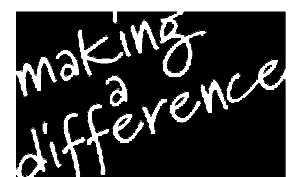


Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 24th May,
2011
7.30 pm

Committee Room Two
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

**Jess Bayley and Michael Craggs
Overview and Scrutiny Support Officers**

**Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: 01527 64252 (Ext. 3268 / 3267) Fax: (01527) 65216
e.mail: jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk /
michael.craggs@bromsgroveandredditch.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.

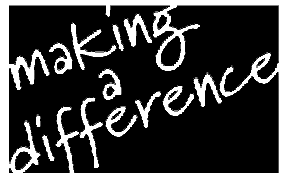
IS IT A "PREJUDICIAL INTEREST" ?

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).



Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

Tuesday, 24th May, 2011

7.30 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Committee membership to be determined at the Annual Meeting of Council on Monday 23rd May 2011

<p>1. Apologies and named substitutes</p>	<p>To receive apologies for absence and details of any Councillor (or co-optee substitute) nominated to attend this meeting in place of a member of this Committee.</p>
<p>2. Declarations of interest and of Party Whip</p>	<p>To invite Councillors to declare any interest they may have in items on the Agenda and any Party Whip.</p>
<p>3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 16)</p>	<p>To confirm the minutes of the most recent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a correct record.</p> <p>(Minutes attached)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>4. Actions List (Pages 17 - 18)</p>	<p>To note the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Actions List.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>5. Consideration of the Executive Committee's minutes and Scrutiny of the Forward Plan (Pages 19 - 26)</p>	<p>To consider the content of the minutes from the most recent meeting of the Executive Committee and the to determine whether any items on the Forward Plan are suitable for scrutiny.</p> <p>(Minutes attached).</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>6. Task & Finish Reviews - Draft Scoping Documents</p>	<p>To consider any scoping documents provided for possible Overview and Scrutiny review.</p> <p>(No reports attached)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

Tuesday, 24th May, 2011

<p>7. Task and Finish Groups - Progress Reports</p> <p>Councillor Peter Anderson</p>	<p>To consider progress to date on the current reviews against the terms set by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>The current reviews in progress are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Work Experience – Chair, Councillor Peter Anderson. <p>(Oral reports)</p> <p>All Wards;</p>
<p>8. Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel - Chair's Update</p> <p>(Pages 27 - 30)</p> <p>Councillor Bill Hartnett</p>	<p>To receive a report from the Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel in 2010/11 on any further developments in the work of the Panel that may have occurred since the previous meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>(Oral report).</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>9. Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Update</p>	<p>To receive any updates on any work undertaken since the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>(Verbal report).</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>10. Work Experience Task and Finish Group - Final Report</p> <p>Councillor Peter Anderson</p>	<p>To consider the final report of the Work Experience Task and Finish Group.</p> <p>(Report to follow).</p> <p>All Wards;</p>
<p>11. Petition - Unicorn Hill - Taxi Rank</p> <p>(Pages 31 - 32)</p>	<p>To consider a petition containing 13 signatures regarding re-locating the taxi rank from its present location on Unicorn Hill.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>(Abbey Ward);</p>
<p>12. Third Sector Task and Finish Group - Monitoring Report</p> <p>(Pages 33 - 38)</p> <p>M Bough, Housing Policy and Performance Manager</p>	<p>To receive an update report on the implementation of recommendations that were made by the third Sector Task and Finish Group.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>All Wards;</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

Tuesday, 24th May, 2011

<p>13. Staff Volunteering Policy M Bough, Housing Policy and Performance Manager</p>	<p>To receive an update on the potential to introduce a staff volunteering policy at Redditch Borough Council.</p> <p>(Oral report)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>14. Referrals</p>	<p>To consider any referrals to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee direct, or arising from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Executive Committee or full Council• Other sources. <p>(No separate report).</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>15. Work Programme (Pages 39 - 44)</p>	<p>To consider the Committee's current Work Programme, and potential items for addition to the list arising from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Forward Plan / Committee agendas• External publications• Other sources. <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>16. Exclusion of the Press and Public</p>	<p>Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Borough Director, during the course of the meeting to consider excluding the public from the meeting on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be divulged, it may be necessary to move the following resolution:</p> <p>"That, under S.100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter(s) on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs (to be specified) of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act".</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April,
2011

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Diane Thomas (Chair), and Councillors Peter Anderson, Robin King, Brenda Quinney and Mark Shurmer

Also Present:

Councillors Simon Chalk and Roger Hill
M Collins (Vice Chair of the Standards Committee).

Officers:

H Bennett, S Hanley, M Kay, S Morgan, G Revans and J Willis

Committee Services Officer:

J Bayley and M Craggs

220. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Anita Clayton, Andrew Fry and Bill Hartnett. There were no named substitutes.

Apologies were also received on behalf of Councillor Juliet Brunner who was due to deliver her Portfolio Holder Annual Report for Community Safety and Regulatory Services.

221. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor of any party whip.

222. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23rd March 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

.....
Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

223. ACTIONS LIST

Members considered the latest version of the Committee's Actions List.

The Committee was informed that the date of the next Joint Worcestershire Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs Network meeting, at which the Joint Worcestershire Hub and Joint Worcestershire Scrutiny Framework were to be raised for discussion, had yet to be confirmed.

All of the other actions had been completed.

RESOLVED that

the Committee's Actions List be noted.

224. CALL-IN AND SCRUTINY OF THE FORWARD PLAN

There were no call-ins and no items were identified on the Council's Forward Plan as suitable for further scrutiny.

225. TASK & FINISH REVIEWS - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENTS

There were no draft scoping documents for consideration.

226. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS - PROGRESS REPORTS

The Committee received update reports in relation to the following reviews.

a) Road Gritting – Chair, Councillor Robin King

The final report of the Road Gritting Short, Sharp Review was considered under a later item.

b) Work Experience Opportunities – Chair, Councillor Peter Anderson

The Chair informed Members that the Group had made good recent progress and was expecting to soon start work on its final report.

RESOLVED that

the reports be noted.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

227. PETITION

The Committee considered a petition regarding the removal of a pedestrian barrier from Yardley Close in Winyates approximately two years ago. The removal of the barrier had been undertaken to provide a disabled resident who used a wheel chair with access to the doctor's surgery at the Winyates Centre.

The Chair invited members of the public to speak to the petition. The Committee were advised that the removal of the pedestrian barrier had enabled motorcycles and skateboarders to gain unimpeded access to Yardley Close. This had reportedly resulted in regular noise pollution which was especially disconcerting for the elderly residents who lived on the close. The petitioners also explained that fencing had been damaged due to anti-social behaviour. The petitioners advised the Committee that the disabled resident would not object to the barriers being re-erected if the Winyates Centre was accessible at the opposite end of Yardley Close.

The Committee noted the concerns of the petitioners. It was proposed that a meeting involving the petitioners, the disabled resident, local police, and relevant Council Officers take place to resolve the issue satisfactorily.

RECOMMENDED that

Officers meet with the petitioners, the disabled resident from Yardley Close and representatives from the Police to discuss potential compromise solutions; and

RESOLVED that

the petition be noted.

228. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNUAL REPORT - COMMUNITY SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Councillor Brunner due to illness. Members expressed disappointment that the Portfolio Holder would be unable to deliver her Annual Report during the current municipal year. It was suggested that in future the Committee should not arrange to receive a Portfolio Holder's Annual Report for the final meeting of any municipal year. This would ensure that an annual report could be re-scheduled in the event of a Portfolio Holder being forced to submit his/her apologies.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

The Committee instead received the annual report from relevant Officers. Firstly, a brief presentation was delivered that showcased the work of the Redditch Community Safety Partnership during 2010/11. In particular, this presentation depicted: the work of Redditch Roadway Arts, including pictures of the artwork that had been displayed on local bus shelters and pedestrian subways; the work of the partnership on the secure access system at Winyates district centre as part of the area of highest needs project; the Redditch Home Security guide; and the accreditation recently achieved by the CCTV service.

Members were also provided with responses to the Committee's list of questions as detailed below:

- 1) What is being done to address drugs misuse and its implications for community safety in Redditch?

A recent report from the Worcestershire DAAT (Drug and Alcohol Action Team) stated that individuals from Redditch were more likely to leave adult drug treatment either drug free or having cut down their drug usage compared to other districts in Worcestershire. Available data also indicated that there had been a fall in drugs offences during the year.

The Worcestershire DAAT had recently re-commissioned all of its drugs and alcohol services for the county in an attempt to further reduce drug and alcohol abuse. New integrated alcohol and drug treatment programmes were to be delivered in Redditch under a "Pathways to Recovery" service from 1st April 2011. This service was to combine a range of alcohol and drug services and would provide a holistic approach to substance misuse with a strong focus on abstinence and recovery. The Employment, Training, Education, and Volunteering Service would help individuals overcome any barriers to work and employment following their treatment from drugs misuse.

Members were advised that a misleading report on the subject of a recent short-term police exercise, Operation Vellum, had appeared in the local press. This operation was in fact designed to target a small number of individuals involved in alcohol related anti-social behaviour in the Church Green area and did not indicate an increase in drugs misuse in Redditch.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

- 2) How is the Council working with the Police to mitigate the affects of police budget cuts and an expected reduction in police force numbers on community safety?

Detailed information had yet to be received on how the police budget cuts would impact on police force numbers. The Council was working hard to ensure that the affect of reduced resources for partner agencies on community safety was minimised. Indeed, many Council services were already working closely with the police around a number of crime prevention and community safety projects.

Members were referred to a number of projects being undertaken by the Redditch Community Safety Team to help reduce crime and disorder. This included the Redditch Roadway Arts programme of renovating and repainting bus shelters and underpasses. Measures like this helped the Police to focus resources on areas of greatest need. Also, the Environmental Services team was working with the Police to reduce the possibility of criminal activity by cutting back on vegetation to improve visibility in public areas.

Members were supportive of the strong working relationship that had developed between the Police and the Council to reduce crime and disorder. In particular, the Committee welcomed the lack of graffiti that existed in Redditch compared to other areas.

- 3) How is Redditch's CCTV system to be protected from funding cuts? What are your plans for CCTV in Redditch going forward?

Members were informed that Redditch's CCTV system had been allocated mainstream funding within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council had already accrued savings through sharing services for CCTV. The Councils were also exploring further areas where savings could be made. This included undertaking a review of the current CCTV maintenance contract.

The draft 'Protection of Freedoms Bill, which aimed to ensure that CCTV was being used effectively and appropriately, was currently out for public consultation. The Council would develop a list of actions to ensure it was compliant with the Bill following its publication.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

- 4) Do you have plans to review the licences of alcohol retail outlets in the centre? If so, to what extent?

An alcohol licence could be brought under review if evidence was forthcoming that any of the terms of the license had been breached. A review could be requested by any responsible statutory authority; an interested party; or a councillor. It would be at the discretion of the Licensing Sub-Committee to make a final decision.

Officers were constantly liaising with the Police and other responsible authorities to identify potentially problematic premises. Preventative action, including holding discussions with the relevant licence holder and premises supervisor, would take place as and when necessary. However, Members heard that very few premises in Redditch had had their licence reviewed.

Members were further informed that the Police could strongly recommend that a premise alter its closing hours if there had been a number of alcohol related disturbances in the local area. Attempts were also being made to reduce the number of intoxicated people in a given premise to prevent disturbances from occurring in the neighbouring area.

Members praised the work of Officers and the Police in keeping Redditch safe from alcohol induced crime and disorder and suggested that this should be further communicated to help boost the night-time economy.

- 5) What challenges do you foresee in your service area in the future?

Officers provided a summary of current and future challenges that needed to be met under each main service area:

A business strategy for the Lifeline service was to be developed to ensure that that service was self-sustaining. This would involve a robust marketing plan to help attract new customers and generate extra income. The new service would also benefit from advances in available technology.

The funding for Supporting People was currently under review at the county level. The decision had also been made to undertake a tendering process for the Call Alarm services. Redditch Borough Council had decided to tender for the business of incorporating Telecare into support packages at

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

the initial stage. As part of this process the option of working in conjunction with Worcestershire Telecare to potentially provide a county-wide service was to be explored.

A policy and vision was to be developed for offering the lone worker monitoring service to outside organisations. The service worked well for existing staff and had the potential to become a revenue generating service.

Proposed legislative changes regarding the powers used to deal with anti-social behaviour were currently open for consultation. It was expected that any new powers to deal with anti-social behaviour would be introduced in spring 2012. In the meantime, the Council would continue to help enforce existing national policies.

The Council was identifying how other partners' budget and resource reductions would impact on community safety. Work would need to be carried out in partnership with relevant partner bodies to establish links with the new Police and Crime Commissioner to help attract increased future funding. The Redditch Community Safety Partnership had recently received an increased budget for 2011/12 as funds had been allocated in accordance with need rather than the size of the local population.

- 6) To what extent does the night-time economy in Redditch impact on levels of crime and disorder? What is being proposed to address this?

It was agreed that this answer had already been provided under a previous question.

The Chair thanked Officers on behalf of the Committee for delivering the Portfolio Holder's Annual Report.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) **the Committee would not arrange to receive any Portfolio Holder Annual Report at the final meeting of each municipal year in future; and**
- 2) **the Portfolio Holder's Annual Report be noted.**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

229. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN - PRE-SCRUTINY

The Committee received the draft Children's and Young People's Plan 2011-14 for pre-scrutiny and an accompanying presentation. It was explained that the plan had been produced by the Worcestershire Children's Trust as the single plan for all children and young people in Worcestershire aged up to 19 years, and some groups of vulnerable young people up to 25 years.

Members discussed the plan and expressed concerns that the proportion of funding that was likely to be allocated to Redditch based activities (£189,000) was insufficient. Members also commented that there was a focus on academic achievement at the expense of other forms of achievement at the national level. It was suggested that this focus did not help to address the proportion of young people who are not in employment, education, nor training (NEET) in any given area.

It was suggested that parental support was as important to a child's success as the support provided by mentors and school governors and there was a need to ensure that parents were engaged to support their child's education. As such more needed to be done to help raise the aspirations and ambitions for many young people.

Worcestershire County Council Officers noted the comments made by the Committee and undertook to ensure that the Committee's comments were noted as part of Worcestershire County Council's consultation process for the plan.

The Chair thanked Officers for presenting the report.

RECOMMENDED that

subject to the Committee's comments being noted, the Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan be approved.

230. ROAD GRITTING SHORT SHARP REVIEW - FINAL REPORT

The Committee received the Gritting Short, Sharp Review Group's final report for consideration.

Members were informed that the Committee had been unable to engage with the responsible Portfolio Holder and relevant officers at Worcestershire County Council during the course of the review. The Group were, however, aiming to submit the final report for the

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

consideration of the County Council, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

Members praised the report for its thoroughness and agreed that more could be done to preserve the condition of the roads in Redditch during future periods of inclement weather. Members commented that arrangements suitable for gritting and clearing snow in a hilly area should be applied in Redditch as many of the town's roads were located on steep gradients. It was commented also that more action needed to be taken to mitigate the affect of inclement weather on concentrated residential areas of elderly and vulnerable people.

Instances of anti-social behaviour that had taken place on local roads during the winter were discussed. This included cars being parked at the top of hazardous roads which restricted road access for other vehicles. The report recommended that smaller snow ploughs should be utilised to clear snow on the narrower roads in the Borough, to help reduce this problem in future years.

Members were advised that Officers at Worcestershire County Council and Redditch Borough Council had worked closely during the winter in 2010/11 to help ensure that the finite resources to maintain the condition of the roads were used most appropriately. This collaboration had been appreciated at both levels and had helped to prevent further difficulties.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **when monitoring the implementation of their recommendations Worcestershire County Council's Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel should observe that the following recommendations proposed in their report, *Gritting: Winter Service Policy*, were not fully implemented in Redditch during the inclement weather in December 2010: recommendations 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 15;**
- 2) **the co-ordination of responses to inclement weather should be delegated to the district level; and**
 - a) **responses should involve local stakeholders planning local solutions to local problems;**
- 3) **Redditch Borough Council should urge Worcestershire County Council to adopt this local approach to co-ordinating responses to inclement weather;**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

- 4) resources, suitable for local needs, should be available to access in Redditch when needed;
- 5) the precautionary gritting route map needs to be agreed with district Councils to make use of local knowledge;
- 6) Worcestershire County Council and Redditch Borough Council should:
 - a) identify and use local private resources, including farmers' tractors, for snow clearance;
 - b) identify and use smaller, more suitable vehicles to clear snow on smaller urban roads; and
 - c) identify and develop a list of emergency additional labour forces that could be used to clear snow during inclement weather;
- 7) there should be a service available to deploy 24 hours a day 7 days a week locally in response to inclement weather;
- 8) Worcestershire County Council should meet with representatives of Redditch Borough Council to clarify the standards expected from each other in relation to snow clearance;
- 9) grit bins should be filled when requested.
(However, we recognise that it may not be possible to fill grit bins immediately). Therefore:
 - a) members of the public who request that their grit bin be restocked should be clearly advised when this will take place;
 - b) a schedule for restocking grit bins should be published for public consideration in a clearly accessible format; and
 - c) if the snow is worse than expected one tonne tote bags should be distributed to roads where needed as an emergency measure;

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

- 10) **Worcestershire County Council ensure that following information on the Council's website is presented in a more user friendly manner:**
 - a) **general information about gritting and snow clearance;**
 - b) **gritting routes;**
 - c) **snow ploughing routes together with clarification as to whether these routes are the same as the gritting routes;**
 - d) **grit bin locations; and**
 - e) **when gritting, snow ploughing and the filling of grit bins will take place;**
- 11) **the successful approach that Worcestershire County Council has adopted to communicate road conditions to the schools should be extended to all stakeholders;**
- 12) **Worcestershire County Council and Redditch Borough Council should ensure that clear information about both the road conditions and public transport is provided when communicating with the public during inclement weather;**
- 13) **Worcestershire County Council's Highways Department should:**
 - a) **be available for all relevant bodies, particularly the emergency services, to contact directly and quickly and at all times; and**
 - b) **be more responsive to residents.**

RESOLVED that

the report be noted

231. REDDITCH COUNCIL PLAN 2011-14 - PRE-SCRUTINY

The Committee considered the draft Redditch Council Plan 2011-14 for pre-scrutiny.

Members were informed that the plan was essentially the Council's business plan for the following three years and explained how the

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

Council would achieve the overall vision for the Borough as set out within the Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy.

Concerns were expressed that the implementation of the plan might provide difficult to monitor as it did not appear to contain many specific quantitative targets.

The Committee suggested that consideration should be given to the presentation of the plan to make it clearer for the public and that plain English should be used wherever possible. It was further proposed that a more digestible summary of the plan could be included on the Council website. Members were informed that the key points contained in the draft plan had already been publicised in previous versions of *Redditch Matters* to help explain to local residents why the plan had been produced and what the Council was aiming to achieve.

Members suggested that in cases where they were considering lengthy strategic documents like the Council Plan consideration should be given to providing Members with a longer lead in time to analyse and potentially suggest changes to the report.

Finally it was suggested that Budget Jury members should be asked about how the public would prefer to be informed about service performance by the Council.

RECOMMENDED that

Subject to the Committee's comments being noted, the Redditch Council Plan 2011/14 be approved.

232. QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - QUARTER 3 - SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2010

The Committee received the quarterly budget monitoring report for September – December 2010 for comment.

Members were advised that for the period from April – December 2010, the the Council's revenue budget showed an underspend of £815,000 compared to an estimated target of £350,000. The main reasons for this were: higher than anticipated savings generated through vacant posts; lower than anticipated borrowing costs on investments; and the Council's success in reclaiming £279,000 of previously paid VAT.

Members were advised that it was unlikely that the Council could expect to achieve this level of underspend in future years. In

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

particular, it was anticipated that inflation would rise in the following years and this would impact on the financial position of the Council.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

233. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT - QUARTER 3 - SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2010

The Committee received the quarterly performance monitoring report for September – December 2010 for comment.

Data was provided in the report for 41 performance indicators. Performance in relation to 19 of these indicators had improved when compared to the same quarter in the previous year and performance with regards to one of the indicators had remained static. Unfortunately, performance had declined in relation to 21 of the indicators compared to the same period the previous year.

The decline in performance for 21 of the indicators could be explained relatively easily in some instances. In particular, this quarter had coincided with the inclement weather, which had inevitably impacted on the delivery of public services.

However, there were a number of areas of performance which were considered to be concerning. Firstly, BV012, the number of working days or shifts lost to the local authority due to sickness absence per full time equivalent staff had increased from 6.71 days to 7.84 days. To address this problem Officers were due to meet to review the levels of sickness absence.

Secondly, BV079b(i), the amount of housing benefit overpayments recovered as a percentage of all housing benefit overpayments had decreased from 77.35 per cent to 73.82 per cent. Whilst this decrease was concerning it was anticipated that the council would achieve the 80 per cent target by the end of the year.

Thirdly, NI192, the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting had dropped from 28.68 per cent to 27.6 per cent. This was considered to be concerning, particularly as the Council had achieved a 31.26 per cent rate on this indicator in 2008/09 suggesting that there had been a decline over a two year period. The Council would attempt to address this trend and had ensured that improving recycling rates was a key target in the 2011/12 Business Plan for the service area.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

The committee suggested that a further, useful measure, concerning the amount saved through landfill charges, could be incorporated into the quarterly performance monitoring reports. Provision of this information would be dependent upon obtaining relevant details from Worcestershire County Council. However, this measure would enable Members to monitor the extent to which the Council was contributing to landfill.

Members expressed concerns about performance in relation to NI 041, perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem. Members suggested that these perceptions did not correspond with the situation outlined in the annual report for the community safety portfolio. Under these circumstances Members suggested that further action needed to be taken to communicate effectively the constructive work of the Community Safety Partnership to address the potential for anti-social behaviour and crime.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **performance in relation to landfill costs should be monitored as part of the Council's quarterly performance monitoring process; and**
- 2) **the report be noted.**

234. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2010/11 - REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Chair expressed the view that 2010/11 had been a successful year for the Committee. This had been evidenced by the fact that the majority of the Committee's recommendations had been approved by the Executive Committee. The Chair suggested that the Committee could further improve in future years if the choice of issues for consideration, particularly for pre-scrutiny, was more selective. This would help to minimise a recurrent problems during the year whereby the meeting agenda had often been relatively lengthy.

Members commented that the Committee had completed a number of excellent reviews during the course of the year. In particular, the delivery of a lot of policy review work through short, sharp scrutiny exercise was regarded as a positive development and members agreed that it would be useful to continue to utilise this mechanism in future years.

Concerns were expressed about the extent to which all non-executive Councillors had participated in the scrutiny process

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 13th April, 2011

during the year. Whilst a significant number of Councillors had acted as members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel and the various reviews that had been established during the year a few Councillors had not actively engaged in the scrutiny process. Under these circumstances, it was suggested that consideration should be given as to how all non-executive councillors could be encouraged to contribute to the scrutiny process in future.

The Chair concluded by thanking Members for their contribution and Officers for their support during the course of the year.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

235. REFERRALS

There were no referrals.

236. WORK PROGRAMME

Members were informed that the update report on fly tipping and progress with the *Worth It* campaign, which the Committee had agreed to defer, would be received at a meeting on 5th July 2011.

RESOLVED that

the Committee's Work Programme be noted

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm
and closed at 8.20 pm

Actions requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date Action Requested	Action to be Taken	Response
8th December 2011 1	Members requested that the Joint Worcestershire Hub review be raised for discussion at the next following Joint Chairs and Vice Scrutiny Network Meeting.	TO BE DONE (next Joint Chair and Vice Chairs meeting postponed until June/July) Lead Officers, Overview and Scrutiny Support Officers.
2nd March 2011 2	Members requested that the Joint Worcestershire Scrutiny Framework be considered at the following meeting of the Joint Worcestershire Chairs and Vice Chairs Network	TO BE DONE (next Joint Chair and Vice Chairs meeting postponed until June/July) Lead Officers, Overview and Scrutiny Support Officers.
13th April 2011 3	Officers to discuss the subject of presenting information about service performance to the public with members of the Budget Jury.	TO BE DONE (Budget Jury members to be consulted during a forthcoming meeting in June/July) Lead Officer, Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships.
13th April 2011 4	Members requested that performance in relation to savings made through landfill charges should be incorporated into the quarterly reports. It was noted that the Council would need to liaise with Worcestershire County Council in order to obtain this information.	TO BE DONE (Quarterly 4 Performance Report to be received at meeting on 5th July 2011). Lead Officer, Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships.



Executive Committee

12th April 2011

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Brandon Clayton, Malcolm Hall, Gay Hopkins and Jinny Pearce

Also Present:

Councillors Bill Hartnett, Robin King, Brenda Quinney and Derek Taylor and Mr Graham Vickery

Officers:

J Bayley, H Bennett, M Bough, R Cooke, C Felton, L Hadley, M Hanwell and J Pickering and S Skinner

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

206. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Michael Braley, Greg Chance and Debbie Taylor.

207. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

208. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair advised that she had accepted the following matter as Urgent Business:

Constitution – Review 2011.

209. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 15th March 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

.....
Chair

210. PROMOTING REDDITCH TASK AND FINISH GROUP - FINAL REPORT

The final report of the Promoting Redditch Task and Finish Group was presented to the Committee by members of the Group, the Chair, ex-Councillor Graham Vickery and Councillors Brenda Quinney and Derek Taylor.

The report had been produced out of a consensus amongst Members that the town might more effectively be promoted and a sense of pride inculcated into local residents and businesses. It was noted that the review and report had identified three areas upon which the Council and its partners should focus their energy, these being the development of business within the town, the development of services for business visitors and the development of leisure tourism.

It was acknowledged by the Group that, whereas a number of the recommendations contained within the report might be implemented in the short term, other recommendations were linked to longer term aspirations for the future which the Committee was urged to endorse in principle. In detailing the background to the recommendations, the Group highlighted a number of more general points including the need for the Council to act as the support in these processes rather than as the leader and the lack of any substantial funding implications arising from the proposals.

Officers reported that the Chair of the Redditch Town Centre Partnership had clarified evidence that had been included in the report from her interview with the Group. In particular, she wished members to note that the town's industrial heritage could be used to promote Redditch, particularly when targeted at a specific audience and used creatively.

The Committee thanked the Group for a good, detailed report. It was noted that the views of many people and organisations had been sought and a number of proposals developed that were both interesting and worthwhile. Officers commented upon a number of the recommendations, endorsing much of what had come out of the review and identifying those areas where there was already work ongoing to address the issues which had been highlighted. In the area of leisure and arts it was particularly noted that the changes to the management structure for Cultural and Leisure Services would increase capacity and resilience and lead to increased focus on a number of issues which had been the subject of recommendations from the Group. Likewise, the Town Centre Partnership endorsed the contents of the report and was utilising the findings of the review to shape its activities going forward.

There was an acknowledgement that certain issues were more intractable and were outside of the power of the authority to directly influence. However, the efforts that were being made to achieve goals such as a more rounded shopping experience or a wider appeal in the night-time economy were recognised.

In responding to the comments of the Committee and Officers, the Group noted that one of their objectives had been to stimulate debate on these issues and, to that extent, the undertaking had been very worthwhile. The Committee was content to endorse the recommendations before it and consequently

RESOLVED that:

- 1a) leisure tourism marketing be targeted at families of all cultures within Redditch and a radius of 20 miles, highlighting the attractions of the Arrow Valley Lake and Countryside Centre and the shopping opportunities;**
- 1b) business marketing should promote Redditch's strategic and rural location, being vibrant and modern using strap lines which reflect these images;**
- 2) a significant festival and events programme be developed and marketed cohesively to raise the profile of the town in the region;**
- 3) promotional material be developed in partnerships and through Redditch Matters;**
- 4) the Palace Theatre, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Bordesley Abbey Visitor Centre and a public arts programme be developed with increased management resource to provide increased audiences, more events and significant installations;**
- 5) the Redditch Town Centre Partnership should work to create a more rounded shopping experience in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre and Church Green, with event based programmes to refresh the offer and a cohesive marketing strategy incorporating recognisable branding, key qualities and identifiers;**
- 6) Redditch market be developed to provide again a substantial marketing strategy for the town centre and develop opportunities for new entrepreneurs;**

- 7) **the Council ensure that business promotion receives appropriate investment and provide an information resource fit for purpose;**
- 8) **the new North Worcestershire Economic Development Service and Strategy should recognise the importance of tourism to the local economy and ensure that adequate resources are allocated to the promotion of tourism in the area;**
- 9) **the need for the promotion of Redditch hotels as a business resource, not necessarily by the Council, should be recognised;**
- 10) **consideration be given to devising a Visitor Ambassador Scheme;**
- 11) **the Council endorse the Redditch Advertiser's proposal to introduce a Redditch Community Awards programme and work with the newspaper and other partners to deliver the scheme;**
- 12) **the Council ensure that deficiencies in road signage are addressed: location naming, systemic effectiveness and physical cleanliness;**
- 13) **the Council actively seek to establish promotion partnerships and ensure that commercial interests have a full and effective voice; and**
- 14) **the Council ensure that electronic promotion tools are constantly developed and exploited to the full. This should include introducing a virtual business centre and consistent provision of card payment facilities both online, in promotional materials and at all venues.**

211. WORCESTERSHIRE HOUSING STRATEGY 2011 - 2016

The Committee considered a report which set out a Countywide Housing Strategy for Worcestershire for the next five years.

It was noted that the housing market did not respect local authority boundaries and that, increasingly, strategic housing functions were carried out with numbers of partners, both other local authorities and statutory and voluntary sector agencies. This was one of the drivers behind a move from District Housing Strategies to a Countywide approach.

Members particularly drew a number of details from the Strategy which brought to attention the good work that had been undertaken over a number of years to maintain the Council's housing stock. These included the Council's achievements in meeting the Decent Homes standards and the low levels of disrepair in the Council's housing stock.

RECOMMENDED that

the Countywide Housing Strategy and action plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

212. WORCESTERSHIRE LOCAL INVESTMENT PLAN AND AFFORDABLE HOMES PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

Members received a report which firstly set out a Local Investment Plan (LIP) for the county that had been developed by Worcestershire local authorities and other key partners and which set out shared priorities for housing, regeneration, economic development and supporting infrastructure and also summarised a range of proposed reforms to the means by which social housing was delivered.

It was noted that one outcome of the new Affordable Housing Programme Framework might be an increase in the numbers of people seeking to secure social rented property from the Council and a consequent increase in the number of people on the Council's waiting list.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Worcestershire Local Investment Plan be endorsed; and**

RESOLVED that

- 2) the range of proposed reforms to the delivery of affordable housing and the summary of the key elements of the Homes and Communities Agency's new Affordable Housing Delivery Framework be noted.**

213. CONSTITUTION - REVIEW 2011

Officers updated the Committee on changes that had been proposed to the Council's Constitutional documents. The biggest single change was in the overall structure of the Constitutional documents, with a move towards a format that would be easier for Members and Officers to use. It was noted that the proposed changes had been the subject of a number of informal meetings

with key Members, with the most significant issues being reported back to the Groups as appropriate.

The main issues that were raised were as follows:

Part 2, Paragraph 6.2 – there was discussion as to whether the Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be EITHER not from the controlling group OR from the opposition group;

Part 2, Paragraph 8.4 – there was discussion as to whether the qualifications for sitting on Regulatory and other Committees were appropriate;

Part 3, Table 2, page 2 – it was suggested that the special provisions as to the Chair be amended to make it mandatory rather than desirable that this be an “Opposition” Member. **Members agreed that this change be recommended for incorporation into the final document;**

Part 4, Paragraph 9.5 – it was highlighted by Officers that these provisions (Questions which may not be asked) were designed to avoid the debate of issues that were not relevant to the Council; and

Part 6, Paragraph 5 – it was noted that the Leader of the Opposition was not referred to in the Urgent Decisions provisions. **Members agreed that this change, with the Leader of the Opposition being consulted, be recommended for incorporation into the final document.**

From a more general perspective, there was concern that local residents had little knowledge or understanding of the Council’s Constitutional arrangements, despite the inclusion of a section in Part 2 on Citizens and the Council.

RESOLVED that

subject to Members’ comments, above, and subsequent adjustments, the draft document be noted.

214. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP, 31ST MARCH 2011 - REFERRALS

The Committee considered a number of recommendations that had arisen out of recent meetings of the Member Development Steering Group. Members required a degree of clarification as to the practical implications of the different options that were being made available in respect of Councillors’ ICT provision. The main issue

was around the extent to which the individual Councillor might rely on the use of their own ICT equipment and the corresponding level of technical support to which they might then be entitled.

The budget which had been set aside for Members ICT was discussed in the context of the present financial situation. The point was made that the budget set aside for this purpose represented a worst case scenario and the actual draw on the funds was expected to be considerably lower as many Members would choose to use either some or all of their own equipment. The provision of Blackberries to key Members was defended in that they would significantly improve the ability of Councillors to conduct their business at relatively little cost, thus contributing to the effective management of the Council.

In respect of the Member Development Programme, the need to make certain aspects of the training mandatory was considered. Whilst it was acknowledged that all Members could not make all training events, it was made clear that alternative arrangements could be made in such instances. Furthermore, it was argued that the taking on of the role of Councillor implied a certain amount of responsibility, including the need to ensure that one was in a position to carry out the role to the best of one's ability, including through the acceptance of training opportunities.

Members noted the proposed changes to the social networking arrangements.

Member Development Programme 2011/12

RESOLVED that

- 1) subject to clarification from Officers on the inclusion of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel amongst those bodies for which compulsory training was required, the programme be endorsed;**

Members' ICT Facilities – Policy

RECOMMENDED that

- 2) the policy, as attached to the report, be adopted and the proposals it contains be implemented for the municipal year 2011/12; and**

Social Networking

RESOLVED that

3) this change of position be noted.

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

There were no minutes or referrals under this item.

216. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd and 23rd March 2011. There were no outstanding recommendations for consideration at the meeting.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd and 23rd March 2011 be received and noted.

217. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

218. ACTION MONITORING

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 9.35pm

.....
Chair

Redditch Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel: Chair's report of Panel meeting held on Thursday 14th April 2011.

The Panel received apologies from Councillor Anita Clayton, co-opted member Councillor S Blagg (West Mercia Police Authority) and Ken Hazeldine (Redditch Anti-Harassment Panel).

Michael Collins was in attendance in his capacity as a local magistrate (also Vice-Chair Redditch Standards Board).

The Panel was updated on outstanding actions from previous meetings. This included a letter the Panel had sent regarding hospital related admissions for underage drinkers to Anne Milton MP, Under Secretary of State for Public Health. The Panel was also updated on the success of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) that was to be opened in Worcestershire.

The main item of business was a presentation from the Chair of the Redditch Community Safety Partnership, Sue Hanley. The Panel had sent five written questions in advance of the meeting. A brief question and answer session followed after each question.

Q1. Was about the how the budget cuts would impact on the partnership.

In reply, the Chair of the Redditch Community Safety Partnership said the 2011/12 cut was around 20% county wide down from £707,000 to £644,338.

The good news was that the posts that the partnership funds were being retained, however, next year 2012/2013 was said to be "dire" with around 60% cut in budget allocation.

The Panel was advised that Redditch had fared quite well due to the change in budget formula allocation now being based on "need" as opposed to an equal distribution between the six districts. The Panel was further advised that the new Police Crime Commissioner (when appointed) would be distributing the budget in future years. The Panel requested to Sue Hanley that its approval of the new formula of needs based distribution be passed on to the county's Safer Communities Board and that its view be also communicated to the new commissioner when in post.

Q2. Was about how well the partnership was performing against agreed targets.

In reply, the Panel was advised that the Partnership was hitting, and in some cases exceeding, its targets. The Partnership was also said to be performing well compared against the British crime survey figures and also with the family of partnerships they are in.

One of the figures which will be of interest is that when the local population was asked in a survey that if in their perception that they feel more or less safer than last year the figure had gone up from 24.8% to 31.5%.

Q3. We asked what the aspirations of the chair for the partnership were.

In reply we were advised that delivery of the Community Safety Partnership plan themes would be the priority. This includes Secure Homes, Safer Streets and Public Places, Protecting Communities and Reducing Re-Offending/ Restorative Justice. The Panel felt that Restorative Justice was seen to be a great success.

Q4. We asked for progress on the establishment of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).

This question was not really required as the Panel had already been made aware of the success of a SARC being established in Worcester. Sue Hanley agreed this was good news and felt that the publicity and campaign that the Panel had launched had helped in bringing about this welcome outcome.

Q5. We asked if the partnership wished to raise anything with the panel.

Sue said that if the Panel would consider taking on the task of scrutinising any future proposals on the current Partnership arrangements which would include a range of options including consideration of a North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership. The Panel agreed to do this, as and when any proposal comes forward.

Also the Panel were asked if they would consider taking on the overview of the performance management of the partnership, the Panel agreed to this as long as some training was given to the panel by the appropriate officers from the partnership, it was agreed that this would be given.

The Panel thanked Sue Hanley chair of the partnership for her report and we asked that our congratulations and thanks was passed back to the partnership for all the good work they carry out and for the high level performance they are achieving.

The Panel then had an "end of the year review" which was both looking back on what had went well and looking forward to what if any changes the panel wished to see next year,

The Panel said they thought that the presentations from west Mercia police on SARC and from DAAT on alcohol related admissions went well and that as and when appropriate should continue next year, the Panel also concluded for our first year we had performed quite well, meeting at least four times a year with the flexibility for extra meets to be called as it did when replying to the governments consultation paper policing in the 21st century.

In conclusion the Panel was content with the current arrangements,

Councillor W. Hartnett, Chair panel
17th April 2011

Prayer of Petition

Re-siting of taxi rank from its present location in Unicorn Hill

The signatories to this petition are business owners/traders located in Unicorn Hill, Redditch whose concern is the detrimental effect on trade which has arisen since the siting of a taxi rank on the left side of Unicorn hill (looking down the hill from the churchyard).

Several businesses have already been forced to close and the concern of local businesses is that, due to the lack of parking facilities, more will follow. The fear is that Unicorn Hill is fast becoming a 'backwater' with all trade being funnelled into the Kingfisher Centre and Church Green area.

We respectfully request that consideration be given by the Council to re-siting the taxi rank (perhaps to the station car park) or restricting the time of their rank usage to 5.30pm onwards thus making them still available to inbound rush hour train commuters.

Consideration to some 'short stay' parking bays in Unicorn Hill would also be helpful.

TITLE
COMMITTEE

Date: 24 May 2011

REPORT TITLE Third Sector Task & Finish update

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Carole Gandy, Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership
Relevant Head of Service	Angie Heighway, Head of Community Services
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This report provides an update on the recommendations of the Third Sector Task & Finish Group reported to the Executive Committee on the 13 January 2009 and resolve by Council on the 19 January 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that

the report be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Third Sector Task and Finish Group was established in July 2008. The Group consisted of six Members: former Councillor Thomas who chaired the Group; Councillors Pearce and Shurmer and former Councillors Banks; Cookson and Farooqui. Mrs Ann Sowton, from the Bromsgrove and Redditch Network, (BARN), an infrastructure organisation that supports the third sector, acted as a co-opted member on the Group.

3.2 The Task and Finish Group were commissioned to undertake a strategic review of the Council's overarching approach to funding third sector organisations. The group were specifically tasked with reviewing the Council's arrangements for awarding grants and donations to third sector organisations. They were asked to bring forward proposals that would shape the Council's grants process from 2010/11 onwards.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 The Task and Finish Group made a number of recommendations to Council to provide a more transparent and inclusive grants process and building more effective partnerships with the Third Sector. Below is an update on the progress on these recommendations.

**TITLE
COMMITTEE**

Date: 24 May 2011

- 4.2 **Recommendation 1: The Council adopt a written Grants Policy and Procedure.** Officers completed a written Grants Policy which was presented to Executive Committee on the 10th June 2009 and agreed and resolved by Council on the 22nd June 2009. Following the implementation of this policy a review was undertaken and a revised policy was presented to Overview and Scrutiny committee on the 17th November 2010 and the Executive Committee on the 2nd December 2010 and approved at Council on the 13th December 2010.
- 4.3 **Recommendation 2a): The Council's purpose for funding the third sector should be aligned to the following mission statement "Redditch Borough Council supports Voluntary and Community Sector organisations because we believe that a vibrant Third Sector is vital to our community".** This statement has been incorporated into the Council's Grants Policy.
- 4.4 **Recommendation 2b): The criteria for grants applications be aligned to the Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy priorities.** Following the review of the Grants Policy the priorities have been aligned to the Council priorities with the flexibility to include Sustainable Community Strategy priorities.
- 4.5 **Recommendation 3: The Shopping, Investing and Giving funding framework be adopted for the Council's grants process.** The Shopping Investing and Giving Framework was presented to the Executive Committee on the 10th June 2009 and agreed and resolved by Council on the 22nd June 2009. The Council has not undertaken any Shopping element of the framework at this point, but officers will be working with members to introduce a small shopping element for the 2012/13 grants process.
- 4.6 **Recommendation 4: The Council officially endorse the Worcestershire Compact.** The Worcestershire Compact was endorsed by the Executive Committee on the 13th January and Council on the 19th January 2009.
- 4.7 **Recommendation 5: Further work should be undertaken to address recommendations 5 a-f below.** The Executive Committee proposed in January 2009 that they would consider the most appropriate ways to address the issues identified by the Group in relation to recommendation 5. Subsequently it was decided that no further formal review work was required. If members wish for this further work to be undertaken they may bring forward proposals to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
- a) a review of ways to enhance Voluntary and Community Sector involvement in the Redditch Partnership;**

**TITLE
COMMITTEE**

Date: 24 May 2011

b) a review of the Council's provision of non-grant support to the Voluntary and Community Sector;

c) a review of how the Council should meet its responsibilities as set out in the Worcestershire Compact agreement;

d) a review of how the six equalities strands could be embedded in the working practices of Redditch Borough Council and the Redditch Partnership;

e) a review of the Council's procurement code; and

f) a review of how multi-year funding arrangements should be implemented as part of the Council's grants process;

- 4.8 **Recommendation 6: subject to the successful submission and approval of a revenue bid, the Council introduce a clerical support role in the policy team to support the grants process; or subject to funding using a portion of the grants budget the Council introduce a clerical support role in the policy team to support the grants process.** A Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Officer was appointed on a 12 month contract in July 2010. A successful revenue bid has been made and this is now a permanent post.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None from this report

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to incur expenditure which in its opinion is in the interest of and will bring direct benefit to its area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants. The direct benefit accruing must also be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred.

- 6.2 There is a further power to make grants to voluntary organisations providing recreational facilities under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

**TITLE
COMMITTEE**

Date: 24 May 2011

- 7.1 The Grants Policy was presented to the Executive Committee on the 2nd December 2010 and approved at Council on the 13th December 2010.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 Enterprising Communities – Recognising the value of the Third Sector as an integral part of shaping and delivering better services for the citizens of Redditch. The Council can be flexible in its approach to partnership and funding so as to recognise the Third Sector's role in the sustainability of delivery of public services.
- 8.2 Safe – Specific projects that will be delivered to support and raise awareness of issues that affect Redditch citizens.
- 8.3 Clean and Green - Specific projects that will be delivered to support and raise awareness of issues that affect Redditch citizens.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

None from this report.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

None from this report

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None from this report

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

None from this report

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

None from this report

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

None from this report

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None from this report

**TITLE
COMMITTEE**Date: 24 May 2011

**16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF
CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

None from this report

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

None from this report

18. LESSONS LEARNT

18.1 The previous policy did not promote or engage with small community groups and, with only having one bidding round, small events / projects missed out on funding as projects were required to be designed several months before their inception.

18.1 By not previously having a designated Grants Officer the monitoring of the grants scheme had been minimal. This did not allow the grants scheme to reach a wider range of VCS organisations and add value to the Council's priorities. In order to cultivate an atmosphere of trust and partnership working within the VCS, it has been recognised that the support of a Grants Officer will be invaluable to ensure the long-term strength and success of Redditch Borough Council's grant scheme.

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

None from this report

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

There has been no further consultation in the preparation of this report.

21. WARDS AFFECTED

All wards

22. APPENDICES

None

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Grants Policy
Shopping Investing and Giving funding framework.

**TITLE
COMMITTEE**

Date: 24 May 2011

24. KEY

VCS – Voluntary and Community Sector.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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Overview and Scrutiny

No Direct Ward Relevance

Committee

24th May 2011

WORK PROGRAMME

(Report of the Chief Executive)

Date of Meeting	Subject Matter	Officer(s) Responsible for report
ALL MEETINGS	REGULAR ITEMS	(CHIEF EXECUTIVE)
	Minutes of previous meeting Consideration of the Forward Plan Consideration of Executive Committee key decisions Call-ins (if any) Pre-scrutiny (if any) Consideration of Overview and Scrutiny Actions List Referrals from Council or Executive Committee, etc. (if any) Task Groups / short, Sharp Review Groups - feedback Committee Work Programme	Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive
	REGULAR ITEMS Quarterly Performance Report Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report Annual Update on the Implementation of the Civil Parking Enforcement Scheme	Chief Executive Chief Executive Relevant Lead Heads of Service

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

24th MAy 2011

	<p>REGULAR ITEMS</p> <p>Update on fly tipping and progress with the Worth It campaign</p> <p>Update on the work of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>Updates on the work of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Updates on the outcome of quarterly meetings of the Leader and Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Petitions (as and when received)</p> <p>Bi-Annual Recommendation Tracker Reports – Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Bi-Annual Recommendation Tracker Reports - Petition Recommendations</p>	<p>Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service</p> <p>Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>Redditch Borough Council representative on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service</p> <p>Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service</p> <p>Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service</p> <p>Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service</p>
	<p>REGULAR ITEMS</p> <p>Oral updates on the progress of:</p> <p>1. Work Experience Task and Finish Review.</p>	<p>Relevant Lead Councillor</p>
<p>OTHER ITEMS - DATE FIXED</p>		

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

24th MAy 2011

24th May 2011	Petition – regarding re-location of the taxi rank from its present location on Unicorn Hill	Relevant Lead Head of Service
24th May 2011	Staff Volunteering Policy – Update	Relevant Lead Head of Service
24th May 2011	Third Sector Task and Finish Group – Monitoring Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
24th May 2011	Work Experience Task and Finish Review – Final Report	Relevant Lead Councillor
14th June 2011	External Refurbishment of Housing Stock Short, Sharp Review – Action Report	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
5th July 2011	Council Flat Communal Cleaning Task and Finish Group – Update on Implementation of Recommendations Stage Two.	Relevant Lead Head of Service
5th July 2011	Update on fly tipping and progress with the Worth It campaign	Relevant Lead Head of Service
5th July 2011	Private Sector Home Support Service – Post Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head of Service
5th July 2011	Quarterly Performance Report – Quarter 4 – January – March 2011	Relevant Lead Director
5th July 2011	Quarterly Budget Report – Quarter 4 – January – March 2011	Relevant Lead Head of Service

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

24th MAy 2011

26th July 2011	Youth Employment at Redditch Borough Council – Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
27th September 2011	Quarterly Performance Report – Quarter 1 – April – June 2011	Relevant Lead Director
27th September 2011	Quarterly Budget Report – Quarter 1 – April – June 2011	Relevant Lead Head of Service
24th January 2012	External Refurbishment of Housing Stock – Monitoring Update Report	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
August 2012	Update Report – Promoting Redditch Task and Finish Group	Relevant Lead Head of Service
OTHER ITEMS – DATE NOT FIXED		
	Feedback from Joint Worcestershire Scrutiny Chairs Network Meeting	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Overview and Scrutiny Member Training on Pre-Scrutiny.	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Monitoring Report – Scrutiny of the Sustainable Community Strategy	Relevant Lead Director
	Town Centre Landscape Improvements (including Church Green Improvements)	Relevant Lead Head of Service

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

24th MAy 2011

	Worcestershire Supporting People Strategy	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	LSP Task and Finish Group – Monitoring Update Report	Relevant Lead Director

