

minute book 3



Council

Mon 8 Dec
2014
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL



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1.



Executive

Committee

Tuesday, 28 October 2014

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), Councillor Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Brandon Clayton, John Fisher, Phil Mould, Mark Shurmer and Yvonne Smith

Officers:

Ray Cooke, Kevin Dicks, Clare Flanagan, Alison Grimmett, Matthew Mead, Jayne Pickering, Amanda de Warr and Dave Wheeler

Committee Services Officer:

Debbie Parker-Jones

39. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Debbie Taylor.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

41. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Leader's Announcements.

42. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 8th September 2014 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

43. IMPROVED PARKING SCHEMES

Members considered a report setting out proposals for improved parking schemes across the Borough.

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Chair

Officers explained the funding elements of the proposals and advised that monies for improvements came from the General Fund. As detailed in the report, the demolition of garages and removal of resulting material to an approved tip had so far been financed by the Housing Revenue Account, which would remain the case for all future schemes.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **a virement of £139,000 be made from the Woodrow and Lodge Park Estate Enhancement Capital budgets to fund the completion of Schemes in Crophorne Close, Bushley Close and Doverdale Close Woodrow; and**
- 2) **as part of the future capital bidding processes for 2015/16 and 2016/17 Members consider funding future 'Improved Parking Schemes' in: Exhall Close, Church Hill South; Drayton Close, Matchborough West; Astley Close, Woodrow; Mainstone Close, Winyates East; Fulbrook Close, Church Hill South; Garway Close, Matchborough East; and Felton Close, Matchborough East.**

44. DESIGNATION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA - FECKENHAM

Members considered a request from Feckenham Parish Council for the designation of Feckenham as a Neighbourhood Plan area under decentralisation measures introduced through the Localism Act 2011.

Officers explained the background to neighbourhood planning. Neighbourhood plans were required to be 'pro-development' and could not be used to prevent any development which was already allocated or permitted, nor could they propose less development than that which was set out in the Local Development Plan.

Neighbourhood plans provided an opportunity for local communities to have a say on what development should look like in their area, and it was noted that Feckenham Parish Council would continue to be consulted on relevant planning applications as at present.

RESOLVED that

Feckenham Neighbourhood Plan Area application, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be considered as providing a 'sound' basis for a six week period of public consultation prior

to its formal designation in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

45. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME - DRAFT SCHEME 2015/16

The Committee received a report seeking confirmation of a Local Council Tax Support Scheme for the financial year 2015/16. The report also included data on the take-up of the Hardship Fund and other measures showing the impact of the Scheme on collection rates and recovery action.

Officers advised that there had been only a slight dip in collection rates since changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme were introduced in April 2014. Whilst there had been an increase in recovery action this was now levelling out. Members were pleased to note that only a small amount of the Hardship Fund had needed to be committed, which Officers advised was as a result of working closely with those affected and in providing support to assist them with any issues. This was also in line with the locality work currently being undertaken by the Council.

It was proposed that there be no changes to the level of support provided by the Council, but that the various allowances be uprated in line with the Secretary of State's annual announcement to ensure the Scheme remained in line with other benefits.

Some concerns were raised for the future when the Local Council Tax Support Scheme would not form part of Universal Credit, which it was felt could have a significant impact on arrears.

RESOLVED that

- 1) no changes be made to the draft Council Tax Support Scheme for 2015/16, with the exception of 'uprating' some of the figures to take account of other national changes in benefits and allowances;**
- 2) consultation on the proposal in 1) above be carried out in accordance with legislation, before a final decision on the Scheme is recommended to Council later in the year; and**
- 3) the contents of the report in relation to take up of the Hardship Fund and other measures data be noted.**

46. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2015/16 - 2017/18

The Committee received a report on the costs associated with delivering the Council's Strategic Purposes and the current summary position for the financial plan.

Officers explained the background to the report and the report appendices which outlined the 2014/15 budgets for all Council services aligned to the Strategic Purposes. A correction was noted to Appendix 2, 'Provide good things for me to see and do', which included Non Adopted Highways Inspection and CCTV Operating Costs, both of which should have appeared at Appendix 5 'Keep my place safe and looking good'. It was further noted that Pay & Display Car Parks at Appendix 2 was an error.

Officers were continuing to work through the detail of their budgets across the Strategic Purposes, with a number of costs having already been identified for further detailed work. Managers were also developing savings as a result of reducing waste in their systems and reducing the costs of enabling services, which it was noted included management teams in front line services. Heads of Service were also looking at how they could deliver their services differently by bringing in alternative service providers or providing more service for a reduced cost. Proposals in this regard would be factored into future reports to the Executive and would also be considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

A shortfall of approximately £1.7m was currently projected for 2015/16. It was assumed that the Government Grant settlement, which would be made known in December, would not be significantly different to the current estimate. It was further estimated that the position for the following 2 years would not improve with further reductions in Government Grant being projected.

Officers provided a number of clarifications in response to Members' questions on the costs detailed and the elements included in these, and undertook to provide a more comprehensive response to Members after the meeting on some of the issues raised. Officers further agreed to meet with one Member separately to discuss the property budgets.

Members appreciated the greater clarity on service costs and Officers advised that they would continue to refine and develop the way in which the costs were presented to Members. It was agreed that it would in future be helpful to set out gross expenditure and gross income and for any capital charges to be removed from the figures.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the costs associated with the delivery of the Council's Strategic Purposes be noted; and**
- 2) **Officers continue work on the financial plan to realise savings and additional income to meet the projected shortfalls.**

47. FEES AND CHARGES

The Committee considered a report setting out the proposed Fees and Charges for the Council's chargeable services for 2015/16. Members also considered with the report the minute and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's meeting on 21st October 2014, which had been circulated as Additional Papers, in relation to the pre-scrutiny of the Fees and Charges report.

Officers reported that an overall 3% increase in fees and charges would be achieved through approval of the proposals, and that the income target for the year had been increased by 97k when compared to the previous year. All fees and charges, save for those where an invoice had already been raised covering the last quarter of the financial year or where there was a contractual period preventing this, would take effect from 1st January 2015. Exceptionally, the Palace Theatre charges would take effect from 2016/17 as booking arrangements for the Theatre were made significantly far ahead.

It was noted that some charges did not represent a 3% increase as benchmarking with other local authorities had been undertaken and some rounding up or down of figures applied for ease, for example with cash handling at leisure centres. Some new charges had also been introduced, for example, Knowledge Tests for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles and Deeds of Variation under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In relation to Building Control, the number of requests from customers for local authorities to provide project specific quotations on request was rising rapidly. As such it was proposed to continue with the provision of site specific fees in accordance with the relevant regulations in those fee categories previously affected and to raise other specific declared fees by at least 3%.

Officers provided a number of clarifications to questions raised on the fees and charges.

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 28 October 2014

Members discussed the minute and recommendations arising from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21st October 2014, and a debate ensued on whether the rate for Junior Swimming Lessons should be subject to increase. The recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny for the rate for Junior Swimming Lessons to remain at the current 2014/15 rate (part 1 of the recommendation) was not supported by the majority of the Committee. Part 2 of the recommendation formed part of the original recommendation detailed in the Fees and Charges report which was carried.

It was noted that whilst free swimming was available for the under 16's and over 60's this only applied to residents who lived within the Borough and who had registered for this. As such, a charge appeared in the schedule for those under 16's/over 60's who did not fall within those categories.

The current high occupancy levels for swimming lessons, particularly those for beginner classes, were noted, as was the fact that the Council's charges were lower than many other authorities, with concessions also applying.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the fees and charges for 2015/16 as set out in Appendices 1- 9 to the report be approved, other than in cases where:**
 - a) fees or charges are statutory;**
 - b) fees and charges are set externally; or**
 - c) other Council-approved circumstances apply; and**
- 2) the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services has delegation to alter the Leisure fees and charges by a variation of up to 30%.**

48. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd September 2014, and the minute of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the Fees and Charges report at its meeting on 21st October 2014.

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 28 October 2014

2nd September 2014

In relation to the 2nd September 2014 minutes, it was noted that the recommendation on the Football Task Group Final Report had already been considered and resolved by the Executive at its meeting on 8th September. Accordingly, the only recommendation to be considered by the Executive Committee related to Minute 27 regarding the minutes of the Redditch Partnership Executive Group and Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust being appended to the Council agenda.

Members agreed that rather than appending the minutes to Council agendas, it would be more appropriate for these, or any resulting notes/actions arising from the meetings in question, to be published for Members' information only on the Modern.gov committee administration system. Councillors could also be alerted to any relevant activity in this regard via the regular Members' Newsletter. It was noted that, on occasion, some elements of the discussions and outcomes concerned might contain sensitive information, which would need to remain confidential. Any queries which Members might have arising from the minutes/notes/action points could then be raised with the appropriate Officer in the first instance.

21st October 2014

The minute and recommendations of the 21st October 2014 Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Committee's pre-scrutiny of the Fees and Charges report was considered under the previous agenda item (Minute No. 47 refers).

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd September 2014 be received and noted;**
- 2) the recommendation from the 2nd September Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in relation to the minutes of the Redditch Partnership Executive Group and Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust being appended to the Council agenda be rejected, and the any resulting minutes/notes/action points arising from the meetings in question instead be published to Councillors only via the Modern.gov committee administration system, and that Members also be alerted as to any activity in this regard via the Members' Newsletter;**

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Tuesday, 28 October 2014

- 3) the minute and recommendation of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21st October 2014 in relation to the Fees and Charges report be received and noted;
- 4) part 1 of the recommendation from the 21st October Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in relation to the rate for Junior Swimming Lessons remaining at the current 2014/15 rate be rejected; and
- 5) part 2 of the recommendation from the 21st October Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in its amended format to reflect that this was subject to the approval of part 1 of the recommendation, automatically fall and all original recommendations in the Fees and Charges report stand.

49. WORCESTERSHIRE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee held on 2nd October 2014.

Members had only one recommendation at Minute 16/14 to consider, relating to the Final Report of the Joint Worcestershire Regulatory Services Scrutiny Task Group.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee held on 2nd October 2014 be received and noted; and
- 2) the recommendation from the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee as follows be approved:

the lessons learned from the WRS shared service experience, particularly as detailed in this report, should be heeded by elected members and senior officers when considering any future proposals for shared service arrangements involving multiple partners.

50. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS ETC.

There were no outstanding referrals to consider.

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Tuesday, 28 October 2014

51. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

It was noted that the Planning Advisory Panel due to take place that evening had been cancelled due to lack of business.

Also, the Economic Theme Group under the Local Strategic Partnership; the successor body to the disbanded Economic Advisory Panel, had met and had had a productive meeting.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

52. ACTION MONITORING

Members were advised that no update on the information requested at the previous meeting in relation to the Finance Monitoring Report 2014/15 April to June (Quarter 1) was yet available. Officers undertook to find out the details for the questions raised and to report back to all members of the Committee on this.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.55 pm

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Chair



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EXECUTIVE

Committee

25th November 2014

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), Councillor Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Brandon Clayton (during Minute No's 53 to 67), John Fisher, Phil Mould, Mark Shurmer, Yvonne Smith and Debbie Taylor

Also Present:

Jim Stobie – Worcestershire County Council (for Agenda Item 9: Joint Property Vehicle Full Business Case)

Officers:

Derek Allen, Clare Flanagan, Mark Hanwell, Jayne Pickering, Deb Poole, Guy Revans, Katie Sharp-Fisher and Amanda de Warr

Committee Officers:

Debbie Parker-Jones

53. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

55. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader advised the following:

White Ribbon Campaign 2014

The Leader referred to the White Ribbon Campaign 2014 which opposed domestic abuse and sexual violence. 25th November saw the first of a 16-day period of action for the 2014 Campaign. White ribbons were handed round and worn by Members and Officers in support of the Campaign.

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Chair

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Additional Papers & Shared Services Board Recommendation

Additional confidential papers relating to Agenda Item 16 (Environmental Services Transformation and Shared Services Restructure) had been issued as Additional Papers 1 pack. There was also a recommendation for the Executive Committee's consideration arising from the meeting of the Shared Services Board on 6th November 2014 at Agenda Item 11, which endorsed, in principle, the Business Case for Environmental Services moving forward.

Also, as previously notified to Members, a copy of the Full Business Case for the Joint Property Vehicle at Agenda Item 9 had been published as additional papers, and a hard copy placed in each of the Members' Group Rooms owing to the size of the document.

Change in agenda running order

Following a request from Officers it had been agreed that the Home Improvement Agency Services report at Agenda Item 8 would be dealt with as the first substantive item on the agenda, immediately prior to Agenda Item 5; Public Service Network Compliance.

Work Programme

There was one matter which had appeared on the Executive Committee Work Programme for consideration at the meeting and which was not included on the agenda. This related to the Domestic Abuse Workplace Policy which it had subsequently been agreed would take the form of guidance as opposed to policy, and which therefore no longer required the Executive Committee's consideration.

It was noted that Members would still have input into the guidance as the draft of this would be referred to a future Portfolio Holder Briefing as a strategic issue, following which it would receive consideration at the Informal Trade Union and Employee Liaison Meetings.

Time to Change Pledge

The Pledge had received the full support of all the political groups of the Council and had been confirmed by the respective Group Leaders. The Pledge would be formally endorsed by Full Council on 8th December 2014 and would be signed by the Leader on 16th December.

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The Council's Pledge was: "To reduce the stigma of mental illness and support staff who are experiencing or who may experience personal or family mental health issues."

The Leader thanked all Members for their support in this regard.

56. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 28th October 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

57. PUBLIC SERVICE NETWORK COMPLIANCE

The Committee considered a report which updated Members on the Council's requirement to achieve compliance with the Public Services Network (PSN), and which sought approval for the release of funds for 2014/15 to maintain compliance in the current financial year. Further funding would be needed to achieve full compliance in 2015/16, the additional financial implications of which would be included in the budget setting process for 2015/16.

It was noted that Cabinet Office was taking a zero-tolerance approach to compliance and that authorities would lose their connection to the PSN should they fail to comply. Officers advised that failure to comply would also result in significant financial consequences to the Council, meaning Members had no option other than to adhere to any current and future PSN requirements.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **there be an increase to the 2014/15 Capital Programme of £74,000 to be funded from borrowing;**
- 2) **the revenue implication of £18,000 per year, as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report, be added as a revenue pressure from 2015/16; and**
- 3) **£10,000 be released from balances in 2014/15 to fund the associated revenue costs.**

58. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2015/16

Further to Minute 45 of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 28th October 2014, the Committee was asked to consider

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25th November 2014

the final local Council Tax Support Scheme 2015/16 following consultation which had taken place on the draft Scheme.

Officers advised that the only changes to be made to the Scheme related to the future 'uprating' of some figures to allow for national changes in other benefits and allowances. Following consultation only one response had been received, which supported the proposed scheme.

Since changes to the support scheme had been introduced in April 2014 there had not been a substantial impact on collection rates and recovery rates were now levelling out. The authority was one of the few in the county to have a hardship fund to assist people in financial difficulty. Financial Support Officers were working closely with customers in financial hardship to discuss their financial situation and help with wider issues to help identify appropriate solutions.

Concerns were expressed by some Members for the future when the Council Tax Support Scheme would not form part of Universal Credit, which it was felt could have a significant impact on arrears. Officers responded that they were already working to try to address this, and were working closely with JobCentre Plus to ensure things ran as smoothly as possible for the residents of Redditch.

RECOMMENDED that

no changes be made to the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2015/16, other than to allow for the future 'uprating' of some of the figures to take account of other national changes in benefits and allowances.

59. LAND ADJACENT TO THE ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL - DISPOSAL

The Committee received a report which sought approval to declare land at Nine Days Lane surplus and to transfer access right to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)

Members noted that the HCA was looking to develop a parcel of their land behind the Alexander Hospital for residential and employment purposes, and would be tendering their site for sale in the coming months. An adjacent plot of land owned by the Council, which on its own held little value for the Council, would be required to provide access to any development on the HCA land.

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RESOLVED that

- 1) **the land at Nine Days Lane as outlined on the plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be declared surplus and sold in part or whole; and**
- 2) **access rights across Redditch Borough Council land, if required, be granted to facilitate the proposed development scheme.**

60. HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY

The Committee considered a report which sought delegated authority to accept a tender for the re-letting of the Home Improvement Agency (HIA) contract which was due to expire on 31st March 2015.

At the time of writing the report it was not known whether the successful tender would be above the financial threshold (£250,000) for acceptance by Officers on behalf of the Council. Delegated authority was therefore being sought to accept the successful tender and enable the process to continue, and to meet the deadline to ensure continuity of service for residents.

Members noted that the grants provided assistance for people in the private sector, who either owned or rented their homes, and that there had been a lower-than-expected take up on these. Officers responded that they took seriously the underspend and that it was difficult to predict year-on-year what case numbers would be.

On average between 60-80 cases were received a year, with there being significant variation in the type of adaptations required and loan amounts involved. There was a section of the tender form which specifically addressed promotion of the service, with more needing to be understood about the town's housing market and needs in order to know how to best cater for residents' needs. Officers provided a breakdown of the number of applications received during 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14. Members queried what the take-up was for the private housing sector (between homeowners and privately rented properties), which Officers agreed to look into and report back to Members on.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **progress with re-letting the tender for Home Improvement Agency services be noted;**

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- 2) **authority be delegated to the Head of Community Services to accept the successful tender on behalf of the Council; and**
- 3) **the Head of Community Services and Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services be authorised to finalise the contract.**

61. JOINT PROPERTY VEHICLE FULL BUSINESS CASE

The Committee received a report setting out the Full Business Case in relation to the establishment of a Joint Property Vehicle (JPV) for the delivery of improved and more efficient property and asset management services to a number of public sector partners across the West Midlands. Members were asked to consider becoming a partner within the new arrangement, agree to nominate the Council's representatives to the Board and Shareholder Group and delegate authority to Officers to implement the decision and complete the actions and documentation to do so.

Officers advised that the recommendations at paragraphs 2.2 to 2.5 of the report were recommendations to Full Council rather than matters to be resolved by the Executive Committee as stated in the report. It was further proposed that the delegation to Officers referred to at recommendation 2.5 would be in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management. Jim Stobie, JPV Manager at Worcestershire County Council, was also in attendance for this item.

Officers highlighted the key elements of the Business Case and benefits of the JPV to the Council. The JPV would be an arms-length Company limited by shares, wholly owned and governed by the participating public sector partners. The JPV proposals related to the management of the Council's properties only and did not affect their ownership, which would remain with the Council.

Since 2010 the Council's Property Services had been delivered by the County Council. If participating in the JPV the authority would have a greater say over its property management services as it would have an equal shareholding in the JPV and be in a position to contribute towards change programmes. The JPV would formalise joint working, making it sustainable for the future, driving rationalisation, service transformation, regeneration, growth and efficiencies. The JPV tied in with the locality approach which was being developed in Redditch and which was already in place for some direct service delivery, and also supported a number of the Council's Strategic Purposes.

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Officers and Mr Stobie responded to Member questions during the discussion. Mr Stobie advised that the JPV would have its own IT system which would provide for a single database of property assets and therefore allow for much greater interrogation of property than was currently possible. Communication for the JPV would be key and was a current priority, with the same messages needing to be delivered to all of the partners involved at the same time.

It was queried how the outcomes from the Board of the Company would be passed on to Members, for both information and scrutiny. The exact mechanism for this had yet to be determined, although these might be reported to the Executive Committee in the same way as the minutes of the Shared Services Board and Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee were, with the Executive Committee ultimately being able to determine how it wished for such reporting to take place. It was further noted that the Company would be a limited company and therefore subject to the full legal requirements applicable to limited companies. Officers stated that any decisions on assets owned by the Council would continue to be made by the Executive Committee and Full Council. Mr Stobie stated that the JPV would not in any way circumnavigate the Council's current governance arrangements, which would also continue to apply.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Council participates in establishing a Joint Property Vehicle company limited by shares;**
- 2) **The Director of Finance and Resources, currently representing the Council on the Shadow Shareholder Group, represent the Council on the Board of the Company;**
- 3) **two Member representatives and their substitutes be appointed to the Shareholder Meetings; and**
- 4) **authority be delegated to the Director of Finance and the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management, to take the measures required to implement the decision at recommendation 1) and to complete any necessary documentation relating to it.**

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62. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21st October 2014.

It was noted that there were two recommendations at Minute No's 40 and 41 and that the recommendations at Minute No. 40 (Fees and Charges – Pre-Scrutiny) had already been considered by the Executive Committee at its previous meeting on 28th October 2014.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21st October 2014 be received and noted; and**
- 2) **the recommendation from the 21st October Overview and Scrutiny Committee as follows be approved:**

the Executive Committee ask the Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN) to facilitate the launch of a Redditch Hour on social media.

63. SHARED SERVICES BOARD

The minutes of the meeting of the Shared Services Board held on 6th November 2014 were received by the Committee.

It was noted that there was one recommendation contained in the minutes which related to the Business Case for Environmental Services. As the Business Case appeared as a separate item later in the agenda (Agenda Item 16 refers) it was agreed that the Shared Services Board recommendation would be considered at the same time as the Business Case.

Following Member consideration of the Business Case (Minute No. 68 refers) it was

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the meeting of the Shared Services Board held on 6th November be received and noted;**
- 2) **it be noted that the Shared Services Board endorsed, in principle, the Business Case for Environmental Services moving forward; and**

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- 3) the Executive Committee recommend to Full Council the approval of the Business Case for the transformation and shared service restructure of Environmental and associated services.

64. **MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS ETC.**

There were no outstanding referrals to consider.

65. **ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT**

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

66. **ACTION MONITORING**

Members were advised that no update on the information requested at the 8th September 2014 meeting in relation to the Finance Monitoring Report 2014/15 April to June (Quarter 1) was yet available.

Officers undertook to find out the details for the questions raised and to report back to all members of the Committee on this.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

67. **EXCLUSION OF THE 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 matter on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended:

Minute 68 – Environmental Services Transformation and Shared Services Restructure

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25th November 2014

68. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TRANSFORMATION AND SHARED SERVICES RESTRUCTURE

The Committee received a confidential report on the proposed transformation and shared services restructure of Environmental and associated services and the Business Case for this.

It was noted that the Shared Services Board had considered the Business Case at its meeting on 6th November 2014 (Minute No. 63 refers) and that it had recommended that this be endorsed, in principle, moving forward.

Officers provided Members with a detailed presentation on the Business Case and responded to Member questions.

RECOMMENDED that

Full Council approve the Business Case for the transformation and shared service restructure of Environmental and associated services.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.50 pm

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Chair



Planning Committee

Wednesday, 12 November 2014

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Andrew Fry (Chair), Councillor Alan Mason (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Joe Baker, Roger Bennett, Andrew Brazier, Yvonne Smith, David Thain, Nina Wood-Ford and John Witherspoon

Also Present:

Councillor Mark Shurmer

Officers:

Amar Hussain, Ailith Rutt and Steve Edden

Democratic Services Officer:

Amanda Scarce

35. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Wanda King with Councillor John Witherspoon present as substitute.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest .

37. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 8th October 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

38. UPDATE REPORTS

The Update Reports relating to the Applications to be considered were noted.

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Chair

Planning Committee

Wednesday, 12 November 2014

39. PLANNING APPLICATION 2014/192/FUL - LAND AT WIREHILL DRIVE, LODGE PARK, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE

Erection of 12 No. 3 bedroomed detached dwellings with garages

Applicant: Mr David Baker

The following people addressed the Committee under the Council's public speaking rules.

Mr P Bird – Resident (objecting)

Mr Blewitt – Resident (objecting)

Councillor Andrew Fry (Ward Councillor and Objector)

Councillor Mark Shurmer (Ward Councillor and Objector)

RESOVLED that

Having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be REFUSED for the following reason:

“The site is designated as an area of Primarily Open Space in the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No 3. The Council considers that the need for this development does not outweigh the current value of the land as an open area. The proposal would therefore be contrary to Policy R.1 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No 3 which states that proposals which would lead to the total or partial loss of a Primarily Open Space will not normally be granted planning permission unless it can be demonstrated that the need for the development outweighs the value of the land as an open area.”

(Having noted and considered the speaker representations, Officers report and Update, Members raised concerns about highway safety issues in relation to Wire Hill Drive and the loss of open space to the local community. The Committee refused the Application for the reason stated in the resolution.)

(Further to having advised at the start of the meeting of his intentions to withdraw from the Committee to the public gallery for this item, in order to speak to the Application in his capacity as a local Ward Member, the Chair, Councillor Andrew Fry, withdrew from the meeting following the Officer's presentation and conclusion of public speaking on the item in accordance with the Council's public speaking rules and was not present for the Committee's debate and decision on the matter.)

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The Committee's Vice Chair, Councillor Alan Mason was in the Chair for this matter.

Councillor Mark Shurmer, in attendance in the public gallery and also registered to speak on the item as a Ward Councillor, also withdrew from the meeting following the Officers presentation and conclusion of public speaking in accordance with the Council's public speaking rules.)

40. PLANNING APPLICATION 2014/226/FUL - COVERED MARKET AREA, MARKET PLACE, TOWN CENTRE, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE B98 8AA

Change of use of vacant Market Area to a play area for children and ancillary adult exercise area

Applicant: Redditch Town Centre Partnership

RESOLVED that

Having regard to the development plan and to all together material considerations, planning permission be GRANTED subject to the following condition:

- 1. The development to which the permission relates must be begun not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date of the grant of this permission.**

(Councillor Alan Mason sat in seating provided for the public for this item and did not participate in the debate.)

(The Committee raised concerns in respect of security of the area outside of normal working hours and were reassured to be informed that the area would be secured and covered by CCTV. Members were in agreement that it was an excellent use of the area and be of benefit to the health and wellbeing of families.)

41. PLANNING APPLICATION 2014/283/RM - FORMER ANSELL GLOVE CO. LTD, 25 BROAD GROUND ROAD, LAKESIDE, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE

Appearance and landscaping reserved matters relating to the rehearsal studio with offices granted permission under 2014/190/OUT

Applicant: Mr C Reed

RESOLVED that

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having regard to the development plan and to all other material considerations, planning permission be GRANTED subject to the following conditions:

1. The development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than 10th September 2017 (that being three years from the date of the grant of outline planning consent).
2. The development hereby approved be implemented in accordance with the following plans; 2422/LP, 2422/03 and 2422/04.
3. All hard and soft landscaping works be carried out in accordance with the approved details. The works shall be carried out prior to the occupation of any part of the development or in accordance with a programme agreed in writing by the local planning authority. Any trees or plants which within a period 5 years from the completion of the development die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar sizes or species unless the local planning authority gives written approval to any variation.

(The Committee agreed that this was a prestigious project which could only be of benefit to the Borough.)

42. TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 148 (2014) - TREES ON LAND AT PROSPECT HILL CAR PARK, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE - CONFIRMATION

The Committee considered a report which proposed the long term protection of a number of significant trees which were considered to be of positive benefit to public amenity and worthy of retention in the long term.

RESOLVED that

Tree Preservation Order No. 148 (2014), trees on land at Prospect Hill Car Park, Redditch be confirmed without modification.

43. APPEAL OUTCOMES - INFORMATION REPORT

RESOLVED that

The various Appeal outcomes listed in the Appendix attached to the report be noted.

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The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.58 pm

