

additional papers 2



Council

Mon 22 Jul
2019
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
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Council

Monday, 22nd July, 2019

7.00 pm

Council Chamber - Town Hall
Redditch

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Roger Bennett (Mayor)	Julian Grubb
	Gareth Prosser (Deputy Mayor)	Bill Hartnett
	Juliet Brunner	Pattie Hill
	Salman Akbar	Ann Isherwood
	Joe Baker	Wanda King
	Tom Baker-Price	Anthony Lovell
	Joanne Beecham	Gemma Monaco
	Michael Chalk	Nyear Nazir
	Debbie Chance	Mike Rouse
	Greg Chance	Mark Shurmer
	Brandon Clayton	Yvonne Smith
	Matthew Dormer	David Thain
	John Fisher	Craig Warhurst
	Peter Fleming	Jennifer Wheeler
	Andrew Fry	

11. Urgent Business - general (if any) (Pages 1 - 2)

To consider any additional items exceptionally agreed by the Mayor as Urgent Business in accordance with the powers vested in him by virtue of Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

(This power should be exercised only in cases where there are genuinely special circumstances which require consideration of an item which has not previously been published on the Order of Business for the meeting.)

To consider an urgent Motion on Notice in regard to the Council's membership of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) and the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP).

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Redditch Borough Council**22nd July 2019****Item 11: Urgent Business – General (If Any)****Motion on Notice****1. Local Enterprise Partnership Membership**

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Dormer, seconded by Councillor Bill Hartnett.

“Members will be aware that currently Redditch Borough Council sits in 2 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP (GBSLEP) and the Worcestershire LEP (WLEP).

In 2018 the Government published the “Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships” review which sought to bring forward reforms to the leadership, governance and accountability of the 38 LEPs – this included the review of overlapping geographies and sought to remove them – meaning that Councils could only be a member of one LEP.

In the “Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships” review it stated that:

“Government will:

- Ask Local Enterprise Partnership Chairs and other local stakeholders to come forward with considered proposals by the end of September on geographies which best reflect real functional economic areas, remove overlaps and, where appropriate, propose wider changes such as mergers.”

The submissions made to Government in September 2018 highlighted that there was no agreement locally as to how this should best be resolved. The position of the GBSLEP and indeed this council has always been that overlaps should be allowed to remain and that Councils should be allowed to stay in 2 LEPs. This is because overlaps have been the solution to the local issue of economic geographies and administrative boundaries not aligning, rather than a problem in themselves. Unfortunately this position was not shared by the WLEP.

It has become increasingly clear that central government will insist upon the issue of overlapping geographies being resolved and if it isn't resolved locally they will impose a solution possibly as soon as in the next few weeks.

The clear preference of this Council is still to remain in 2 LEPs, however we believe that if overlaps have to be resolved then this is a decision that needs to be taken locally by local elected officials rather than imposed on us.

Redditch is clearly part of the functioning economic geography for both GBSLEP and WLEP however without doubt the main economic geography is to the north and GBSLEP.

Therefore Council resolves that if overlaps have to be removed that Redditch Borough Council:

1. declares that GBSLEP is its preferred LEP as this reflects the functioning economic geography (in line with central government guidance on the basis for LEPs)
2. gives notice to WLEP of its intention to leave the partnership
3. writes to the Secretary of State to inform Central Government of the decision”