

additional papers 1



Executive Committee

Tue 11 Dec
2018
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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a
difference*

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

Your main rights are set out below:-

- Automatic right to attend all Council and Committee meetings unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Automatic right to inspect agenda and public reports at least five days before the date of the meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect minutes of the Council and its Committees (or summaries of business undertaken in private) for up to six years following a meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect lists of background papers used in the preparation of public reports.
- Access, upon request, to the background papers on which reports are based for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting.
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- 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.
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- 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
Debbie Parker-Jones
Democratic Services**

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e.mail: d.parker-jones@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk**

Welcome to today's meeting.

Guidance for the Public

Agenda Papers

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

Chair

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

Running Order

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

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

Decisions

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

Members of the Public

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

Special Arrangements

If you have any particular needs, please contact the Democratic Services Officer.

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

Further Information

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Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.

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The emergency Assembly Area is on Walter Stranz Square.



Executive Committee

Tuesday, 11th December, 2018
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 - Town Hall
Redditch

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Matthew Dormer (Chair)	Bill Hartnett Gareth Prosser
	David Bush (Vice- Chair)	Mike Rouse Craig Warhurst
	Tom Baker-Price Greg Chance Brandon Clayton	

6. Review of the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Policy

Helen Broughton, Redditch Partnership Manager

Members are asked to note that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is pre-scrutinising this report at a meeting on 6th December 2018. Any recommendations arising from this meeting will be recorded and included in an additional papers pack for Members' consideration alongside the attached report.

11. Minutes / Referrals - Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Executive Panels etc.

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 6th December, 2018

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Joe Baker (Chair), Councillor Debbie Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Joanne Beecham, Michael Chalk, Andrew Fry, Wanda King, Anthony Lovell, Gemma Monaco and Jennifer Wheeler

Also Present:

Councillor David Bush - Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Town Centre and Commercialism

Councillor John Smith (Worcestershire County Council)
Liz Altay, Tracy Furlow, Sally-Anne Osborne and Dr. Bill Spice

Officers:

Derek Allen, Kevin Dicks, Luke Samuels and Judith Willis

Democratic Services Officers:

Jess Bayley and Farzana Mughal

66. REVIEW OF THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANTS POLICY - PRE-SCRUTINY

The Head of Community Services provided Members with an overview of the draft policy and Councillor guidance notes in respect of the Councillor Community Grants Scheme.

Members were reminded that on 19th November, 2018, Full Council had agreed to change the way in which the Council allocated the grant funding to voluntary and community sector in Redditch.

The Committee was provided with full details in respect of the revised scheme. Members were advised that training would be provided to all Members which would be mandatory. In addition, guidance notes would be provided to all Members explaining the full process.

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Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 6th December, 2018

With regards to the scheme, this would be piloted for one year with it being evaluated during the year.

In discussing the revised scheme, Members highlighted some of their concerns and expressed the view that this scheme would be more onerous for officers. Some Members commented that the scheme was not transparent and that they did not feel comfortable with the process. Clarity was requested in respect of who would make the final decision in relation to the £350 that would be dedicated from each Councillor's allocated projects. Questions were raised about how funding would be spent in some wards where there were very few Voluntary and Community Sector groups that would be eligible to apply for funding. Members also expressed concerns that £20k would be cut from the budget for 2019/20.

Councillor David Bush – Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Town Centre and Commercialism, stated that the new scheme would be beneficial for the people of Redditch and that the money would be fairly distributed across the town. Councillor Bush also noted concerns that the existing grants systems was too bureaucratic and often smaller groups that did not have access to professional bid writers struggled to secure funding. There were lots of wards in the Borough where grant funding had not been received in recent years and Councillor Bush suggested that the new system would help to address this problem.

A proposal was made for the Committee to endorse the resolution detailed in the report to approve the policy and guidance. On being put to the vote this proposal was lost.

A further proposal was made for the £20,000 that would otherwise be cut from the grants budget to be retained for use by all Members where needed to provide funding to address issues relevant to the town as a whole. This proposal was agreed.

RECOMMENDED that

the Council should retain the £20,000, due to be cut from the grants budget, to invest in town wide issues and issues of importance to Redditch.

**Overview and
Scrutiny**
Committee

Thursday, 6th December, 2018

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