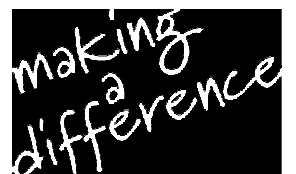


additional papers 2

Council

Mon 28th March
2011
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

Access to Information - Your Rights

The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 widened the rights of press and public to attend Local Authority meetings and to see certain documents. Recently the Freedom of Information Act 2000, has further broadened these rights, and limited exemptions under the 1985 Act.

Your main rights are set out below:-

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

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

**Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: (01527) 64252 (Extn. 3269) Fax: (01527) 65216
e.mail: ivor.westmore@redditchbc.gov.uk Minicom: 595528**

Welcome to today's meeting.

Guidance for the Public

Agenda Papers

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

Chair

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the Committee Support Officer who gives advice on the proper conduct of the meeting and ensures that the debate and the decisions are properly recorded. On the Chair's other side are the relevant Council Officers. The Councillors ("Members") of the Committee occupy the remaining seats around the table.

Running Order

Items will normally be taken in the order printed but, in particular circumstances, the Chair may agree to vary the order.

Refreshments : tea, coffee and water are normally available at meetings - please serve yourself.

Decisions

Decisions at the meeting will be taken by the **Councillors** who are the democratically elected representatives. They are advised by **Officers** who are paid professionals and do not have a vote.

Members of the Public

Members of the public may, by prior arrangement, speak at meetings of the Council or its Committees. Specific procedures exist for Appeals Hearings or for meetings involving Licence or Planning Applications. For further information on this point, please speak to the Committee Support Officer.

Special Arrangements

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

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

Further Information

If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Support Officer (see foot of page opposite).

Fire/ Emergency instructions

If the alarm is sounded, please leave the building by the nearest available exit – these are clearly indicated within all the Committee Rooms.

If you discover a fire, inform a member of staff or operate the nearest alarm call point (wall mounted red rectangular box). In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately following the fire exit signs. Officers have been appointed with responsibility to ensure that all visitors are escorted from the building.

Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do Not use lifts.

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

The emergency Assembly Area is on Walter Stranz Square.

Declaration of Interests: Guidance for Councillors

DO I HAVE A "PERSONAL INTEREST" ?

- Where the item relates or is likely to affect your **registered interests** (what you have declared on the formal Register of Interests)

OR

- Where a decision in relation to the item might reasonably be regarded as affecting **your own** well-being or financial position, or that of your **family**, or your **close associates** more than most other people affected by the issue,

you have a personal interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? **Declare the existence, and nature, of your interest and stay**

- The declaration must relate to specific business being decided - a general scattergun approach is not needed
- **Exception** - where interest arises only because of your membership of another **public body**, there is no need to declare unless you **speak** on the matter.
- You **can vote** on the matter.

IS IT A "PREJUDICIAL INTEREST" ?

In general only if:-

- It is a personal interest **and**
- The item affects your **financial position** (or conveys other benefits), or the position of your **family, close associates** or bodies through which you have a **registered interest** (or relates to the exercise of **regulatory functions** in relation to these groups)

and

- A member of public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably believe the interest was likely to **prejudice** your judgement of the public interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? **Declare and Withdraw**

BUT you may make representations to the meeting before withdrawing, **if** the public have similar rights (such as the right to speak at Planning Committee).



Council

28th March 2011

7.00 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

7. Notice of Motion - Bus Service Consultation Response

Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services

(Pages 167 - 168)

In consultation with the Mayor, an urgent cross-party Notice of Motion has been accepted for consideration at the meeting (to follow).

Although a Notice of Motion would not normally be considered within a formal election period, it has been agreed exceptionally that, in order for the Borough Council to respond as a body, within the required timescales, to the current County Council consultation on Bus Services, a cross-party motion would be accepted.

(Report attached)

(All Wards)

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**COUNCIL**

28th March 2011

NOTICE OF MOTION – BUS SERVICE CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr J Pearce
Relevant Head of Service	Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services
Not a Key Decision	

The following Urgent Notice of Motion has been received and accepted for consideration by the Mayor:

Preamble:

As Members will be aware we are currently in a period of consultation with the Worcestershire County Council in relation to proposed changes and reductions to bus services across the County and more specifically for us throughout the Borough of Redditch. Given the timescales involved in this process and the need for us to respond by the end of March I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mayor for allowing this Notice of Motion to be debated and I think I speak for all members when I acknowledge this exception to the normal rule on Notices of Motion during an election period. That said this is a cross party motion and one that has already been aired within the community through work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The results of this exercise will be sent to the County alongside this motion if agreed.

Motion:

Therefore - *“We call on members to join with me and the [Leader of the Labour Group](#) and the [Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group](#) in calling on the County Council to acknowledge the needs of the residents of Redditch. Redditch is a town that was designed very specifically around the transportation needs of its communities and the vision that public transport would play a pivotal role in the day to day lives of its residents. We have dedicated bus-only routes serving our communities which were all designed on the basis that this would remain a dedicated and exclusive bus infrastructure that services district centres within the Borough and provide a lifeline to those persons who reside there.*

The removal of the bus services that operate within these areas would significantly undermine both the purpose of this vision and the independence of the residents who live there, particularly those with disabilities.

Both the residents and elected members of Redditch Borough acknowledge the challenge that all Councils are facing in these very difficult financial times –

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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28th March 2011

indeed we have been forced to examine difficult decisions ourselves – but I would ask for all Members to support us in calling on the County Council to consider, when making their decision on the bus services, the very special character and history of Redditch Borough and the disproportionate impact that these proposals will have on our residents. We would also ask them to meet with representatives of this authority to discuss how these changes can be minimised and that they make the impact assessments that have been carried out on these reduced services available for public inspection. “

Proposed by: Cllr

Supported by: Cllr

Cllr

The above Notice of Motion missed the notification period required under Standing Order 6. However, the item has been accepted by the Mayor as Urgent Business for tonight’s Council meeting, on the basis of its broad public interest and the fact that there is not a further ordinary Council meeting before the close of the consultation period on these proposals which could receive the Motion. Furthermore, because of the pre-election Political Restrictions and in accordance with constitutional requirements, it is essential this remain a cross-party Notice of Motion.