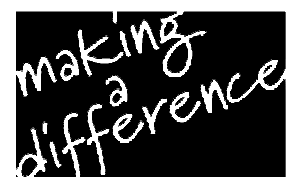


Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 17th April,
2012
7.00 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
Democratic Services 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**

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, 17th April, 2012

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Phil Mould (Chair)	Bill Hartnett
	Mark Shurmer	Gay Hopkins
	(Vice-Chair)	Brenda Quinney
	Peter Anderson	Alan Mason
	Andrew Brazier	Luke Stephens
	Simon Chalk	
	Andrew Fry	

<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</p>	<p>To confirm the minutes of the most recent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a correct record.</p> <p>(Minutes to follow)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>4. Civil Parking Enforcement - Annual Monitoring Update Report</p> <p>(Pages 1 - 6)</p> <p>P Liddington, GIS/Design Officer</p>	<p>To receive and consider an annual monitoring update report on the subject of Civil Parking Enforcement in Redditch.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>(Abbey Ward); (Central Ward);</p>
<p>5. War Memorial - Update Report</p> <p>(Pages 7 - 8)</p> <p>L Hadley, Planning Officer</p>	<p>To receive an update report concerning action taken to implement actions requested for the vicinity of the war memorial in Redditch town centre.</p> <p>(Report attached).</p> <p>(Abbey Ward);</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

Tuesday, 17th April, 2012

<p>6. Financial Borrowing Report</p> <p>J Pickering - Exec Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</p>	<p>To receive further information on the Council's financial borrowing position.</p> <p>(Presentation to follow)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>7. Access for Disabled People Task Group - Final Report</p> <p>(Pages 9 - 14)</p> <p>Councillor Alan Mason</p>	<p>To consider the content of the final report of the Redditch Access for Disabled People Task Group and to determine whether to endorse the group's recommendations.</p> <p>(Executive summary attached main report circulated separately).</p> <p>(Abbey Ward);</p>
<p>8. Youth Services Provision Task Group - Final Report</p> <p>(Pages 15 - 20)</p> <p>Councillor Simon Chalk</p>	<p>To consider the final report of the Youth Services Provision Task Group and to determine whether to endorse the group's recommendations.</p> <p>(Executive summary attached and main report circulated separately).</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>9. Actions List</p> <p>(Pages 21 - 22)</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>10. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Forward Plan</p>	<p>To consider the minutes of the latest meeting(s) of the Executive Committee and also to consider whether any items on the Forward Plan are suitable for scrutiny.</p> <p>(Minutes to follow and Forward Plan to follow).</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>11. 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, 17th April, 2012

<p>12. Task and Finish Groups - Progress Reports</p> <p>Councillor Simon Chalk, Councillor Alan Mason, Councillor Luke Stephens</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Access for Disabled People – Chair, Councillor Alan Mason;b) Promoting Sporting Participation – Chair, Councillor Luke Stephens; andc) Youth Services Provision – Chair, Councillor Simon Chalk. <p>(Oral reports)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>13. Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Councillor Brenda Quinney</p>	<p>To receive a verbal update on the recent work of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>(Verbal report)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>14. Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel - Chair's Update</p> <p>Councillor Bill Hartnett</p>	<p>To receive a report from the Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel on any further developments in the work of the Panel that may have occurred since the previous meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>(Report to follow).</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance);</p>
<p>15. 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>

Overview and Scrutiny

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16. Work Programme

(Pages 23 - 26)

To consider the Committee's current Work Programme, and potential items for addition to the list arising from:

- The Forward Plan / Committee agendas
- External publications
- Other sources.

(Report attached)

(No Specific Ward Relevance);

17. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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:

"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".

These paragraphs are as follows:

Subject to the "public interest" test, information relating to:

- Para 1 – any individual;
- Para 2 – the identity of any individual;
- Para 3 – financial or business affairs;
- Para 4 – labour relations matters;
- Para 5 – legal professional privilege;
- Para 6 – a notice, order or direction;
- Para 7 – the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime;
and may need to be considered as 'exempt'.

(No Specific Ward Relevance);

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

17th April 2012

Annual Report on Civil Parking Enforcement

Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Brandon Clayton, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Local Environment, and Health; and Councillor Jinny Pearce, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development and Transport
Relevant Head of Service	Guy Revans, Head of Environment Services

1. SUMMARY

This report provides an annual update on the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Service.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that
the report be noted.**

3. BACKGROUND

CPE formally commenced on 31 March 2009, with Wychavon District Council (WDC) undertaking enforcement operations on behalf of this Council.

4. CURRENT SITUATION

- 4.1 As CPE has progressed, the general public have become used to seeing the Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) patrolling the Borough, and more importantly taking the time to park their vehicles in accordance with the current Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).
- 4.2 The formal arrangements, whereby WDC operate CPE on behalf of this Council, the Officer is pleased to report that this has continued to work extremely well. The statement from previous years' Reports, that it is an excellent example of how a successful partnership arrangement between adjacent Local Authorities can work, is reiterated.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
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Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs)

- 4.3 The applicable tariffs for PCNs are currently set at either £70 or £50, depending on the seriousness of the contravention. If payment is received within 14 days, the fine is automatically reduced by 50%. Non payment of PCNs, will ultimately result, after the issue of statutory reminders, in Bailiffs being engaged to obtain the outstanding monies from the liable owners of the vehicles' responsible.
- 4.4 Contrary to public opinion, the CEOs are not set targets to ensure that a certain number of PCNs are issued to drivers within each financial year.

Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs)

- 4.5 There are currently three CEOs employed by WDC, who patrol all areas of the Borough where TROs exist. The CEOs are managed by WDC's Contract Supervisor, who undertakes regular Performance Management Reviews with the CEOs, to ensure the quality of the Service is maintained. The performance of these Officers has been exceptional.
- 4.6 CPE enables enforcement to be undertaken where drivers contravene TROs. Currently, for other traffic offences, such as causing an obstruction by parking in front of a vehicular crossing, where no TROs exist, then such offences must still be dealt with by the Police. CEOs will report such offences direct to the Police, if they witness these incidents during their daily routes.

Residents' Parking Schemes (RPSs)

- 4.7 Around the Town Centre, there are currently five RPSs in operation. They are in Archer Road, Other Road, Oakly Road, Prospect Hill and Smallwood. Such schemes allow residents to park their vehicles at all times on the highway in the vicinity of their property, in preference to other highway users. For this facility residents pay a small charge for a Permit for their vehicle (see 4.10). In addition, each property is entitled to one Visitors' Permit, at no cost.
- 4.8 These schemes are very advantageous, particularly where the properties are generally of older construction, and do not have off-street car parking facilities. Also, where such properties are located close to the Town Centre, the RPS restricts the parking of vehicles by drivers, who are either visiting the Town Centre for shopping purposes or actually working there.

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- 4.9 If residents feel that they would benefit from the introduction of RPS, they are advised that they should consult with their Local County Councillor in the first instance, who will, if considered appropriate, and meeting the necessary criteria, put forward the request to the County Council's Traffic Management Team. There have been a number of applications made to the County, but to date, unfortunately no additional schemes have been approved and implemented by them.
- 4.10 The cost of an individual Parking Permit is to remain at £10 for 2012/2013. The income received, only covers the administration costs incurred. With CPE now running effectively, there is obviously a greater demand for Permits.
- 4.11 It should be noted that Glover Street which was part of the Smallwood RPS was deleted from the Scheme, effective from 24 November 2011. This action was a result of more than 80% of the residents agreeing to such amendment, after a consultation exercise was undertaken by the County Council. If residents find, that after a period of time this action is not successful, the RPS cannot, under current County Council conditions, be considered for reinstatement for a minimum of 4 years.
- 4.12 From this year, the administration of RPSs is now the responsibility of WDC. Consequently, all Permit applications are undertaken by postal service, thereby avoiding the need for residents to visit the Town Hall in person to collect the Permits. All residents were informed of this new procedure in January, and it appears that such action has been met with overall approval. The cost of the administration service now undertaken by WDC is met by the income received from the Permit applications.

Town Centre Pedestrian Area Traffic Regulation Order

- 4.13 The County Council have now made the above Order, which became fully operational on 3 February. This replaced the existing Order which unfortunately could only be enforced by the Police. The implementation of this Order has resulted in the vehicles no longer parking at will, particularly within Church Green East, except of course Blue Badge Holders parking within the designated disabled bays.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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5. PAY & DISPLAY CAR PARKS

- 5.1 With the introduction of CPE, this Council now has the Service necessary to monitor and enforce Pay & Display Car Parks. Consequently, Members resolved to make the appropriate Orders for the Town Hall and Trescott Road car parks to become Pay & Display facilities, at weekends only. These commenced operation on 9 January 2010.
- 5.2 Unfortunately, the income from these car parks has not reached their predicted targets, which is almost certainly due to the fact, that at present the Trafford Park Retail Area offers free unrestricted parking, and that all Town Centre car parks are currently cheaper than both the Council's car parks. Currently, on average, only 15 and 18 vehicles are using Trescott Road and the Town Hall car parks, respectively, at each weekend.
- 5.3 If a cheaper tariff was to be adopted for these car parks in an effort to encourage usage, there is no guarantee that such actions would prove financially beneficial. Legislation requires that a suitable notice is inserted within the Press, and the existing car park signage must be altered, together with the ticket machines being reset to the new tariffs. The total anticipated cost is likely to be in the region of £2,000, which would then have to be met from additional income from the car parks. If we enter into a price match with the other Town Centre car parks, there is absolutely no guarantee that we would benefit, and therefore it is suggested that the existing tariffs remain. WDC do not charge us for enforcing these two car parks.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Financial Statement for 2010/2011 is shown over. This confirms that income from PCNs from the second full operating year, provided sufficient funds to meet the operating costs.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
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17th April 2012

Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) Report
(1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011)

Number Issued	4,186
Outstanding	460
Paid	3,321
Cancelled	311
Written Off	94
Part Paid	50
Collection Rate (%)	79.34
Total received (£)	<u>168,855</u>

6.2 It is the normal trend for the issue of PCNs within an Authority to reduce, during the following years after the introduction of CPE. This is obviously due to the public being aware of the consequences of contravening TROs. However, as only operating costs need to be financed, income received for this Financial Year met all such commitments for CPE.

7. WARDS AFFECTED

No direct Ward relevance

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Civil Parking Enforcement Financial Statement (2010-11)

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Pete Liddington (GIS/Engineering Design Officer)
e-mail: pete.liddington@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 534108

Monitoring report on the effectiveness of actions taken to tackle anti-social behaviour around the War Memorial.
Tuesday 17th April 2012

<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(agreed by the Executive Committee on 15 November 2011)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Action taken</p>
<p>1) that planters be installed around the war memorial to deter people from sitting on the war memorial;</p>	<p>Plans have been drawn up for the planters which could go around and replicate the shape of the Memorial. These would cost £710 in materials and will take approximately 1 week to make and does not include any of the soil/materials/plants that will be required.</p> <p>After discussions with Cllr Brandon Clayton concerning the cost of the planters it was agreed to implement the benches and signs initially and to monitor the anti social behaviour before purchasing the planters dues to cost implications</p>
<p>2) a campaign of education about the war memorial be launched to increase awareness of the purpose of the war memorial;</p>	<p>To be discussed with the British Legion about doing a joint promotion.</p>

3) Officers be asked to investigate the possibility of introducing improved signage for the war memorial;	Polite signage has been erected on the electrical box situated opposite the Memorial requesting that people treat the area with due respect and reverence.
4) Officers be asked to investigate the possibility of introducing seating in the area;	2 additional benches have been located in the war memorial area.
5) Officers be asked to investigate the possibility of installing an extra litter bin in the area;	Having liaised with Waste Management at the present time it is felt an additional litter bin is not needed in the area however the situation will be monitored.

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ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TASK GROUP – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Relevant Portfolio Holders	Councillor Carole Gandy, Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership, Councillor Michael Braley, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management and Councillor Jinny Pearce, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development and Transport
Portfolio Holders Consulted	No
Relevant Heads of Service	Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, Head of Planning and Regeneration and Head of Regulatory Services.
Ward(s) Affected	Abbey
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The report provides a summary of the findings and final recommendations made by the Access for Disabled People Task Group. The executive summary should be considered alongside the Access for Disabled People Task Group's final report which provides a more detailed description of the review process, the evidence basis for the group's recommendations and the implications of proposed actions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that

DISABLED PARKING

- 1) **Majority Recommendation:**
disabled parking spaces should be provided as part of any redevelopment of the former covered market area

OR

Minority recommendation:
a section of the former covered market area located to the rear of the Debenhams unit should be converted for disabled parking for a trial period of six months;

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- 2) subject to the proposal for disabled parking to be introduced in the former covered market area being approved the Council should approach Age UK about the possibility of providing access to a number of scooters from the charity's shop unit which is located in that area;
- 3) a user friendly map demonstrating the location of disabled parking spaces and Shopmobility in Redditch town centre should be produced and promoted on the Council's website, in Redditch Matters and on the Palace Theatre's website and should be promoted to local businesses to use;
- 4) the Redditch Town Centre Partnership should work with Worcestershire County Council's Highways Department, the Kingfisher Shopping Centre and other partner organisations to introduce delivery and collection points for vehicles carrying passengers with disabilities. The following options should be considered for this purpose:
 - a) the Apollo 2000 car park;
 - b) the former covered market area;
 - c) land within the vicinity of the Palace Theatre;
 - d) an area beside the Lloyds bank branch in Redditch; and
 - e) an area in the town centre that could be used by customers of the Apollo cinema;

TAXI SERVICES

- 5) taxi companies should be offered licences to operate adapted vehicles for a longer period of time than standard vehicles to incentivise taxi firms to increase the number of adapted vehicles in their fleets. The vehicles should be permitted to operate for these lengthier periods of time subject to passing the two inspection tests and the MOT that the Council's licensing regime requires for each vehicle;
- 6) taxi drivers should be offered disability awareness training, which would include information about manually assisting people with disabilities, by Redditch Borough Council;

BUSES

- 7) Worcestershire County Council's Transport Department should be asked to consider facilitating partnership working between Diamond Buses and another company in order to support the introduction of an audio-visual system on buses operating in Redditch. This

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arrangement should be extended to any other bus operator if they express an interest in introducing a similar system;

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8) a disability awareness session should be delivered as part of the Member Development Programme at Redditch Borough Council;
- 9) ward Members should be made aware that they can use their knowledge of the local community to assess the condition of the pavements and dropped kerbs located in their wards and report their findings for the consideration of Worcestershire County Council's Highways Department and Redditch Borough Council's Environmental Services;
- 10) the Council's Planning Department should consider arranging for funding from Section 106 agreements to be allocated to the installation of tactile signage in the town centre for the use of people with sensory impairments and similarly funding for this form of signage should be incorporated as a requirement into a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule for Redditch;
- 11) Redditch Town Centre Partnership should work with the Kingfisher Shopping Centre and other relevant partners to ensure that more seating is provided in the shopping centre;
- 12) Redditch Town Centre Partnership should approach the new owners of the Kingfisher Shopping Centre to discuss the possibility of:
 - a) providing people with disabilities with access to a changing places toilet; and
 - b) enacting the RNIB React signage system for the benefit of customers with sensory impairments; and

to RESOLVE that

- 13) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should receive a monitoring report in six months time concerning the support provided by Officers to the Redditch Access for Disabled Group and elected Members in relation to disability access issues; and
- 14) the report be noted.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
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3. KEY ISSUES**Background**

- 3.1 The Access for Disabled People Task Group review was commissioned in September 2011 by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The group consisted of five elected Members: Councillor Mason (Chair) and Councillors A Clayton, Fry, Hartnett and Quinney.
- 3.2 Initially the group was tasked with reviewing a variety of issues impacting on people with disabilities living in the Borough. However, Members discovered that this remit was too wide ranging for a scrutiny review. For this reason the group's core objectives were reduced in October 2011.
- 3.3 The main focus of the review was on the accessibility of Redditch Town Centre to people with disabilities. In particular, the group was tasked with scrutinising accessibility of local taxi services and public transport, specifically buses as well as provision of disabled parking spaces in the town centre. Members considered the needs and requirements of people with different types of disabilities including, mobility impairments, sensory impairments and learning disabilities.
- 3.4 To complete the review according to schedule the group agreed that each member would be awarded responsibility for addressing key themes individually. Responsibility was divided between the members of the group in relation to: disabled access to taxis and licensing requirements; disabled access to buses; disabled parking and legal requirements for disability access; and community consultation. The information obtained by individual Councillors was reported for the consideration of the group.
- 3.5 During the review evidence was obtained from a variety of sources. This included face-to-face interviews with representatives of bus companies and local taxi firms, interviews with relevant Officers from Redditch Borough Council and scrutiny of written reports. The group also obtained information through consultation with local residents, particularly residents with disabilities.
- 3.6 The group consulted Officers from Redditch Borough Council with regard to the financial and legal implications of a number of actions that formed the basis of a list of draft recommendations. All the decisions about the group's final recommendations were made collectively and were based on the feedback that had been received from Officers, expert witnesses and local residents.
- 3.7 Recommendation One from the group has been proposed in two forms: a majority report and a minority report. In cases where Scrutiny Members cannot agree on a single final report the Council's constitution permits the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to make no more than one minority report, representing the views of a minority of elected Members, in addition to the majority report for the consideration of the Council's Executive Committee.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
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- 3.8 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been asked to make a decision on the group's thirteenth recommendation. The Committee has the power to make a decision on this subject because the Committee determines which subjects can be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. The Executive Committee will be asked to note the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's decision on this subject.

Financial Implications

- 3.9 There are a number of financial implications which are detailed, where relevant, in relation to each of the recommendations in the Access for Disabled People Task Group's final report.

Legal Implications

- 3.10 There are a number of legal implications which are detailed, where relevant, in relation to each of the recommendations in the Access for Disabled People Task Group's final report.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.11 There are a number of service and operational implications which are detailed, where relevant, in relation to each of the recommendations in the Access for Disabled People Task Group's final report.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.12 The Equality Act 2010 focused on the needs of people with protected characteristics, which includes disabilities. Public bodies, including local authorities, have a lawful duty of regard to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The findings and actions detailed in the Access for Disabled People Task Group report should enable Redditch Borough Council to pay due regard to the needs of people with disabilities living in the Borough in line with these legislative requirements.
- 3.13 The group attempted to consult widely with local residents, particularly residents with disabilities, during the review. A variety of consultation methods were used which included issuing questionnaires to the public, consulting the Redditch Access for Disabled Group and meeting with members of the Redditch Older People's Forum. The information provided by residents through consultation was addressed further during interviews with expert witnesses and in the group's final recommendations.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17th April 2012

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

The group's findings and recommendations need to be considered in detail. There is a risk that if this does not occur the extent to which Redditch Borough Council has paid due regard to the needs of people with disabilities may be open to question.

5. APPENDICES

There are no appendices to the executive summary.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Access for Disabled People Task Group - Final Report.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Jess Bayley, Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer, on behalf of the Access for Disabled People Task Group

email: jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Tel.: (01527) 64252 Extn: 3268

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YOUTH SERVICES PROVISION TASK GROUP – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Derek Taylor, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Head of Leisure and Cultural Services
Ward(s) Affected	All wards
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The report provides a summary of the findings and final recommendations that have been made on the subject of youth services by the Youth Services Provision Task Group. This Executive Summary should be considered alongside the Youth Services Provision Task Group's final report, which provides a more detailed description of the review process, the evidence basis for the group's recommendations and the implications of proposed actions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to **RECOMMEND** that

- 1) **youth activities in Redditch should be promoted using the following communication tools:**
 - a) **a new dedicated Redditch youth website;**
 - b) **Worcestershire Plug and Play website;**
 - c) **local high schools' Frog Intranet systems; and**
 - d) **social networking platforms;**
- 2) **there should be a youth work co-ordinator for Redditch;**
- 3) **the Redditch Commissioning Group should ensure that there is a seamless transition from the old system for delivering youth services to the new commissioning framework to make sure that gaps in service provision to young people in Redditch do not occur;**
- 4) **the Redditch Commissioning Group should seriously consider the following types of bids for funding:**
 - a) **bids for youth work to be delivered using a social enterprise model; and**
 - b) **bids requesting that the funding cover the costs of employing a trained youth worker as part of delivering a positive activity to young people;**

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- 5) the Redditch Commissioning Group has been tasked with consulting with young people. We recommend that the following groups should be consulted as part of this process:
 - a) Redditch Student Council; and
 - b) a focus group of young offenders and young people at risk of offending;
- 6) the Redditch Community Safety Partnership / North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership should be invited to present information to the Redditch Commissioning Group about youth related crime and anti-social behaviour in Redditch as part of the new commissioning framework;
- 7) Redditch Borough Council should submit bids for positive activities funding in the new commissioning framework in partnership with Voluntary and Community Sector organisations that have experience delivering youth activities and should offer to host these activities at Council owned *community centres* where appropriate;
- 8) access to public transport has been consistently identified as a barrier to youth participation in positive activities. We recommend that to address this problem the following actions should be considered:
 - a) the remit of the WRVS Redditch Community Rides scheme should be extended to helping transport young people to different activities in the Borough and this pilot scheme should be extended beyond the current deadline of April 2012; and
 - b) Dial a Ride vehicles should be provided to transport young people to local events and festivities;
- 9) links should be provided directly from the Frog intranet system used by local high schools to bus companies' websites to provide young people with access to up to date information about bus timetables and routes in Redditch;
- 10) the Youth Services Provision Task Group's findings and the content of the group's final report should be considered by the Redditch Commissioning Group prior to commissioning youth activities for the Borough; and

to RESOLVE that

the report be noted.

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3. KEY ISSUES**Background**

- 3.1 The Youth Services Provision Task Group review was launched in July 2011. The group consisted of six elected Members: Councillor S Chalk (Chair) and Councillors Blake, Brazier, Hopkins, Mould and Stephens. In August 2011 a local student from Trinity High School, Mr Harry Bishop, was co-opted onto the review to provide a permanent youth perspective on the subject.
- 3.2 The review was launched at a time when Worcestershire County Council was reviewing youth service provision in the county. A key component of the review therefore involved monitoring developments with changes to youth service delivery in the Borough. However, the group was also tasked with considering: the potential role of Redditch Borough Council in future service delivery; general actions that could be taken by partner organisations to improve service delivery; best practice arrangements in other parts of the country; and opportunities and barriers to promoting greater participation in youth activities.
- 3.3 As the review was taking place at the same time as a separate review of sporting participation in the Borough the group was not tasked with reviewing sports provision to young people. A separate report, outlining the findings of the Promoting Sporting Participation Scrutiny Task Group, will be published for Members' consideration in May 2012.
- 3.4 The group considered evidence from a variety of sources. Written evidence was obtained from scrutiny reviews completed by other local authorities on the subject of youth service delivery as well as the content of a report from the House of Commons Education Committee, *Services for Young People* (2011). At the local level representatives of both Redditch Borough Council and Worcestershire County Council were consulted with regard to both existing and proposed service delivery arrangements. Evidence was also obtained, through questionnaire feedback and face-to-face interviews, from local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations that already deliver youth services to young people in Redditch as well as from organisations that deliver youth services to young people in other parts of the county.
- 3.5 The primary focus of the group throughout the review was on changes to the framework for youth service delivery in Worcestershire. In November 2011, following extensive consultation, Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet decided to introduce a commissioning framework for youth services in the county. In this framework Commissioning Groups, comprising the County Councillors elected to represent areas coterminous with district Council boundaries, will be required to commission positive youth activities for the district. Commissioning Groups will receive advice and guidance from Local Children's Partnerships. Partner representatives appointed to Local Children's Partnerships

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have relevant expertise in relation to existing services used by children and young people.

- 3.6 Worcestershire County Council has allocated a budget to each district for commissioning youth services. Funding has been allocated in accordance with a need/population formula to each of the districts, assessing the level of people categorised as “hard-pressed” alongside the number of 13-19 year olds living in an area. Redditch has been allocated £185,083 for 2012/13 reflecting the level of need in the Borough.
- 3.7 The County Council has introduced an outcomes based commissioning process. The key outcome targets in the new commissioning process will be at the local level on: providing young people with more chances to learn new skills; more young people in training, education and employment; and fewer young people involved with anti-social behaviour. The Redditch Commissioning Group will need to determine whether activities commissioned in the Borough would help to achieve these target outcomes.
- 3.8 The recommendations proposed by the Youth Services Provision Task Group have implications for a number of organisations which currently or may in the future seek to bid to deliver youth services in the Borough. However, the majority of the group’s recommendations are designed to assist the Redditch Commissioning Group with developing a commissioning framework that will suit the needs and priorities of young people living in Redditch. For this reason the group is largely requesting support in principle from the Council’s Executive Committee for their recommendations to be referred for further consideration by the Redditch Commissioning Group and Redditch Local Children’s Partnership.

Financial Implications

- 3.9 There are a number of financial implications which are detailed, where relevant, in relation to each of the recommendations in the Youth Services Provision Task Group’s final report. The majority of these financial implications would require investment from Worcestershire County Council as the local authority with responsibility for delivering positive youth activities.

Legal Implications

- 3.19 There are a number of legal implications which are detailed, where relevant, in relation to each of the recommendations in the Youth Services Provision Task Group’s final report.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.20 There are a number of service and operational implications to the group’s proposals. In particular, there are human resources and community safety implications. The full implications are detailed, where relevant, in relation to

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each of the recommendations in the Youth Services Provision Task Group's final report.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.21 Throughout the review the group consulted with young people as the primary customers of youth services. Young people were engaged in a variety of different ways including through face-to-face interviews, consultation with students during the Redditch Local Democracy Day event in October 2011 and attendance at meetings of the Student Council. In addition, the Co-opted Member of the group, a local High School pupil, attended a number of meetings and provided a youth perspective on matters discussed by the group. By the end of the review the group had consulted with approximately 65 local young people and the evidence provided helped to inform the group's final recommendations.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no real risks for Redditch Borough Council. However, if the group's proposals are not referred to the Redditch Commissioning Group for consideration it is unlikely that the information about good practice, detailed in the group's main report, will be taken into account as part of the new commissioning process. There is a risk that as a consequence the youth activities commissioned in Redditch will not meet the needs and priorities of local young people.

5. APPENDICES

There are no appendices to the Executive Summary.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Youth Services Provision Task Group – Final Report

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Jess Bayley, Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer, on behalf of the Youth Services Provision Task Group.

email: jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Tel.: (01527) 64252 Extn: 3268

Actions requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date Action Requested	Action to be Taken	Response
24th January 2012 1	Officers to report back to the Committee at a later date on the outcomes of transformation and the implications for the recommendations detailed in the final report of the External Refurbishment of Housing Stock Short Sharp Review.	Officers to schedule a date for this update to be presented for the consideration of the Committee. TO BE DONE
14th February 2012 2	Members commented that the proposed concession rates increase for use of the Abbey Stadium and Arrow Vale Sports Centres appeared to be disproportionate to that of the proposed increase in the Reddicard charge.	Relevant Officers to provide written clarification on this matter and to circulate to Members TO BE DONE
6th March 2012 3	Members requested a full list of the restaurant / cafe chains that the North Worcestershire Economic Development Unit had contacted about setting up new outlets in Redditch.	Officers to provide the list as requested and to invite Members suggestions on which other chairs could be contacted. TO BE DONE
2nd April 2012 4	Members sought further information on the £300k variance which is due to be paid from the HRA to the General Fund.	Officers to provide Members with information as requested via email. TO BE DONE
2nd April 2012 5	Members requested an update on when the additional report on the Housing Revenue Account is due to be considered by Full Council.	Officers to provide Members with confirmation via email. TO BE DONE

<p>2nd April 2012</p> <p>6</p>	<p>It was noted that the income target for the Pitcheroak Golf Course had not been achieved. Members requested an update on the latest position re the provider for the golf course.</p>	<p>Officers to provide Members with information as requested via email.</p> <p>TO BE DONE</p>
<p>2nd April 2012</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Concern was expressed that the Council's borrowing figures appeared to be too high – especially if interest rates were to rise. Officers agreed to provide further information for the Committee's next meeting.</p>	<p>Officers to prepare a report / note on the Council's borrowing situation for the Committee's consideration at the next meeting on Tuesday 17 April.</p> <p>TO BE DONE FOR THIS MEETING</p>
<p>2nd April 2012</p> <p>8</p>	<p>Members sought clarification on how visitor numbers for local attractions are counted. For example, re the Forge Mill Needle Museum, it was queried whether the Council includes the number of people who access the Museum's website within the visitor figures.</p>	<p>Officers to provide clarification as requested.</p> <p>TO BE DONE</p>
<p>2nd April 2012</p> <p>9</p>	<p>Members requested further information regarding what happens to Dial-a-Ride vehicles that remain off the road as they are 'uneconomical to repair'</p>	<p>Officers to provide the information as requested.</p> <p>TO BE DONE</p>



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No Direct Ward Relevance

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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

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	<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>OTHER ITEMS - DATE FIXED</p>		
<p>17th April 2012</p>	<p>Access for Disabled People Task Group – Final Report</p>	<p>Councillor Mason</p>
<p>17th April 2012</p>	<p>Youth Services Provision Task Group – Final Report</p>	<p>Councillor S Chalk</p>
<p>17th April 2012</p>	<p>War Memorial Petition - Monitoring Report</p>	<p>Relevant Lead Head of Service</p>

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17th April 2012	Annual Update on the Implementation of the Civil Parking Enforcement Scheme	Relevant Lead Head of Service
17th April 2012	Financial Borrowing Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
22nd May 2012	Promoting Sporting Participation Task Group – Final Report	Councillor Stephens
22nd May 2012	Work Experience Task Group – Monitoring Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
22nd May 2012	Youth Employment at Redditch Borough Council – Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
19th June 2012	Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker – Year End Report 2011/12	Relevant Lead Head of Service
August 2012	Update Report – Promoting Redditch Task and Finish Group	Relevant Lead Head of Service
OTHER ITEMS – DATE NOT FIXED		
	Energy Consumption – Submission of a Scoping Document	Councillor Anderson
	Equalities and Diversity – Submission of a Scoping Document	Councillor Fry

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	Highway Impact and Accessibility Modelling Report – Worcestershire County Council (Halcrow) – May 2011 – Pre – Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Housing Allocations Policy Review – Pre-Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Overview and Scrutiny Member Training on Pre-Scrutiny.	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Worcestershire Supporting People Strategy	Relevant Lead Head of Service