

minute book 2



Council

Mon 26 September
2016
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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CONTENTS

8. Executive Committee (Pages 1 - 8)
9. Regulatory Committees (Pages 9 - 32)

To formally receive the minutes of the following meetings of the Council's Regulatory Committees:

- a) Planning committee 13th July 2016
- b) Licensing committee 18th July
- c) Planning committee 10th August



Executive

Committee

Tuesday, 13 September 2016

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:

Kevin Dicks, Clare Flanagan, Mark Hanwell, Sam Morgan and Judith Willis

Committee Services Officer:

Debbie Parker-Jones

21. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Work Programme

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

- Housing Business Case; and
- Economic Priorities for Redditch – Annual Report.

The following items had been removed from the Work Programme until further notice:

- Applying Article 4 directions to the Council's schedule of locally listed buildings: and
- Health and Safety Policies.

.....
Chair

Efficiency Plan 2016/17 – Agenda Item 9

The Leader advised that this report had been pre-scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee the previous evening, and that there were no recommendations or written comments forthcoming from O&S for the Executive Committee's consideration.

24. MINUTES**RESOLVED that**

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 12th July 2016 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5th July 2016.

It was noted that there were no recommendations to consider.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5th July 2016 be received and noted.

26. VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANT FUNDING 2017-18

The Committee considered a report on the funding split and themes for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) grants process for 2017/18. The report also sought approval for the proposed £75,000 Investing Grant for financial/debt support and problem solving advice to be awarded via a 3 year contract, and for any underspend in grants at the end of any year be put back into balances. The overall budget of £241k for the grants process remained the same as for 2016/17, £4k of which would facilitate the delivery of training to the VCS and external funding workshops/events. The proposed funding split and themes also remained the same.

Officers explained the rationale behind the proposed 3 year Investing Grant contract. If approved, the contract would be procured in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, against a detailed contract specification, and in accordance with the Council's policy for funding VCS organisations using the Shopping, Investing and Giving Framework. A suggestion that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee might consider the proposal for a 3 year contract was not supported by the majority of Members. However,

whilst the Grants Panel would no longer be involved in the process for this particular grant, Members were happy to receive any comments from the Panel on this.

Officers responded to Members' questions and confirmed that the vacant Voluntary Sector Grants Officer post was currently under review, which Officers hoped to be in a position to update Members on within the next month. An apprenticeship position was also due to be recruited to.

Members agreed that, as far as possible, every effort would be made for all monies to be allocated each year, with any underspends to be put back into balances to be kept to a minimum. A Member queried the levels of grant underspends over the preceding 2 years, which Officers agreed to look into and circulate details of after the meeting.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the themes and percentages of funding be allocated for the 2017/18 voluntary and community sector grants process as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;**
- 2) the £75,000 Investing Grant be allocated for financial/debt support and problem solving advice and be awarded via a 3 year contract; and**
- 3) any underspend in the grants at the end of any year be put back into balances.**

27. STREET NAMING REQUEST

Members considered a report which sought approval, as an exception to the Council's adopted Street Naming and Numbering Policy, to allow the currently un-named approach road from Bromsgrove Road to the Valley Stadium to be named "Sallie Swan Street". Mrs Swan was Vice-Chairman of Redditch United Football Club until her death in April 2016 and was married Mr Chris Swan, Club Chairman.

It was noted that whilst naming the access road would change the street address of the Valley Stadium, no other addresses would be affected by the addition. Any postcode changes would be at the discretion of the Royal Mail. It was a requirement under public law that policies were not rigidly applied and that the authority must be prepared to consider whether a particular set of circumstances merited an exception to current policy. Whilst best practice was to wait 3-5 years after the death of an individual before memorialising them with a street name, Members agreed that this risk was

mitigated as Mrs Swan's family had expressed support for the proposal and had given their consent for the street to be named after her. A separate instance, agreed under a former administration, of naming a street after a living person was also noted.

Members fully endorsed the proposal in light of Mrs Swan's work for the town.

RESOLVED that

an exception to the Council's adopted policy on Street Naming and Numbering be agreed, to allow the naming of a street "Sallie Swan Street", after a person not currently on the list of approved names.

28. ICT INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCE

The Committee considered a report which sought approval for the outsourcing of a small part of the ICT Team. The request was being made in light of significant ongoing staff recruitment and retention difficulties within the Infrastructure section of ICT; a small specialised technical area which performed a key role in maintaining day to day delivery of the Council's ICT service.

Officers explained the difficulties in this regard and reiterated that, notwithstanding this request, the overall organisational approach remained that of sharing internal resource wherever possible. The proposal affected two posts, one of which was currently vacant.

The current cost to Redditch of providing the service was £34,093 and it was estimated that the costs for delivering this part of the service externally would be approximately £30,000 in the first year, with larger savings estimated for any additional years. If Members approved the proposal a procurement process would be undertaken and if the return on this represented value for money the outsourcing would proceed. It was noted that approval was also required from Bromsgrove District Council in order for any outsourcing to proceed.

A Member queried what would normally happen when the remaining member of staff within the Infrastructure Team was either off work due to illness or on holiday leave. Officers confirmed that in such circumstances the work would be outsourced. A Member queried the outsourcing costs for this over the preceding 2 years, which Officers agreed to look into and report back to Members on.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the proposal for the functions provided by the ICT infrastructure roles to be outsourced to an external provider be approved;
- 2) authority be delegated to the Head of Transformation and Organisational Development to undertake a tendering process to identify a suitable supplier to take on the ICT infrastructure functions; and
- 3) authority be delegated to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services to finalise and enter into a suitable legal agreement with the supplier identified under recommendation 2) above.

29. EFFICIENCY PLAN 2016/17 - 2019/20

Members were presented with the Council's Efficiency Plan 2016/17 – 2019/20 which, if approved, would be submitted to Central Government to enable a 4 year financial settlement to be secured for the authority. As Government's response following the New Homes Bonus (NHB) consultation was still awaited, NHB funding would not form part of the 4 year settlement. It was noted that there had been no specific guidance from Government on the format or detail required for the Plan, however it was anticipated that the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and Council Plan would form the basis of this.

As confirmed under Leader Announcements earlier in the agenda, the Efficiency Plan had been pre-scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee the previous evening and there were no recommendations or comments forthcoming from O&S for the Executive Committee's consideration.

The Plan confirmed that the Council did not accept the methodology behind the £330k "negative grant" that would be paid back to Government in 2019/20, and that there was an expectation this would be offset by financial benefits associated with the localisation of Business Rates. Notwithstanding the uncertainties, Officers were recommending the request for a 4 year funding arrangement to enable some levels of stability in the financial projections, with it being anticipated that cuts to funding could be more severe should the Council not support the Government's offer.

Key themes detailed in the report had been identified to enable Officers to manage the shortfalls in funding. Heads of Service had given their best estimates on the levels of additional income and savings they felt could be made over the four years in order to

address the budget pressures. More detailed delivery plans were currently being drawn up as part of the review of the Medium Term Financial Plan, details of which would be brought to Members later in the year.

Officers responded to Members' questions on future savings and the Council's continuing programme of driving out waste through transformation and continuous improvement via its systems thinking approach. Significant challenges lay ahead in light of ongoing budgetary constraints and the Council needed to ensure that it was as efficient as possible before it looked at any front-line cuts. Assessing the value for money of services provided and demonstrating where resources could be aligned were key factors in addressing how to manage funding shortfalls, with all options for service delivery needing to be looked at.

RECOMMENDED that

the Efficiency Plan 2016/17 – 2019/20, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved for submission to Central Government to enable a 4 year financial settlement to be secured.

30. REVENUE MONITORING APRIL - JUNE 2016 (QUARTER 1)

The Committee received a report which detailed the Council's final financial position for the General Fund Revenue, Capital and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the period April to June 2016 (Quarter 1 2016/17). Further to a previous Member request, Officers also circulated a list of current vacant posts across Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils, which included relevant recruitment updates.

The revenue and capital underspends of £61k and £234k respectively were noted. This was the first time the HRA figures had been included in the finance monitoring report and this information would continue to appear in future reports.

Officers responded to Members' questions and agreed to provide further details to Members outside of the meeting on:

- the Economic Development overspend;
- salaries and on-costs for current vacant posts;
- timescales for reviews of and/or recruitment to vacant posts; and
- clarification on the £45k Repairs and Maintenance underspend in light of the additional costs involved to the Council with the gas safety inspections.

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Committee**Tuesday, 13 September 2016

RESOLVED that**the current financial positions for the quarter April to June 2016, as detailed in the report, be noted.****31. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS ETC.**

There were no outstanding referrals to consider.

32. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

It was noted that the meeting of the Planning Advisory Panel (PAP) scheduled for that evening had been cancelled as the Local Plan Modifications were currently out for consultation, with the next PAP meeting due to take place on 1st November 2016.

RESOLVED that**the report be noted.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.20 pm

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Chair



Planning Committee

13th July 2016

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Andrew Fry (Chair), Councillor Yvonne Smith (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Tom Baker-Price, Michael Chalk, Matthew Dormer, Gareth Prosser, Jennifer Wheeler and Nina Wood-Ford

Officers:

Steve Edden, Claire Gilbert, Amar Hussain, Helena Plant and Sharron Williams

Democratic Services Officer:

Jan Smyth

6. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Roger Bennett and Wanda King. Councillor Tom Baker-Price was confirmed as Councillor Bennett's substitute for the meeting.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

8. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

9. UPDATE REPORTS

The published Update Reports for the various Planning Applications were noted.

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Chair

Planning Committee

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10. **APPLICATION 2015/143/FUL –
ASHLEIGH WORKS, 24 BROMSGROVE ROAD, BATCHLEY,
REDDITCH B97 4QY**

Conversion of Ashleigh Works to 10 no. apartments

Applicant: Mrs Vivienne Wilkinson

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 completion of a satisfactory Section 106 Planning Obligation ensuring that:**
 - a) **contributions are paid to the County Council in respect to localised improvements to Cycle Route 5;**
 - 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 set out on pages 8 to 10 of the main agenda report.**

11. **APPLICATION 2015/343/OUT –
CHURCH HILL MEDICAL CENTRE, TANHOUSE LANE,
CHURCH HILL, REDDITCH B98 9AA**

Demolition of former Medical Centre and re-development to accommodate up to 16 residential units.

Applicant: Dr F Ahmad, Dr J Cochrane and Dr J Hakeem

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 to ensure the following provision:**

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- a) a financial contribution for the provision of affordable housing in the locality;
- b) a financial contribution for the improvements / signage for the nearby cycle route;
- c) a financial contribution for the provision of enhancements to the Town Centre;
- d) a financial contribution for the provision of waste management;
- e) a financial contribution for open space provision;
- f) a financial contribution for playing pitch provision;
- g) a financial contribution for children's play provision;

and

- 2) the Conditions and Informatives stated on pages 19 to 23 of the main agenda report; with Condition 11 to read as follows:

“11. No development shall take place until full details of an ecological mitigation and enhancement scheme has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. These details shall include measures recommended in the Extended Phase 1 Survey and Ecological Constraints Assessment 1st July 2016, and measures recommended in a bat survey that is required to be carried out at the appropriate time of the year and before the submission of a reserved matters application / detailed application. The approved scheme shall be fully implemented prior to the first occupation of the development.

Reason: In the interests of ecology in the local area and in accordance with Policy B(NE).3 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No. 3 and paragraphs 9 and 109 of the National Planning Policy Framework. “

(Officers reported on negotiations that had taken place with the Applicant, subsequent to the publication of the Agenda, in regard to Section 106 matters, specifically relating to proposals for affordable housing provision and the views of the Council's Housing Strategy Officers, and an amendment to Condition 11, all as detailed in the published Update Report, copies of which were provided to

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Committee Members and the public gallery prior to commencement of the meeting.)

**12. APPLICATION 2016/090/FUL -
LAND REAR OF CHACELEY COURT, MASON ROAD,
HEADLESS CROSS, REDDITCH**

Demolition of existing garage block and construction of a single storey 3 bedroom dwelling with pitched roof with ancillary parking, plus four extra car parking spaces for the use of the existing flats

Applicant: Ms Maria Pardoe

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the Conditions and Informatives set out on pages 29 to 30 of the main agenda report.

**13. APPLICATION 2016/134/FUL -
12 PARK WALK, KINGFISHER SHOPPING CENTRE,
TOWN CENTRE, REDDITCH B97 4HD**

Change of use from a Class A1 use to a mixed Class A1/A3 use (Coffee Shop) and the installation of a new shop front.

Applicant: Coffee #1 Limited

Mr Ken Williams, on behalf of 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, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the Conditions set out on page 35 of the main agenda report.

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14. **APPLICATION 2016/140/FUL –
DAWSON TYRE SERVICES, 4A IMEX SPACES BUSINESS
CENTRE, OXLEASOW ROAD, EAST MOONS MOAT,
REDDITCH, B98 ORE**

Change of Use to a Health and Well-being Training
and Performance Centre (D2 Use)

Applicant: Mr Duncan Davis

Mr Duncan Davis, 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, Planning Permission be REFUSED, for the reasons set out on page 45 of the main agenda report.

(Officers reported a further representation received objecting to the Application, 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.)

15. **APPLICATION 2016/141/COU –
8 - 10 UNICORN HILL, TOWN CENTRE, REDDITCH B97 4QR**

Change of use of the first and second floors from Offices (A2)
to Assembly and Leisure (D2) to facilitate escape games

Applicant: Mr Craig Dixon

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the Conditions and Informative set out on page 51 of the main agenda report.

(Following the conclusion of the above matter, Councillor Baker-Price withdrew from the meeting and was not present for the remainder of the meeting.)

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16. **APPLICATION 2016/145/FUL –
LAND TO THE REAR OF NO. 4 UPPER CROSSGATE ROAD,
PARK FARM NORTH, REDDITCH**

Change of use to A5 (Hot Food Takeaway) and the erection
of a static catering unit with hard standing and security fencing.

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Gary Webster

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be **GRANTED**, subject to the Conditions and Informative set out on pages 59 to 60 of the main agenda report.

17. **APPLICATION 2016/173/FUL –
LAND OFF DIXON CLOSE, ENFIELD, REDDITCH**

Development of 44 no. dwellings – a mix of 2, 3, 4 bedroom
houses,
2 bedroom apartments and 2 bedroom bungalow.

Applicant: Mr Nick Laight (Central and Country Developments Ltd)

Mr K Barnsley, objector, 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 and Regeneration Services to **GRANT** Planning Permission, subject to:

- 1) **The satisfactory completion of a Section 106 Planning Obligation to ensure 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) **Contributions are paid to the Borough Council towards the provision of wheelie bins for the new development;**

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-
- c) **Contributions are paid to the County Council towards County Education Infrastructure in accordance with the Council's adopted SPD;**
 - d) **13 units on the site are restricted to affordable housing in perpetuity or a commuted sum towards the provision of affordable housing within the Borough of Redditch be paid to the Council;**
- 2) **The Conditions and Informative set out on pages 69 74 of the main agenda report; and**
 - 3) **The following additional informatives:**
 - “7. **The Applicant is advised to consider the provision of appropriate cabling and an outside electrical socket for each property, to enable ease of installation of an electric vehicle charging point (houses with dedicated parking). The charging point should be operational prior to first occupation of the development and should comply with BS7671. The socket should comply with BS1363 and must be provided with a locking weatherproof cover if located externally to the building.**
 - 8. **The Applicant is advised to provide secure cycle parking facilities in accordance with Worcestershire County Council LTP3 Policy and AQAP Measure 5.3.7. Full details of the location, type of rack, spacing, numbers, method of installation and access to cycle parking should be incorporated within the development of this site.”**

(Officers reported on a Consultee response received from Worcestershire Regulatory Service's Air Quality Team and a request from them for two additional informatives to be included. Clarification was also provided by Officers in regard to the location of the proposed emergency access point, all 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.)

Planning Committee

13th July 2016

18. **APPLICATION 2016/183/FUL –
VALLEY STADIUM, BROMSGROVE ROAD, BATCHLEY,
REDDITCH B97 4RN**

New Kitchen and Food Kiosk

Applicant: Mr Chris Swan

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, following the expiry of the weekly list on the 18th July 2016, assuming that no additional material considerations had been received, and subject to the Conditions set out on page 79 of the main agenda report.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.16 pm

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CHAIR



Licensing Committee

Monday, 18 July 2016

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Andrew Fry (Vice-Chair), and Councillors Roger Bennett, Natalie Brookes, Pattie Hill, Gay Hopkins, Gareth Prosser, Antonia Pulsford, Rachael Smith and Jennifer Wheeler

Observing: Three members from Redditch Taxi Association

Officers:

Vanessa Brown, Dave Etheridge and Jess Bayley

Committee Services Officer:

Pauline Ross

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Pat Witherspoon and Anita Clayton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 7th March 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chair.

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Chair

4. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - IMPROVING DISABLED PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO REDDITCH TAXI FLEET TASK GROUP

Members received a presentation from Councillor Gay Hopkins, Chair, Improving Access for People with Disabilities to Redditch Taxi Fleets, Short, Sharp Review, Task Group.

Councillor Gay Hopkins briefly informed Members that the proposal for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been proposed by Councillor Tom Baker-Price, following a distressing case involving a lady with multiple disabilities who had struggled to book a taxi to transport her home from a local supermarket in November 2015. This had thrown up several issues: -

- Overcharging of wheelchair passengers.
- Pre-booking of wheelchair accessible vehicles.
- The availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles.
- Who should the lady have complained to?

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had accepted the proposal form and in order to ensure that the task group's proposals could influence local policies and working practices as soon as possible, it was agreed that a short sharp review would be undertaken.

Therefore a short sharp review was carried out over a period of six weeks.

During her presentation, Councillor Gay Hopkins briefly explained the circumstances with regard to the difficulties the disabled lady had experienced when trying to arrange suitable transport to take her home. Councillor Gay Hopkins also drew Member's attention to the Equality Act 2010.

There were approximately 400 licensed taxis in Redditch, with only 23 of those vehicles being wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs). Councillor Gay Hopkins stated that if more WAVs were available in the Borough it could help with some of the issues experienced by wheelchair users, but it should be noted that the task group had been unable to determine the current demand for WAVs in the Borough.

The task group consulted with service users and local community groups who supported elderly and disabled residents. Task group members were disappointed as only four responses were received from local residents and three responses from local community groups. The task group, however, were aware that due to the limited timescale of the short sharp review process this may have

restricted the level of feedback received. The task group invited all of the taxi operators in the Borough to send a representative to a meeting of the task group to discuss the services provided to passengers with disabilities. Members were once more disappointed, as only one taxi operator out of seventeen operators had attended the meeting. This operator stated that he rarely received requests for a WAV from passengers. On the rare occasion that he received a request for a WAV he referred those customers to another operator with WAVs.

Councillor Gay Hopkins continued and informed Members that a new WAV could cost anything from £12,000 to £45,000. The task group had been advised that a standard second hand saloon vehicle could be purchased for between £6,000 and £8,000. It would be unreasonable to expect the taxi trade to address all of the issues and concerns raised during the task group's short sharp review.

Councillor Gay Hopkins highlighted that nationally Redditch Borough Council had led the way, as licensed drivers were required to undertake disability awareness training before commencing work as a taxi driver in the Borough. The task group however were concerned that not all taxi drivers remembered or applied their disability awareness training. The feedback received from Worcestershire Regulatory Services indicated that they did not receive a lot of complaints from disabled passengers. Task group members on considering this, wondered if it was a case of incidents not being reported, therefore incidents were actually unreported as passengers may not be fully aware of whom to report any incidents or concerns to.

The presentation also detailed the Recommendations from the task group and Councillor Gay Hopkins briefly highlighted the findings of the task group with regard to the reasons behind the Recommendations.

Further discussion took place with Members in strong agreement, that the vast majority of licensed drivers in the Borough were a credit to the Borough, the Task Group Report, had however, highlighted a need for the concerns of the travelling public to be addressed with regard to the minority of licensed drivers who failed to comply with the licensing requirements placed upon them or adhere to the disability training awareness undertaken.

Members briefly discussed Recommendation 1.2, as detailed in the task group report, with regard to drivers displaying stickers in their vehicles that provided information about how to report complaints. Councillor Jennifer Wheeler commented that the wording concentrated on the negative side, as it only referred to 'complaints'

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being reported and that the wording should include positive feedback also. Therefore it was agreed that the wording be amended to include the reporting of any 'complaints' and 'compliments'.

Councillor Gay Hopkins drew Member's attention to the flipchart and informed Members that, as detailed at Recommendation 2.2, the lists referred to and displayed on Brighton and Hove City Council and Eden District Council websites; with regard to detailed information on licensed operators in their areas who operated WAVs were available to view on the flipchart.

Councillor Roger Bennett stated that he applauded anything that would improve the taxi service within the Borough, he would however highlight that not only are the taxi trade and Council responsible for addressing any concerns raised, but that passengers themselves should also ensure they took responsibility when making travel arrangements.

RESOLVED that, the Recommendations of the Task Group, as detailed in the report and subject to the amendments, as detailed in the preamble above, be agreed. Subject to further consultation, where appropriate, to be carried out by Worcestershire Regulatory Services with the relevant consultees.

- (a) that applications for new hackney carriages to be made for vehicles that are less than six years old, meet European M1 safety standards and have facilities for carrying a disabled person in a wheelchair within the vehicle. (*This relates to the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licensing Policy only*);**
- (b) that drivers display stickers in their vehicles that provide information about how to report compliments and complaints;**
- (c) that the Driver Licence Policy – Application for a Hackney Carriage and / or Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence – should be amended to require that refresher training should be provided on driving standards and disability awareness to taxi drivers every three years;**
- (d) that a media campaign be published to guide disabled people and taxi drivers when travelling by taxi about their rights and responsibilities;**

- (e) that **Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) publish a list of drivers who currently operate licensed wheelchair accessible vehicles on the WRS and Redditch Borough Council websites in a similar format to Brighton and Hove City Council and Eden District Council;**
- (f) that **WRS undertake a review of the conditions attached to taxi operators' licences; and**
- (g) that **the Licensing Committee reviews the effectiveness of the disability awareness training provided to taxi drivers.**

5. PENALTY POINTS SCHEME FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS - CONSULTATION RESULTS

Following on from the Licensing Committee meeting held on 7th March 2016, where Members considered and approved for the purpose of consultation, the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Penalty Point Scheme. Members received a report on the responses received to the consultation and to consider deferring the introduction of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Penalty Point Scheme, following the responses received.

The Senior Practitioner (Licensing), Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS), reminded Members that during the Licensing Committee meeting held on 7th March 2016; Members had agreed and approved, for the purpose of consultation, the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Penalty Point Scheme.

A large number of responses to the consultation were received, with the vast majority of responses received from licensed drivers. 95% of those who had responded had opposed to the introduction of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Penalty Point Scheme. The comments received from the taxi trade highlighted that they felt that the scheme was not a fair scheme; and as such there was no requirement for such a scheme. They were keen as a group to self-regulate and also felt that the current position to deal with complaints or non-compliance in respect of licensed drivers was thought to be adequate. It was suggested that the scheme be deferred in order for the newly formed Redditch Taxi Association to try and prove that self-regulation could improve matters.

The Senior Practitioner (Licensing), WRS, explained to the Committee that officers believed that the responses received which opposed to the introduction of the scheme was due to a fundamental misunderstanding of the concept of the scheme and

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how it would be operated. The intention was not to create new rules and regulations, but to put a mechanism in place that ensured compliance with existing licensing requirements without the need for formal legal proceedings, which were far more costly.

The Senior Practitioner (Licensing) WRS, had met with three members of the newly formed Redditch Taxi Association. The meeting had highlighted that a further consultation exercise was required with the taxi trade with regards to the scheme in order to provide further details. This would enable licensed drivers to see how the scheme would work if implemented.

It was recognised that the majority of licensed drivers complied with the requirements placed upon them. Therefore the majority of licensed drivers should not be alarmed by the introduction of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Penalty Point Scheme. The intention of the scheme was to help identify licensed drivers who persistently failed to comply with the licensing requirements and therefore be accountable for their actions.

Further discussion followed on how self-regulation would work and be monitored by the taxi trade. Members were keen to know the basis of the self-regulation and what rules would be applied and adopted. Members had agreed, for the purposes of consultation, the draft scheme which had set out the requirements as agreed by the Licensing Committee, therefore the taxi trade would need to be clear on what they intended to monitor and how they would address any non-compliances and complaints.

In response the Senior Practitioner (Licensing), WRS, explained that there needed to be a balance. Officers could provide the taxi trade with information on the main non-compliances reported to them, Redditch Taxi Association could then reiterate the non-compliances to their drivers and monitor any future non-compliance and complaints.

In response to further questions from Members, the Senior Practitioner (Licensing), WRS, informed the Committee that self-regulation was always the best way to deal with any issues or concerns, but clear measures needed to be identified and monitored in order to evidence any improvement with non-compliances and complaints received and reported.

Members asked for it to be noted that licensed drivers were ambassadors for the Borough and that those drivers who complied were important to the community. Members were in agreement that only a small number of repeat offenders failed to comply with the requirements placed upon them, but there was still a need to

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ensure that any non-compliance or complaint was addressed and dealt with accordingly.

Members agreed that the Redditch Taxi Association should be given a period of six months to monitor any non-compliances and complaints. Officers from WRS would then work with the Redditch Taxi Association to monitor any non-compliances and complaints. It was further agreed that a future report on the outcome of the self-regulatory period be presented to the Licensing Committee meeting scheduled for 6th March 2017.

The Chair, thanked the three members from the Redditch Taxi Association for attending and observing the Licensing Committee meeting. The Chair was extremely pleased that as a result of the Licensing Committee, Taxi Forums held on 18th January 2016, that the Redditch Taxi Association had been reformed.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the implementation of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Penalty Point Scheme, be deferred to allow further meetings and discussions with officers from Worcestershire Regulatory Services and representatives of the newly formed Redditch Taxi Association (RTA), in order to explain in more detail the aims of the scheme and how it would operate in practise; and**
- (b) that a further report, detailing the findings from officers at Worcestershire Regulatory Services, to establish, as detailed in the preamble above; the monitoring of the self-regulating scheme run by Redditch Taxi Association (RTA) with regard to complaints and non-compliance. The report to include detailed six monthly comparisons on the RTA self-regulating scheme to be presented to the Licensing Committee meeting on 6th March 2017.**

6. LICENSING ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered the Licensing Annual Report 2015/2016 which provided an overall view of the activities, under the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005 and other aspects of Licensing, and to inform the Committee on any issues anticipated in the ensuing year.

The Senior Practitioner (Licensing), Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) introduced the report and in doing so informed the Committee that during 2015/2016 the Council's Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 was reviewed, with the

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revised Statement of Principles was published with effect from 31st January 2016.

Also during 2015/2016 the Council had consulted on and adopted its first comprehensive policy on the licensing of Sex Establishments.

The Licensing Act 2003 transferred the liquor licensing functions from the Magistrate's Court to the Local Authority and consolidated these activities with entertainment licensing legislation, the provision of late night refreshments, cinemas and theatres.

The report also detailed the number of new licences issued and granted by Redditch Borough Council in 2015/2016. There had been an increase of approximately 8% in the number of driver licences issued. Whilst the number of licensed hackney carriages had fallen slightly, there had been an increase of approximately 20% in the number of vehicles licensed to be used as private hire vehicles.

The Senior Practitioner (Licensing), WRS, reminded Members of the two taxi forums held on 18th January 2016 for hackney carriage and private hire licensed holders. The taxi forum was well received by the taxi trade and had motivated the licensed drivers to re-establish the Redditch Taxi Association. The Senior Practitioner (Licensing), WRS, hoped that WRS officers and Redditch Borough Council would facilitate any future meetings of the newly formed Redditch Taxi Association. A further taxi forum for hackney carriage and private hire licensed holders was due to be organised in August 2016.

In October 2013 the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 came into force within the Borough. The number of licenses issued had remained the same as for 2014/2015. The Licensing Team were responsible for enforcing the legislation in partnership with the police and environment agency. Two multi-agency operations in the North Worcestershire area were carried out during 2015/2016. The operations had also tried to identify any unlicensed scrap metal dealers operating in the area.

Members thanked the Senior Practitioner (Licensing), WRS for his comprehensive report.

RESOLVED that

that the Licensing Annual Report 2015/2016, as presented, be noted.

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7. LICENSING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/2017

The Committee considered the Licensing Committee Work Programme for the remainder of the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that

the Licensing Committee Work Programme 2016/17 be updated as discussed and agreed during the course of the meeting.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.06 pm



Planning Committee

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MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Andrew Fry (Chair), Councillor Nina Wood-Ford (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Tom Baker-Price, Roger Bennett, David Bush, Brandon Clayton, Yvonne Smith and Pat Witherspoon

Officers:

Ruth Bamford, Sarah Hazlewood, Steve Hawley (Worcestershire Highways Authority), Amar Hussain, Helena Plant and Sarah Willetts

Democratic Services Officer:

Jan Smyth

19. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mike Chalk, Matthew Dormer, Gareth Prosser and Jennifer Wheeler. Councillors Brandon Clayton, David Bush, Tom Baker-Price and Pat Witherspoon were confirmed as Councillors' Chalk, Dormer, Prosser and Wheeler's substitutes respectively.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor David Bush declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Agenda Item 6 (Planning Application 2016/131/OUT – Land at Church Road, Webheath, Redditch) as detailed at Minute 24 below.

21. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th July 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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Chair

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22. UPDATE REPORTS

The published Update Reports for the various Planning Applications were noted.

23. APPLICATION 2015/368/S73 - ASDA STORE, JINNAH ROAD, SMALLWOOD, REDDITCH B98 7ER

Revision of Condition 7 of Planning Permission 2014/036/FUL to allow 0600 – 2200 opening hours Monday to Saturday with Sundays, Bank and Public Holiday hours of opening to remain the same

Applicant: Asda

The following people addressed the Committee under the Council's Public Speaking rules:

Ms Paula Harvey – objector
County Councillor Graham Vickery – objector
Councillor Greg Chance – Ward Member
Mr Philip Bartram – for the Applicant

RESOLVED that

a decision on the matter be deferred to allow for further discussions to take place with the Applicants in regard to issues raised during consideration of the application, including matters relating to signage lighting which Members considered were linked to the proposed revised opening hours.

24. APPLICATION 2016/131/OUT - LAND AT CHURCH ROAD, WEBHEATH, REDDITCH

Outline Planning Application for up to 80 residential units

Applicant: Mr John Williams

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

Mr David Rose – objector
Mr Andrew Warby – objector
County Councillor Graham Vickery – objector
Councillor David Bush – Ward Member
Mr John Williams - Applicant

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 Outline Planning Permission, subject to:

- 1) The satisfactory completion of a Section 106 Planning Obligation ensuring:
 - provision of affordable housing on site
 - a financial contribution for mitigating the impact of the development on the highway network
 - a financial contribution for the provision of enhancements to the Town Centre;
 - a financial contribution for the provision of waste management;
 - a financial contribution for open space provision;
 - a financial contribution for playing pitch provision;
 - a financial contribution for children's play provision;
 - a financial contribution towards education facilities;**
- 2) the receipt of a satisfactory reptile survey confirming the presence / absence of reptiles on the site and to attach recommended conditions relating to protected species throughout the site; and**
- 3) the Conditions and Informatives as detailed on pages 27 to 33 of the main agenda report.**

(In terms of Resolution 2 above, Members noted the latest results to date in relation to the reptile survey being undertaken, 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.)

(Prior to consideration of this item, Councillor David Bush declared an Other Disclosable interest in that he would be withdrawing to the Public Gallery to address the Committee as Ward Member under the Council's public speaking rules, following the conclusion of which, he would be withdrawing from the meeting for the Committee's debate. Councillor Bush was therefore not present nor participated in the Committee's discussion on the matter.)

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25. APPLICATION 2016/133/FUL - VAUNS OAKS, 13 ICKNIELD STREET, CHURCH HILL, REDDITCH B98 9AD

Demolition of existing bungalow and the erection of 4 no. dwellings and construction of 2 no. new vehicular accesses to Icknield Street

Applicant: Mr Peter Yates

For the reasons detailed in the published Update Report, copies of which were provided to Committee Members and the public gallery prior to commencement of the meeting, this item of business had been withdrawn from the Agenda by Officers and was not discussed.

26. CONSULTATION ON A PLANNING APPLICATION 2016/230/CPO (COUNTY MATTER) - LAND OFF COOKRIDGE CLOSE, BROCKHILL, REDDITCH

The Committee considered a consultation report which set out proposals by the County Council for the development of a new 2 form entry First School on land off Cookridge Close, Brockhill, Redditch. The proposed development will replace the former Holyoakes Field First School currently located in Bridge Street. The proposal has been submitted to the County Council's Planning Committee for determination.

The views of the Committee on the proposed development were sought for submission to Worcestershire County Council's Planning Committee for their consideration in the determining of the Planning Application.

Officers highlighted the additional information set out in the published Update Report, copies of which were provided to Committee Members and the public gallery prior to commencement of the meeting. Further clarification was also provided on various matters, primarily relating to: the school's proposed location; its design and appearance; open space provision; BREEAM standards; drainage matters; and proposals for dropping off / picking up children and staff car parking.

RESOLVED that the following matters be included in the Officer's consultation response report on the proposed development:

"Worcestershire County Council give due regard to the following views of Redditch Borough Council's Planning Committee when considering the application:

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- a) the Committee considered the location, design and appearance of the proposed development to be acceptable;
- b) the Committee considered that the proposed development should be capable of expansion to facilitate potential future increases in intake to meet the demand of the area's housing growth; and
- c) the Committee considered that the County Council's proposals should include parent dropping off/picking up facilities to mitigate against likely traffic issues in the surrounding residential areas at peak times.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 9.20 pm

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CHAIR

