partnership during the course of full Council meetings. However, the Group have expressed concerns that such informal reports have not helped to develop elected Members’ familiarity with the work of the partnership.
- 6.7.3 The Group are in agreement that the formal delivery of an Annual Report at a meeting of full Council on the subject of the Redditch Partnership would address this problem. A report from the Leader would enhance the transparency of the work of the LSP and strengthen the accountability of the partnership.
- 6.8 Recommendation 7: We recommend that information about the Redditch Partnership and LSPs should be provided for Members’ consideration as part of the Member Induction process.**
- 6.8.1 The Members’ Induction process forms an important part of the introductory training for newly elected Councillors. Currently, information is provided about a variety of issues including: local democratic processes; member support arrangements; local government finance; Council housing and the senior management structure. Many new Councillors find this induction process to be invaluable because it introduces them to local government and to some of the many issues they need to be familiar with in order to support their constituents effectively.
- 6.8.2 Presently information about LSPs and, more specifically, the Redditch Partnership, is not provided as part of this Member Induction process. However, the members of the Group are in agreement that as an important local body details about both LSPs and the Redditch Partnership should be provided as part of the Member Induction process.

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

17th March 2010

6.8.3 The Group have been informed that the Member Induction process is fairly flexible and can be adapted on request. It is anticipated that some new Councillors will be elected during the local elections in May 2010. Therefore, the Group are proposing that this alteration to the Member Induction process should be approved as soon as possible to ensure that it shapes induction processes from 2010/11.

6.9 Recommendation 8: We recommend that a training event focusing on LSPs should be provided as a standard part of the Member training programme each year.

6.9.1 At Redditch Borough Council a number of standard training events take place each year. This includes training which members of quasi-judicial Committees are required to undertake each year, though other standard training arrangements have been introduced at the request of Members and Officers. Currently Councillors are invited to attend training courses each year on the following subjects: planning processes; Licensing procedures; local government finance; Council housing; the Standards Code of Conduct; ICT training and social networking.

6.9.2 The Group have concluded that, due to the significant role of the Redditch Partnership, a training event focussing on LSPs should be provided on a yearly basis as part of the Member training programme. The Group have been advised that the Member training programme at the Council is fairly flexible and could be altered in accordance with Members' recommendations. Therefore, they are proposing that this addition to the standard items on the Member training programme should be approved as soon as possible to ensure that it informs training arrangements from 2010/11.

6.10 Resolution 1: The Changing Places report should be considered as part of the subsequent Local Area Agreement Task and Finish review.

6.10.1 The review of the Redditch Partnership was originally proposed as part of a wider exercise that would also have involved a review of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognised the value that could potentially be accrued from scrutinising both subjects. However, they concluded that it would be more effective to review the two topics separately and that the review of the LSP should take place first because the conclusions reached during the course of this exercise would inform the subsequent assessment of the LAA.

6.10.2 The Changing Places report, 'Changing Places: Local Area Agreements and Two-Tier Local Government' (September 2008), focuses on best practice in the management of both LSPs and LAAs

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

17th March 2010

in areas of two-tier local government. The Group have considered the details contained within this report relating to LSPs. They have concluded that the information contained within the report on the subject of LAAs is comprehensive and that it would be useful to further assess this information during the review of the LAA.

6.11 Resolution 2: the membership of the Local Area Agreement Task and Finish Group should be drawn from the membership of the LSP Task and Finish Group.

6.11.1 The Group are aware that the LSP and the LAA are complex, interconnected subjects. Through their review they are developing familiarity with both subjects. They therefore are suggesting that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider appointing the members of the LSP Task and Finish Group to the LAA review to ensure that their expertise can be utilised in that subsequent exercise.

7. Forthcoming issues - Performance Management: Assessing the Current effectiveness of the partnership and developing a mechanism for the scrutiny of its future conduct.

7.1 The Group agree that performance management of the Redditch Partnership is an important issue to assess during the course of their review. They do not yet believe that they are in a position to reach conclusions or to advance formal recommendations on this subject at this stage. However, they have considered a number of options in relation to this subject which will be considered in further detail at subsequent meetings. These are detailed below and should not be regarded as mutually exclusive.

7.2 Option 1: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee could pre-scrutinise the contents of the draft SCS as a standard arrangement.

7.3 Option 2: (Following on from this) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could post scrutinise the success of the SCS as a standard arrangement.

7.4 Option 3: There could be six monthly monitoring of performance in relation to each version of the SCS and / or the LSP as a whole by an appropriate body. (Most probably this would be the Overview and Scrutiny Committee). This might involve reference to the Redditch Partnership's internal performance management framework. (The Partnership's performance management framework remains to be adopted, though is scheduled to be reviewed by the LSP in due course).

7.5 Option 4: further information will be considered and potentially recommendations produced on the subject of the Redditch Partnership's response to the red flag areas that were identified in

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

17th March 2010

the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) process. These related to perceived quality of life inequalities in the Borough, specifically educational attainment levels and health inequalities.

8. Other Implications

- Asset Management - There are no asset management implications.
- Community Safety - There are no community safety implications.
- Health - The Redditch Partnership is coordinating work within the Borough to address the health inequalities that were identified in the recent CAA process. Regular updates, as detailed in one of the performance management options, would help to ensure that all Members were kept informed of the Partnership's progress.
- Human Resources - The requirement for the Leader of the Council to deliver an Annual Report for the consideration of full Council could have an impact on the workload of the staff employed to support the Redditch Partnership. Consideration may therefore need to be given to the level of support provided to the partnership.
- Social Exclusion - There are no social exclusion implications.
- Environmental / Sustainability / - There are no environmental/ sustainability implications.

9. Lessons Learnt

No lessons have been learned in the production of this report.

10. Background Papers

Changing Places: Local Area Agreements and Two-Tier Local Government, (Local Government Association, September 2008).

Redditch Partnership: Partnership Agreement and Protocol, (September 2008).

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

17th March 2010

Stevenage Borough Council Website: 'So Stevenage',
<http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/townandcommunity/sostevenage>

11. Consultation

This report has been prepared following consultation by the Group with the Redditch Partnership Manager and Housing Strategy and LSP Manager.

12. Author of Report

The author of this report is Jess Bayley (Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer), who can be contacted on extension 3268 (e-mail: jess.bayley@redditchbc.gov.uk) for more information.

13. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Table of the review's objectives

14. Key

CAA	-	Comprehensive Area Assessment
LAA	-	Local Area Agreement
LSP	-	Local Strategic Partnership
SCS	-	Sustainable Community Strategy

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

17th March 2010

Appendix 1: Objectives of the Review

OBJECTIVE	WHAT DO WE HAVE NOW?	IS IT WORKING?	WHAT DO WE WANT?
(1) Examine LSP to clarify how it works	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Presentation from officers</p>	<p>Unclear: 4 new T&F groups within the LSP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review SCS • communications • resource mapping • performance management framework 	<p style="text-align: center;">?</p> <p>Need more information about how the LSP works in practice</p>
(2) Review the role of the LSP in development of the SCS	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Presentation from officers</p>		
(3) Determine improvements to the role of the LSP		Overlap with Objective 1	<p style="text-align: center;">?</p> <p>Need more information</p>
(4) Examine the methods used to engage and inform Cllrs	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Nothing</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>No</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Agreed recommendations</p>
(5) Review accountability and transparency of the LSP		<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Needs improvement</p>	<p>Overlap with Objective 4</p> <p>Need more information</p>
(6) Financial contributions	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Presentation from officers</p>		

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

17th March 2010

(7) Assess how the LSP intends to encourage wider engagement	✓ Presentation from officers	✓ Needs improvement	✓ Agreed way forward with officers
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Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel

8th March 2010

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Greg Chance (Chair), and Councillors A Clayton, M Hall, W King and J Pearce

Also Present:

K Hazeldene (Chair, Redditch Anti-Harassment Partnership) and M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

A Heighway and S Hanley

Committee Officers:

J Divala and I Westmore

1. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies for absence from Members of the Panel.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the following partners and interested parties:

Councillor Juliet Brunner, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety; Chief Inspector Angela Burnet (West Mercia Police); Mr Jonathan Haywood (West Mercia Probation Service); Ms Nic Adamson (Worcestershire SMAT); Liz Tompkin (Head of Housing & Community Services); Bev Houghton (Acting Community Safety Manager); Emma Clark (Community Safety Analyst); and Rob Morris (Principal Research Officer – Worcestershire County Council).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest or any Party Whip.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair invited the members to consider and note the terms of reference for the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel.

.....
Chair

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel

8th March 2010

RESOLVED that

the terms of reference be noted.

4. CO-OPTED MEMBERSHIP

Members discussed the issue of co-opted membership of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel. Officers reported that the Police Authority had contacted the Council with a view to having a co-opted Member appointed to the Panel. It was proposed that a request be made to the Police Authority that the appointee should not be the representative of that Authority on the Partnership. Members noted that co-opted members would have a non-voting role.

RESOLVED that

a representative of the Police Authority be invited to be a co-opted Member of the Panel.

5. PROTOCOL

Members considered items for inclusion in a draft working protocol for the Redditch Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel, referring to protocols developed by other authorities to identify examples of good practice. Members were keen to ensure that the protocol was developed in consultation with the Partnership.

The Panel were keen that the protocol should be clear and succinct. There was also a desire on the part of Members that the protocol should reinforce the message that the process would scrutinise the Partnership rather than individual partners.

In those cases where the Panel was requesting information or responses from or attendance by partners it was proposed that reasonable notice should be given rather than a specified timescale. In order to manage the workflow of the Panel and avoid conflicting meetings it was also proposed that Officers consult with the Partnership when developing the calendar of future meetings for the Panel. Similarly, the proposal that Officers consult with the County Council over its work programme for the scrutiny of crime and disorder was accepted.

The verification of accuracy of draft reports by the Panel was discussed. It was agreed that relevant partners be consulted where

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel

8th March 2010

appropriate and that the Chair of the Partnership play a role in identifying to whom such draft reports should be directed within the Partnership.

It was agreed that a distinction could justifiably be made within the protocol between the Responsible Authorities who had a duty to co-operate and those partners whose responsibilities towards the Panel were less onerous.

The Panel were minded to review of the contents of the protocol on at least an annual basis. However, the view was also taken that in-year changes might be required as issues arose, particularly in the early period of the Panel's activities. It was therefore proposed that such review be allowed with the agreement of the partners on the Partnership

Members also discussed the issue of who might be the arbiter in cases of dispute between the Panel and the Partnership. It was proposed that such disputes might be referred to the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM).

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel draft Protocol be developed in accordance with the points included in the report submitted and Members' comments in the preamble, above; and**
- 2) the draft Protocol be submitted to the meeting of the Panel on 15th April 2010 for further consideration and approval.**

6. WORK PROGRAMME

Members were presented with suggested standard items which they were asked to consider in order for inclusion on the Panel's Work Programme.

Minutes from the meetings of the Partnership

It was noted that the minutes of the meetings of the Partnership were confidential and would be considered in private session. Officers informed the meeting that Panel Members would be required to sign a disclosure prior to becoming recipients of this information.

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel

8th March 2010

The Redditch Community Safety Plan

Officers were supportive of proposals for the Panel to consider aspects of the Community Safety Plan. The Plan included a large amount of thematic and geographical data and it was considered a useful means by which members might develop an understanding of community safety issues. It was proposed that the draft Plan be submitted to the meeting of the Panel in April.

The Annual Strategic Assessment document

The Annual Strategic Assessment was likened by Officers to the Story of Place equivalent for the Borough and, as such, was considered unwieldy and impractical to present to Members. It was suggested that the Executive Summary would provide the Panel with the degree of detail that might readily be assimilated. Officers were to provide this document to the Panel in due course.

Redditch Community Safety Partnership – Chair's Annual Report

It was agreed that the Chair of the Partnership be invited to present an annual report to the Panel. The Chair of the Partnership proposed that this report be submitted to the meeting of the Panel each April to coincide with the year end for the Partnership.

Local Area Agreement

Officers noted that reporting on the achievement against the targets for the Local Area Agreement was extensive and was scrutinised at a county level. It was proposed that the Panel receive feedback on performance against Local Area Agreement targets through the minutes of the Partnership.

Comprehensive Area Assessment

Members were advised that community safety issues addressed through the Comprehensive Area Assessment were not directly scrutinised by any other body and so would be a useful area of activity for the Panel. It was proposed that the last published Comprehensive Area Assessment be provided to Members alongside information provided for all the Key Lines of Enquiry.

Standard Redditch Borough Council Scrutiny items

Members considered and agreed to retain a number of standard scrutiny processes as a regular activities for the Panel.

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel

8th March 2010

These were:

- (i) Receipt of an Action List outlining actions requested at previous meetings of the Panel and progress in the implementation of the actions.
- (ii) Use of the Council's scrutiny scoping document to scope the terms of reference for Policy reviews.
- (iii) Provision of regular updates on the work of Task and Finish Groups;
- (vi) Contribution to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report.

General matters

Members were advised that legislative developments were arising in relation to the work of Community Safety Partnership and that these changes and revised expectations needed to be considered alongside the current community safety agenda and guidance. The Panel members were also advised that work might usefully be undertaken in scrutinising how funding streams were allocated in respect of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. It was suggested that these matters be addressed in the annual report of the Chair of the Partnership.

The Panel was encouraged to identify suitable areas for Task and Finish review. It was noted that a proposal had already been received on the broad theme of perceptions of crime but Members were advised that a distinct, short term piece of work would be a more practical base from which the Panel could commence its activities.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Work Programme be developed in accordance with the preamble, above;**
- 2) Officers provide Panel members with the information as detailed above; and**
- 3) Panel members report areas for Task and Finish review to the next meeting of the Panel.**

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel

8th March 2010

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 8.00 pm

Chair

DRAFT