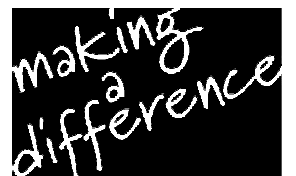


Council

Mon 25 Mar
2013
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

Access to Information - Your Rights

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

Your main rights are set out below:-

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

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

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



Council

25th March 2013

7.00 pm

Council Chamber

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Alan Mason (Mayor)	Carole Gandy
	Wanda King	Adam Griffin
	(Deputy Mayor)	Bill Hartnett
	Joe Baker	Pattie Hill
	Roger Bennett	Roger Hill
	Rebecca Blake	Gay Hopkins
	Michael Braley	Phil Mould
	Andrew Brazier	Brenda Quinney
	Juliet Brunner	Mark Shurmer
	David Bush	Yvonne Smith
	Michael Chalk	Luke Stephens
	Simon Chalk	Debbie Taylor
	Greg Chance	Derek Taylor
	Brandon Clayton	Pat Witherspoon
	John Fisher	
	Andrew Fry	

1. Welcome	The Mayor will open the meeting and welcome all present.
2. Apologies	To receive any apologies for absence on behalf of Council members.
3. Declarations of Interest	To invite Councillors to declare any interests they may have in items on the agenda.
4. Minutes Chief Executive	To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 th February 2013. (Minutes circulated in Minute Book 8 - 2012/13)

<p>5. Announcements</p>	<p>To consider Announcements under Procedure Rule 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Mayor's Announcementsb) Chief Executive's Announcementsc) Leader's Announcements. <p>(Oral report)</p>
<p>6. Questions on Notice Chief Executive</p>	<p>No questions have been submitted to date under Procedure Rule 9.2.</p>
<p>7. Motions on Notice Chief Executive</p>	<p>No Motions have been submitted under Procedure Rule 11.</p>
<p>8. Executive Committee (Pages 1 - 14) Chief Executive</p>	<p>To receive the minutes and consider the recommendations and/or referrals from the following meetings of the Executive Committee:</p> <p><u>18th February 2013</u></p> <p>There are no matters requiring the Council's consideration – all recommendations were dealt with that same night at the subsequent meeting of the Council.</p> <p><u>12th March 2013</u></p> <p>Matters requiring the Council's consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redditch Growth and Local Plan No. 4 Public Consultation; <p>(Report and decision attached. Appendices to the report to the Executive Committee are available on the Council's website and paper copies have been placed in the Group rooms. They are also available for inspection at the Town Hall)</p> <p>(Minutes of the meetings on 18th February and 12th March 2013 circulated in Minute Book 8 – 2012/13)</p>

<p>9. Regulatory Committees Chief Executive</p>	<p>To formally receive the minutes of the following meetings of the Council's Regulatory Committees:</p> <p>Planning Committee - 16th January 2013 - 13th February 2013 Standards Committee - 12th December 2012</p> <p>(Minutes circulated in Minute Book 8 – 2012/13)</p>
<p>10. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report</p>	<p>To receive the Annual Report for 2012-13 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This has been sent to Councillors separately to the agenda.</p> <p>All Wards;</p>
<p>11. Fees and Charges 2013/14 - Update (Pages 15 - 18) Head of Leisure and Cultural Services</p>	<p>Further to the meeting of the Council on 18th February 2013, to set a charge for junior swimming lessons at the Council's swimming pools for 203/14.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>All Wards;</p>
<p>12. Political balance Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services</p>	<p>The Council is asked to formally note the resignation of Councillor Michael Braley from the Conservative Group on the Council and the consequent change in political balance with there now being 15 Labour Members, 13 Conservative Members and one Member not belonging to a political Group. The Council is advised that this change does not materially affect the political balance of the Committees of the Council.</p> <p>(No separate report)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance); (West Ward);</p>

**13. Urgent Business -
Record of Decisions**

(Pages 19 - 20)

Chief Executive

To note the following decision taken in accordance with Paragraph 5 of Part 6 of the Constitution since the last ordinary meeting of the Council:

Lease Surrender for Threadneedle House by Barclays.

(Deputy Chief Executive / Executive Director, Finance and Resources)

Consideration was given to acceptance of the surrender of the lease on Threadneedle House by Barclays.

(This decision contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended. For that reason, the details of the lease surrender have been circulated to Members and relevant Officers only.)

(Executive Decision)

(Exempt report attached for Members and relevant Officers)

**14. Urgent Business -
general (if any)**

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

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

15. Exclusion of the Public

Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, to consider excluding the public from the meeting in relation to any items of business on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be divulged it may be necessary to move the following resolution:

“that, under S.100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, 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, as amended.”

[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;**

may need to be considered as ‘exempt’.]

16. -

(Note: Anyone requiring copies of any previously circulated reports, or supplementary papers, should please contact Committee Services Officers in advance of the meeting.)

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**COUNCIL**25th March 2012**167. REDDITCH GROWTH AND LOCAL PLAN NO.4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION****RECOMMENDED that**

- 1) the consultation document, Housing Growth Consultation (Appendix 1) and the supporting background evidence report (Appendix 2) and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 3) are approved for public consultation by Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council between 1st April 2013 and 13th May 2013;**
- 2) the Draft Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal are approved for public consultation at a deferred date to align with the Housing Growth consultation which is between 1st April 2013 and 13th May 2013; and**
- 3) authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development and Transport, to consider the recent letter received from Birmingham City Council regarding the Duty to Cooperate and acknowledge that the duty will also apply to Birmingham City Council and other neighbouring authorities in relation to the Redditch Growth and Local Plan No.4 Consultation.**

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12th March 2013

REDDITCH GROWTH AND LOCAL PLAN NO.4 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Greg Chance, Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development & Transport
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning & Regeneration
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	Yes
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non Key Decision

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 Both the Housing Growth consultation and the Local Plan No.4 came to Full Council on 18th February, with only Local Plan No.4 being voted in favour of consultation. A letter has been sent from Bromsgrove District Council to Redditch Borough Council dated 21st February (Appendix 4) urging Redditch Borough Council to reconsider the Housing Growth consultation, therefore this report seeks public consultation on both the Housing Growth consultation and Local Plan No.4 concurrently.
- 1.2 Bromsgrove District Council has already approved the Housing Growth consultation at their Council meeting of 20th February. To fulfil the Council's obligations under the duty to cooperate, this report now seeks a reconsideration of the approval for public consultation to be carried out between 1st April 2013 the 13th May 2013 on proposed Housing Growth alongside a deferred consultation for Local Plan No.4. The consultation on Housing Growth would be held jointly by Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council. Local Plan No.4 consultation would be held by Redditch Borough Council.
- 1.3 The Housing Growth consultation leaflet (Appendix 1) presents the two preferred sites adjacent to Redditch Borough but within Bromsgrove District, to meet the objectively assessed development needs of Redditch until 2030. It is recommended that the focus of the consultation should not change from the approach of highlighting the preferred option. The Councils must demonstrate at the examinations that a preferred option has been selected, the reasons why it's selected and that the preferred option has been consulted upon.

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2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to **RECOMMEND** that

- 1) **the consultation document, Housing Growth Consultation (Appendix 1) and the supporting background evidence report (Appendix 2) and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 3) are approved for public consultation by Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council between 1st April 2013 and 13th May 2013; and**
- 2) **the Draft Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal are approved for public consultation at a deferred date to align with the Housing Growth consultation which is between 1st April 2013 and 13th May 2013.**

3. KEY ISSUES**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The final stage costs of preparing and taking through examination the Redditch Local Plan No.4, which will include cross boundary housing policies, will be partly met through reserve budgets and salary savings for 2013/14 and will be partly subject to separate budget bids for 2014/2015; however costs associated with consultation processes can be covered by existing Development Plans budgets.

Legal Implications

Recommendation 1 only:

- 3.2 A recommendation from the Executive Committee on 12 February 2013 relating to the Redditch Growth Consultation was not carried by Full Council on 18 February 2013. As referred to elsewhere in the Report, Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011 introduces the "Duty to Co-operate". This is a legal duty which requires local authorities to co-operate with each other in relation to planning for sustainable development, in particular the preparation of development plan documents relating to a strategic matter.
- 3.3 Members are advised that on the 20th February 2013 at the meeting of its Full Council Bromsgrove District Council, in accordance with its Duty to Co-operate under the Localism Act 2011, approved the Housing Growth Consultation document and agreed to public consultation on cross border growth on this basis.

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- 3.4 Members are therefore being asked to consider the contents of the letter from Bromsgrove District Council in the context of the Redditch Growth Consultation document the supporting background evidence report and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and decide what action if any needs to be taken.
- 3.5 For the purposes of this report all of the documentation is substantially the same as recommended to Council on 18 February 2013 save for the letter from Bromsgrove District Council and the proposed consultation dates. As this matter has already been considered by the Council within the last 6 months, were members minded to make a recommendation to Full Council the effect of which would be to rescind the previous decision, then the Constitution requires (Part 4 Paragraph 15) that a Motion, to that effect, be signed by at least 7 members of the Council.

For Recommendation 2 only:

- 3.6 A recommendation from the Executive Committee on 12 February 2013 relating to consultation on the Redditch Local Plan No4 was carried by Full Council on 18 February 2013. This recommendation is for the consultation on the Local Plan No4 and on the Redditch Growth Consultation document to be concurrent because it would not be meaningful for the Local Plan consultation to take place without the additional consultation on the Redditch Growth document, which is an integral part of the Local Plan No4 ,as to how the remainder of Redditch's growth needs are to be met.

For recommendations 1 and 2:

- 3.7 The Local Plan has been prepared under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town & Country Planning Act 2004 (as amended 2008). The preparation work has also included a combined Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) to consider the environmental, social and economic impact of the Plans Vision, Objectives and Policies or the growth options. These assessments consider whether the chosen sites are sustainable and where any potential impacts are identified, how or if they can be mitigated against. A separate SA for the housing growth consultation is attached at Appendix 3.
- 3.8 The housing growth consultation is essential for the two Councils to be able to progress their Local and District Plans. The 'Duty to Co-operate' is a legal obligation, introduced by the Localism Act (2011) which requires Local Authorities to co-operate with each other in relation to planning for sustainable development, in particular the

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preparation of development plan documents relating to a strategic matter.

- 3.9 The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 first introduced the requirement for Local Planning Authorities to produce Local Development Framework. Additional guidance was issued in PPS12 Local Development Frameworks. This was then superseded in 2008 by PPS12: Local Spatial Planning. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) now supersedes all of the previous guidance. The NPPF requires that proposed development should be assessed against its degree of conflict with the Local Plan. With numerous planning applications coming forward, it is therefore highly desirable that Local Planning Authorities should have an up-to-date plan in place as soon as possible.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.10 In response to concerns raised at Redditch Borough's Full Council meeting (18 February 2013) about not consulting on alternative options, it should be noted that the background report (Appendix 2) analyses all options. This document will be available during the consultation period and respondents are able to comment on any of the analysis associated with any site. The consultation undertaken in 2010 between the two Councils presented broad areas for development. It would not be appropriate to repeat this kind of consultation again if the Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council are to progress their Local Plans in a timely way.
- 3.11 Further consultation is required for Redditch Local Plan No.4 and this needs to be undertaken alongside Redditch Cross Boundary growth because the Local Plan does not make sense without the additional consultation to suggest how the remainder of Redditch's growth needs are to be met.
- 3.12 The NPPF requires that Councils use their evidence base to ensure that their Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing. That need for Redditch's housing has been established through the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Main Report and Strategic Housing Market Assessment Redditch Overview (2012).
- 3.13 The SHMA was prepared to assess Worcestershire housing need for the six separate authorities. This SHMA suggested that Redditch should provide between 5,120 and 8,620 dwellings. It also suggested that further work be undertaken to provide specific requirements. This work was completed and it concludes that the housing requirement for Redditch from 2011 to 2030 is 6,380 dwellings.

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- 3.14 Each Local Authority is required to produce a document which sets out land that is available for housing called the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). Within Redditch the SHLAA demonstrates that there is capacity to accommodate around 3,000 dwellings within its own boundaries. This leaves 3,400 dwellings to be found cross-boundary. The SHLAA also sets out when it is likely that these sites will come forward for development. Based on information received from developers and landowners it is likely that some of these sites are not capable of being developed immediately and therefore cannot contribute to the five year supply of housing land.
- 3.15 A five year housing land supply is required by each local authority to demonstrate they can deliver housing within their area. Based on the housing requirement being 6,380 dwellings (as proposed by the SHMA) Redditch cannot demonstrate a five year housing land supply using land within its own boundaries only. Therefore land is needed within Bromsgrove to ensure Redditch can deliver housing immediately. In order to ensure that developments do not occur in unsustainable and inappropriate locations both authorities need to identify sites in Bromsgrove to accommodate the cross-boundary housing requirements in the most appropriate and sustainable locations.
- 3.16 Officers are seeking to implement housing delivery within Redditch Borough on sites which don't currently contribute towards the five year housing land supply. The focus on maximising delivery of housing within Redditch boundaries is a consistent approach and will continue to be recommended.
- 3.17 The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Panel Report was released in 2009 and set out clearly that Redditch Borough does not have sufficient development land within its boundary to meet locally generated needs. The report proposed a housing requirement of 7,000 dwellings to meet Redditch need and concluded that provision should be made in Redditch to accommodate 4,000 dwellings. Thus, 3,000 dwellings should be accommodated in Bromsgrove District. The Report supported the notion to retain flexibility as to where the provision should be made on the edge of Redditch, to be locally determined through the authorities working together. There has been an indication that the RSS will be revoked (as detailed in the Localism Act) however at present the RSS is still a material planning consideration when preparing Local Plans. In anticipation of the RSS being revoked, Redditch and Bromsgrove (along with other Worcestershire Districts) commissioned the SHMA as the local evidence to determine the appropriate level of housing for the authorities.

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- 3.18 Appendix 2 (supporting background evidence report) was completed in house by officers of both Bromsgrove and Redditch. This report follows consultation in 2010 on housing growth held jointly by the two Councils, where broad location options for potential growth were identified. Since then no preferred area for growth has been selected, until now. The background evidence document is required to identify the most sustainable growth location(s) with more detailed evidence than the Councils have previously had.
- 3.19 Early in the production of the document, the Councils reviewed any relevant policy documentation, then agreed on some common strategic objectives which are consistent with the two Council's emerging Plan's objectives. Then a set of site assessment principles were developed to drive the assessment process as a means of evaluating all the options for growth. A number of site visits were undertaken throughout the assessment process.
- 3.20 The broad site appraisal stage assesses twenty of the potential sites around Redditch against the site assessment principles. Sites were either discounted or taken forward (to focussed site appraisal) for further assessment and this process is clearly documented in Chapter 6.
- 3.21 Five areas were taken forward for focussed site appraisal. The outcome was that area 4 at Foxlydiate and area 6 at Brockhill East were determined at this stage to be the preferred option.
- 3.22 The background report explains in detail the process employed to assess each area's performance against site assessment criteria. In order to reach the recommendation on the preferred sites all the planning issues must be considered in order to reach a conclusion. All of the areas are in the Green Belt and all of the areas have constraints and strengths. The preferred option is based upon the areas which could most sustainably deliver the required amount of development and associated infrastructure with the least negative impacts. It must be stressed that the proposal has been selected on the basis of information that is currently available and this may alter as a result of the consultation process or as new evidence emerges alongside consideration of the alternative sites.
- 3.23 As can be seen from the conclusions for each focussed site appraisal area in the focussed site appraisal stage it is apparent that some areas perform better than others when tested against the varied assessment criteria. Clearly there are competing issues which are more difficult to resolve for some sites than for others. Some selected examples of issues are discussed below although it must be stressed that these

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alone do not demonstrate why a site has or hasn't been considered to be the preferred option.

- 3.24 The development of area 4 (site 1 on the consultation leaflet) has the advantage of improving facilities and services in the wider Webheath area. Whilst lying furthest from the Town Centre of all the areas it offers the opportunity to extend existing bus services and by the provision of facilities on site has the potential to reduce the need to travel. Whilst it does not have overall strong defensible Green Belt boundaries on all sides the effects of sprawl, coalescence and encroachment can be mitigated more successfully than some other site options.
- 3.25 It could be argued that areas 4 and 5 perform best in transport terms as their development is likely to have the added benefit of contributing towards the regeneration of both Town Centres. However this must be weighed against the potential negative impact on the setting of Hewell Grange grade II* listed registered historic park and garden (in relation to area 5 only) which is difficult to mitigate. Furthermore in terms of public transport it would be possible to improve/extend existing public transport services serving areas 4 and 5 whereas area 8 would need new bespoke public transport service which is likely to be very costly and undesirable for bus operators to run until development is completed many years in the future.
- 3.26 Area 6 (Site 2 in the consultation leaflet) has the potential to integrate well into the existing urban fabric of Redditch. It has the easiest access of all the areas to Redditch Town Centre and the facilities offered there including a range of retail services and the train/bus station providing access to the wider area. It is well served by existing bus routes and has employment close by. The impact on the highway network is more likely to lead to an even distribution throughout the strategic and local road networks. A strong defensible Green Belt boundary is attainable. There are no SSSI's or SWS's on this site and the impact on trees and woodland would be minimal. Whilst the site lies in an area of high landscape sensitivity it is considered that by avoidance of development on high slopes new housing can be contained within the topography.
- 3.27 All areas are of high landscape sensitivity apart from area 8 which has medium sensitivity. However as area 8 is an exposed site with no natural or physical boundaries which allow for containment, this exposed location further creates difficulties with integration into the existing built form of Redditch. It is considered development here could represent more of a visual intrusion, and the creation of an unsustainable isolated community on the periphery of the town. It is also considered development at area 8 would further exacerbate the unsustainable north /south commuting patterns between Redditch and Birmingham.

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- 3.28 There are some areas which have obviously less constraints than others, for instance area 6. However, the estimated capacity of area 6 alone (672 dwellings) is insufficient to meet the level of new development required. As a result it is considered that site 4 would also be required, this site has an estimated capacity of 2830 dwellings which in total would give an overall development capacity of around 3502 dwellings under this proposal.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.29 To engage with customers effectively a number of consultation events will need to be re-arranged including drop in sessions in locations such as a vacant Kingfisher Shopping Centre unit, Foxlydiate Arms public house, Bentley Village Hall and Alvechurch Village Hall.
- 3.30 A new Health Impact Assessment has been prepared in collaboration with Hillary Sharpe, a Consultant in Public Health from Worcestershire NHS. This demonstrates how the Local Plan's key themes and the policies within them help to promote health and well-being in Redditch Borough.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 In accordance with both authorities previously approved Local Development Schemes the next stage of the Local/District Plan, subject to amendments following consultation, is Pre-Submission Local/District Plan due August 2013. It could be that, given the deferral from February's Executive Committee and Full Council, this milestone of August may not be achieved. Officers will advise in a subsequent report if the Local Development Scheme needs to be amended but a short slippage may be justified.
- 4.2 The Local/District Plans are due to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in November/December 2013 but, again, this could be subject to change. A formal Examination in Public will be held, including possible joint hearing sessions for Redditch growth matters. If the Local/District Plans are found sound by the Planning Inspector, the Plans can be adopted by the two Councils.
- 4.3 There is a risk that the plans of the neighbouring authorities such as Birmingham or Stratford on Avon District are not found sound at examination for a variety of reasons. This could risk the soundness of the Redditch Local Plan or the Bromsgrove District Plan. Also neighbouring authorities could object to any of the proposals within the Redditch or Bromsgrove plans which could cause delay or issues of compliance with the duty to cooperate.

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- 4.4 Similarly, there is a risk that the Redditch or Bromsgrove Plans are found to be unsound at Examination in Public. This can be mitigated against to some extent by ensuring that Council's case is clearly articulated through the public consultation stages, and that evidence supports the proposals.
- 4.5 There is always a risk that residents, stakeholders and/or developers will not support the consultation or the findings of the housing growth consultation. This can be mitigated against to some extent by ensuring adequate explanation and justification for the proposals are provided at the public consultation stage and in the response report following consultation.
- 4.6 It should be noted that if members decide to not recommend the consultation on the Housing Growth or on the Local Plan, that the Borough Council is risking non-compliance with its Statutory duty under the Localism Act to cooperate with neighbouring authorities on this main strategic issue. The Council would also not be fulfilling its statutory duty to prepare a Plan for the area as prescribed by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. If the Borough Council allow Bromsgrove to go alone to consultation, this Council will have no right to be involved in the reviewing of representations received and this undermines future decision making on these issues.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Housing Growth consultation document (available via website and to Members in Group Rooms)

Appendix 2 - Housing Growth consultation background report (available via website and to Members in Group Rooms)

Appendix 3 - Housing Growth consultation draft Sustainability Appraisal (available via website and to Members in Group Rooms)

Appendix 4 - Letter from Bromsgrove District Council to Redditch Borough Council (attached)

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

A Review of the A435 ADR and adjoining lands (2013)

Worcestershire County Council Redditch Development Sites - Highway Impact and Accessibility Modelling Report (May 2011)

Worcestershire County Council Redditch Local Plan – Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2013)

Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 and Water Cycle Strategy update (2012)

Strategic Housing Market Assessment – Main Report (Feb 2012)

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Strategic Housing Market Assessment – Appendix 4 – Redditch SHMA
Overview Report (Feb 2012)
Strategic Housing Market Assessment – Annex – Redditch Updated
Household Projections (May 2012)
Employment Land Review – Partial Update (November 2012)
Redditch Town Centre Retail and Office Needs Assessments – Partial
Updates (October 2012)
Local Development Scheme (2012 – 2015)
Redditch Green Belt release to meet Growth Needs (2013)
Five Year Land Supply Refresh (February 2013)
Infrastructure Delivery Plan Summary Table and Report (2013)

All supporting technical evidence for the Housing Growth consultation
will be available on a specific website at
www.bromsgroveandredditchplanning.co.uk

AUTHOR OF REPORT

RBC

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Bromsgrove
District Council

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Our ref: RH/WR

21st February 2013

Councillor B. Hartnett
Leader Redditch Borough Council
Town Hall
Walter Stranz Square
Redditch
B98 8AH

From the Office of the Leader of the Council

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Telephone: (01527) 881400

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DX: 17279 Bromsgrove

Dear Councillor Hartnett

I write concerning the duty to cooperate agreement reached between the Councils last summer, and the subsequent events that took place at the respective Council meetings this week.

In response to the decision taken by Redditch Borough Council on the 18th February not to endorse the housing growth material for public consultation, Bromsgrove District Council considered a revised recommendation at its Council meeting on the 20th February.

Firstly, I can confirm that Council approved the Housing Growth Consultation document and decided to proceed with public consultation on Sites 1 and 2.

Secondly, Members considered the position of the two Councils under the duty to co-operate imposed by the Localism Act, and agreed that Redditch Borough Council should be asked to re-consider its position regarding the public consultation on cross border growth as a matter of urgency.

It is the view of Bromsgrove District Council that the evidence prepared by a joint team of planning officers, and which supports the development areas identified in the consultation material, is robust, and in accordance with the decisions taken by the Bromsgrove Cabinet and the Redditch Executive does not warrant any further amendments before consultation with the public.

To that effect, Bromsgrove District Council has resolved to delay the publication of the consultation in order to give sufficient time for Redditch Borough Council to respond to this request. It is still the wish of Bromsgrove District Council to carry out a joint consultation with Redditch as we firmly believe this is in the best interests of the residents in our respective authorities, and also in accordance with the duty to cooperate and the best principles of successful plan making.

Continued.....

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We hope that a positive response to this request will be forthcoming. However, in the event that Redditch Borough Council does not endorse the information for public consultation it is the intention of Bromsgrove District Council to publish this material on 1st April for a 6 week consultation period.

We look forward to your response and continued commitment to work together to achieve sound sustainable development plans for both Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Roger Hollingworth
Leader of Bromsgrove District Council

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FEES AND CHARGES 2013/14 - UPDATE

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Luke Stephens, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	John Godwin, Head of Leisure and Cultural Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Further to the meeting of the Council on 18th February 2013, to set a charge for junior swimming lessons at the Council's swimming pools for 203/14.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is asked to RESOLVE that

the increase in fees and charges for swimming lessons as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed in line with the other charges agreed at Full Council on 18th February 2013.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Benchmarking has been carried out with other local providers of swimming lessons as set out in Appendix 2. The proposed price of swimming lessons for 2013/14 is generally lower than the prices charged by other providers.
- 3.2 A concessionary charge is in place and provides children from families on low incomes with a 25% discount on lessons.
- 3.3 The increase in revenue generated from the increase in charges will help to reduce the subsidy required to provide lessons.
- 3.4 Swimming Lessons are provided by the County Council's education department as part of the key stage 2 curriculum. The lessons provided by Redditch Borough Council are an additional requirement supporting this agenda.

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- 3.5 Swimming lessons have increased above the 3% recommendation in the fees and charges report. The charge for a junior Reddicard holder is proposed to increase from £33.80 to £40.00. This represents an increase of 62p per week. The weekly increase for concessionary card holders is 47p.
- 3.6 Swimming Lessons are paid for in blocks of 10 weeks. There are currently 800 children on swimming lessons, with nearly 600 on a waiting list.

Financial Implications

- 3.7 The Council's Financial Regulation D11 requires an annual review of fees and charges to be undertaken. Traditionally, this review is carried out as part of the budget preparation cycle.
- 3.8 Officers have been asked to review all their fees and charges and it is recommended that they are increase by 3%. In this case, the increase is more than the standard 3% rise.
- 3.9 The cost of providing lessons is considerable due to a variety of fixed and variable costs including the payment of swimming teachers.
- 3.10 Bottom line revenue projections may be affected should the increase in charges not be agreed. This may result in an unavoidable budget pressure for 2013/14, particularly if the Market Forces Policy is approved meaning the hourly rate for swimming instructors costs increases the overall expenditure.

Legal Implications

- 3.11 Legal implications are set out within the original report to the Executive Committee on 12th February 213.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.12 The Committee is asked to recommend that the increase in fees and charges for swimming lessons be implemented from 1st April 2013.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.13 The increase in lessons affecting those on low incomes will be mitigated by the provision of the Concessionary card scheme.
- 3.14 Existing customers are unlikely to use alternative providers as the costs of swimming lessons are higher and the majority of providers do not provide concessionary pricing schemes

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4. RISK MANAGEMENT

If the Council's fees and charges are not increased at least in line with inflation each year then the level of subsidy will increase which has a direct impact on the level of Council Tax or the Housing Revenue Account.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Proposed Leisure Fees and Charges 2013/14
Appendix 2- Benchmarking comparisons, Swimming Lessons

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no background papers identified.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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Appendix 1- Proposed Leisure Fees and Charges 2013/14

SERVICE CATEGORY	Current charge 2012/13	Current Reddicard 2012/13	Current Concession 2012/13	Proposed charge from 01/04/13	Proposed Reddicard from 01/04/13	Proposed Concession from 01/04/13
Junior Swimming Lessons	£50.70	£33.80	£25.40	£59.80	£40.00	£30.00

Appendix 2-Benchmarking Comparison, Swimming Lessons

Provider	Location	Charge (based on 10 weeks and on 12/13 prices)	Comments
Wychavon Leisure Trust	Dolphin Centre, Bromsgrove	£46.00	No concessionary price offered
SLM	Studley Leisure Centre	£47.00	As above
Leisure Connections	Worcester Pool	£50.00	As above
Birmingham City Council	Cocks Moor Wood LC	£38.40	£23.00
Dudley Metropolitan Council	Dudley Leisure Centre	£47.00	£23.50
Walsall District Council	Darlastan Leisure Centre	£41.00	No concessionary price offered
Parwood Leisure Holdings	Tudor Grange	£42.00	As above

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

