

additional papers 1



Executive Committee

Tue 14 Apr
2015
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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.
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- 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.
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- 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
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Welcome to today's meeting.

Guidance for the Public

Agenda Papers

The **Agenda List** at the front of the Agenda summarises the issues to be discussed and is followed by the Officers' full supporting **Reports**.

Chair

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the 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

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Infra-red devices for the hearing impaired are available on request at the meeting. Other facilities may require prior arrangement.

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Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.

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Do Not re-enter the building until told to do so.

The emergency Assembly Area is on Walter Stranz Square.



Executive

Committee

Tuesday, 14th April, 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

6. Redditch Market

(Pages 1 - 2)

Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive

To consider the enclosed report outlining initial activity to review the operation of the outdoor market in Redditch.

This pack contains an extract from the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 7th April when this matter was considered.

All Wards



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 7th April, 2015

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Jane Potter (Chair), and Councillors Carole Gandy, Alan Mason, Paul Swansborough and Pat Witherspoon

Also Present:

Councillor Andrew Brazier

Officers:

Kevin Dicks and Steve Singleton

Democratic Services Officer:

J Bayley and A Scarce

MINUTE EXTRACT

97. FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF REDDITCH MARKET - PRE-SCRUTINY

The Chair reminded Members that they had agreed to hold this extra meeting at an earlier time in order to pre-scrutinise the Future Management of Redditch Market report. She expressed her disappointment in the content of the report and commented that this was not what the Committee had been expecting. Instead, she explained that she had understood that the Committee would be given the opportunity to pre-scrutinise the consultant's report.

Officers explained that at the Portfolio Holders' Briefing it had been agreed that the consultant's report would not be considered until a later date. In the meantime rather than go out with a full procurement exercise Officers had been asked to go for a period of soft market testing. Members were assured that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be given the opportunity to pre-scrutinise the subsequent report on the future of the market, which it was

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Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 7th April, 2015

anticipated would contain more specific recommendations including the consultants' report, if Members so wished.

Members of the Committee expressed serious concerns around the decision which had been made, and suggested that this demonstrated that little regard had been shown for the role of the Overview and Scrutiny function in this decision. It was also commented that this would mean further delay to the process. Members noted that the delay was disappointing, particularly given that this meeting of the Committee had been arranged specifically to look at the consultant's report. Whilst the Committee agreed that they had no objection to the soft market testing taking place, Members concurred that it was still important for them to see the consultant's report.

Officers explained that an approach had been made by the Redditch Town Centre Partnership with a view to putting forward a proposal to take over the running of the market. If the procurement exercise, as suggested within the consultant's report, had been followed it might have precluded action in response to the partnership's suggestion. Whilst the Council wished to ensure that all the criteria within the report were met, it was important to ensure that the Council consider all options available.

It was highlighted that the areas raised within the report were those which had been brought forward by the Market Task Group over two years before. Members commented that it was imperative that this matter was brought to a satisfactory and speedy conclusion in order for all those concerned to move forward and the necessary improvements be made to the market as quickly as possible. In particular, concerns were expressed about the continuing impact of delays on existing market stall holders.

RECOMMENDED that

- a) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be allowed to see a copy of the consultant's report; and**
- b) the Executive Committee note the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's disappointment with the way in which this report had been handled and the disregard shown to the Committee in failing to permit them access to a copy of the consultant's report.**

The Meeting commenced at 4.35 pm
and closed at 5.23 pm