

additional papers 2

# Council

Mon 9 Aug  
2010  
7.00 pm

Council Chamber  
Town Hall  
Redditch



[www.redditchbc.gov.uk](http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk)

# Access to Information - Your Rights

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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.

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](http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk)

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

## **Committee Support Services**

**Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH**

**Tel: (01527) 64252 Fax: (01527) 65216**

**e.mail: (meeting contact)@redditchbc.gov.uk**

**Minicom: 595528**

# Welcome to today's meeting.

## Guidance for the Public

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### **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**

If you have any particular needs, please contact the Committee Support 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 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

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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).



# Council

Monday, 9th August, 2010

7.00 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

## AGENDA

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### Membership

Cllrs: Kath Banks (Mayor)  
Anita Clayton (Deputy Mayor)  
Peter Anderson  
Michael Braley  
Andrew Brazier  
Juliet Brunner  
Michael Chalk  
Simon Chalk  
Greg Chance  
Brandon Clayton  
Jack Cookson  
Andrew Fry  
Carole Gandy  
Adam Griffin  
Malcolm Hall  
Bill Hartnett  
Nigel Hicks  
Roger Hill  
Gay Hopkins  
Robin King  
Wanda King  
William Norton  
Jinny Pearce  
Brenda Quinney  
Mark Shurmer  
Debbie Taylor  
Derek Taylor  
Diane Thomas  
Graham Vickery

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<b>8. Leaders' Questions</b>	One question has been received in accordance with Standing Order 8A.
<b>9. Notice of Motion</b>  Chief Executive (Pages 3 - 4)	To consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor R King in accordance with Standing Order 6, concerning Value Added Tax (VAT).  (Report attached)  <b>All Wards</b>

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**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL****COUNCIL****9th August 2010**

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**QUESTION TO THE LEADER**  
**- POLICY COMMITMENTS**

The following late Question to the Leader, submitted on behalf of Cllr Mark Shurmer, has been accepted by the Mayor for consideration at this evening's meeting:

*“Bearing in mind the content of a recent Overview & Scrutiny Seminar in which the purpose of being Councillors was described as being ‘ambitious to improve services to the public’, what does the Leader envisage the impact to be, by May 2011, of her term of office this year, and where are the policy commitments to the electorate of the Conservative Party in May this year to be found?”*





**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL****COUNCIL**

9th August 2010

**NOTICE OF MOTION – VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)**

The following late Notice of Motion has been submitted by Cllr Robin King, and accepted by the Mayor for consideration at this evening's meeting.

*"A. Redditch Borough Council NOTES that:*

- 1. the increase in VAT from 17.5% to 20% announced in the Government's June Budget will fall hardest on those least able to afford it;*
- 2. the increase in VAT will lead to higher prices for goods and services; will have a disproportionate impact on pensioners and other low income groups; and will have a severe impact on businesses, charities and community groups in Redditch;*
- 3. the effect of the increase in VAT, when taken with other measures in the Budget, will be unfair to pensioners, who have not had a compensatory increase in other benefits and allowances;*
- 4. the way the VAT increase will affect pensioners and other low-income groups runs counter to the Government's Coalition Agreement statement on 20 May 2010 that it would 'ensure that fairness is at the heart of those decisions so that all those most in need are protected';*
- 5. the Institute of Fiscal Studies has stated that the VAT increase was not 'unavoidable', as the Chancellor of the Exchequer said in his budget speech; and that*

*B. the Council RESOLVES:*

*to write directly to the Chancellor of the Exchequer raising concerns about the impact of the proposed VAT increase on pensioners, other vulnerable groups and businesses in Redditch and calls on the MP to stand up for Redditch's pensioners, businesses and wider community, to voice her opposition to this unfair increase in VAT and to vote against in Parliament."*

Proposed by: Cllr Robin King

Seconded by: Cllr Bill Hartnett

