

additional papers 1



Executive Committee

Tue 20 Jan
2015
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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difference*

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Access to Information - Your Rights

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.

Your main rights are set out below:-

- Automatic right to attend all Council and Committee meetings unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Automatic right to inspect agenda and public reports at least five days before the date of the meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect minutes of the Council and its Committees (or summaries of business undertaken in private) for up to six years following a meeting.
- 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.
- Access to a public register stating the names and addresses and electoral areas of all Councillors with details of the membership of all Committees etc.
- A reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports relating to items to be considered in public must be made available to the public attending meetings of the Council and its Committees etc.
- Access to a list specifying those powers which the Council has delegated to its Officers indicating also the titles of the Officers concerned.
- Access to a summary of the rights of the public to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees etc. and to inspect and copy documents.
- In addition, the public now has a right to be present when the Council determines “Key Decisions” unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Unless otherwise stated, all items of business before the Executive Committee are Key Decisions.
- (Copies of Agenda Lists are published in advance of the meetings on the Council's Website:
www.redditchbc.gov.uk

**If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact
Debbie Parker-Jones
Democratic Services**

**Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: 01527 64252 Ext: 3257
e.mail: d.parker-jones@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk**

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 Democratic Services 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 Democratic Services Officer.

Special Arrangements

If you have any particular needs, please contact the Democratic Services Officer.

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 Democratic Services 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.



Executive

Committee

Tuesday, 20th January, 2015

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs: Bill Hartnett (Chair) Phil Mould
Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) Mark Shurmer
Juliet Brunner Yvonne Smith
Brandon Clayton Debbie Taylor
John Fisher

12. Medium Term Financial Plan 2015-16 - 2017-18

(Pages 1 - 4)

Jayne Pickering, Executive Director, Finance and Resources

To consider a report on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2015-16 to 2017-18.

(Extract from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee minutes from the 13th January 2015 meeting attached)



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 13th January, 2015

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Jane Potter (Chair), Councillor Gay Hopkins (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Joe Baker, Michael Braley (substituting for Councillor Paul Swansborough), Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Alan Mason, David Thain (substituting for Councillor David Bush) and Pat Witherspoon

Officers:

S Morgan and J Pickering

Democratic Services Officers:

J Bayley and A Scarce

65. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2015/16 TO 2017/18 - PRE-SCRUTINY

Officers presented the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 to 2017/18 and highlighted the following areas:

- A balanced budget would be presented at the February meeting of the Committee.
- The government settlement was slightly less than anticipated.
- A Council Tax increase of 1.9% per annum had been included and any new build properties had also been factored in for Council Tax purposes.
- The new localised regime on Business Rates, which took effect from April 2013, and the pooling arrangements.
- The transformation work being carried out and the savings made from the different ways the Council was working.

Following presentation of the report Members raised the following points:

- The use of reserves and monies expected to be received in respect of the sale of Threadneedle House. (Officers agreed to provide Members with an update on the sale of the property outside of the meeting.)
- The Shopmobility scheme and the contribution received from the Kingfisher Shopping Centre, which it was noted had been

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Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 13th January, 2015

reduced over recent years, and the increased footfall within the Centre which had recently been reported.

- The costs of IER and any contribution received from central Government.

Officers confirmed that the report received at the February meeting would contain more detail in respect of both unavoidable pressures and savings to be made, together with a sustainable three year plan. It was confirmed that the predicted savings included within that plan would be carefully monitored and details provided to Members in order that Heads of Services could be held to account if necessary.

The Chair commented that she was disappointed with the number of formatting and typographic errors within the report. This was acknowledged by Officers and would be taken up with the relevant teams after the meeting.

The Chair commented that it was very difficult for the Committee to carry out constructive pre-scrutiny work when the reports were not received until the day prior to the meeting and questioned whether there was any way that this could be changed. Whilst accepting the difficulty this caused, Officers informed Members that it was a Constitutional issue. Officers highlighted that the budget report due to be considered at the Committee's February meeting would allow more time for Members to consider the budget and any comments would be reported directly into the Council meeting when the final decision on the Council's budget would be made. Officers also acknowledged that the budget scrutiny process had not run as smoothly as expected and this would be reviewed and a lesson learned exercise carried out in order for improvements to be made in future years. It was suggested that a report should be brought to the Committee in September so that Members could have a more structured and detailed input into the budget setting process in future years.

RECOMMENDED that

Officers approach the Kingfisher Shopping Centre in respect of contributing further funding for the Shopmobility scheme; and

RESOLVED that

the Medium Turn Financial plan 2015/16 to 2017/18 be noted.

**Overview and
Scrutiny
Committee**

Tuesday, 13th January, 2015

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.33 pm

