



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 4th February,
2014
7.00 pm

Committee Room Two
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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- Unless otherwise stated, all items of business before the Executive Committee are Key Decisions.
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**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
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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.

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The emergency Assembly Area is on Walter Stranz Square.



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 4th February, 2014

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

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 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.
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. Living Wage Report Exec Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)	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. (Presentation to follow). (No Specific Ward Relevance)
5. Medium Term Financial Plan J Pickering - Exec Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)	To consider proposals for the Council's budget in 2014/15 outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan. (Presentation to follow) (No Specific Ward Relevance)

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<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>

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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)

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Committee

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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)



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 9th January,
2014

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor David Bush (Chair), Councillor Gay Hopkins (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Andrew Brazier, Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Alan Mason, Yvonne Smith, Pat Witherspoon and Roger Hill

Officers:

J Pickering, S Jones, J Bayley and A Scarce

Democratic Services Officers:

J Bayley and A Scarce

87. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Simon Chalk. Councillor Roger Hill attended the meeting as his substitute.

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

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

89. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd December 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

90. BUDGET SCRUTINY BRIEFING

Officers delivered a presentation (Appendix 1) which highlighted the current financial position and the resultant deficit. Members were informed that Heads of Service had been asked to provide details of any savings which could be made and further information would be

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Chair

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provided for the Committee's consideration at the following meeting in February.

The following areas were highlighted within the presentation:

- A history of the funding reductions year on year, which to 2015/16 was approximately 41% overall.
- The reduction in Council tax support to 80%.
- Further reductions over the next three years and the overall affects of these throughout the country.
- Background information on the community care and crisis loans and why these funds would not be available in future. This was due to some authorities not using the funds provided and therefore it had been assumed that it was not needed.
- How the Council was now looking at the budget in a different format, which concentrated on costs in relation to the Council's strategic purposes. The figures therefore did not relate to specific services as had been the case in the past.
- The role and cost of those services which were classed as "enabling" others to carry out those purposes and how these needed to be reduced in order to be able to support frontline services more.

Members raised concerns in respect of the financial cuts that were expected to be made by Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and the impact of these upon the Council. Officers confirmed that the WCC budget would be agreed shortly and that it was likely that every area of it would have an impact on the Council, though as yet this had not been factored in to the Council's budget figures. Members also asked whether there had been any consultation with Officers across the district or with the third sector and it was understood that there had not been any as far as Officers were aware. It was crucial that people responded to any consultation and in particular Members discussed the Future Lives consultation and the associated budget which was likely to be significantly reduced.

The Committee queried whether the Council had been pro-active in determining whether there were services at WCC which the Council could provide for a fee. It was confirmed that senior Officers were holding discussions with WCC in respect of this.

Officers also discussed with Members the use of both general and capital reserves and the knock on effect of their use on balancing the budget. It was acknowledged that it would be difficult to replenish these reserves in the long term. Service reviews for all services following transformation would deliver significant savings in

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the future. Members were reminded that there continued to be a freeze on vacant posts, which was in place to protect current staff wherever possible. Savings through transformation had been received from several teams, however some were still outstanding as the work had not been completed and it was anticipated that further savings could be made towards the remaining shortfall.

RESOLVED that

the presentation be noted.

91. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES AND SCRUTINY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 10th December 2013 together with the most recent edition of the Executive Committee's Work Programme. It was noted that Members would receive a more detailed report in respect of the Medium Term Financial Plan. Members also expressed an interest in scrutinising the report in respect of fees and charges for 2014/15 in more detail together with the Housing Revenue Account Initial Estimates/Rent Setting 2014/15 report.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the Executive Committee held on 10th December 2013 and the latest edition of the Executive Committee Work Programme be noted.

92. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Reference was made to concerns that had been raised by Members at the previous meeting regarding progress with action in respect of the Dial-a-Ride services being available to hire out of hours. Officers clarified that there had been some confusion in respect of this item and it was confirmed that this had in fact been in place since January 2013. A further update on this matter would be provided at a meeting of the Committee on 4th March 2014.

RESOLVED that

the Committee's Work Programme be noted.

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93. TASK GROUP REVIEWS - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENTS

The Chair presented the draft scoping document for the proposed Footballing Provision within the Borough of Redditch Task Group, which had been requested at the Committee's previous meeting.

Following a short discussion it was agreed that key objective two should be rewritten, so that the word "investigate" replaced the word "establish" for considering the sustainability of Redditch United FC for the future.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) a Task Group be established and the proposed terms of reference be endorsed;
- 2) Councillor Bush be appointed to Chair the review; and
- 3) Membership to be confirmed by Officers as soon as possible, but to include Councillors Bush, Gandy, Fry, Pattie Hill and Witherspoon.

94. TASK GROUPS - PROGRESS REPORTS

The following updates in respect of current Task Group reviews were provided:

a) Abbey Stadium Task Group – Chair, Councillor Carole Gandy

Councillor Gandy informed Members that the group had visited Evesham Leisure Centre in early December which had been most interesting and informative. There had been a number of things which had come out of this visit and the group were now considering in detail how these might be replicated at the Abbey Stadium. A visit to Stratford Leisure Centre was also planned as this was a different type of centre which it was hoped would give a good comparison and wider understanding of the facilities available. A number of initial recommendations had already been drafted and the Task Group had made good progress in recent weeks.

b) Joint Worcestershire Regulatory Services – Redditch member, Councillor Alan Mason

As Councillor Mason had been unable to attend the previous meeting of the Task Group Officers provided an update. There had been two further meetings. On 4th December Members had taken the opportunity to reflect on progress of the investigation so far and on 18th December a further interview with the Head

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of Regulatory Services, together with his senior managers to investigate what challenges the service was currently facing, had taken place. A meeting was planned for 16th January when members of the WRS Management Board were due to be interviewed and a visit to Wyatt House, the main office of WRS, would be taking place on 6th February 2014.

c) Landscaping Task Group – Chair, Councillor Gay Hopkins

Councillor Hopkins informed Members that the group had begun to realise what a large area landscaping services covered. However at the most recent meeting Members had revisited the scoping document and had been pleased with the number of areas which had already been covered. The Chair was therefore confident that the group would meet its April deadline. The areas which remained to be investigated were tree roots and pavements and the legal element. Members had also made arrangements to go out with members of the place intervention team to see first hand the work that was being carried out in Winyates.

d) Voluntary Sector Task Group – Chair, Councillor Pat Witherspoon

Councillor Witherspoon informed Members that the group would be meeting the following day with the Neighbourhood Development Manager for the Area of highest Needs project in Redditch at the Space in Winyates. This would provide Members with an opportunity to see for themselves the involvement the project had with the Voluntary Sector. It was a small Task Group which had undertaken a lot of work already. However she explained that it was unlikely that the group would meet its 1st April deadline and might therefore ask for an extension at the February meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED that

the update reports be noted.

95. HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Witherspoon informed Members that there had not been a meeting of the HOSC since she last reported to the Committee and there was therefore nothing to report.

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The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.45 pm

BUDGET POSITION 2014/15

APPENDIX 1

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Formula Grant / RSG plus Baseline Funding	£5.557m (excludes concessionary fares element)	£4.696m	£4.212m	£3.775m	£3.168m
Year on year reduction £		£0.861m	£0.484m	£0.437m	£0.607m
Year on year reduction %		15%	10%	10%	16%
Cumulative reduction £		£0.861m	£1.345m	£1.782m	£2.289m
Cumulative Reduction %		15%	24%	32%	41%

STRATEGIC PURPOSES

RBC BASED ON 2014/15

	£'000
Keep my place safe and looking good	3,891
Help me run a successful business	578
Help me be financially independent	251
Help me live my life independently	824
Provide good things for me to see, do and visit	1,445
Help me find somewhere to live in my locality	1,134
Enabling of the Authority	3,065
TOTAL	11,188

2014/15 POSITION

£'000

Original Position:

Budget	10,888
Unavoidable Pressures	300
Funding	11,188
SHORTFALL	(9,557)
	1,631

2014/15 POSITION

£'000

SHORTFALL

1,631

Proposals to balance Budget

- Use of Reserves (general) 100
- Use of Reserves (capital replacement) 557
- Reducing Enabling Costs 316
- Service Reviews 180

REMAINING SHORTFALL

478

Issues

- Included 1% pay award
- Cost of borrowing – fleet replacement; profile of spend very important
- Potential capital receipts in the future
- Impact of Worcestershire County Cuts

Next Steps

- Identify Further Savings
- Forecast 2015/16 & 2016/17
- Review Income generation where possible
- Council Tax setting February 2014



Executive

Committee

Tuesday, 14 January 2014

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), Councillor Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Brandon Clayton, John Fisher, Phil Mould, Mark Shurmer and Debbie Taylor

Also Present:

Councillors Andy Fry, Pattie Hill and Yvonne Smith

Officers:

S Hanley, J. Pickering, D Poole, A De Warr, J Willis, L Tompkin, C Flanagan, M Hanwell and S Mould

Committee Services Officer:

R Cole

107. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Rebecca Blake.

108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

109. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Leader.

110. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 10th December 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

.....
Chair

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 14 January 2014

111. REDI CENTRE - MEANWHILE LEASE

The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) referred to previous decisions taken in respect of 54 South Street, the former REDI Centre. In September 2013 a decision had been taken to market the building for disposal.

Subsequently the property had been registered as an Asset of Community Value and Members had requested that officers explore opportunities for the use of the building in the meantime during the six month "moratorium" period arising as a result of the nomination.

Officers had therefore sought expressions of interest for use of the building for the intervening period from Community Groups. The only application received was from Redditch Youth and Community Enterprise (RYCE) which was a Charitable Community Benefit Society. It was reported that RYCE would intend to offer the facilities to community groups, would meet all utility costs and was able to take a lease with immediate effect.

Members all welcomed the proposed use of the building by RYCE who would be working with other organisations within the Borough as a positive opportunity to make good use of the building for the 6 month period available. In addition the cost of maintaining an empty building would be removed.

In response to Members' queries it was reported that RYCE were fully aware of the position that the building would only be available to them for a limited period and that it would remain for sale at the price quoted.

RESOLVED that

authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) and the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services to develop a Meanwhile Lease for RYCE to occupy and operate the REDI Centre for a period of up to six months.

112. COUNCIL TAX BASE AND NON-DOMESTIC RATES (NDR) BASE 2014/15

The Committee considered a report that would enable it to recommend the level for the Council Tax Base for 2014/15. The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) reminded Members that this was a technical calculation which officers had undertaken and also made reference to the need to agree arrangements in respect of the Non Domestic Rates base.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for the whole and parts of the area for 2014/15, as detailed in Appendix A 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 2014/15 be 24,656.96 and for the parts of the area listed below be:**

Parish of Feckenham	364.78
Rest of Redditch	<u>24, 292.18</u>
	<u>24,656.96</u>
- 3) **authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer (Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Resources) to approve the NDR1 and sign it on behalf of the Council.**

113. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2014/15

Members received a report summarising the results of the statutory consultation which had been undertaken on the Redditch Borough Council's draft Council Tax Support Scheme 2014 (the Scheme).

Members were aware that the Scheme had to be reviewed by the Council on an Annual basis and that the decision had previously been taken to consult on the basis that entitlement to Council Tax support should be capped at 80% of Council Tax liability so that all working age claimants would pay a minimum of 20% towards their Council Tax Liability.

Members were reminded that the cost to the Borough of the changes introduced by the Government from April 2013 which had resulted in the national Council Tax Benefit being replaced by a locally agreed scheme was approximately £91,000. Other precepting Authorities including the County Council and the Fire and Police Authorities would also have to bear their share of the shortfall. A proportion of the shortfall had been clawed back through changes to discounts and exemptions for second and empty homes.

It was reported that the consultation which had closed on 20th December 2013, had resulted in the receipt of 46 responses. Of these 37% were in favour of the changes to the scheme and 6.5% offered no opinion. 56.5% did not support the proposed change.

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The report also contained details of the proposed implementation of a Hardship Fund to assist those most badly affected by the change. The report highlighted that the Hardship Scheme was proposed to be as flexible as possible within certain parameters to ensure that the fund could be used to help those most in need.

Members were very concerned about the impact the changes would have upon residents albeit there was an intention to mitigate this with the introduction of a Hardship Fund. Members were also mindful however of the need to address the potential funding gap both for the Council and other preceptors.

It was queried whether an alternative proposal could be considered. Officers confirmed that only changes which had been the subject of public consultation could be brought into effect at this stage. The scheme was required to be agreed by 31st January 2014.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Scheme, as amended, be implemented, namely that entitlement to Council Tax support should be capped at 80% of Council Tax liability so that all working age claimants will pay a minimum of 20% towards their Council Tax liability; and**
- 2) **the implementation of the proposed Hardship scheme be agreed.**

114. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) gave a presentation which provided Members with an update on the position regarding the Medium Term Financial Plan 2014/15 to 2016/17. The presentation highlighted the Authority's Strategic Purposes and the expenditure associated with each of the purposes together with the costs of enabling.

The projected shortfall in funding for 2014/15 had been reduced from £1,631,000 to £352,000 by way of the use of reserves both general and capital replacement, through the reduction in enabling costs and through further service reviews. The remaining shortfall was being addressed by Heads of Service and Managers identifying further savings through the redesign of services, with the proviso that front line services would not be adversely affected. In addition income generation was being reviewed wherever possible.

It was reported that the shortfall in funding was due largely to the drastic reduction in funding from central Government rather than from an increase in spending.

Issues which were highlighted within the presentation included the assumption of a staff pay award of 1%, the cost of borrowing for example for fleet replacement, potential capital receipts in the future and the impact of cuts in Worcestershire County Council funding, including the likely increase in demand for services provided by this Authority.

Members were very concerned regarding the current position particularly in view of the efforts made by officers and Members of the Authority to significantly increase efficiency through shared services and transformation and to reduce spending where possible.

Reference was made by Members to the poor level of financial support received by the Borough from central Government in comparison to other Authorities in Worcestershire. This had previously been the subject of a complaint to the Department of Communities and Local Government and it was felt a further letter should be sent by the Leader in response to this year's settlement.

There was also a request from a Member for information regarding the level of grant settlement to Authorities within the County over the past 10 years.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the presentation of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) on the Medium Term Financial Plan be noted : and**

RECOMMENDED that

- 2) **the Leader writes in the strongest terms to the Department of Communities and Local Government in response to the grant settlement as the Borough Council has again received the worst settlement in Worcestershire.**

115. POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES - 2013/14 REVIEW

Members considered a report on the findings of the formal review of Polling Districts and Polling Places as required under legislation.

The report contained officer recommendations arising from the review and if these were approved by the Council on 27th January

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2014 they would have effect from the date of the publication of the revised Register of Electors on 14th February 2014.

Members welcomed the report and acknowledged the work which had been undertaken by officers in carrying out the review.

In relation to Church Hill North Polling District (CHB), Members noted the request received from the Abbeywood First School but queried whether this was an appropriate change. Members were mindful of the potential road safety, traffic and parking issues in relation to the suggested alternative premises of St Andrew's Church.

RECOMMENDED that:

- 1)
 - a) **the Polling District changes indicated on the plan displayed at the meeting made to Brockhill Polling District (BYB) in the Batchley and Brockhill Ward, to generate a new Polling District (BYD), with effect from the date of publication of the next revised Register of Electors (14 February 2014);**
 - b) **that Council be requested to determine whether the new Polling District (BYD) be named 'Lowans', OR 'Brockhill East';**
 - c) **that Council be requested to determine that in the case of 'Brockhill East' being selected at b) above, the current 'Brockhill' Polling District (BYB) be redesignated 'Brockhill West';**
- 2) **the Council designate the entire new Polling District 'BYD' as the Polling Place for the Polling District, until such time as planned new community facilities/school are built and available for this purpose and that, thereafter, they be the designated Polling Place;**
- 3) **further to 2) above, in the interim, authority be delegated to the (Acting) Returning Officer, in consultation with Leaders, Portfolio Holder and Ward Members, to confirm the precise location of the new portable unit(s) to provide Polling Places within the new 'BYD' Polling District;**
- 4) **In respect of Appendix 1 to the report ('Review Final Recommendations',)**
 - a) **there be no change to existing arrangements, where indicated;**

b) there be no change to existing arrangements in respect of Church Hill North Polling District (CHB) Church Hill Ward;

c) the relocation of the Polling Station for St Peters Polling District (CCA) Crabbs Cross Ward be approved;

d) the relocation of the Polling Station Highfields Polling District (HOB) Headless Cross and Oakenshaw Ward be approved but that the Council be requested to consider the renaming of the Polling District ; and

e) the decisions under b) c) and d) above take effect from 14th February 2014;

5) a proposed new voluntary contract in respect of the use of private premises as Polling Places, as illustrated at Appendix 3 to the report, be endorsed and implemented with immediate effect.

116. IMPACT OF WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET PROPOSALS

Members were reminded that the purpose of including this item on the agenda was to enable a discussion to take place on the impact of the proposed Worcestershire County Council budget cuts. This would enable a consultation response from the Borough Council to be compiled.

The Committee considered the schedules of information provided by officers. At this stage it was stressed that some of the impact upon Borough residents was unclear as full details of funding proposals were not available from the County Council.

Clearly the Committee were extremely concerned at the potential impact of the budget cuts planned by the County Council. Two areas of particular concern were Community Services and Housing.

It was noted that the proposed reduction in funding for Assistive Technology would impact on the Council's Lifeline Service as the budget contributed significantly to the service through the Supporting People Grant. This would result in a loss of £202,000 to RBC. At present 1,129 of current users were assisted through the Supporting People funding. There was likely to be an increased demand for this service in future as the proportion of elderly people within the population grows.

Members felt that there would be a need to consult with users of the Lifeline Service on an individual basis to determine the future of the

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service should there be such a reduction in County Council funding. The consultation would need to include options in respect of levels of service and the likely costs. Officers acknowledged this possibility and undertook to bring back to the Executive further details around costs and likely impact of changes on the service.

There was discussion in relation to the impact on Housing Services in particular St David's House which would result from the reduction in Supporting People Grant and Social Care funding. Officers confirmed that discussion was on going with the County Council to understand the exact implications and to identify how the service could continue to be delivered.

Housing support for young people and other vulnerable groups was another area of concern as Members were aware that cuts to services in this area would be likely to have a significant impact of the demand for other services provided by the Borough Council and other public bodies.

Members emphasised that across the whole range of services it had been demonstrated that early and effective intervention could prevent much more severe and indeed costly problems at a later stage. Intervention at the right time was the key. Whilst the funding position of the County Council was acknowledged, the cuts proposed by that Authority were short sighted in that they would only increase the likelihood of further difficulties and an increase in demand for future services.

It was felt that whilst this Council had attempted to increase efficiency and cut costs through a systems thinking approach and a concentration on the needs of the residents, the County was adopting a much less structured approach of severe cuts which would impact on the most vulnerable.

Following the detailed debate it was

RESOLVED

- 1) that officers be instructed to respond to Worcestershire County Council within the respective consultation period(s) on the impact of the proposed cuts on behalf of the Executive Committee; and**
- 2) that the final response be endorsed by the Leader and Chief Executive Officer.**

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117. WORCESTERSHIRE SHARED SERVICES - REMOVAL OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING FROM FUNCTIONAL ACTIVITY OF THE SERVICE

The Committee considered a report which sought agreement to modify the statement of partner service requirements for Worcestershire Regulatory Services by removing the requirements in relation to health and wellbeing and health promotion. It was reported that work in relation to health and wellbeing and health promotion was now largely undertaken by other bodies.

It was noted that the proposed change would result in savings to the Borough Council of £22,000 per annum and would avoid duplication of the function.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the statement of partner service requirements for Worcestershire Regulatory Services be modified by removing the requirements in relation to health and wellbeing and health promotion; and**
- 2) **delegated authority be given to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, following consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, to make the relevant amendments to the legal agreement with the other partners.**

118. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 3rd December 2013.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd December 2013 be received and noted.

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

There were no minutes or referrals under this item.

120. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

The regular update on the activity of the Council's Advisory Panels and similar bodies was considered by the Committee.

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RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

121. ACTION MONITORING

The Committee's Action Monitoring report was considered by Members. In response to a query it was noted that the information on the costs of the additional meeting of the Executive Committee on 26th November 2013 had not yet been supplied to Councillor Brunner.

122. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED 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 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended:

Minute 123 – Public Services Network Compliance at Redditch Borough Council

123. PUBLIC SERVICES NETWORK COMPLIANCE AT REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Committee received a report on the requirement for the Authority to achieve compliance with the Public Services Network (formerly known as the Government Secure eXtranet) in order for the Authority to continue to access services.

It was reported that the Public Services Network was "owned" and managed by the Cabinet Office and that a zero-tolerance approach to compliance was being taken. It had been made very clear that Authorities would lose their connection to the GSX and future PSN should they not fully meet all PSN requirements. This would mean that the Borough Council would be unable to manage citizen benefits and transfer secure information to partners such as the Police and the NHS. In addition it would prevent future Plans to implement Individual Electoral Registration from June 2014.

The report informed Members of some of the steps which were required to be taken to demonstrate a genuine intention to achieve compliance. This included upgrades to existing systems and replacement equipment to enable officers and Members to have remote access to PSN systems from home or other locations. The

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actions required would need to be undertaken in stages and as well as the actions which were required to be undertaken and funded in 2013/14, additional funding would need to be included in the budget setting process for 2014/15.

It was stressed in response to queries from Members that the Council's systems had always been required to be compliant in terms of security, but that the Cabinet Office had now amended the definitions of compliance. Many other Local Authorities were in a similar position to the Borough Council.

Members were concerned at the attitude taken by the Cabinet Office, particularly in a time of great financial restraint and in view of the fact there had been no major issues or breaches of security. It was recognised however that the Council had little option but to undertake the steps required to demonstrate a move towards a position of compliance.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **an increase to the 2013/14 Capital Programme of £90,000, to be funded from borrowing be approved;**
- 2) **the borrowing costs be released from balances in 2013/14 and be included as unavoidable pressures in the 2014/15 Medium Term Financial Plan; and**
- 3) **the release of £39,000 from balances in 2013/14 to fund the associated revenue costs be approved.**

(The majority of the discussion on this item took place prior to the exclusion of the press and the public. Members did however discuss matters relating to the procurement of equipment and services and this necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to exclude the press and public during that part of the debate on the grounds that information would be revealed which would relate to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the authority holding that information))

124. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES/REFERRALS (IF ANY)

There were no confidential minutes or referrals.



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

No Direct Ward Relevance

4th February 2014

WORK PROGRAMME

(Report of the Chief Executive)

Date of Meeting	Subject Matter	Officer(s) Responsible for report
ALL MEETINGS	REGULAR ITEMS	(CHIEF EXECUTIVE)
	Minutes of previous meeting Consideration of the Forward Plan Consideration of Executive Committee key decisions Call-ins (if any) Pre-scrutiny (if any) Referrals from Council or Executive Committee, etc. (if any) Task Groups / Short, Sharp Review Groups - feedback Committee Work Programme	Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive
	REGULAR ITEMS Update on the work of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel. Quarterly Tracker Report	Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

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	<p>REGULAR ITEMS</p> <p>Updates on the work of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Bi-Annual Monitoring Report – Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council representative on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service</p>
<p>OTHER ITEMS - DATE FIXED</p>		
<p>4th February 2014</p>	<p>Living Wage – Update Report</p>	<p>Relevant Lead Head of Service</p>
<p>4th February 2014</p>	<p>Medium Term Financial Plan</p>	<p>Relevant Director</p>
<p>4th February 2014</p>	<p>Fees and Charges report</p>	<p>Relevant Director</p>
<p>4th February 2014</p>	<p>Housing Revenue Account Initial Estimates / Rent Setting 2014/15</p>	<p>Relevant Director</p>
<p>4th March 2014</p>	<p>Dial a Ride - Monitoring Update Report</p>	<p>Relevant Lead Head of Service</p>
<p>4th March 2014</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report</p>	<p>Councillor Bush</p>
<p>1st April 2014</p>	<p>Landscaping Task Group – Final Report</p>	<p>Councillor Hopkins</p>

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1st April 2014	Voluntary Sector Task Group – Final Report	Councillor Witherspoon
20th May 2014	Joint WRS Scrutiny Task Group – Final Report	Councillor Mason
June 2014	Abbey Stadium Task Group – Final Report	Councillor Gandy
June 2014	Positive Activities Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
OTHER ITEMS – DATE NOT FIXED		
	Former Covered Market Area – Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Healthwatch Worcestershire – Update Report	
	Land Maintenance Service Level Agreement - Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Proposed Housing Review – Submission of Scoping Document	Councillor Brazier

