

minute book 5



Council

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Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch



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EXECUTIVE

Committee

15th December 2015

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), Councillor Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Brandon Clayton, John Fisher, Mark Shurmer, Yvonne Smith, Debbie Taylor and Pat Witherspoon

Officers:

Jayne Bough, John Godwin, Sue Hanley, Jayne Pickering and Guy Revans

Committee Officer:

Debbie Parker-Jones

54. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

56. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Withdrawn report – Leisure Services Options Short, Sharp Review

The Leader advised that this report had been withdrawn from the agenda as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had decided at their meeting on 8th December 2015 that they wanted to defer making a decision on the Review group's recommendations until Officers had completed their work. Scrutiny Members felt that it would be useful to consider all of the information together before any recommendations were made to the Executive Committee about the future delivery of leisure services.

Additional Papers

One set of Additional Papers had been circulated which contained the minutes of the special meeting of the Executive Committee held on 7th December 2015, together with extracts of the minutes of the

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8th December 2015 in relation to:

- Leisure Intervention Update (agenda item 6);
- Bereavement Services – Review of Cremation Fees and Charges and Proposed Capital Works (agenda item 8); and
- Fees and Charges Review 2016/17 (agenda item 9).

Work Programme

The following reports which were due to be considered at the meeting, or possibly considered at the meeting, had been moved to a later date:

- Purchase of Crossgates House;
- Housing Revenue Account, Rent and Capital 2016/17;
- Housing Business Case;
- Review of Pay Enhancements for Leisure Assistants;
- Matchborough Centre – Consultation; and
- Reorganisation and Change Policy.

57. MINUTES**RESOLVED that**

the minutes of the meeting of the special Executive Committee held on 7th December 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

58. THE LEISURE SERVICES OPTIONS SHORT SHARP REVIEW FINAL REPORT

As stated under Leader's Announcements, it was noted that this report had, at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's request, been withdrawn from the agenda.

RESOLVED that

the position be noted.

59. LEISURE INTERVENTION UPDATE

Members received a report which presented feedback on work undertaken by Officers to further explore how the Leisure offer within the Borough met the Strategic Purpose of 'Providing good things to see, do and visit'. This included feedback from the intervention at the Abbey Stadium and Arrow Vale and Kingsley dual use sites. Members also considered with the report the minute

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extract of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's meeting on 8th December 2015, which had been circulated as Additional Papers, in relation to the pre-scrutiny of the Leisure Intervention Update report and which had endorsed all of the report recommendations.

Officers had undertaken a great deal of work in assessing customer demand and had evidenced a significant number of benefits across the Borough as detailed in the report. A significant proportion of service users had stated that their social inclusion and general health and wellbeing benefitted from use of the services. It was noted that whilst cost analysis formed part of the information provided, this was only one element of the overall picture to be considered.

The detailed service schedules appended to the report highlighted a number of opportunities to meet customer demands and for further income generation. Officers advised that additional work was required to fully explore these areas. It was evident that the Council supported a variety of other stakeholders in the delivery of their objectives within the community, with the financial benefits to those stakeholders also requiring further investigation. Notably, the Postural Support Instruction sessions currently provided in the Community Centres represented a potential saving of £550k to the NHS by 2020. Officers stated that they wished to hold discussions with the NHS on potential up-front funding for the Authority in this regard. The additional financial implications detailed in the report were also noted.

In response to a Member question as to when Officers would have sufficient information to begin discussions on the possible options for a leisure trust to manage some or all of the Council's facilities, including the Abbey Stadium, Officers stated that whilst they would be looking to bring back a further update report to Executive in approximately March/April 2016, this would not be looking at leisure trust options. The report would instead provide further details in relation to issues such as customer demand, health and well-being and any discussions which had taken place with the Council's partners/stakeholders. Any discussion of the Leisure Services Options Short, Sharp Review group's recommendations would take place as and when the group wished to present their report to the Executive for consideration.

Members welcomed the report and thanked Officers for the detailed work which had gone into producing this. It was agreed that Officers should continue to build on this work and present a further update report to the Executive Committee in approximately March/April 2016. Only when all of the required data, measures and evidence had been obtained could Members make an informed

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decision on how current provision met the Council's strategic purposes and how leisure services in the Borough should be delivered in the future.

RESOLVED that**Officers:**

- 1) **undertake further work on identifying the health and well-being impact on the community of the provision of the Leisure offer;**
- 2) **report back on the opportunities for improvements as identified in the detailed schedules;**
- 3) **undertake a review of revenue received and any opportunities to increase revenue by assessing alternative pricing models; and**
- 4) **discuss with the Academies how the provision in the dual use sites can be better provided to support the wider community.**

60. PROVISION OF DISABLED CAR PARKING SPACES - COUNCIL-OWNED PARKING AREAS

Members received a report which sought approval of a new Disabled Car Parking Space (DCPS) Policy, together with a review to be undertaken by Officers of the current disabled parking scheme and associated temporary resource for completion of the review.

Officers explained that the disabled parking scheme was discretionary and that the new policy would help them address what could sometimes be difficult issues given the increased demand for parking spaces in recent years. It was noted that the policy, which applied to all residents of the Borough and not just Council tenants, provided clear guidelines for Officers to work to, whilst still allowing for some flexibility and consideration of all available options under the scheme.

Members felt that there should be an ongoing review of allocated spaces, with a strict requirement for spaces to be handed back to the Council when residents' circumstances were such that they were no longer eligible for these.

It was noted that the Council could only provide spaces within car parking areas that were owned by the Council, and that future discussions would take place with Worcestershire County Council

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regarding the provision of spaces where an applicant's property was only served by an adopted highway.

RESOLVED that

- 1) a review of the existing disabled parking scheme be carried out, to include the administration of this and existing spaces already marked;
- 2) a 12-month temporary resource to complete the review be agreed; and
- 3) the Disabled Car Parking Space (DCPS) Policy appended to the report be approved.

61. BEREAVEMENT SERVICES - REVIEW OF CREMATION FEES AND CHARGES AND PROPOSED CAPITAL WORKS

The Committee considered a report, for recommendation to full Council, on Cremation and burial fees and proposed capital works. Members also considered with the report the minute extract of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's meeting on 8th December 2015, which had been circulated as Additional Papers, in relation to the pre-scrutiny of this report and which had endorsed all of the report recommendations.

Officers explained the background to the report and the need for building improvements in order for the crematorium to continue to operate effectively, accommodate increased demand and to be fit for modern day needs and purpose. The most notable impact on customers would be the requirement to close the facility to allow works to take place and Officers would be looking at alternative chapel provision during this time. Members highlighted the need for Officers to fully consult with undertakers, whom they hoped would in turn give feedback on their clients' views, and for any building works to be implemented as smoothly as possible.

Members discussed the proposals for the fees previously applied to 17 year olds to be amended to start at 18 years old, for both residents and non-residents, for cremations and burials. Officers advised that during the period April to September 2015 only 12 non-resident cremations and burials had taken place. An amendment was moved and seconded to recommendation 2.2 of the report, for no charge to apply to under 18 year old residents of the Borough only, and not to non-residents. Following a vote on this the amendment fell and the substantive recommendation was carried.

RECOMMENDED that

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- 1) the cremation fees for 18 years+ are increased as follows:

	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020
Time slots	As per current fees and charges for 17+	18 years+ (FOC for under 18 as per 1.2 of report)	18 years+ (FOC for under 18 as per 1.2 of report)	18 years+ (FOC for under 18 as per 1.2 of report)	18 years+ (FOC for under 18 as per 1.2 of report)
8.30am 9.00am	£410	£440	£480	£520	£560
9.30am 10.15am	£530	£500	£540	£580	£630
11.00am onwards	£540	£580	£630	£680	£730

- 2) the fees previously applied to 17 year olds are amended to start at 18 years old for both residents and non-residents for both cremations and burials;
- 3) facility and heating improvements are approved as per the list at paragraph 4.10 of the report and the report appendices;
- 4) a sum of £200k in capital funding be added to the existing £144k making a total of £344k to enable a programme of capital works to take place in 2016; and
- 5) a proportion of the increased income from amended fees be used towards repayment of the capital borrowing costs.

62. FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW 2016/17

The Committee considered the proposed fees and charges for 2016/17 for the Council's chargeable services. Members also considered with the report the minute extract of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's meeting on 8th December 2015, which had been circulated as Additional Papers, in relation to the pre-scrutiny of this report and which had endorsed the report recommendations. This was the first time the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been able to review the report within the statutory timescale and in an updated format, which the Committee had welcomed.

It was noted that there were two distinct elements to the fees and charges; those involving increases of up to 3%, which following the

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meeting of full Council on 7th December the Executive Committee could now resolve on, and those where increases of in excess of 3% were being proposed (as detailed in paragraph 3.5 of the report), which still required full Council approval. Officers provided explanations in relation to those fees and charges that it was proposed be increased at a different rate to that approved by Council, and the justifications behind the additional increases, and responded to Member questions in this regard.

Members noted an error in the text at paragraph 3.2 of the report. This proposed that the fees and charges be increased with effect from 1st January 2016 in the circumstances quoted. However it was noted that for the higher proposed increases full Council would not be meeting until the end of January, meaning the proposed date for implementation of any agreed higher fee increases would be 1st February 2016. Officers apologised for this oversight and agreed to make clear the position when this was reported to Council.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the fees and charges detailed at paragraph 3.5 of the report and included at Appendix 1 to the report, which have a proposed increase for 2016/17 of over 3%, be approved; and**

RESOLVED that

- 2) **the fees and charges presented in Appendix 1 to the report that are increased up to 3% for 2016/17 be approved.**

63. UPDATE ON THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2015/16-2017/18

The Committee received an Officer presentation on financial planning for 2016/17 – 2018/19. This included an update on the known implications for the Council of central government's Comprehensive Spending Review and Autumn Statement which had been issued in November.

There would be a 24% reduction in local government funding over the period, with the government's aim being to eliminate the deficit by 2019/20 with a £10b surplus. More details should be forthcoming in the final Local Government Settlement, which it was anticipated would be made known by 17th December 2015.

Subject to the final detail, Officers spoke on the possible impact to the Council on:

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- Business Rates;
- Reserves and Assets;
- Capital receipts; and
- New Homes Bonus.

Heads of Service were currently working through the detail of savings, bids and pressures. Balances currently stood at £1.9m and reserves at £2m. Members queried whether any guarantees had been forthcoming at this stage as to whether the New Homes Bonus would continue not to be ringfenced. Officers commented that this appeared to be the case, so far as any guarantee could be obtained at this stage.

Officers stated that they would issue a copy of the presentation slides and a note on the financial position to all Members.

RESOLVED that**the position be noted****64. FINANCE MONITORING QUARTER 2 2015/16**

The Committee received a report which detailed the Council's final financial position for both General Fund and Revenue for the period April to September 2015 (Quarter 2 2015/16).

Officers explained that the picture was quite positive, with there currently being a fairly healthy underspend projected for the year end. There were a number of senior officer vacancies within the Housing Enabling Team, which would be looked into as part of the restructure of the service. There had been a loss of Supporting People funding and Officers across the board were currently comparing the 2016/17 budgets against the anticipated 2015/16 budgets.

In response to Member questions regarding staff vacancies that had not been recruited to and how long these posts had been vacant for, Officers explained that where Heads of Service considered vacancies to be business critical such posts were recruited to. Efficiencies were made wherever possible and services were currently in the process of being transformed, with some posts being retained for future redeployment opportunities. A Member requested a briefing note on current vacant posts within each service area and the reasons for any vacancies, which Officers agreed to provide outside of the meeting.

A query was also raised in relation to where in the Borough the Section 106 funded project in the report recommendation was

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taking place. Officers agreed to check the position with this outside of the meeting and to report back to Members on this.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the 2015/16 Capital Programme is increased by £25k to include a Section 106 funded project to improve CCTV within the local area/underpass; and**

RESOLVED that

- 2) **the current financial position for General Fund and Revenue as detailed in the report be noted.**

65. NOMINATION OF AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE - THE EAGLE PUBLIC HOUSE, EVESHAM ROAD, REDDITCH

The Committee considered a report which sought Member support to list The Eagle Public House, Evesham Road, Redditch as an Asset of Community Value.

Officers explained the listing process, financial implications for the Authority and rights of appeal of any listing decision. It was noted that under the new process introduced in November 2012 the final decision as to whether to list an asset rested with the Head of Planning and Regeneration Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration.

Members noted that Punch Partnerships and the local Ward Councillors had been consulted as part of the listing process for The Eagle Public House, and that no objections had been received in response.

RESOLVED that

the Executive Committee support the listing of The Eagle Public House, Evesham Road, Redditch as an Asset of Community Value.

66. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6th October 2015.

It was noted that there were no recommendations to consider.

RESOLVED that

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the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6th October 2015 be received and noted.

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

The Committee received, under Additional Papers, the minute extracts and recommendations of the 8th December 2015 Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Committee's pre-scrutiny of the following reports:

- Leisure Intervention Update (agenda item 6);
- Bereavement Services – Review of Cremation Fees and Charges and Proposed Capital Works (agenda item 8); and
- Fees and Charges Review 2016/17 (agenda item 9).

These were considered along with the relevant agenda items (Minute No.'s 59, 61 and 62 respectively refer).

68. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

Officers advised that the Housing Advisory Panel information detailed in the report was out of date and that a number of meetings of the Panel had taken place since March 2015, with the next Panel meeting planned for January 2016.

RESOLVED that

the report and Officer update be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 9.25 pm

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Chair



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Committee

12th January 2016

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Brandon Clayton, John Fisher, Mark Shurmer, Yvonne Smith and Debbie Taylor

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Clare Flanagan, Sue Hanley, Rachel McAndrews, Paul McLaughlin, Sam Morgan, Jayne Pickering, Amanda Singleton, Liz Tompkin and Judith Willis

Committee Officer:

Debbie Parker-Jones

69. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Greg Chance and Pat Witherspoon.

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

71. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Work Programme

The following reports, which were due to be considered at the meeting or possibly considered at the meeting, had been deferred to a later date:

- Housing Business Case;
- Review of Pay Enhancements for Leisure Assistants; and
- Independent Remuneration Panel Report and Recommendations.

Agenda Item 4 – Minutes

A typographical error in the agenda listing was noted, with the Executive Committee minutes of the 15th December 2015 meeting

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and not the 7th December meeting being the required minutes for approval. The correct minutes had however been included in the agenda pack.

72. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 15th December 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

73. CCTV CODE OF PRACTICE

Members received a report which sought adoption of a revised CCTV Code of Practice for Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council Shared Service.

Officers advised that the new Code before Members had been totally revised in order to meet legislative changes under the Protection of Freedom Act 2012, and to adopt the Surveillance Commissioner's Code of Practice. The Code also took into account changes in best practice.

In response to a Member question, Officers confirmed that they would email Members with any future minor revisions to the Code.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the CCTV Code of Practice as appended to the report be approved; and**
- 2) authority be delegated to the CCTV and Lifeline Manager to make minor changes to the Code of Practice to comply with legal requirements and advice from the Surveillance Commissioner.**

74. VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANTS PROGRAMME - FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Members considered the Notes and recommendations of the Grants Panel Meetings held on 14th and 15th December 2015 for the award of major grants to voluntary sector organisations for 2016/17. Officers highlighted an error in recommendation 2 of the Notes, the second figure of which in relation to the 'Help me to live my life independently' theme should have read £2,200 and not £2,000.

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The Panel had considered a total of 44 applications from a variety of organisations. Each application had been scored in accordance with the Council's Grants Programme requirements, with recommendations then made to either approve or reject the applications. There had been some minor underspends across three of the themes, the unallocated budgets for which it was suggested be re-advertised alongside the Stronger Communities Grant applications in January 2016.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the following grants for 2016/17 be awarded:

Organisation	Project Name	Amount
Help Me to be Financially Independent - £75K		
Bromsgrove and District Citizens Advice Bureau	Citizens Advice Redditch – Financial/Debt and Problem Solving Advice	£75,000.00
Help Me to be Financially Independent - £10K		
Jestaminute Community Theatre CIC	“Money Talks”	£5,000.00
Help Me to Live My Life Independently - £35K		
Redditch Play Council	Redditch Play Council	£35,000.00
Help Me to Live My Life Independently - £30k		
NewStarts	Skills for a New Start	£4,000.00
Compass Community and Education Group Ltd	Work Club and Employability Skills Programme	£5,820.00
Redditch Mental Health Action Group	Coaching for all	£6,000.00
Bromsgrove and Redditch Network	Volunteering and Employability	£5,978.24
Inspire Community Training CIC	Inspiring Journey	£6,000.00

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Provide Me with Good Things to Do, See and Visit - £6K		
Redditch Wheels Project	Accessible Activities	£3,000.00
REACH (Redditch East Aspiring Communities Hub) CIC	REACH Positive Activity Days Out	£2,665.00
Keep My Place Safe and Looking Good - £15K		
The Ditch Youth Project	The Ditch Youth Project	£3,000.00
Sandycroft	DV Support Group	£5,000.00
Connectar Training and Biodiversity Trust	Connectar Training Centre – trainers salary	£5,000.00
Help Me Run a Successful Voluntary Sector Business - £50K		
Touchstones Support CIC	Supporting Bereaved Children	£10,000.00
Carers Careline	Carers Telephone Support Service	£9,306.92
Where Next Association	Where Next	£10,000.00
Bromsgrove and Redditch Network	The Volunteer Centre	£9,867.10
Sandycroft	Sandycroft Support Services	£10,000.00

and

- 2) the following unallocated sums be retained and their availability be re-advertised in parallel with the Stronger Communities Grants applications in January 2016:

Theme	Unallocated sum
Help me to be financially independent	£5,000
Help me to live my life independently	£2,200
Keep my place safe and looking good	£2,000

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75. EARLY HELP COMMISSIONING - CONSULTATION

The Committee was asked to endorse comments on Worcestershire County Council's consultation on the future of Children's Centres and Early Help 0-19 services, and to approve the Council's entering into a partnership/consortium to submit a tender to deliver the new 0-19 integrated prevention services for children, young people and families, and to enter into a relevant contract should any tender be successful.

Officers explained the implications of the new 0-19 service, which would see substantial changes for early health. Commissioning would take place in all services except family support, and Connecting Families would not form part of this. Members were encouraged to complete their own questionnaires on the Children's Centre Buildings Consultation and to return these to the County Council by the 31st January 2016 deadline. Service users had been asked to complete questionnaires and so far Redditch had provided the highest number of responses across the county. The new contract was to be advertised in February, with the contract to be awarded in May and an anticipated start date for the new service of October 2016.

Members supported the proposed response to the redesign proposals and agreed that a local approach to service delivery was key to the future success of this. They felt that this should be based on either the Clinical Commissioning Group boundaries of Bromsgrove and Redditch, Wyre Forest and South Worcestershire, or that consideration could alternatively be given to a North and South delivery model. Members requested that Officers highlight the importance of the local knowledge element in a rider when submitting the Council's response.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the comments on the future of Worcestershire Children's Centres and 0-19 services, as outlined in section 3.10 of the report, be submitted to Worcestershire County Council; and**
- 2) the Council explore participation in a partnership or consortium arrangement to submit a tender, and if successful a contract be entered into for the delivery of the new 0-19 integrated prevention services for children, young people and families service.**

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76. MATCHBOROUGH CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT - CONSULTATION

Members received a report which sought approval to undertake a feasibility study into the redevelopment of the Matchborough District Centre.

It was noted that the former New Town district centres of Church Hill, Matchborough, Winyates and Woodrow had previously been identified as areas for redevelopment. Following on from the success of the Church Hill redevelopment Matchborough District Centre was the next preferred centre for redevelopment, and from a planning perspective this was an excellent opportunity to look at mixed use of the site.

Officers advised that, where possible and in the time available, tenants and shop owners of the Matchborough District Centre had been informally advised as to the position and that the Executive Committee's approval was being sought to undertake a feasibility study. Planning Officers would lead on the study and would work in conjunction with the Place Partnership on this. Ward Members and stakeholders would be consulted and the outcomes of the study would be reported back to Members, together with suggestions from Officers about the next stages of the process of possible redevelopment.

A Member requested that Officers ensure that the following were consulted:

- RSA Academy Arrow Vale;
- Matchborough First School Academy;
- Noah's Ark Nursery;
- Christ Church;
- CCTV; and
- The local Police.

A Member queried what was happening with the S106 money for leisure and when a decision would be made in this regard. Officers stated that they would come back to Members on this, but that they would not expect expenditure to be incurred which might not support any future redevelopment of the area. A request was made by some Members for Member involvement in the stages following the feasibility study, for example on either a working party or sub-committee, which would avoid the need for large numbers of matters being referred to the Executive Committee.

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RESOLVED that

a feasibility study be undertaken as to the merits of the redevelopment of the Matchborough District Centre.

77. PURCHASE OF CROSSGATES HOUSE

The Committee considered a report, for recommendation to full Council, which sought approval for Officers to enter into negotiations with Worcestershire County Council to purchase their interest in Crossgates House.

Members noted that the capital investment, which would be funded from capital from the sale of Threadneedle House, would make a revenue saving of £14,745 per annum with pay back after ten years. It was further noted that there was likely to be an increase in the rent following the rent review due in 2016.

Some Members did not support acquisition of the leasehold and raised issues in relation to staff accommodation at the Town Hall, Crossgates House and Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) following the District Council's relocation. Officers provided clarifications in this regard and confirmed that all three sites were fully used at present. Officers agreed to come back to Members on the numbers of Officers based at the BDC offices.

RECOMMENDED that

authority be delegated to the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to purchase Worcestershire County Council's leasehold interest in Crossgates House.

78. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT, RENT AND CAPITAL 2016-17

Members were presented, for recommendation to full Council, with the Initial Budget for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the proposed dwelling rents for 2016/17. Officers highlighted an error in the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2016/17 at Appendix A to the report, the 2019/20 Balances carried forward figure of which should have stated £20.415m and not £20.145m.

Officers explained the background to the report recommendations and the impact of the 1% rent reduction to be imposed by central government effective from 2016/17. Over a 30-year period the loss of rent income was estimated at £120.873m, which was almost the same as the £122.158m housing debt, and which would have a significant impact on the HRA Business Plan.

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It was proposed that Officers be instructed to explore ways of balancing the HRA in 2019/20, including rental income from new housing stock and reviewing service charges. Members proposed an additional recommendation that Officers take to Executive Committee a report setting out the available options in light of the implications on the HRA, such options to include, amongst others, further details in relation to the Council's previously successful Mortgage Rescue and Buy Back Schemes.

For transparency purposes, Officers highlighted that the indicative costs of the Housing Business Case, which it had been hoped would be referred to Executive that evening but which had been delayed to the February meeting, had been included in report before Members that evening.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the draft 2016/2017 Budget for the Housing Revenue Account attached to the report at Appendix A be approved;**
- 2) **the four year budget projections 2016/17 to 2019/20, incorporating the 1% rent reduction, be noted and that Officers be instructed to explore ways of balancing the HRA in 2019/20 including rental income from new housing stock and reviewing service charges;**
- 3) **the actual average rent decrease for 2016/2017 be 1% (as per the Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015/16);**
- 4) **the capital programme for new housing stock be increased from £0.500 million to £1.052 million in 2016/17 and a programme of £1.064m be created in 2017/18 to ensure that all capital receipts retained under the one for one replacement scheme are applied before the deadline;**
- 5) **£2.182 million be transferred to the capital reserve in 2016/17 to fund the future Capital Programme and/or repay borrowing; and**

RESOLVED that

- 6) **Officers take to Executive Committee a report setting out the available options in light of the implications on the HRA, such options to include, amongst others, further details in relation to the Council's previously successful Mortgage Rescue and Buy Back Schemes.**

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79. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2016/17

A report enabling Members to set the Council Tax Base for 2016/17 was considered. It was noted that the Executive could resolve on this matter.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for the whole and parts of the area for 2016/17, be approved; and**
- 2) **in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the figures calculated by the Redditch Borough Council as its tax base for the whole area for the year 2016/17 be 25,144.49 and for the parts of the area listed below be:**

Parish of Feckenham	365.88
Rest of Redditch	<u>24,778.61</u>
	<u>25,144.49</u>

80. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2016/17 - 2018/19

Officers provided Members with an update on the impact of the provisional local government finance settlement 2016/17 which had been published on 17th December. On the back of the initial settlement details Heads of Service were currently working through the budget pressures prior to the budget and Council Tax setting reports in February.

In relation to the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) which the authority received from central government to support services across the Borough, Officers had expected this to reduce to zero by 2019/20, as announced previously, and were considering plans to address this. However, as a result of the latest settlement Redditch would lose all of its RSG in 2018/19, and would move into a position of having to contribute funds totalling £330k back to the Government in 2019/20.

Officers illustrated the impact of the settlement on the Council and the loss of the RSG over the next 4 years compared to previous forecasts together with the impact for Redditch compared to other councils which was significantly higher for Redditch than many other councils nationally. There would be a £3m shortfall in funding compared to the original budget assumptions, and a £5m reduction had the RSG have increased by 1% inflation since 2015/16.

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Officers explained that the assumptions on the Council improving its spending power were based on an estimate of the Council Tax base growth exceeding current expectations and therefore increasing available funding to support services. The somewhat optimistic assumptions included Council Tax base increases of approximately 1% initially (which was double the current estimations), rising to 3% increase in future years. Officers felt that this was highly optimistic based on current growth across the Borough. The impact of the growth assumptions on Council Tax resulted in a further £350k shortfall to Government expectations for the Borough finances.

There were also proposals to change the New Homes Bonus Scheme. The Council currently received a 6-year payment for any property built in the Borough and the Government was looking to change this to 4 years. Additionally, there were a number of proposals to reduce New Homes Bonus (NHB) where there was no local plan, where homes had been allowed on appeal or where the growth would have occurred anyway, meaning there was no longer any certainty with this. The potential reduction of income to the Council over the 4-year period was just over £2m. The Government had given assurances that they would look at a 4-year settlement offer, which would sit around an 'efficiency statement'. There was some certainty around the use of capital receipts, although various uncertainties still remained overall. Earmarked balances were also affected.

Officers advised that the first consultation response on the proposed settlement was due by Friday 15th January, which Members would be sent a copy of, with the NHB consultation deadline being 15th March. A joint response from the six county District Leaders expressing their combined concerns was an option, with it being unclear at this stage as to whether 3-year budgets could be produced given the scale of the reductions and timescales involved. Officers stated that they would start with a 1-year budget, and that whilst they could project for 4 years this would not be a balanced budget. One of the key difficulties for Officers was the timescale between the settlement announcement and the setting of the Council Tax and budget. The Leader stated that he had written to the MP about the settlement and what were felt to be some unrealistic assumptions on which this had been based, as well as some inaccuracies with percentages quoted.

Officers would continue to work on customer demand and how this would best be met in the future and thanks was expressed to Officers overall for their work following publication of the settlement.

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RESOLVED that

the position be noted.

81. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8th December 2015.

It was noted that there were no recommendations to consider as the recommendations at Minute No.'s 52, 53 and 56, in relation to Bereavement Services Review of Cremation Fees and Charges and Proposed Capital Work – Pre-scrutiny, Fees and Charges 2016-17 – Pre-Scrutiny and Review of the Operation of Leisure Services respectively, had been dealt with by the Executive Committee at its last meeting.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8th December 2015 be received and noted.

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

There were no outstanding referrals to consider.

83. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

In addition to the details set out in the report, Members noted that the Planning Advisory Panel which was due to take place that evening had been cancelled due to lack of business and that a meeting of the Housing Advisory Panel was scheduled to take place later in the month.

RESOLVED that

the report and Officer update be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.38 pm

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Chair



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MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Andrew Fry (Chair), Councillor Yvonne Smith (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Tom Baker-Price (substituting for Councillor David Thain), Roger Bennett, Michael Chalk, Matthew Dormer, Jennifer Wheeler (substituting for Councillor Wanda King), Pat Witherspoon (substituting for Councillor Joe Baker) and Nina Wood-Ford

Officers:

Ruth Bamford, Steve Edden, Ailith Rutt and Clare Flanagan

Democratic Services Officer:

Jan Smyth

46. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Joe Baker, Wanda King and David Thain.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

48. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 11th November 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

49. UPDATE REPORTS

The Update Reports for the various Planning Applications were noted.

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Chair

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**50. APPLICATION 2014/009/FUL –
LAND AT MOONS MOAT DRIVE, CHURCH HILL,
REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE**

14 No. 3 bedroomed detached dwellings

Applicant: Mr David Baker

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Regeneration Services to GRANT Planning Permission, subject to:

- 1) The satisfactory completion of a Section 106 Planning Obligation ensuring that:
 - a) Contributions are paid to the Borough Council in respect of off-site open space, pitches and equipped play, in accordance with the Council's adopted SPD;
 - b) A financial contribution is paid to the Borough Council towards the provision of wheelie bins for the new development; and
- 2) the Conditions and Informatives as detailed on pages 6 to 11 of the main agenda report.

**51. APPLICATION 2014/256/OUT –
PHASE II BROCKHILL EAST, HEWELL ROAD,
BROCKHILL, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE**

Mixed use development of 296 dwellings, play area,
Community House and public open space, and
Outline Application for up to 3,100 square metres
of Class B1 (Business) floorspace and access

Applicants: Persimmon Homes South Midlands

Ms Kate Tait, for the Applicant, addressed the Committee under the Council's public speaking rules.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, authority be delegated to the Head of Planning

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and Regeneration Services to GRANT Planning Permission,
subject to:

- 1) The satisfactory completion of a Section 106 Planning Obligation ensuring:
 - a) a contribution is provided towards education provision including both financial and land assets relating to the provision of a new school;
 - b) arrangements are put in place for the provision and maintenance of the on-site open space, maintenance of the play equipment and contributions or other mechanisms towards off-site playing pitch provision;
 - c) 89 residential units to be provided as affordable housing and retained as such in perpetuity (insofar as Right to Buy or Acquire legislation permits);
 - d) a contribution is provided towards the provision of wheelie bins for each dwelling on the development; and
 - e) Highways matters as agreed with the County Highways Authority;
 - f) Town Centre strategy contributions;
- 2) The Conditions and Informatives detailed on pages 37 to 44 of the main agenda report, subject to:
 - a) the following Conditions being deleted:

Condition 10
Condition 11
Condition 21
Condition 22
 - b) the following amended Conditions:
 4. Prior to the commencement of each phase of development (residential, or that covered by reserved matters), details of measures to enhance biodiversity shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Where reserved matters are required, these details should be included within any landscaping

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reserved matters application. Details of the location and specification of the proposed bat and bird boxes shall be included within each submission of information. The development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: In the interests of sustainability and biodiversity and in accordance with Policies CS2, B(NE)1a and B(NE)3 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No. 3;

- 15) No part of the development hereby approved shall be occupied or brought into use until full details of a landscape management plan, to include long term design objectives, management responsibilities and maintenance schedules for all landscape areas (other than small, privately owned domestic gardens) and Nature Conservation proposals, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The landscape management plan shall cover a period of at least ten years from the commencement of occupation of the development and the approved plan shall be fully implemented and all landscaping to which the plan relates shall continue to be maintained unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To secure the effective and ongoing maintenance and management of landscape areas in the interests of visual amenity and community safety and in accordance with Policy CS.8 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No. 3;

- 16) Prior to the commencement of development, details of the play equipment, surfacing and means of enclosure of the play area shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The equipment and associated works shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details prior to the occupation of the residential development.

Reason: In the interests of having sufficient leisure facilities for the occupiers of the site and the wider area; and

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3) The satisfactory conclusion of the link road matter via either 1) or 2) of the options above.

(Officers reported on the need to make various amendments and deletions relating to the Section 106 Agreement and the Conditions set on in the main agenda, as detailed in the published Update Report, copies of which were provided to Committee Members and the public gallery prior to commencement of the meeting.

Members also noted an oral update on the need to include a further resolution (Resolution 3 above) in relation to the proposed link road to the boundary of the site to ensure that the proposed development would not prejudice future phases.)

**52. APPLICATION 2015/265/RM –
LAND AT WEIGHTS LANE, BORDLESLEY,
REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE**

Layout, appearance, scale and landscaping for the erection of 200 no. dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping, and the discharge of Conditions 5, 9, 15 and 16 of the Outline Application Reference 012/120/OUT.

Applicants: Bovis Homes Northern Region

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the conditions and informatives detailed on pages 50 to 52 of the main agenda report.

(Officers reported on acceptable amended plans that had been received from the Applicant in relation to proposals that on two of the proposed plots the house types be swapped, as detailed in the published Update Report, copies of which were provided to Committee Members and the public gallery prior to commencement of the meeting.

Members noted that the amended plan would be reflected in the list of Plans to be implemented as referenced at Condition 2 in the main agenda.)

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**53. APPLICATION 2015/297/FUL –
33 BROTHERTON AVENUE, WEBHEATH,
REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE B97 5SA**

Change of use from an out-building to a
Cattery (up to 10 cats)

Applicant: Mrs Joanne Beecham

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

Mr Peter Hill, objector
Mrs Joanne Beecham, the Applicant.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the Conditions and Informatives detailed on pages 55 and 56 of the main agenda report.

(In relation to the Applicant's proposals for storage and removal of animal waste from the business, Officers advised that this matter sat within the remit of Worcestershire Regulatory Services and was not appropriate to Condition.)

**54. APPLICATION 2015/298/RM –
LAND AT PUMPHOUSE LANE, WEBHEATH,
REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE**

Reserved Matters approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of residential development of the erection of 200 houses, garaging and associated parking, access roads and landscaping, and associated drainage and highway works (pursuant to Appeal Reference APP/Q1825/A/13/2205688 following Application Reference 2012/207/OUT.

Applicants: Barrett West Midlands

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

Mr Ian McQuaid – objector
Ms Jayne Smith – for Taylor Wimpey

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Members noted a further registered speaker had withdrawn his wish to speak to the Committee as amended plans had addressed his concerns.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to:

- 1. the Conditions and Informatives detailed on pages 63 to 65 of the main agenda report ; and**
- 2. the following additional Condition:**
 - “6) The development shall proceed using materials that are as close as possible to the colour, texture and finish of those shown on the approved materials schedule, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority prior to their use on site.**

Reason: In the interests of the visual amenity of the site and its surroundings.”

(Officers drew Members attention to the published Update Report for this item, copies of which were provided to Committee Members and the public gallery prior to commencement of the meeting.

The Committee was advised on a request from the Council’s Tree Officer relating to the long term protection of the trees on site. Members received an oral update that the information requested by the Tree Officer had been provided and that the proposed extra condition highlighted in the Update Report in respect of this matter was no longer required.

Also reported was a request from the Applicant for flexibility in regard to the materials of the external surfaces. Members noted that Officers were agreeable subject to the additional condition also set out in the Update Report and agreed at Resolution 2 above.)

55. APPLICATION 2015/326/FUL – VALLEY STADIUM, BROMSGROVE ROAD, BATCHLEY, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE B97 4RN

Creation of a new external 3G Artificial Grass Pitch;
perimeter ball-stop fencing; installation of hard standing
areas around the artificial grass pitch for pedestrians,
maintenance and emergency access; provision of

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outdoor storage for maintenance equipment; refurbishment of existing floodlights.

Applicant: Mr Chris Swan

Mr Tom Betts, the Applicant's Agent, addressed the Committee under the Council's public speaking rules.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Site and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the Conditions and Informative detailed on pages 71 to 72 of the main agenda report.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.30 pm

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CHAIR