



# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 7th April, 2015  
4.30 pm

Committee Room Two  
Town Hall  
Redditch



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- 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:  
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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  
Democratic Services Officers**

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[a.scarce@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:a.scarce@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)**

# Welcome to today's meeting.

## Guidance for the Public

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### **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 Democratic Services 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**

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### **Special Arrangements**

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### **Further Information**

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**The emergency Assembly Area is on Walter Stranz Square.**





# Overview and Scrutiny

## Committee

Tuesday, 7th April, 2015

4.30 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

### Agenda

#### Membership:

Cllrs:                      Jane Potter (Chair)                      Carole Gandy  
                                     Gay Hopkins (Vice-Chair)                      Alan Mason  
                                     Joe Baker                                      Paul Swansborough  
                                     David Bush                                      Pat Witherspoon  
                                     Andrew Fry

<p><b>1. Apologies and named substitutes</b></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><b>2. Declarations of interest and of Party Whip</b></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><b>3. Minutes</b> (Pages 1 - 12)</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><b>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</b></p>
<p><b>4. Future Management of Redditch Market - Pre-Scrutiny</b>  Steve Singleton</p>	<p>To pre-scrutinise the content of a report concerning the future management of Redditch market.</p> <p>(Report to follow)</p> <p><b>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</b></p>
<p><b>5. Task Group Reviews - Draft Scoping Documents</b> (Pages 13 - 16)  Councillor Jane Potter</p>	<p>To consider any scoping documents provided for possible Overview and Scrutiny review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the Options for the Operation of Leisure Services – Pre-Scrutiny Short, Sharp Review</li> </ul> <p>(Draft scoping document attached)</p> <p><b>All Wards</b></p>

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<p><b>6. Tackling Obesity Task Group - Feedback from the Executive Committee</b></p> <p>(Pages 17 - 26)</p> <p>Councillor Jane Potter</p>	<p>To consider the outcome of the Executive Committee's consideration of the Tackling Obesity Task Group's final report and to determine what further action, if any, to take in relation to this review.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p><b>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</b></p>
<p><b>7. Exclusion of the Press and Public</b></p>	<p>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:</p> <p>"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".</p> <p>These paragraphs are as follows:</p> <p>Subject to the "public interest" test, information relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Para 1 – <u>any individual</u>;</li><li>• Para 2 – the <u>identity of any individual</u>;</li><li>• Para 3 – <u>financial or business affairs</u>;</li><li>• Para 4 – <u>labour relations matters</u>;</li><li>• Para 5 – <u>legal professional privilege</u>;</li><li>• Para 6 – <u>a notice, order or direction</u>;</li><li>• Para 7 – the <u>prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</u>;</li></ul> <p>and may need to be considered as 'exempt'.</p>



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Tuesday, 3rd March, 2015

## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillor Jane Potter (Chair), and Councillors Joe Baker, David Bush, Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Alan Mason, David Thain (substituting for Councillor Gay Hopkins) and Pat Witherspoon

### Also Present:

Councillor Natalie Brookes

### Officers:

S Hanley and R Bamford

### Democratic Services Officers:

J Bayley and A Scarce

### 83. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Gay Hopkins and Paul Swansborough with Councillor David Thain attending as substitute for Councillor Hopkins.

### 84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

Councillor Jane Potter declared an other disclosable interest in respect of Minute No.89, the Proposals for Change by Tudor Grange Academy Short, Sharp Review Further Feedback Report, she left the room and took no part in the discussions in respect of this item.

Councillor David Bush also declared an other disclosable interest in respect of Minute No 89, as a member of the board of governors at the Walkwood Middle School, part of the pyramid group which would be affected by changes to Tudor Grange Academy Redditch's admissions policy. He left the room and took no part in the discussions in respect of this report.

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Chair

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In the absence of the Vice Chair and in light of the Chair having to leave the room it was noted that a Chair would need to be appointed to preside over Minute No. 89 during the Committee's consideration of the Proposals for Change by Tudor Grange Academy Short, Sharp Review Further Feedback Report.

**RESOLVED that**

**Councillor Carole Gandy be appointed Chair for Minute No. 89 during consideration of the Proposals for Change by Tudor Grange Academy Short, Sharp Review Further Feedback Report.**

**85. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED that**

**The minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2015, e confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

**86. REDDITCH MARKET CONSULTANTS' REPORT - PRE-SCRUTINY**

Officers explained that this item had been deferred on the Executive Committee's Work Programme and was expected to be received at its meeting on 14th April 2015. The report was therefore not available for the Committee to pre-scrutinise.

Officers informed Members that the delay was due to a change in the wording of the recommendations and highlighted that the Executive Committee meeting on 14th April was also the day of the Staff Awards. There would therefore be limited time for the Committee to carry out pre-scrutiny of the report.

Members commented that this was an important issue which had been raised following the work of the Market Task Group report. After further discussion it was agreed that an additional meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would take place on 7th April at an earlier start time of 4.30 pm in order for the report to be considered.

**RESOLVED that**

**a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be held at 4.30 pm on 7th April in order to consider the Future Management of Redditch Outdoor Market Report.**



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## 87. TACKLING OBESITY TASK GROUP - FINAL REPORT

Councillor Potter, as Chair of the Tackling Obesity Task Group, introduced the report and delivered a presentation. Councillor Potter explained that the subject was of huge importance not only to this country but to the world as a whole and the effects of obesity led to a number of serious health implications, which in turn caused pressure and great expense to the National Health Service. The Chair provided information on a scheme which had been set up by the Mayor of Oklahoma City which had led to it being the healthiest state in the USA. The group had found during its investigations that there was lots of support available to the residents of Redditch, but she believed it was motivation that people lacked and it was this which needed to be addressed.

The Chair highlighted the following findings of the investigation during her presentation:

- Details of the terms of reference and areas investigated.
- Information the group received during its investigations to assess whether there was an obesity problem in Redditch and the cost of obesity related health conditions to the local NHS.
- In respect of Recommendation 1 and a communications strategy it was highlighted that there were many activities available within the Borough. However, there was limited awareness.
- A communications campaign could help to raise the profile of local projects and activities.
- Officers had confirmed that social media was currently the most popular form of communications.
- Recommendation 2 in respect of GP practices – the group had been disappointed at the limited response received from GPs. As Members believed that GPs were often a patient's first port of call for people they felt that more should be done to promote healthy lifestyle initiatives in GP practices.
- Recommendation 3 and an investigation into the potential for a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in respect of hot food takeaways– whilst it was acknowledged that this had its limitations and could not guarantee future businesses would provide healthy food the Chair suggested it would be a move in the right direction and had the potential to make an impact in the long term.
- The Chair stressed that at this stage the group were simply requesting that the Planning department investigate the potential for an SPD to be introduced.
- Health Chats training – recommendation 4. The Chair said that she and Councillor Natalie Brooks had attended these sessions and found them both informative and useful, giving them an

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understanding of the difficulties facing people with this condition. It also provided them with the tools to help residents if appropriate.

- There were also a number of areas which the group, whilst not making any recommendations, wished to highlight and support. These included Measures of Success, Healthy Eating Awards from Worcestershire Regulatory Services and the Council leading by example through the work it was already carrying out.
- The group had concluded that the Council had a moral obligation to take action that could lead to improvements in public health.
- By approving these recommendations the group was also suggesting that the council would be helping to meet both the LSP's priority of tackling health inequalities and the Council's strategic purpose; help me live my life independently (including health and activity).

Councillors Joe Baker and Natalie Brooks, as Members of the Task Group, reiterated the Chair's comments and informed the Committee that they had found the group informative. They suggested that it was important to find a way of providing overweight and obese people with the motivation to make healthy changes to their lifestyles. They urged the Council to take on board the work that needed to be done in order to improve the obesity levels within the Borough.

Following presentation of the report Officers were invited to comment on Recommendation 3, in respect of the Supplementary Planning Document, and made the following points:

- A health impact assessment was carried out in conjunction with Worcestershire County Council (WCC) as part of the Local Plan process.
- A number of policies were in place, particularly for new developments to take account of, including open spaces. An example was provided of a new development in Brockhill which would have good links with both the Abbey Stadium and Arrow Valley and included walks and cycle paths.
- Members needed to ensure that the inclusion of any policy was not to the detriment of or in conflict with the purpose of another policy. Officers suggested it should be noted that retail and food outlets were directed to the town centre and district centres. Most schools in Redditch were within 400 metres of the town centre or a district centre so an SPD would be at odds with these retail policies.
- The work of the Redditch Town Centre Partnership to bring food outlets into the centre of town.

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- There were a set amount of retail shop fronts that could be hot food outlets in district centres. This was about 20 or 25 per cent.

Members discussed the following areas in further detail once the presentation and comments had been delivered:

- The number of hot/fast food takeaways in what was a relatively small area and particular “hot spots” in locations such as Headless Cross.
- Concerns around the Health Chats and the role of Members in delivering associated support to residents.
- The links between obesity and dementia and the need for this to be highlighted.
- Research and methods of tackling the obesity problem which were carried out in the USA.
- Concerns around obesity in children and the need to educate the parents in order for them to set a good example.
- The abundance of both support and activities available within the Borough.
- The lack of response from the GPs and whether the recommendation in respect of providing them with monthly updates would be effective and resource intensive.
- The underlying causes of obesity in some people and how these needed to be treated sympathetically. For example due to bereavement or mental health problems.
- The planning process and the restrictions arising from this on particular types of usage.

Members discussed how they could best make use of the resources available. For example officers suggested that remaining Choose How You Move resources, such as bicycles, could be deployed to encourage greater participation in physical activities. The legacy of the initiative would be the provision of walking and cycle routes together with an increasing use of public transport. It was also suggested that local walks could be advertised through the press on a regular basis.

Following the discussions it was agreed that the wording supporting recommendation 4 would be amended to reflect the concerns raised by Members in the pre-amble above.

The Chair thanked the Members of the Task Group for their hard work together with thanks to the Democratic Services Officer for her support throughout the process.

**RECOMMENDED that**

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- 1) a **Communications Strategy** should be developed to enable the Council and partner organisations to promote existing healthy eating projects, physical activities and other initiatives that help people to live healthier lifestyles. This strategy should particularly focus on using social media to market local projects.
- 2) **GP practices** should be notified of all of the healthy eating and physical activities that partners are delivering in the local community. Consideration should be given to providing GP practices with monthly updates.
- 3) **Officers** should investigate further the potential for a **Supplementary Planning Document** for hot food takeaways to be introduced at Redditch Borough Council. Officers should report back to Committee on the outcomes of their investigations; and
- 4) **elected Members** should all be encouraged to attend health chat training. Frontline service Officers should also attend health chat sessions if they have not already done so.

## 88. DRAFT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report for 2014/15 was considered by Members. The Chair explained that despite reduced resources the Committee had carried out a number of successful scrutiny exercises and that her first year as Chair the Committee had been very productive.

Officers provided a brief update in respect of the summary of the Proposals for Change by Tudor Grange Academy Short, Sharp Review, detailed in the annual report. Members were assured that recent developments, due to be discussed under Minute No 89, would be incorporated into the report prior to consideration by Council on 30th March.

There had also been developments since publication of the agenda, in relation to the Worcestershire Shared Services (WRS) Joint Scrutiny Task Group. Members were reminded that the final report, which contained 12 recommendations, had been considered at its June 2014 meeting. The recommendations had then passed to the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee, the decision making body for WRS, in October 2014. The Joint Committee had approved a number of the group's proposals, though initially rejected all recommendations relating to changes to the governance arrangements for the partnership. However, in February 2015

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further proposals had been brought forward by Officers in relation to the governance of the partnership and these appeared to have been significantly influenced by the work of the Joint Scrutiny Task Group. Members were advised the proposals were out to consultation.

Bromsgrove District Council, as the host authority for the review, would be monitoring the implementation of the approved WRS scrutiny recommendations. Any updates received from Bromsgrove District Council on this subject would be reported for Members' consideration. Members were asked to note that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Task Group were considering submitting this report in the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Good Scrutiny Awards 2015. It was likely that the report would be submitted in the category dedicated to "Working Together".

The Chair of the Committee concluded discussions by thanking Jess Bayley and Amanda Scarce, the lead Democratic Services Officers supporting the scrutiny process, for their hard work during the year.

## **RESOLVED that**

**subject to incorporating the updates detailed in the preamble above, the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15 be noted.**

### **89. PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE BY TUDOR GRANGE ACADEMY SHORT, SHARP REVIEW - FURTHER FEEDBACK**

In the absence of the Chair of the Committee, as agreed under Minute No. 84, Councillor Carole Gandy chaired the meeting whilst the Committee was considering the Proposals for Change by Tudor Grange Academy Short, Sharp Review Further Feedback Report.

The Chair, explained that following the recommendations of the group the Chief Executive had written to the Secretary of state for Education and Minister of State for Schools and a response had recently been received from the right Honourable David Laws MP. The letter acknowledged receipt of the group's report and noted the concerns that had been raised by parents and schools. The letter advised that the Minister of State for Schools had asked departmental officials to review the current guidance to ensure that expectations were clear in the context of three-tier arrangements.

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Members concurred that this response was a real boost for those involved and showed that the group's concerns had been acknowledged and acted upon.

In respect of the second recommendation, requesting that Worcestershire County Council (WCC) involve Borough Councillors in the changing relationships with local schools, this had been taken on board. For the first time WCC had delivered a briefing to Members on the subject of the changing school landscape on Friday 27th February; the invitation to this briefing had been extended to all Councillors including County Councillors. Nine Members had been able to attend, the feedback received from this briefing had been very positive and WCC were keen to carry out further briefings as necessary.

Councillor Witherspoon, as the Chair of the scrutiny group, commented that the group had produced an excellent report which had been able to make some very positive changes to the benefit of all residents of the Borough. She encouraged all Members to support the submission of the report in the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Good Scrutiny Awards. Whilst there was no guarantee that it would be shortlisted, it was felt appropriate as it would continue to maintain awareness of the subject.

## **RESOLVED that**

**1) the submission of the final report produced by the Proposals for Change by Tudor Grange Academy Short, Sharp Review in the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Good Scrutiny awards process 2015 be noted; and**

**2) the report be noted.**

## **90. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES AND SCRUTINY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME**

Members considered the Executive Committee's Minutes from the 23rd February 2015 together with the latest edition of the Work Programme.

## **RESOLVED that**

**the minutes of the Executive Committee held on 2nd<sup>d</sup> February 2015 and the latest edition of the Executive Committee's Work Programme be noted.**

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## 91. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme and whilst doing so Officers highlighted that the completion date for the LGBT Task Group should have been listed as July 2015 and this would be amended for future Work Programmes.

### **RESOLVED that**

**the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme be noted subject to the amendment detailed in the pre-amble above.**

## 92. TASK GROUPS - PROGRESS REPORTS

### Provision of Support Networks for the LGBT Community – Chair, Councillor Joe Baker

Councillor Baker informed Members that he had attended the LGBT History Month event held at the Library and reported that he had been disappointed in the event. He expressed concern that it had consisted of a great deal of negative information, such as Hate Crime and Sexual Health information, rather than concentrating on the history of the community and giving example of positive role models. Councillor Baker explained that he was keen to ensure that this was not seen as a reflection of the officers who had put a great amount of effort into the event, but that it was something which should be considered in the future. Councillor Baker explained that he would be writing to the Chief Executive to express his disappointment.

Members commented that this could be regarded as a missed opportunity to celebrate the diversity of Redditch and the Council should learn from this experience and ensure that future events were more successful. Officers suggested that it might be appropriate in future years for the LGBT Community and for elected Councillors to be invited to contribute and assist with the organisation of the event.

In respect of the Task Group, Councillor Baker report that they had interviewed Inspector Rebecca Love and Superintendent Jim Baker from West Mercia Police at its last meeting. The group had been impressed by the passion and understanding that the Police Officers seemed to have in order to meet the needs of LGBT victims of hate crimes and incidents. The group also welcomed the fact that such senior representatives of the police force had been

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willing to attend the interview and believed that this was the first time a Superintendent had attended a scrutiny meeting in Redditch. Councillor Baker and the group felt that this representation demonstrated that the police took the subject extremely seriously.

Unfortunately, Councillor Baker informed Members that at some of the group's meetings evidence had been received which suggested that some members of the LGBT community felt reluctant to report hate crimes or incidents to the police for a variety of reasons and there appeared to be under reporting of homophobic and transphobic hate crimes and incidents as a consequence. It was hoped that the turnout of the senior police officers at the meeting would help to demonstrate to the local LGBT community that the local police force were committed to investigating homophobic and transphobic hate crimes and incidents that were reported to them. The LGBT community were therefore urged to have the confidence to approach the police if they experience any form of homophobic or transphobic abuse. The group had also been interested to learn that the police were keen to engage more actively with the LGBT community. This has been a challenge in the past as there had been no established LGBT group in the Borough.

Councillor Baker advised that at the following meeting the group was due to interview Officers about opportunities for the LGBT community to participate in sports and the arts. Members were also hoping to visit LGBT support groups based in Birmingham as well as to consult with representatives of Stonewall.

## **RESOLVED that**

**the update report be noted.**

### **93. HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Witherspoon, the Council's representative on the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), informed Members that she had attended the latest meeting of HOSC that morning (3rd March). The meeting had concentrated on mental health services for older people, with particular reference to dementia, and the current position at the Alexandra Hospital.

Members had received an excellent presentation which had shown a worrying increase in the numbers of dementia sufferers and the statistics had shown that two thirds of these were women aged over 60. This was due to women living longer than men. There was a need for increased awareness and training to be made available,



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not just medical but across the county to ensure that it was identified and the appropriate assessments were carried out. Councillor Witherspoon highlighted a particular project which was being piloted in Droitwich and the results from this project would be analysed and hopefully this would be adopted in other areas.

Members also discussed the links between dementia and other illnesses such as obesity and diabetes and the cost to the health service for treating those suffering from it. It was understood that research was being carried out in America which had been very successful in stemming the disease, if not reversing it. Councillor Witherspoon also highlighted the good work which was carried out by the Dementia Café.

The Committee was informed that representatives from the Board of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust (WAHT) had attended the meeting. The main discussions had been around the problems at the Alexandra Hospital and whilst some very probing questions had been asked from both Councillor Witherspoon herself and other Councillors, the responses received had been unsatisfactory. They had refused to provide details as to why the consultants had resigned, despite Members understanding that the consultants had given permission for this information to be released. Some Members had questioned whether, had such a situation occurred in the private sector, questions would have been asked and an investigation carried out to see whether there was a problem.

The WAHT representatives had insisted that the matter was being dealt with and that the A&E department at the hospital would not be compromised. Two of the consultants had agreed to extend their periods of notice and it was confirmed that if necessary locum consultants would be called in. The WAHT representatives also said they were receiving support and assistance from neighbouring trusts, but refused to state which.

Members discussed whether it would be possible for the Committee to put pressure on the WAHT to release details or at least to confirm that the letter referred to had been received. Consideration was given as to whether it was appropriate for the Committee to write to the individual consultants requesting further information.

After further discussion it was

## **RESOLVED that**

**a letter be sent to the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, requesting**

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**information as to why the consultants had resigned from the  
Alexandra Hospital.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm  
and closed at 9.17 pm

## Scrutiny Proposal Form

(This form should be completed by sponsoring Member(s), Officers and / or members of the public when proposing an item for Scrutiny).

**Note: The matters detailed below have not yet received any detailed consideration. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee reserves the right to reject suggestions for scrutiny that fall outside the Borough Council's remit.**

Proposer's name and designation	Councillor Jane Potter	Date of referral	07/04/15
Proposed topic title	Leisure Trust Short, Sharp Review		
Link to national, regional and local priorities and targets	Redditch Borough Council strategic purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help me live my life independently (including health and activity).</li> </ul>		
Background to the issue	<p>The Abbey Stadium Task Group investigated various options for the future management of the stadium. At the end of the review, which was completed in June 2014, Members proposed that the Council should explore the option for the Abbey Stadium to be managed by a leisure trust. The Executive Committee considered the report on 24th June 2014 and resolved that "<i>the Council should explore the options for a leisure trust to manage some or all of its facilities, including the Abbey Stadium.</i>"</p> <p>Almost a year has passed since that review was completed but unfortunately there has been limited information provided to Members about progress with the investigation into the potential for a leisure trust to manage the Council's leisure facilities. An item has been added to the Executive Committee's Work Programme for the <i>Review of the Operation of Leisure Services</i>, though no date has been recorded for the Committee's consideration of this item.</p> <p>The limited information available about the options that are being considered for the future operation of leisure services is concerning. It does not help Members to determine whether the options that are being considered are financially viable or to identify whether alternative options would be preferable. Members have been informed that external consultants were commissioned to produce a report on this subject, though this has not been shared with Members to date. This is something which I feel needs to be addressed as I believe that Members will only be able to make a constructive decision on this issue once the matter has been investigated in detail.</p>		

	<p>Given the scale of the decision involved I think this subject should be considered as part of a pre-scrutiny short, sharp review exercise. I understand that the Executive Committee has previously recognised the value of pre-scrutiny in this case as they also resolved on 24th June 2014 that <i>“the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be given the opportunity to pre-scrutinise any final business case relating to the future operation of some or all of the Council’s leisure facilities, including the Abbey Stadium, prior to its submission to the Executive Committee”</i>. I therefore hope that there will be support for this proposed review and recognition of the potential for scrutiny to add value in this matter as a critical friend.</p> <p>In order to pre-scrutinise this subject effectively Members will need time to investigate the matter in detail. Unfortunately, the standard approach the Council has tended to adopt to pre-scrutiny, whereby the Overview and Scrutiny Committee simply debates issues at a single meeting prior to the Executive Committee making a decision on the subject, does not provide sufficient time for scrutiny Members to consider a subject in much detail. Indeed, Members often receive only 24 hour notice of the proposals in a report as scrutiny members are not entitled to final reports. The proposed pre-scrutiny short, sharp review, whilst not providing scrutiny Members with the right to view the Officers’ final report any earlier, would enable Members to investigate the subject in detail and to then make constructive and considered recommendations to the Executive Committee based on a sound understanding of the subject as well as appropriate evidence.</p> <p>The Overview and Scrutiny process has a valuable role to play in assessing whether any future options will be right for the people of Redditch. This scrutiny is needed to ensure that any outcomes are realistic and that the Council achieves value for money.</p>
<p>Key Objectives Please keep to SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To review the findings of the Abbey Stadium Task Group.</li> <li>2) To investigate key aspects of a future leisure trust management arrangement for the Council’s leisure facilities. This should include clarifying: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The leisure assets that would be managed by a trust;</li> <li>b) The mix of leisure services that would be delivered by a trust;</li> <li>c) The leisure trust options available;</li> <li>d) The financial investment required, including any capital investment.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3) Understand the financial costs involved in managing leisure services in the last three years.</li> <li>4) To review the findings of the consultants’ report. (Preferably this should involve considering the content of that report if at all possible).</li> </ol>

	<p>5) To assess the procurement process that will need to be followed by the Council if the Executive committee decides that some leisure services should be managed by a leisure trust.</p> <p>6) To investigate the potential for leisure services to be provided by a leisure trust as part of a shared service.</p> <p>I would aim to interview the following as part of this exercise (this should not be regarded as an exhaustive list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Deputy Chief Executive</li> <li>• The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism.</li> <li>• A representative of the external consultants.</li> <li>• The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services.</li> <li>• A representative of a leisure trust.</li> </ul>
<p>How long do you think is needed to complete this exercise? (Where possible please estimate the number of weeks, months and meetings required)</p>	<p>This review needs to be completed in a timely fashion in order to contribute to any decision made by the Executive Committee on this subject in 2015/16. Whilst no date is listed on the Executive Committee's Work Programme for the consideration of the <i>Review of the Operation of Leisure Services</i> it is now highly unlikely that a decision will be made until the new municipal year (2015/16). I would therefore suggest that Members aim to complete the review by the end of June 2015 in time to report to the 7th July meeting.</p>

**Please return this form to: Jess Bayley or Amanda Scarce, Democratic Services Officers, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH**  
**Email: [jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk) / [Amanda.scarce@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.scarce@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)**



**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

7th April 2015

**TACKLING OBESITY TASK GROUP – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE’S RESPONSE**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Hartnett, Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership (including health and the voluntary sector).
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No, though he did participate in the Executive Committee’s decision about the group’s recommendations.
Relevant Director	Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive.
Ward(s) Affected	No specific ward relevance.
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

This report provides an update on the Executive Committee’s response to the Tackling Obesity Task Group’s recommendations. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is also provided with an opportunity to consider the most appropriate action, if any, to take in response to the Executive Committee’s decision on this matter.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that one of the following options be approved:**

- a) **arrangements be made for the Tackling Obesity Task Group’s final report to be presented at a meeting of the Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust;**
- b) **arrangements be made for the Tackling Obesity Task Group’s final report to be considered by relevant partner organisations (*to be specified by Members*);**
- c) **the Tackling Obesity Task Group’s final report be referred to a meeting of Council for further consideration;**
- d) **no further action be taken; or**
- e) **alternative action, to be identified and clearly outlined by the Committee during the meeting, be taken.**

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**3. KEY ISSUES****Background**

- 3.1 The subject of obesity was first identified as a potential topic for scrutiny during the Overview and Scrutiny training session in June 2014. A Task Group review of the action that could be taken to tackle obesity levels in the Borough was subsequently launched in August 2014. Five Members were appointed to this review including; Councillors Jane Potter (Chair), Joe Baker, Andrew Brazier, Natalie Brookes and Paul Swansborough.
- 3.2 Members of the Tackling Obesity Task Group reported their findings and recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3rd March 2015. All of the group's recommendations were endorsed during the meeting, though support for the recommendations was not unanimous.
- 3.3 The Executive Committee considered the group's report at a meeting on 10th March 2015. At the end of a detailed debate the Committee resolved to note the group's recommendations and asked for the Task Group to consider presenting their findings and recommendations for the consideration of relevant partner organisations. A key concern of the Executive Committee was that a multi-agency approach was required to tackle obesity levels and that the Council could not act alone to implement the group's recommendations. Further information about the Executive Committee's response to the group's recommendations can be viewed in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 3.4 The intention of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as the parent Committee of the Task Group, with an opportunity to consider the most appropriate action to take in response to the Executive Committee's proposals. Four potential options have been identified for the Committee's consideration, though Members are also invited in relation to Option E to propose any alternative actions that could be taken.

**Option A**

- 3.5 The Redditch Partnership is a Local Strategic Partnership comprising representatives from a range of local partner organisations. One of the partnership's local priorities is to tackle health inequalities and therefore health issues, such as tackling obesity, should be of interest to most partner organisations.
- 3.6 The Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust (RCWT) is a subsidiary theme group of the Redditch Local Strategic Partnership. The RCWT is responsible for looking at issues regarding children and young people and health issues. This group also oversees the Redditch Health and Wellbeing Plan. The RCWT might therefore be the most appropriate representative of the Redditch Partnership to present the group's findings.



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**Option B**

- 3.7 There are a range of local partner organisations that may be interested in the outcome of the Task Group investigation. Some of these organisations may prefer to consider the group's findings independently and may not have delegated authority to their representative on the Redditch Partnership to make such decisions on their behalf. To address this situation the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may prefer to refer the Task Group's findings for the consideration of a range of partner organisations.
- 3.8 If Members prefer this option the Committee is asked to specify the organisations that should be approached to consider the group's findings.

**Option C**

- 3.9 Generally Overview and Scrutiny reports are considered by the Executive Committee where a decision is usually made either to endorse the recommendations or to reject them. The Committee's response to the Tackling Obesity Task Group's recommendations was unusual inasmuch as Members decided to note the recommendations and to suggest further action, which means that the recommendations have neither been fully approved nor rejected.
- 3.10 In the Council's constitution once the Executive Committee has considered a scrutiny report or recommendations "...the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may then request the Chief Executive to place an item on the next available meeting of the Council to enable the Council to consider those proposals..." There is no requirement in the constitution for the Executive Committee to have approved the recommendations for this referral to Council to take place.
- 3.11 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may conclude that this option would be the most appropriate to ensure that a final decision can be made one way or another by the Council in relation to the group's recommendations. This may be of particular interest in relation recommendations three and four from the group, which require action from the Council only.

**Option D**

- 3.12 The Executive Committee was suggesting that the Task Group take additional action to present their findings for the consideration of relevant local partners. However, the Executive committee recognised that Overview and Scrutiny is an independent, Member-led process and that Task Groups cannot be told what to do or to recommend by the Executive Committee.
- 3.13 In this context it would be legitimate for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to conclude that no further action should be taken.

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**Option E**

- 3.14 Members may not feel that any of the options detailed in this report would be suitable. Instead, Members may identify an alternative course of action that would be appropriate to take in relation to this report. The Committee is asked to clearly specify any alternative proposals to ensure that the process is fully transparent.

**Financial Implications**

- 3.15 If the Committee selects the Option A there will be the cost of the Officer time involved in arranging for the Tackling Obesity Task Group's report and recommendations to be considered by the Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust. There will also be additional costs in terms of printing copies of the group's report and in reporting the responses of the partnership back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.16 These costs would be even greater if Members agree to pursue Option B as significant Officer time will be required to arrange for the group's recommendations and report to be considered by a range of partner organisations. All the responses received would need to be collated and reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any subsequent decisions reached by the Council would need to be reported back to those relevant partner organisations for consideration.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.17 There are no legal implications directly relating to this report. However, Members are asked to note that if the Committee chooses either Option a or Option B it would not appropriate to ask partner organisation to comment on the group's third and fourth recommendations as these require action from Redditch borough Council only.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.18 If the Committee chooses to present the group's findings to a number of partner organisations Members need to be aware that Officer time would be taken arranging for partners to consider the group's findings. This would divert officers away from working on other Task Group activities at the start of the new municipal year and therefore could impact on the output of scrutiny in 2015/16.
- 3.19 Members should note that there is no legal requirement for local partner organisations or for the Redditch Partnership to either consider or implement the proposals arising from a scrutiny investigation. The Committee would therefore need to rely on the good will of the partnership or partner organisations to consider their findings.

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**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.20 The Council has the strategic purpose; help me to live my life independently (including health and activity). By promoting the group's findings the Council would help to demonstrate it is committed to achieving this strategic purpose on behalf of customers and to tackling health inequalities.
- 3.21 No equalities and diversity implications have been identified to this report.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

There is a risk that as the Executive Committee has chosen simply to note the Task Group's report partner organisations and / or the partnership will question the extent to which Redditch Borough Council would be committed to implementing the recommendations. This may in turn influence the willingness of partners to endorse and enact the group's proposals.

**5. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Tackling Obesity Task Group's final report.

**6. APPENDICES**

Extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday 10th March 2015.

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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# APPENDIX 1

## Executive Committee

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Tuesday, 10 March 2015

### MINUTES

#### Present:

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

#### Also Present:

Councillors Andrew Brazier, Natalie Brookes and Jane Potter

#### Officers:

C Flanagan, J Pickering, L Wood and R Wooldridge

#### Democratic Services Officer:

J Bayley

Extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Executive committee meeting held on 10th March 2015.

#### 114. OBESITY TASK GROUP REPORT

The Chair of the Tackling Obesity Task Group, Councillor Jane Potter, presented the group's final report. During delivery of this presentation the following points were highlighted for Members' consideration:

- A significant number of people living in Redditch, 65.9 per cent of the local population, were either overweight or obese.
- The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and Redditch Borough Council had both identified health as a local priority.
- Obesity was associated with a number of medical conditions including Type 2 Diabetes and coronary heart disease.
- The group had found that there were a lot of projects and activities in the Borough that could help people to lose weight; however, there was limited awareness amongst people of these opportunities.
- The key challenge identified by the group had been how to motivate people to lose weight.

.....  
Chair

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- The group had considered suggesting that a website be established to promote local initiatives; however, this idea had been rejected due to the resource implications.
- Officers had suggested that social media could be used to promote local opportunities and that, if combined with the Time2Change campaign, this could be undertaken at limited cost to the Council.
- Officers had also suggested this campaign should be underpinned by a Communications Plan.
- The feedback received by the group from the Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) indicated that there was limited awareness amongst medical practitioners of local opportunities for people to lose weight.
- The group was envisaging that the monthly updates to GP Practices they were proposing would be sent to a designated contact and would not be lengthy.
- Members of the group recognised that there were arguments both for and against the introduction of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for hot food takeaways. However, the group believed that the Council had a moral obligation to investigate this matter further.
- The number of Councils with an SPD for hot food takeaways had increased in the past 10 years from none to over 20.
- Participation in health chat training would provide Councillors with useful information about a range of health issues.
- The group was not intending to propose that Councillors who had participated in the training should subsequently advise residents that they were overweight or obese. Instead participants could use the information provided to signpost residents to useful sources of support.
- The group had been impressed by the work that Redditch Borough Council was delivering to improve the health of staff.

Following presentation of the report the following matters were discussed by the Committee:

- The potential for all partners to promote local opportunities to lose weight to the public.
- The need for a multi-agency approach to be applied in order to tackle obesity levels effectively.
- The resource implications involved in investigating the potential to introduce an SPD for hot food takeaways and whether such an investigation would represent value for money.
- The difficulty of restricting the opening of hot food takeaways within a particular area around local schools and the challenge involved in imposing this restriction retrospectively.
- The lack of a relevant policy in the Local Plan No. 4 to which an SPD for hot food takeaways could be linked.

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- The inclusion of a Health Impact Assessment in the preparatory work for the Local Plan No. 4.
- The contribution of free swimming and local Sure Start Centres to improvements in the health of local residents.
- The complex causes of obesity and the need for a variety of options to be available to people who were willing to lose weight.
- The potential impact that obesity could have on a person's self-confidence and mental health and the need for agencies to adopt a sensitive approach to supporting people in this position.
- The potential workload involved in gathering information to provide monthly updates to GP Practices and the need for partners to actively contribute to this data gathering process.
- The need for participation in health chat training by staff and Members to be undertaken on a voluntary basis.
- The improvements in the health of local residents that had been achieved since the Comprehensive Area Assessment was published in 2010.
- The impact that the behaviour of parents had on the health and life choices of their children.
- The extent to which the group had been able to consult with local residents as part of the review.

## **RESOLVED that**

- 1) the Tackling Obesity Task Group's report and recommendations be noted; and**
- 2) the Tackling Obesity Task Group be asked to consider presenting their findings for the consideration of relevant local partner organisations.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.02 pm  
and closed at 9.00 pm

