



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 4th February,
2014
7.00 pm

Committee Room Two
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

Access to Information - Your Rights

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

Your main rights are set out below:-

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

**If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact
Jess Bayley and Amanda Scarce
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.

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.



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs: David Bush (Chair) Carole Gandy
 Gay Hopkins (Vice-Chair) Alan Mason
 Andrew Brazier Yvonne Smith
 Simon Chalk Pat Witherspoon
 Andrew Fry

<p>1. Apologies and named substitutes</p>	<p>To receive apologies for absence and details of any Councillor (or co-optee substitute) nominated to attend this meeting in place of a member of this Committee.</p>
<p>2. Declarations of interest and of Party Whip</p>	<p>To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests, and any Party Whip.</p>
<p>3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 14)</p>	<p>To confirm the minutes of the most recent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a correct record.</p> <p>(Minutes attached)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>4. Living Wage Report Exec Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</p>	<p>To receive an update on the Council's current position with regard to paying the living wage as a minimum to staff employed by Redditch Borough Council.</p> <p>(Presentation to follow).</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>5. Medium Term Financial Plan J Pickering - Exec Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</p>	<p>To consider proposals for the Council's budget in 2014/15 outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan.</p> <p>(Presentation to follow)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

Tuesday, 4th February, 2014

<p>6. Fees and Charges 2014/15 Report</p> <p>Exec Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</p>	<p>To consider the proposed fees and charges for Council services in 2014/15.</p> <p>(Report to follow)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>7. Housing Revenue Account Initial Estimates / Rent Setting 2014/15</p> <p>Exec Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</p>	<p>To consider a report outlining the Housing Revenue Account initial estimates and rent setting proposals for 2014/15.</p> <p>(Report to follow)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>8. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme</p> <p>(Pages 15 - 26)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>(Minutes attached and Executive Work Programme to follow).</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>9. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme</p> <p>(Pages 27 - 30)</p>	<p>To consider the Committee's current Work Programme, and potential items for addition to the list arising from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Forward Plan / Committee agendas• External publications• Other sources. <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

Tuesday, 4th February, 2014

10. Task Groups - Progress Reports

Councillor Alan Mason,
Councillor David Bush,
Councillor Carole Gandy,
Councillor Gay Hopkins,
Councillor Pat Witherspoon

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) Abbey Stadium Task Group – Chair, Councillor Gandy;
- b) Football Task Group – Chair, Councillor Bush;
- c) Joint WRS Scrutiny Review – lead Member, Councillor Mason;
- d) Landscaping Task Group – Chair, Councillor Hopkins; and
- e) Voluntary Sector Task Group – Chair, Councillor Witherspoon.

(Oral reports)

(The first Task Group focuses on Abbey ward, all the other reviews have no specific ward relevance).

11. 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)

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

Tuesday, 4th February, 2014

12. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Borough Director, during the course of the meeting to consider excluding the public from the meeting on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be divulged, it may be necessary to move the following resolution:

“That, under S.100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter(s) on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs (to be specified) of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act”.

These paragraphs are as follows:

Subject to the “public interest” test, information relating to:

- Para 1 – any individual;
- Para 2 – the identity of any individual;
- Para 3 – financial or business affairs;
- Para 4 – labour relations matters;
- Para 5 – legal professional privilege;
- Para 6 – a notice, order or direction;
- Para 7 – the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime;

and may need to be considered as ‘exempt’.

(No Specific Ward Relevance)