Public Document Pack

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

Tuesday, 5th February, 2013 7.00 pm

Committee Room Two Town Hall Redditch



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 <u>Executive Committee</u> 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

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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.

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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

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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.





Tuesday, 5th February, 2013
7.00 pm
Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Committee

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Membership:

Cllrs:

Juliet Brunner (Chair)

Simon Chalk (Vice-

Chair)

Andrew Brazier David Bush John Fisher Andrew Fry
Pattie Hill
Gay Hopkins
Pat Witherspoon

1. Apologies and named substitutes

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.

2. Declarations of interest and of Party Whip

To invite Councillors to declare any interest they may have in items on the Agenda and any Party Whip.

3. Minutes

(Pages 1 - 14)

To confirm the minutes of the most recent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a correct record.

(Minutes attached)

(No Specific Ward Relevance);

4. Fees and Charges 2013/14

Exec Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

To consider further information about the proposed fees and charges for services in 2013/14.

(Report to follow)

All Wards;

5. Initial Estimates 2013/14 - 2015/16

Exec Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

To consider the intial estimates for the Council's budgetary position 2013/14 - 2015/16.

(Report to follow).

(No Specific Ward Relevance);

6.	Redditch Market Task Group - final report Councillor Andrew Brazier	To consider the final report of the Redditch Market Task Group and to determine whether to approve the group's recommendations. (Report to follow, presentation to follow).
		(Abbey Ward);
7. Living Wage - Suggested Scrutiny Review		To consider a referral from Council suggesting that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review payment of the living wage to employees at Redditch Borough Council.
	(Pages 15 - 20)	(Papart attached)
	C Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic	(Report attached).
	Services	(Various Wards);
8.	Overview and Scrutiny Training - Feedback	To consider the outcomes of the Overview and Scrutiny training session that took place on 17th January and the implications, if any, for scrutiny in Redditch.
	(Pages 21 - 22)	implications, if any, for columny in recounters.
	C Folton Hood of Logal	(Reports attached).
	C Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services	(No Specific Ward Relevance);
9. Actions List		To note the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Actions
	(Pages 23 - 24)	List.
		(Report attached)
		(Hoport attached)
		(No Specific Ward Relevance);
10.	Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme	To consider the minutes of the latest meeting(s) of the Executive Committee and also to consider whether any items on the Executive Committee's Work Programme are suitable for scrutiny. (Minutes attached).
	(Pages 25 - 38)	
		(No Specific Ward Relevance);
11. Task & Finish Reviews - Draft Scoping Documents		To consider any scoping documents provided for possible Overview and Scrutiny review
		(No reports attached
		(No Specific Ward Relevance);
		(cheeme a. a a a

12.	Task and Finish Groups -
	Progress Reports

To consider progress to date on the current reviews against the terms set by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The current reviews in progress are:

- a) Arts and Culture Centre Chair, Councillor Gay Hopkins;
- b) Redditch Market Chair, Councillor Andrew Brazier.

(Oral reports)

(No Specific Ward Relevance);

13. Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Pat Witherspoon

To receive a verbal update on the recent work of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(Verbal report)

(No Specific Ward Relevance);

14. Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel - Chair's Update

Councillor Andrew Brazier

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.

(Report to follow).

(No Specific Ward Relevance);

15. Referrals

To consider any referrals to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee direct, or arising from:

- The Executive Committee or full Council
- Other sources.

(No separate report).

Committee

16. Work Programme

(Pages 39 - 44)

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



Tuesday, 8th January, 2013

Committee

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Simon Chalk (Vice-Chair in the Chair) and Councillors Andrew Brazier, David Bush, John Fisher, Pattie Hill, Roger Hill (substituting for Councillor Juliet Brunner), Gay Hopkins, Yvonne Smith (substituting for Councillor Andrew Fry) and Pat Witherspoon.

Officers:

T Kristunas, H Mole and J Staniland

Democratic Services Officers:

J Bayley and M Craggs

123. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Juliet Brunner and Andrew Fry. Councillors Roger Hill and Yvonne Smith were confirmed respectively as their substitutes.

124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

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

125. MINUTES

Members requested a further update on progress with regard to providing the Committee with additional information about vacant Council properties, which had been requested at the previous meeting of the Committee. Officers confirmed that this information would be provided in two reports. The first report, focusing on empty business units, was scheduled for the consideration of the Committee on 5th March 2013. No date had been set for consideration of the second report, which would investigate the Council's wider property portfolio in further detail.

Chair

Committee

Tuesday, 8th January, 2013

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 29th November 2012 and 11th December 2012 be approved as a true and correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

126. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - 2013/14- 2015/16

Members received a presentation outlining the Medium Term Financial Plan for the Council for 2013/14 – 2015/16 (Appendix A).

The following additional points were discussed by Members during the meeting:

a) Voluntary Redundancies

The Committee was advised that staff had been asked to consider whether they would be interested in applying for voluntary redundancy as part of the Council's approach to making savings. Savings accrued from redundancies would apply to the year in which a member of staff left the Council's employment. The Council could apply to the government for financial support, through capital receipts, to help pay for any redundancy packages and thereby limit the impact on the Council's finances.

b) Government Grant Settlement

Officers confirmed that the Council had been notified of the government grant settlement on 19th December 2012. This had been slightly later than originally anticipated and the cut to the grant settlement for the local authority had been greater than expected.

There had been a comparable reduction to the government grant settlement for the other local authorities in Worcestershire, though there had been a slightly greater reduction to the grant settlement for Redditch Borough Council.

c) Budget Assumptions

A number of assumptions had been made about the Council's budgetary position going forward. Each of these assumptions was based on Officers' estimates relating to particular budgets. For example, an assumption regarding the New Homes Bonus

Committee

Tuesday, 8th January, 2013

had been based on a calculation that took into account properties that were due to be built in the Borough.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

127. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - BIANNUAL RECOMMENDATION TRACKER

The Committee received a report detailing the response that had been received to recommendations that had been made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the first half of 2012/13. Information had also been provided about the action that had been taken by Officers to implement the recommendations that had been approved by the Executive Committee.

During this period the Committee had made 44 recommendations. A total of 33 recommendations had been approved by the Executive Committee and 2 recommendations had been rejected. Decisions remained to be taken on a further 9 recommendations.

The Committee noted that a map of disabled parking spaces had been provided for Members' consideration. This map had been produced in accordance with proposals that had been made by the Access for Disabled People Task Group in August 2012. Members confirmed that the basic content of the map appeared to be appropriate. However, Members agreed that in the event that the map was used to promote disabled parking bays in the town centre it should always be reproduced in a colour print format. The Committee also suggested that consideration should be given to incorporating the collection and delivery points used by the Dial a Ride service.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

128. ACTIONS LIST

The Committee was provided with an update in relation to the first item listed on the Actions List, concerning arrangements for PAT testing computer equipment that had been issued to elected Councillors. Officers had identified that the computer leads utilised by Councillors, rather than the laptops issued to Members, needed to undergo PAT testing. Replacement leads were being located for use during the testing process and the logistics of organising PAT

Committee

Tuesday, 8th January, 2013

testing for all of the equipment provided to Members was in the process of being investigated further.

RESOLOVED that

the Committee's Actions List be noted.

129. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES AND SCRUTINY OF THE EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME

Members noted that the Executive Committee had considered the Concessionary Rents Short, Sharp Review Group's recommendations during a meeting on 18th December 2012. The Committee had concluded that the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management, Councillor Philip Mould, should consider the recommendations in further detail and determine whether aspects of those recommendations could be incorporated into the Council's Policy for Leases of Council Land and Property at a Concessionary Rent.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 18th December 2012, and the latest edition of the Executive Work Programme be noted.

130. TASK & FINISH REVIEWS - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENTS

There were no draft scoping documents.

131. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS - PROGRESS REPORTS

The Committee received the following reports in relation to current reviews:

a) Arts and Culture Centre - Chair, Councillor Gay Hopkins

Members were advised that the group had received 348 completed questionnaires from local residents as part of an ongoing consultation exercise. Questionnaires had been distributed through a variety of methods including: providing copies to residents at carol concerts in the Borough; publication on the Council's website; and provision to customers visiting the branch of B&Q in Redditch.

The feedback provided by residents in completed questionnaires was due to be considered at the group's

Committee

Tuesday, 8th January, 2013

following meeting, alongside further information about properties that could potentially be used as the base for an arts centre in the town.

b) Redditch Market - Chair, Councillor Andrew Brazier

Members had produced an initial draft of recommendations which were due to be discussed in further detail with a number of expert witnesses at the following meeting of the group. During the review the group had issued a questionnaire. Consistent feedback had been received from residents in completed questionnaires and would be taken into account in the group's final report.

As part of the review the possibility that changes were due to be made to licenses for street trading had been taken into account. The market traders had also been consulted and the chair of the group had responded to many traders in person outside the formal Committee environment.

RESOLVED that

the update reports be noted.

132. HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee was informed that there had been no meetings of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and there were therefore no updates to provide.

133. REFERRALS

There were no referrals.

134. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted that an Overview and Scrutiny Committee training session, Effective Questioning Skills for Members, would be taking place on 17th January 2013.

Councillor Witherspoon volunteered to attend the following meeting of the West Midlands Regional Scrutiny Network on behalf of the Committee, which was due to take place on 21st March 2013.

RESOLVED that

the Committee's Work Programme be noted.

Committee	Tuesday, 8th January, 2013

The Meeting commenced at 7.01 pm and closed at 7.30 pm



Budget Update 2013/14 - 2015/16

APPENDIX A

Budget Update 2013|14 – 2015|16

Settlement 2012/13

- £4.212m

Anticipated Settlement 2013/14

5% Reduction £4.001m

Actual Settlement 2013/14

7.19% Reduction £3.919m

Additional £82k reduction

Plus additional £68k re Council Tax benefit reduction Total additional £150k less than anticipated





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Assumptions

- Vacancy Management 4% not on key services £200k
- Outturn Savings £150k
- Pay Award 1%
- Current calculated shortfall includes no ncrease in Council Tax (1% grant from Government)
- New Homes Bonus £380k
- No bids for financial plan
- Estimated reductions in future years settlements





Current Position

Unavoidables:

- Shortfalls in Income £60k
- Pay Rise 1% £100k
- Other pressures £44k

Savings:

Savings proposed by Heads of Service to deliver through transformation / additional income and service reviews - £610k

Staff have been asked if they would wish to be considered for voluntary redundancy





Current Summary 2013/14

Net Cost of Services	10,764
Add	
Unavoidable Pressures	354
Less:	
Savings identified	-610
Council Tax	-4,984
Council Tax Grant (1% 2013/14)	-58
Gov Grant	-3,919
Homelessness Grant	-99
Compail Toy Crimat Caboma Crant / toy	
benefit)	908-
Use of Reserve	-255
Shortfall	387





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2014|15-2015|16

Shortfalls:

2014/15 £684k

2015/16 £200k

Issues to consider:

Income realised from an increase in Council Tax (£40k)

Additional transformation savings





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Timeline

Jan - HoS to review all service areas to identify waste in the system and potential to redesign processes Jan - Further updates to Committes and Board meetings. Group briefings arranged

Feb - Council Tax set 18th February



Page 15 Agenda Item 7

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5th February 2013

LIVING WAGE – SCRUTINY PROPOSAL

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Philip Mould, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management.
Portfolio Holder Consulted	The Portfolio Holder was present at the meeting of Council when Members agreed to refer this item to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
Relevant Head of Service	Teresa Kristunas, Head of Finance and Resources.
Ward(s) Affected	No specific ward relevance.
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been asked by Council to consider investigating proposals for all employees at the Council to receive a living wage as a minimum and to report to the Executive Committee on the full implications of this arrangement for staffing and financial costs. This report outlines the approaches that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could adopt to considering this item.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE on one of the following options:

- 1) that the item is included on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate, subject to broad terms of reference and a deadline being set; OR
- 2) that the item is included on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for a Task Group to investigate, subject to detailed terms of reference and a deadline being set; OR
- 3) that additional information be requested from a relevant source before deciding whether or not further investigation is required; OR
- 4) that no further action be taken.

3. KEY ISSUES

Background

3.1 A Notice of Motion in respect of the Living Wage was submitted for the consideration of Council on 15th January 2013. During the course of the meeting there was considerable discussion of the motion, as detailed in the

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5th February 2013

relevant minute from that meeting (Appendix 1). However, it was eventually determined that the subject should be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further investigation.

- 3.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to determine the content of the Committee's Work Programme. If the Committee decides that the subject deserves further investigation there are various options available to enable Members to undertake a review. Whichever option the Committee selects Members are advised to consider setting terms of reference and a deadline for completion of the work, in accordance with best practice.
- 3.3 The issue could be reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a series of meetings. When considering this option Members should consider the existing size of the agenda for forthcoming meetings of the Committee and the potential impact this might have on effective scrutiny of the subject.
- 3.4 Alternatively, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could establish a Task Group to review this subject. If a Task Group is established a member of the Committee will need to be appointed to Chair the review. Members are also advised to limit to a maximum of five the number of members of the review to ensure that the exercise can be completed in a timely manner.
- 3.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may conclude that additional information is required to enable Members to determine whether a review should be launched. In this context the Committee could request further details from relevant Officers.
- 3.6 Overview and Scrutiny Committees at Bromsgrove District Council and Worcestershire County Council have similarly been asked to consider reviewing the subject of the living wage. If the Redditch Overview and Scrutiny Committee decides to review this subject Members may want to consider the respective work of each local authority as part of the review.
- 3.7 The Committee is not obliged to review every item referred by Council and the Executive Committee and may determine that this subject is not suitable for further scrutiny. However, if the Committee does decide not to review this item Members should provide clear reasons for rejecting the subject.

Financial Implications

3.8 There are no financial implications directly relating to this report. However, if the proposal is accepted, any financial implications would need to be considered as part of the subsequent investigation.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5th February 2013

Legal Implications

- 3.9 There are no legal implications directly relating to this report. However, if the proposal is accepted, any legal implications would need to be considered as part of the subsequent investigation.
- 3.10 There is an accreditation process for becoming recognised as honouring the living wage. This could be used as a framework for the Committee's investigation and for confirming the legal aspects.

Service / Operational Implications

3.11 A review of whether to pay the living wage of £7.45 per hour as a minimum would have implications for the Council's Human Resources Department in particular. If a review of this subject matter is approved Members would need to consult with representatives of the service.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.12 No direct customer or equality and diversity implications have been identified for this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

No risks have been identified.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Extract from the minutes of the meeting of Council held on Tuesday 15th January 2013.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Jess Bayley, Democratic Services Officer, on behalf of the Overview and

Scrutiny Committee

email: jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Tel.: (01527) 64252 Ext: 3268



Council

15th January 2013

MINUTES

Present:

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

Officers:

A Darroch, K Dicks, C Felton, S Hanley, S Jones and J Pickering

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

MINUTE 89

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

A Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor Brandon Clayton in respect of the Living Wage. This was seconded by Councillor Michael Braley.

In proposing this Motion, Councillor Clayton suggested that the Council recognise the case for paying all those employed by the authority according to such a policy and requested that the matter be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for investigation of the proposals.

In responding to the Motion, the Leader noted that variations on this Motion had previously been considered at a number of other authorities within Worcestershire. It was noted that few Redditch employees were paid below the living wage and it was expected that implementation of Job Evaluation would bring these employees wages up to the required level. Wages paid by contractors working on behalf of the Council could not be controlled to the same extent for legal reasons but the Leader was keen to encourage all Redditch employees to recognise the case for paying the living wage.

	Chair	

Council

15th January 2013

There was considerable discussion as to whether the Motion as printed should be amended prior to Members agreeing that the Motion be approved in the following, abbreviated terms as proposed by Councillor Bill Hartnett and seconded by Councillor Carole Gandy.

RESOLVED that

the Motion be agreed in the following terms:

"This Council recognises the case for all employees to be paid the living wage of £7.45 per hour as a minimum.

We ask that this be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate proposals with a view to bring back a report to the Executive Committee on the full implication for staffing and financial costs."

The Meeting commenced at 8.37 pm	
and closed at 9.55 pm	
	Chair

Effective Questioning Skills for Members Key Points from the Session

The following key points were raised during the training session for the consideration of Overview and Scrutiny Members:

- It is important to prepare in advance of interviewing any expert witness.
- A pre-meeting, well in advance of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, can be a useful way to prepare in order to scrutinise particular items effectively.
- In order to prepare Members should consider the following:

-

- Read the background papers!
- Background information about the service area/policy/strategy/report writer.
- Consider whether benchmarking, involving comparing performance figures to performance at another local authority, might be appropriate.
- Consider whether comparative data for previous years might be useful.
- Determine whether an FOI request could help to obtain useful information.
- Identify what questions should be asked and who should ask the questions.
- Ask the Democratic Services Officers to provide assistance with gathering evidence.
- Contact relevant Officers for further information or clarification on any confusing points in advance of the meeting.
- Make sure you bring all paperwork gathered as background papers, not just the agenda pack, to the meeting.
- Consider the different types of questions that can be proposed and whether questions are appropriate in particular circumstances (please refer to the guide to different type of questions provided during the training session for further information).
- Don't ask more questions than necessary! This can be exhausting for all concerned and may detract from the impact you are trying to have.
- Don't combine questions into one as this can be confusing and difficult to follow. Instead, make questions structured so that all points can be clearly addressed.
- Don't precede a question with a lengthy statement. This can be confusing and lacks focus.

Actions requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date Action Requested	Action to be Taken	Response
11th December 2012 1	Members requested training on the subject of service transformation, as part of the Committee's new focus on scrutinising transformation and shared service.	Officers are due to deliver a briefing on the subject of transformation at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5th March 2013. WILL BE COMPLETED SHORTLY.
8th January 2013 2	Members requested clarification on whether the Borough Council had received the largest percentage cut in central government funding of all local authorities in Worcestershire	It was confirmed, during a meeting of the Executive Committee on 15th January 2013, that Redditch Borough Council received the worst settlement in the county. COMPLETED.
8th January 2013 3	Members suggested that the map that had been produced to demonstrate the location of disabled parking spaces and Shopmobility in Redditch Town Centre should also include drop off points for Dial-a-Ride buses.	An updated version of the map, incorporating information about Dial a Ride drop off points has been produced as requested. COMPLETED.



Committee

15th January 2013

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), Councillor Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Rebecca Blake, Michael Braley, Carole Gandy, Phil Mould, Mark Shurmer, Luke Stephens and Debbie Taylor

Also Present:

Councillors Joe Baker, Roger Bennett, Andrew Brazier, Juliet Brunner, Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Brandon Clayton, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Adam Griffin, Pattie Hill, Roger Hill, Gay Hopkins, Wanda King, Alan Mason, Brenda Quinney, Yvonne Smith and Pat Witherspoon

Officers:

A Darroch, K Dicks, C Felton, S Hanley, S Jones, J Pickering and J Willis

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

126. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

127. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

128. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader advised that the following item of business, scheduled on the Executive Committee Work Programme to be considered at this evening's meeting, had been rescheduled to a later meeting of the Committee:

Home Energy Conservation Act.

Chair

Committee

15th January 2013

129. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee meeting held on 18th December 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

130. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2013/14 - 2015/16

Officers provided the Committee with a presentation detailing the anticipated financial pressures facing the authority over the coming three year period. It was demonstrated that the level of financial support from central Government was falling quite dramatically and, as a result, the Council had to deal with anticipated budget shortfalls over the next three years.

Members were informed that the current financial predictions were based upon there being no revenue bids from services over the next three years, no increase in Council Tax and anticipated reductions in Formula Grant during this period. The shortfall for the current year was anticipated to be £350,000 - £400,000.

Savings were being made through service transformation and staff were being encouraged to share any ideas they had for saving money with management. Staff had also been invited to apply for voluntary redundancy in a bid to avoid making staff compulsorily redundant.

Members expressed their disappointment at the poor grant settlement received by the Borough, given the efforts that had been made in recent years to push down costs through measures such as the sharing of services. It was recommended that the Leader write to the Department for Communities and Local Government to complain at the level of grant settlement.

RESOLVED that

1) the presentation of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources on the Medium Term Financial Plan be noted and Officers be tasked to continue to try to identify savings through systems thinking and the transformation programme in order to protect front line services and balance the budget; and

RECOMMENDED

2) the Leader writes to DCLG in the strongest possible terms in response to the Finance Settlement as the

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Borough Council has received the worst settlement in the County and given that it had already been innovative in its approach to shared services and systems thinking.

131. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

Members received a report which set out proposals for administering a local replacement for the existing national Council Tax Benefit scheme. The Council was expected to be facing a shortfall as a result of these changes of around £90,000 which would have to be met from savings.

Proposals had been developed through joint working between billing authorities in Worcestershire, with the exception of Wyre Forest District Council, and in consultation with the major precepting authorities. Consensus had been reached countywide that the billing authorities would only look to gain 50% of the shortfall back through local replacement schemes. The greatest overall loss of revenue would be suffered by the County Council.

A consultation exercise had been undertaken on draft proposals but very few responses had been received. The changes that were proposed comprised changes to Council Tax exemption, whilst the Council needed to be mindful of a duty to protect vulnerable groups from adverse impacts as a result of such changes.

Officers undertook to provide all members of the Executive Committee with the details of the one consultation response received.

RESOLVED that

- 1) there will not be a replacement scheme for Council Tax Benefit from April 2013; and
- 2) the financial impacts and the requirement for a more fundamental review of local Council Tax support from 2014/15 be noted; and

RECOMMENDED that

- 3) the exemption scheme be amended to limit discount in respect of short term empty property Class C to 50%; and
- 4) the discount on second homes be removed.

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132. COUNCIL TAX AND NON-DOMESTIC RATES (NDR) BASE 2013/14

The Committee considered a report that would enable it to recommend the level for the Council Tax Base for 2013/14 and the NNDR1.

Officers explained the impact of the Council Tax Support Scheme on the Council Tax Base, noting that the Base had dropped by a significant amount as a result. However, the shortfall that would result was expected to be offset by a grant for the financial year allocated for this reason.

Members were also asked to approve the NNDR1, a new requirement of the Local Government Finance Bill 2012. It was noted that there were potential financial benefits that could accrue to the Council through the changes to the collection of NNDR. However, members' attention was drawn to the fact that Redditch was a tariff authority and would henceforward be subsidising other local authorities whose NNDR base was not sufficient to meet local needs.

Members discussed the connection between the NNDR and the pooling arrangements with Local Enterprise Partnerships. The view was expressed by Officers that the decision to be part of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP Pool still appeared to be of the greatest potential benefit to the Council.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for the whole and parts of the area for 2013/14, as detailed in the Appendices to the report, be approved;
- 2) in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the figures calculated by the Redditch Borough Council as its tax base for the whole area for the year 2013/14 be 23,787.62 and for the parts of the area listed below be:

 Parish of Feckenham
 362.08

 Rest of Redditch
 23,425.54

 23.787.62

3) the Calculation of the NNDR1 as detailed in Appendix B to this report be approved.

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133. COMMUNITY CARE GRANTS AND CRISIS LOANS

The Committee was asked to take an 'in principle' decision to localise the administration of Community Care Grants and Crisis loans following the replacement of the discretionary Social Fund with local assistance schemes. The Social Fund was administered by the Department of Work and Pensions but, as a result of recent legislation, this fund had been abolished and a non-ringfenced grant was to be paid to upper-tier authorities, such as the County Council.

It was proposed that the Borough request delegation from the County Council for the provision of this service as it was considered that local knowledge would lead to more effective use of this funding and it was anticipated that the County would have no interest in administering this service itself. Members were reassured that all Worcestershire Districts were keen to take on this responsibility because of the potential benefit for local residents that could result.

Members were keen that such grants and loans be provided quickly and efficiently given their nature and Officers were also asked to ensure that staff safety be given adequate priority as some people seeking these loans could be in desperate situations. Officers were also keen to highlight the link between the benefits of the administration of these loans and recent Joined Up Working that had been undertaken in Winyates.

RECOMMENDED that

1) the request for delegation of this scheme from the County Council to the District be approved; and

RESOLVED that

- Officers develop a detailed scheme for individuals to access the scheme and that this be reported to be Members in March; and
- 3) Officers report to Members the level of funding available once the final allocation is made available.

134. JOINT WORKING AGREEMENT WITH WORCESTERSHIRE TELECARE

Officers reported that the County Council would shortly be retendering for Call Alarm provision through the Supporting People Programme. Under the new contract the County intended to contract with one Telecare provider that could deliver services across the whole of the County.

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At the present time there were three providers within the County, Redditch Borough Council, Bromsgrove District Council and Worcestershire Telecare, hosted by Wyre Forest Community Housing Trust. It was proposed that a joint tender be submitted between Redditch Borough Council, which provided the service across Redditch and Bromsgrove, and Worcestershire Telecare. The major perceived risk identified by officers in pursuing this course of action was uncertainty over future levels of Supporting People funding.

Members were aware that the Lifeline service was a very popular and successful service provided to local residents and reassurances were sought that the Redditch monitoring station might be maintained.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Council, through its shared service with Redditch and Bromsgrove, should enter a joint working agreement with Worcestershire Telecare and an equipment provider partner if required in order to bid for a contract with Worcestershire County Council for the provision of Telecare Services across Worcestershire;
- 2) if successful to enter into an agreement with Worcestershire Telecare and an equipment provider if required, one of which will take the lead role in the arrangement;
- authority to be delegated to the Acting Head of Community Services and to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services to finalise the terms of the above agreement and enter into them; and
- 4) authority be delegated to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services to make any consequential changes to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

135. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11th December 2012.

A Member expressed some concern at the inability of Members to properly appreciate the meaning of the recommendations on the Concessionary Rents item at the previous meeting of the Executive Committee and requested that those presenting reports fully understand the proposals being brought forward. A slight

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inaccuracy in English usage was also noted at one point on the same item.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11th December 2012 be noted.

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

There were no minutes or referrals to consider under this item.

137. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received the most recent report on the activity of the Council's Advisory Panels and similar bodies.

The Chair of the Economic Advisory Panel invited all members of the Council to attend meetings of his Panel henceforward, in addition to the standing membership.

The Vice-Chair of the Member Support Steering group informed the Committee that the forthcoming meeting on 18th January had been postponed and would now be held on 15th February.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

138. ACTION MONITORING

The Committee received the latest Action Monitoring report.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

139. SERVICE REVIEW FOR PRINT, DESIGN AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee received a service review which was the result of the print and design team going through the Business Transformation process. The current structures and recent changes were outlined by officers. The proposed structure, which would result in a reduction of two posts and savings of around £70,000, was reported to more accurately reflect the amount and level of each of the services needed to fulfil customer demand in a rapidly changing context.

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It was suggested that the service might consider the use of internships or apprenticeships rather than trainees to fill the lower graded post in the proposed structure, a suggestion that was taken on board by Officers. In response to a query over the maintenance of the website, it was explained that this was currently undertaken by the individual services, although there was an increasing need for Communications staff to focus on the use of social media.

It was noted at the outset that the majority of this report, aside from those sections of the appendices which identified individual Officers of the Council, could be considered in open session as discussions had now taken place with the staff concerned and they were aware of the proposals.

RESOLVED that

 the content of the Print, Design and Communications Service Review attached at Appendix 1 to the report be noted; and

RECOMMENDED that

2) the proposals arising from the Service Review be approved for implementation.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm	
and closed at 8.28 pm	
·	Chair

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S

WORK PROGRAMME

15 January 2013 to 31 May 2013

(published as at 15 January 2013)

This Plan gives details of items on which key decisions are likely to be taken in the coming four months by the Borough Council's Executive Committee.

(NB: There may be occasions when the Executive Committee may make recommendations to Council for a final decision. e.g. to approve a new policy or variation to the approved budget.)

Whilst the majority of the Executive Committee's business at the meetings listed in this Work Programme will be open to the public and media organisations to attend, there will inevitably be some business to be considered that contains, for example, confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information. This is called Exempt Information. Members of the Public and Media may be asked to leave the meeting when such information is discussed.

If an item is likely to contain exempt information we show this on the Work programme. You can make representations to us if you consider an item or any of the documents listed should be open to the public.

If you have any queries, please e-mail: democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk



This Work Programme gives details of items on which key decisions are likely to be taken by the Borough Council's Executive Committee, or full Council, in the coming four months.

"Key Decisions" are ones which are likely to:

- (i) result in the Council incurring expenditure, foregoing income or the making of savings in excess of £50,000 or which are otherwise significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (ii) be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in the area comprising two or more wards in the Borough;
- (iii) involve any proposal to cease to provide a Council service (other than a temporary cessation of service of not more than 6 months).

The Work Programme is available for inspection free of charge at the Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH from 9am to 5pm Mondays to Fridays; or on the Council's website (www.redditchbc.gov.uk).

If you wish to make representations on the proposed decision you are encouraged to get in touch with the relevant report author as soon as possible before the date of the decision. You can see or obtain copies of any documents, detailed in the plan, provided they are not confidential, and be kept informed of any additional supporting documents as they become available.

The Executive Committee's meetings are normally held every four weeks at 7pm on Tuesday evenings at the Town Hall. They are open to the public, except when confidential information is being discussed. If you wish to attend for a particular matter, it is advisable to check with the Democratic Services Team on (01527) 64252, ext: 3269 to make sure it is going ahead as planned. If you have any other queries, Democratic Services Officers will be happy to advise you. The dates of the full Council meetings are set out in the Council's Calendar of Meetings. Meetings commence at 7pm.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Michael Braley Councillor Carole Gandy

Councillor Bill Hartnett	Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership & Partnership
Councillor G Chance	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development, Public Transport
Councillor Phil Mould	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management
Councillor Rebecca Blake	Portfolio Holder for Community Safety & Regulatory Services
Councillor Mark Shurmer	Portfolio Holder for Housing
Councillor Debbie Taylor	Portfolio Holder for Local Environment & Health
Councillor Luke Stephens	Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Tourism

Decision (including if a Key Decision)	Decision Taker including Details of Exempt Information (if any)	Date of Decision	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Medium Term Financial Plan 2013/14 – 2015/16	Executive Committee Recommendation to be made to Council	12 February 2013	Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) – S151 Officer	Jayne Pickering, Executive Director (Finance and Resources) – S151 Officer 01527 881207
Fees and Charges 2013/14	Executive Committee Recommendation to be made to Council	12 February 2013	Report of the Head of Finance and Resources	Sam Morgan, Financial Services Manager, 01527 64252 ext 3790
Housing Revenue Account 2013/14 including recommendations on rent levels	Executive Committee Recommendation to be made to Council	12 February 2013 18 February 2013	Report of the Head of Finance and Resources	Teresa Kristunas, Head of Finance and Resources 01527 64252 ext 3295
Redditch Growth Consultation	Executive Committee Recommendation to be	12 February 2013 18 February 2013	Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration	Emma Baker, Acting Development Plans Manager,
	made to Council	10 1 ebidary 2013	Redditch Growth Consultation draft sustainability report	01527 64252 Ext 3376
			Redditch Growth consultation leaflet	
Draft Borough of Redditch Local Plan no.4	Executive Committee Recommendation to	12 February 2013 18 February 2013	Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration	Emma Baker, Acting Development Plans Manager, 01527 64252 Ext 3376

Decision (including if a Key Decision)	Decision Taker including Details of Exempt Information (if any)	Date of Decision	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Initial Estimates 2013/14 – 2015/16	Executive Committee Recommendation to be made to Council	12 February 2013 18 February 2013	Report of the Head of Finance and Resources	Sam Morgan, Financial Services Manager, 01527 64252 ext 3790
Quarterly Customer Services Monitoring – Quarter 3 – October to December 2012	Executive Committee	12 February 2013	Report of the Head of Customer Services	Amanda de Warr, Head of Customer Services, 1527 881241
Quarterly Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3 – October to December 2012	Executive Committee	12 February 2013	Report of the Head of Finance and Resources	Sam Morgan, Financial ຜ Services Manager, ຕ 01527 64252 ext 3790 ຜ
Quarterly Monitoring – Write Off of Debts – Quarter 3 – October to December 2012	Executive Committee	12 February 2013	Report of the Head of Finance and Resources	Teresa Kristunas, Head of Finance and Resources, 01527 64252 ext 3295
Council Tax Setting 2013/14	Executive Committee Recommendation to be made to Council	18 February 2013 18 February 2013	Report of the Head of Finance and Resources	Sam Morgan, Financial Services Manager, 01527 64252 ext 3790
Grants Programme 2012-14 Key	Executive Committee	12 March 2013	Recommendations from the Grants Panel	Donna Hancox, Voluntary Sector Co-Ordinator 01527 64252 ext 3015

Decision (including if a Key Decision)	Decision Taker including Details of Exempt Information (if any)	Date of Decision	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA)	Executive Committee Originally due 15 January	12 March 2013	Report of the Head of Environmental Services	Ceridwen John, Climate Change Manager, 1527 64252 ext 3046
Plymouth Road Cemetery	Executive Committee	12 March 2013	Report of the Head of Environmental Services	Sue Horrobin, Environmental Services Manager 01527 64252 ext 3706
Quarterly Sickness Monitoring – Quarter 3 – October to December 2013	Executive Committee	12 March 2013	Report of the Head of Finance and Resources	Mark Stanley, Acting Human Resources & Development Manager, 01527 881673
Highway Impact & Accessibility Modelling Report – Worcestershire County Council (Halcrow) May 2011	Executive Committee	Date to be identified	Report of the Head of Planning & Regeneration	Emma Baker, Acting Development Plans Manager, 0 01527 64252 ext 3376
Housing Allocations Policy – Review	Executive Committee	Date to be identified	Report of the Head of Housing	Liz Tompkin, Head of Housing, 01527 64252 ext 3304
Tenancy Policy 2012-2014	Executive Committee Recommendation to be made to Council	Date to be identified	Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Leisure, Environmental & Community Services	Liz Tompkin, Head of Housing Services, 01527 64252 ext 3120



Committee

No Direct Ward Relevance

5th February 2013

WORK PROGRAMME

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

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	REGULAR ITEMS	
	Update on fly tipping and progress with the Worth It campaign	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
	Update on the work of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel.	Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel
	Updates on the work of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Redditch Borough Council representative on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
	Bi-Annual Recommendation Tracker Reports – Scrutiny Committee	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
	Bi-Annual Monitoring Report – Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
OTHER ITEMS - DATE FIXED		
5th Feb 2013	Fees and Charges 2013/14 – Pre-Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Heads of Service
5th Feb 2013	Initial Estimates 2013/14 – 2015/16	Relevant Lead Heads of Service
5th Feb 2013	Living Wage - Discussion	Relevant Lead Heads of Service
5th Feb 2013	Market Scrutiny Task Group – Final Report	Councillor Brazier

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5th Feb 2013	Overview and Scrutiny Training - Feedback	Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
5th March 2013	Access for Disabled People Task Group – Monitoring Update Report	Relevant Lead Heads of Service
5th March 2013	Draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report	Councillor Brunner
5th March 2013	Transformation Briefing	Relevant Lead Heads of Service
5th March 2013	Vacant Redditch Borough Council Business Units - Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
21st March 2013	West Midlands Regional Scrutiny Network	
2nd April 2013	Arts and Culture Centre Task Group - Final Report	Councillor Hopkins
2nd April 2013	Disabled Access Group – Update Report on Support	Relevant Lead Heads of Service
2nd April 2013	Youth Services Provision Task Group – Monitoring Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
May 2013	Monitoring Update Report – Promoting Redditch Task and Finish Group	Relevant Lead Head of Service

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June 2013	Promoting Sporting Participation – Monitoring Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
July 2013	Anti-Social Behaviour Task and Finish Group - Monitoring Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
OTHER ITEMS – DATE NOT FIXED		
	Disabled Parking in the Former Covered Market Area – Outcomes of the Review	Relevant Lead Heads of Service
	Equalities and Diversity – Submission of a Scoping Document	Councillor Fry
	Housing Allocations Policy Review – Pre- Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Landscaping Works in Private Car Parks – Outcomes of the Review	Relevant Lead Heads of Service
	RNIB React system – Outcomes of the Review	Relevant Lead Heads of Service
	Regeneration in the Town - Submission of a Scoping Document	Councillor Bush
	Shopmobility Ramp Cover – Outcomes of the Review	Relevant Lead Head of Service

Tree Maintenance – Submission of a Scoping Document

Vacant Redditch Borough Council Properties – Update Report

Councillor Fisher

Relevant Lead Head of Service