



Executive Committee

Tue 20 Jan
2015
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

*making
difference*

www.redditchbc.gov.uk

Access to Information - Your Rights

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

Your main rights are set out below:-

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

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

**Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: 01527 64252 Ext: 3257
e.mail:d.parkerjones@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk**

Welcome to today's meeting.

Guidance for the Public

Agenda Papers

The **Agenda List** at the front of the Agenda summarises the issues to be discussed and is followed by the Officers' full supporting **Reports**.

Chair

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the 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

Members of the public may, by prior arrangement, speak at meetings of the Council or its Committees. Specific procedures exist for Appeals Hearings or for meetings involving Licence or Planning Applications. For further information on this point, please speak to the Democratic Services Officer.

Special Arrangements

If you have any particular needs, please contact the Democratic Services Officer.

Infra-red devices for the hearing impaired are available on request at the meeting. Other facilities may require prior arrangement.

Further Information

If you require any further information, please contact the Democratic Services Officer (see foot of page opposite).

Fire/ Emergency instructions

If the alarm is sounded, please leave the building by the nearest available exit – these are clearly indicated within all the Committee Rooms.

If you discover a fire, inform a member of staff or operate the nearest alarm call point (wall mounted red rectangular box). In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately following the fire exit signs. Officers have been appointed with responsibility to ensure that all visitors are escorted from the building.

Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do Not use lifts.

Do Not re-enter the building until told to do so.

The emergency Assembly Area is on Walter Stranz Square.



Executive

Committee

Tuesday, 20th January, 2015

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs: Bill Hartnett (Chair) Phil Mould
 Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) Mark Shurmer
 Juliet Brunner Yvonne Smith
 Brandon Clayton Debbie Taylor
 John Fisher

<p>1. Apologies</p>	<p>To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend this meeting.</p>
<p>2. Declarations of Interest</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.</p>
<p>3. Leader's Announcements</p>	<p>1. To give notice of any items for future meetings or for the Executive Committee Work Programme, including any scheduled for this meeting, but now carried forward or deleted; and</p> <p>2 any other relevant announcements.</p> <p>(Oral report)</p>
<p>4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 10) Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive</p>	<p>To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 16th December 2014.</p> <p>(Minutes attached)</p>
<p>5. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Pages 11 - 20)</p>	<p>To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24th November 2014.</p> <p>There are no recommendations to consider. The</p>

Executive

Committee

Tuesday, 20th January, 2015

Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive	recommendation at minute no.55 relating to the Tudor Grange review was dealt with at the last meeting of the Committee . (Minutes attached)
6. Designation of a Neighbourhood Plan area - Feckenham (Pages 21 - 26) Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning and Regeneration	To consider a report setting out the results of consultation on establishing a Neighbourhood Plan area in Feckenham and seeking approval to this. (Astwood Bank & Feckenham Ward)
7. Redditch Borough Council's Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Programme 2015/16 - Funding Recommendations (Pages 27 - 32) Judith Willis, Head of Community Services	To consider recommendations from the Grants Assessment Panel for grants to voluntary and community groups in the Borough. All Wards
8. Land at Easemore Road - Disposal (Pages 33 - 40) Amanda de Warr, Head of Customer Access and Financial Support	To consider disposing of land at Easemore Road in the Borough. (Abbey Ward)
9. Independent Remuneration Panel Report and Recommendations for 2015-16 (Pages 41 - 56) Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services	To consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Councillors' allowances for 2015-16, and to decide whether to recommend the adoption of their recommendations to Council.

Executive

Committee

Tuesday, 20th January, 2015

<p>10. Council Tax Base (Pages 57 - 60) Jayne Pickering, Executive Director, Finance and Resources</p>	<p>To consider a report setting out the Council tax base for 2015-16.</p>
<p>11. Housing Revenue Account Initial Estimates 2015-16 (Pages 61 - 68) Liz Tompkin, Head of Housing</p>	<p>To consider a report setting out proposals for the Housing Revenue Account for 2015-16. (No Direct Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>12. Medium Term Financial Plan 2015-16 - 2017-18 (Pages 69 - 80) Jayne Pickering, Executive Director, Finance and Resources</p>	<p>To consider a report on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2015-16 to 2017-18.</p>
<p>13. Minutes / Referrals - Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Executive Panels etc. Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive</p>	<p>To receive and consider any outstanding minutes or referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Executive Panels etc. since the last meeting of the Executive Committee, other than as detailed in the items above.</p>
<p>14. Advisory Panels - update report (Pages 81 - 82) Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive</p>	<p>To consider, for monitoring / management purposes, an update on the work of the Executive Committee's Advisory Panels and similar bodies, which report via the Executive Committee. (Report attached)</p>
<p>15. Action Monitoring (Pages 83 - 84) Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive</p>	<p>To consider an update on the actions arising from previous meetings of the Committee. (Report attached)</p>

16. Exclusion of the Public

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

“that, under S.100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter(s) on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs (*to be specified*) of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended.”

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;

may need to be considered as ‘exempt’.

17. Confidential Minutes / Referrals (if any)

To consider confidential matters not dealt with earlier in the evening and not separately listed below (if any).



Executive

Committee

Tuesday, 16 December 2014

MINUTES

Present:

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

Also Present:

Councillors Carole Gandy, Pattie Hill and Pat Witherspoon

Officers:

Jess Bayley, Clare Flanagan, Sue Hanley, Sam Morgan and Jayne Pickering

Committee Services Officer:

Debbie Parker-Jones

69. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Juliet Brunner and John Fisher.

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

71. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Additional Papers

Members' attention was drawn to the Additional Papers pack which contained the minutes of the meeting of the Worcestershire Regulatory Services Shared Services Joint Committee held on 27th November 2014. It was noted that there were no recommendations to be considered.

.....
Chair

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 16 December 2014

Time To Change Pledge

Following Full Council's endorsement of the Time To Change Pledge on 8th December, the Leader signed a display presentation board for the Council's Pledge.

Work Programme

It was noted that the Review of Financial Resilience report which had originally appeared on the Executive Work Programme for the meeting that evening had not been required and had therefore been deleted.

The Landscape Improvements to the Town Centre Phase II report which was listed on the Work Programme for the 20th January 2015 meeting had been delayed and would at this stage remain on the Work Programme without a set date.

Taliban attack on school in Peshawar, Pakistan

Members noted with great shock and sadness the Taliban attack which had taken place earlier that day on an army school in Peshawar, North-west Pakistan, in which over 100 children and members of staff had lost their lives.

Redditch had a large Pakistani community and Members sent their sincere sympathies and condolences to the families of those who had been injured or killed in the terrorist attack.

The Leader requested that a letter be sent from himself and the Mayor to Redditch Central Mosque and the High Commission for Pakistan in London expressing the Council's deep sadness at the news.

72. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 25th November 2014 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

73. PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE TO TUDOR GRANGE ACADEMY SHORT, SHARP REVIEW - FINAL REPORT

Councillor Pat Witherspoon, Chair of the Proposals for Change by Tudor Grange Academy Short, Sharp Review group, presented the group's final report. She was accompanied by Councillors Carole Gandy and Pattie Hill who also took part in the Review.

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 16 December 2014

The report proposed three recommendations, only the first of which needed to be approved by the Executive Committee as this required action by the Chief Executive. Recommendations 2 and 3 had already been referred direct to Worcestershire County Council and the Executive Committee was therefore asked to note those proposals. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had endorsed all three recommendations.

The following were noted as the key objectives of the Review:

- To understand the proposals by Tudor Grange Academy to extend the age range of pupils;
- To assess the potential impact on schooling arrangements in the Borough if the proposals were to be implemented; and
- Through investigation of this proposal and the basis on which academy schools operate, to support Ward Councillors and residents in understanding how they can best contribute most effectively to the debate and decision on this issue.

It was specifically noted that the group was not tasked with determining whether the changes proposed by Tudor Grange Academy Redditch (TGAR) should be implemented, the outcome of which Members were not able to influence. Members were also not asked to reach any conclusions about three-tier and two-tier education or which system would be preferable for the Borough in the long-term.

Evidence had been gathered from a range of sources including representatives of Tudor Grange Academy Redditch (TGAR); Karen Lumley MP; Councillor Rebecca Blake, the Redditch Democratic Alliance, local schools and representatives of the Redditch School Changes Action group

The group concluded that TGAR had followed, and in part exceeded, the proper process set out by the government when proposing and consulting on changes to their school admissions. However, the process set down by the government did not address the specific needs of schools and school pyramids in a three-tier education system and it was felt that this needed to be updated to reflect those considerations.

Whilst it was the group's view that TGAR had good intentions with the proposed changes, feedback received from other schools in the town indicated that ideally more action could have been taken when consulting on the changes. Examples of other schools in the area which had consulted informally with parents about a potential change from a three-tier to a two-tier system had shown that

additional steps outside the formal process could have been implemented which would have helped address local concerns.

It was felt that uncertainty surrounding the future of other schools in the pyramid created confusion and in some cases anger amongst parents about the proposed changes. Members felt this uncertainty contributed to the decision by some schools to consult on their own changes which in turn potentially created greater uncertainty. Poor communication, by both TGAR and the County Council, was also found to have compounded confusion amongst parents.

The speed with which the consultation was announced and the lack of significant discussions with other schools prior to TGAR's announcement about the proposed changes led stakeholders to conclude that the proposals were a fait accompli. It was felt that when proposing changes all schools should communicate their rationale to key stakeholders and the extent to which feedback would inform any outcomes of the process.

The group had been informed by the lead officer for the County Council that Worcestershire County Council lacked the power and resources to undertake a whole scale review of the education system in the Borough. Recent legislation had provided academy schools with significant powers and any review conducted by the local education authority could not make decisions that would be binding for academy schools. The group felt that whilst the County Council could not determine the outcomes of TGAR's proposed changes to their admissions policy, as the local education authority, they could have taken more action to co-ordinate consultation responses and to clarify the process that needed to be followed.

The group had attempted to consult with ward Councillors for the TGAR catchment area but were disappointed with the lack of responses received. As such, the group could not form any conclusions about the needs of ward Councillors and had therefore suggested that in future group leaders strongly urge their members to respond when consulted by a scrutiny Task Group.

It was noted that TGAR had originally proposed that the changes would come into effect from September 2015, and that given the nature of the changes these were eligible to be fast tracked. However, in light of feedback received to the consultation, the school Governing Body had, at a meeting on 13th August 2014, decided that they would instead be submitting a business case to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) by September 2014, with the intention to implement any changes from September 2016. It was understood that a decision had not yet been made by the EFA or Regional Schools Commissioner for the West Midlands regarding the school's proposals.

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 16 December 2014

The Executive welcomed the report and thanked the group for its hard work on this. In relation to the disappointment expressed by the group on the low number of questionnaires submitted by Borough Councillors, and the suggestion that in future the political group leaders take an active role in encouraging their members to respond to any scrutiny consultation, the Leader stated that he would be happy to encourage his members provided he was made aware that such consultation was taking place, which was not the case on this occasion.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the Chief Executive of Redditch Borough Council should write to the Secretary of State for Education, the Right Honourable Nicky Morgan MP, and the Minister of State for Schools, the Right Honourable David Laws MP, to request that specific guidance be issued to schools about changing the age range of their pupils in a three-tier education system. This guidance should address the process that must be followed in cases where a school unilaterally decides to make changes that will impact on other schools in the local authority area and / or within a school pyramid; and**

RESOLVED to note that Worcestershire County Council had been asked by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to:

- 2) **consult with Borough Councillors alongside County Councillors when commissioning educational services (within the remit of the Head of Learning and Achievement); and**
- 3) **To produce written guides about the education system and the process that needs to be followed when charges are made to schools. These guides should be produced in plain English and should be made available for parents and other interested stakeholders to access.**

74. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE & CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 2 2014/15

Members considered the consolidated revenue and capital outturn position for the period April to September 2014.

Officers stated that whilst there was currently a shortfall of £212k in identified savings these would be achieved by vacancy management and other savings during the financial year.

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 16 December 2014

Heads of Service and managers were continuing to look at where savings could be made and whilst carry forwards in budgets could be made available to Heads of Service under delegated authority, Heads of Service would be looking at where savings could be made to ensure that only necessary underspends were carried forward.

The financial commentary detailed in the report in relation to the £740k asbestos underspend was noted, together with the proposed virements from the asbestos budget to address other overspends within the Capital Programme. The £77k requested from Housing Revenue Account reserves to fund the demolition of Upper Norgrove House based on health and safety concerns was also noted.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the current financial position on Revenue and Capital as detailed in the report be noted;**
- 2) the following virements for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme be approved:**

the Asbestos budget be reduced by £290K to fund the following Capital Schemes:

**£50K Kitchen Upgrades
£200K to Rewiring
£40K to Window Replacements; and**

- 3) £77K be released from the HRA reserves to fund the demolition of Upper Norgrove House.**

75. BUDGET POSITION STATEMENT

Officers provided Members with an oral update on the latest budget position for 2015/16.

Members were advised that whilst there was not currently a balanced budget for the medium term, a 3-year sustainable budget plan would be presented to Full Council in February 2015. This was a similar position to many other local authorities. Officers added that there was a general assumption that by 2019/20 Councils would have to be self-funding.

The original predicted budget shortfall for 2015/16 had been £2,314m, with further predicted shortfalls for 2016/17 and 2017/18 of £432k and £886k respectively. The latest projected shortfalls stood at £462k for 2015/16, which included a one-off use of £500k from reserves, £818k for 2016/17 and £970k for 2017/18.

The figures included a £300k reduction in pension costs as a result of an increase in the number of permitted payment years, total New Homes Bonus of £802k, minimum annual bid of £30k to continue Essential Living Fund Support should funding for this be withdrawn from the County Council and an assumed annual Council Tax increase of 1.9%.

It was assumed that there would be a reduction of approximately £500k in the Government Grant from 2014/15, the final figure for which should be made known within the following week or so, and a pay increase of 2.2%. Any cuts in funding from the County Council would hopefully be made known early in 2015, and Officers had stressed to the County Council that they needed to be informed of any cuts as soon as possible.

Officers advised that a great deal of work would be carried out over the following few weeks to produce a sustainable 3-year budget for Executive Committee on 3rd February 2015. This would then be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17th February, prior to Full Council on 23rd February. More detail would be included in the budget on how the proposed £645k of Strategic Purpose savings would be made, and from which services and transformation projects savings had been made.

Officers stated that the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, were comfortable with the approach being taken on the budget for 2015/16 and for the following 2 years.

Members thanked Officers and the Portfolio Holder for their work on the budget and were pleased to hear that Grant Thornton were comfortable with the current position. A measured approach had been taken with the budget in recent years, the results of which were now being seen.

RESOLVED that

the position be noted.

76. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 10th November 2014.

It was noted that there were no recommendations to consider.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 10th November 2014 be received and noted.

77. WORCESTERSHIRE REGULATORY SERVICES SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

The Committee received, under Additional Papers, the minutes of the meeting of the Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) Shared Services Joint Committee held on 27th November 2014.

It was noted that there were no recommendations to consider.

Members noted that Capita had withdrawn from the strategic partnership procurement process and that WRS Officers would now be determining the shape of future service delivery. Whilst there had been some disappointment expressed at the meeting at Capita's withdrawal, the level of service provided and high reputation gained by WRS had been noted.

The Leader advised that subsequent to the WRS meeting it had been announced that Steve Jordan, Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services, had obtained a promotion as Head of Paid Service at South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council, and would be leaving his current post in the New Year. It was agreed that a letter be sent on behalf of the Executive to express their sincere thanks to Mr Jordan for the work he had undertaken in delivering an excellent Regulatory Services for all in Redditch and wishing him success in his new position.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Worcestershire Regulatory Services Shared Services Joint Committee held on 27th November 2014 be received and noted.

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

There were no outstanding referrals to consider.

79. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

Councillor Chance advised that the Economic Theme Group under the Local Strategic Partnership, which had replaced the Economic Advisory Panel, had met on a couple of occasions and was proving to be very successful forum. The membership included

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 16 December 2014

representatives from local businesses, the Heart of Worcestershire College and Borough Councillors.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

80. ACTION MONITORING

Members were advised that no update on the information requested at the 8th September 2014 meeting in relation to the Finance Monitoring Report 2014/15 April to June (Quarter 1) was yet available.

Officers undertook to find out the details for the questions raised and to report back to all members of the Committee on this.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.40 pm

.....
Chair



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 24th November,
2014

MINUTES

Present:

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

Also Present:

Councillor Greg Chance, (Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development and Transport).

Mr Stephen Haselden, (Strategic Development Manager, Rotala PLC) and Ms Hayley Russell (Commercial Officer, Rotala PLC).

Officers:

K Dicks, S Singleton and J Willis

Democratic Services Officers:

J Bayley and A Scarce

50. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carole Gandy and Paul Swansborough with Councillors David Thain and Michael Braley attending as substitutes.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

Councillor Andrew Fry declared an other discloseable interest in Minute No.53. Concessionary Bus Travel, due to his personal family connection to the Head of Community Services.

Councillor Jane Potter declared an other discloseable interest in respect of Minute No.55, the Proposals for Change by Tudor

.....
Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 24th November, 2014

Grange Academy Short, Sharp Review, Final Report. She left the room and took no part in the discussions in respect of this report.

Councillor David Bush also declared an other discloseable interest in respect of Minute No. 55, as a member of the board of governors at the Walkwood Middle School, part of the pyramid group which would be affected by the changes proposed by Tudor Grange Academy Redditch. He left the room and took no part in the discussions in respect of this report.

In light of the Chair having to leave the room it was noted that the Vice Chair would preside over the relevant part of Minute No. 55.

52. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2014, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

53. CONCESSIONARY BUS TRAVEL - DISCUSSION

The Chair thanked the representatives from Rotala PLC, Mr Stephen Haselden and Ms Hayley Russell, for attending the meeting.

Councillor Greg Chance, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development and Transport, took Members through the written responses that had been provided to the pre-prepared questions. He highlighted that the scheme was not aimed at retired people but for the benefit of various groups within the community who would need to travel before 9.30 a.m. Mr Haselden reiterated this by stating that the concessionary scheme was not for retired people but for a set age range, many of whom had to access work. Members were also advised that the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENTS) was put in place to ensure that people who could not afford bus travel were still able to do so. The principle of the scheme was that the operator should be no worse or better off if no scheme was in place and calculated on a monthly basis with the operator being re-imbursed. However, it was explained that this was not how the Redditch Borough Council scheme was calculated. Instead a fixed annual rate was identified based on figures from 2011. Mr. Haselden felt that these figures were no longer relevant and as an operator Rotala plc was currently worse off. The figures would need to be revised for the scheme in 2015/16.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 24th November, 2014

The following areas were discussed in more detail:

- The data provided by Worcestershire County Council from the use of SMART ticket machines, how these worked and details of how journeys were recorded manually prior to 9.30 am.
- The number of people using the service in comparison to the number of journeys that were carried out.
- The overall data being provided by Centro (in respect of the concessionary passes). Mr Haselden explained that he had requested more detailed data several times, but had been unsuccessful due to legislation and rules from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).
- The types of passes provided and how these were being updated when those in receipt of them re-applied.
- The ENTS scheme being valid after 9.30 a.m. only.
- The benefits of the scheme to those who were eligible to participate.
- The financial cost to the Council and what number of journeys this was based on, together with details of actual journeys carried out and the potential increase in cost for future years.
- A breakdown of the journeys by route. Mr Haselden confirmed that this was provided on a monthly basis and the majority of the routes covered by his company were 51 (1,803 journeys), 57 (2,400 journeys) and 58 (2,377).
- It was confirmed that there was no legal requirement to provide the scheme before 9.30 a.m.

Following detailed discussions a proposal was put forward that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should recognise the value of pre 9.30 a.m. travel and appreciated Rotala PLC's support for the scheme. However this proposal was not endorsed by the majority of Members.

Whilst it was understood that Rotala PLC had been unable to acquire detailed data from Centro, Members requested that Officers attempt to access detailed information about the number of journeys undertaken by customers using concessionary passes in order for Members to understand better how the scheme was being used and its value.

RESOLVED that Officers request detailed information in respect of pre 9.30 a.m. journeys and the number of concessionary pass holders making the journeys.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 24th November, 2014

54. MARKET SCRUTINY TASK GROUP - MONITORING UPDATE REPORT

Officers were invited to summarise the report, which provided an update to the recommendations that had been agreed following the Redditch Market Review being considered by the Executive Committee on 12th March 2013.

Members were informed that the North Worcestershire Economic Development Unit had commissioned a piece of work from external consultants to advise on what types of markets could realistically be attracted to the North Worcestershire area, together with details of potential income and delivery of such arrangements for the future. The results of this review would be available from 12th December 2014.

It was noted that there had been a large number of recommendations from this scrutiny review. Some of the outstanding recommendations would be addressed within the consultant's report. However, Members were also asked to note that those recommendations which had not been addressed had significant cost implications attached to them. Overall, it was agreed that, considering the number of recommendations that the group had made, a large proportion had been completed and progress had been made.

Members also debated the following areas in detail:

- A new strategy for the market would be developed once the results of the review were known. Members raised concerns around keeping the current market area tidy and the number of parked vehicles including, it was understood, a caravan over the weekend period.
- How to make the area more attractive to customers. New stalls and layout were discussed and it was confirmed that this would be picked up within the consultant's report.
- On going cleanliness and pest control problems. Members discussed whether stall holders could be penalised for not disposing of rubbish appropriately.
- The range of goods sold on the various stalls.
- Whether there was a Market Manager and the times the Officer was available. It was explained that this was covered by a shared service and the Market Manager also managed the market at Bromsgrove.

Following further discussion it was

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 24th November, 2014

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Committee receive the consultant's report when available; and
- 2) the update report be noted.

55. PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE BY TUDOR GRANGE ACADEMY SHORT, SHARP REVIEW - FINAL REPORT

Councillor Pat Witherspoon, as the Chair of the Proposals for Change by Tudor Grange Academy Short, Sharp Review presented the group's final report. She provided background information and explained that the purpose of the review had been to gain an understanding of Tudor Grange Academy Redditch's proposal to extend the age range of their pupils and the process they had followed in order to make those changes, together with assessing the potential impact on other schools in the Borough and identifying how to support ward Councillors and residents in contributing effectively to the debate on the subject. Members were reminded that the review had not been tasked with investigating whether a two-tier or a three-tier education system should be in place in the Borough or to draw conclusions around the Academy's proposals.

The group had gathered evidence from a range of sources including representatives from Tudor Grange Academy Redditch, Karen Lumley M.P., Councillor Rebecca Blake (this was due to her involvement in the petition), the Redditch Democratic Alliance and local schools, which had been contacted via a questionnaire. Representatives of the Redditch School Changes Action Group had also been consulted.

The key findings of the review were highlighted:

- Tudor Grange Academy Redditch followed the proper process set out by the Government.
- The process set down by the Government did not address the specific needs of schools and school pyramids in a three-tier education system.
- As a consequence there was uncertainty, confusion and in some cases anger amongst parents about the changes proposed by the school.
- The lead officer for the County Council informed the review that the County lacked the power and resources to undertake a review of the education system in the Borough. Recent legislation had provided academy schools with significant powers and therefore any review conducted by the local

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 24th November, 2014

education authority could not make decisions that would be binding for academy schools.

- Poor communications by both the school and the County Council had compounded the confusion amongst parents.
- The group had attempted to consult with Councillors from the wards within the catchment area for Tudor Grange Academy. Members had been disappointed to only receive completed questionnaires from Councillors Baker and Potter, although it was acknowledged that evidence had been received from Councillors Blake and Braley in a different form. The group requested that in future group leaders be urged to encourage their members to respond when consulted by a scrutiny Task Group.

Councillor Witherspoon went on to provide some local context together with information in respect of the process which had been followed and highlighted that Tudor Grange Academy Redditch had followed the correct process and had gone beyond what was required by providing a business plan. The final decision about the school's proposals would be made by the Regional Schools Commissioner for the West Midlands in consultation with the Education Funding Agency (EFA). It had also been noted that when questions were raised by Karen Lumley in Parliament the Department of Education had confirmed that they did not hold records for three-tier education systems throughout England, although they had advised that there were 190 middle schools in total.

Councillor Witherspoon thanked the other Members of the review for the work they had carried out and also Jess Bayley, Democratic Services Officer for her support in carrying out a very thorough and informative review.

The Committee added its thanks and commented on how professionally the review had been handled and for producing an excellent and detailed report.

RECOMMENDED to the Executive Committee that

- 1) The Chief Executive of Redditch Borough Council writes to the Secretary of State for Education, the Right Honourable Nicky Morgan PM, and the Minister of State for Schools, the Right Honourable David Laws MP, to request that specific guidance be issued to schools about changing the age range of their pupils in a three tier education system. This guidance should address the process that must be followed in cases where a school unilaterally decides to make**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 24th November, 2014

changes that will impact on other schools in the local authority area and/or within a school pyramid.

RECOMMENDED to Worcestershire County Council that

- 2) Worcestershire County Council consult with Borough Councillors alongside County Councillors when commissioning educational services (within the remit of the Head of Learning and Achievement); and**
- 3) Worcestershire County Council, as the local education authority, should produce written guides about the education system and the process that needs to be followed when changes are made to schools. These guides should be produced in plain English and should be made available for parents and other interested stakeholders to access.**

(Prior to consideration of the final report Councillor Potter declared an other disclosable interest in the subject as a school governor at Tudor Grange Academy. Councillor Bush also declared an other disclosable interest in this update as a school governor at Walkwood Middle School, part of the pyramid group which would be affected by the changes proposed by Tudor Grange Academy Redditch. They both left the room during consideration of this update and did not take part in the discussions.)

56. CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY PANEL - UPDATE REPORT

The Chair explained that two areas had been discussed during the most recent meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel and these were summarised in the update attached to the agenda.

Members discussed the update in detail and raised the following points:

- The Diamond Club for Black and other Minority Ethnic Communities. Councillor Witherspoon had recently attended an event where women from these groups had raised concerns that there was no support for those who suffered domestic violence. Officers agreed to request further details and provide these to Members.
- The number of women murdered each month by partners and how the agencies could work together to protect vulnerable women.
- The number of new clients attending the West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Unit.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 24th November, 2014

- The number of men suffering domestic violence.
- The role of the Police in addressing domestic violence.
- Support provided for the LGBT Community within the Borough. It was noted that the groups listed were not specific to Redditch but county based.
- It was understood the Redditch night club which had provided an event for the LGBT community in previous years had ceased to do so.
- The Stonewall group and the information they provided for schools and youth clubs.
- A number of other youth clubs had struggled due to lack of funding and Members encouraged them to apply through the Grants Panel as it was understood that a further funding round would be held in the New Year and that funds were available.

RESOLVED that

the minutes from the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 29th October 2014 be circulated to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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

Officers highlighted the Executive Committee's comments in respect of three recommendations which had been put forward by the Committee. The Committee had requested, following consideration of the Fees and Charges report, that the rate for junior swimming lessons should not be the subject of an increase; this had been rejected by the Executive Committee. At the Committee's meeting on 2nd September Members had requested that the minutes of the Redditch Partnership Executive Group and the Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust be appended to the Council agenda. This proposal had also been rejected. However it was noted that instead the Executive Committee had agreed that the minutes should be publicised on the modern.gov system and the first minutes from the Executive Group had recently been published in this manner. Members were also informed that in respect of the recommendation from the Worcestershire Regulatory Services Joint Scrutiny Task Group, which had been approved by the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee and which related to the lessons learned from the WRS shared service experience, had been approved by the Executive Committee.

Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED that

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 24th November, 2014

the minutes of the Executive Committee held on 28th October and the latest edition of the Executive Committee's Work Programme be noted.

58. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme.

RESOLVED that

the Committee's Work Programme be noted.

59. TASK GROUPS - PROGRESS REPORTS

Councillor Potter informed Members that since the last Committee meeting the group had studied a range of literature (including the Worcestershire Obesity Plan) and interviewed the Health Improvement Co-ordinator, the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services and the Sports and Physical Activity Development Manager. The group were also planning on interviewing representatives from the public health team at Worcestershire County Council and a member of the Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). For their final meeting they were hoping to interview the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council.

It was clear from the work of the group so far that there was an abundance of support available but the challenge was how to encourage people to take advantage of that support.

Members commented that at the last buffet held at the Town Hall there had been a limited selection of food and no salad or fresh fruit included within it and suggested that perhaps the Council could lead by example and include these in the future.

RESOLVED that

the update report be noted.

60. HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Pat Witherspoon, the Council's representative on the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), provided Members with an update following the most recent meeting that she had attended. Councillor Witherspoon explained

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 24th November, 2014

that a copy of a presentation had been included within the agenda as this had been the main area of discussion at the HOSC meeting.

The presentation covered the proposed changes to some services at the Alexandra, Worcestershire Royal and Kidderminster Hospitals. Members were also informed that this presentation was due to be delivered at a meeting of the Community Wellbeing Trust at the Ecumenical Centre. This was the first time that the actual proposals for what the services could look like had been put forward before it was put out to final consultation, which was not expected until the spring/summer of 2015.

There had also been a meeting with the University Hospital Birmingham (UHB) who had informed HOSC that they had not been involved in any discussion with regard to the service review. UHB had also confirmed that they were currently not taking any further patients from Worcestershire. There had been a 56% increase in patients from Worcestershire and they were at their full capacity and were therefore unable to take any further patients. They were already treating 61 patients and would continue to do so. UHB had acknowledged that they understood why people preferred to use the services as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was both nearer to Redditch and considered a centre of excellence. There were concerns around the border between Birmingham and Worcestershire. Whilst patients were given the option to choose where they wished to be treated if the hospital chosen could evidence that they did not have the capacity to take that patient then they were able to refuse to treat them.

Officers commented that further information had been released that day confirming that the consultation would not begin until spring/summer 2015. Approximately 50 workshops would be held with groups of people that would be most affected by the changes. There would also be a Transport Sub Group which will look at how patients could get to and from the hospitals.

RESOLVED that

the Chief Executive provided the additional information to Officers for circulation to Members.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

20th January 2015

**FECKENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA APPLICATION - CONSIDERATION
OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND APPROVAL TO DESIGNATE**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor G Chance Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development & Transport
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Ward(s) Affected	Astwood Bank & Feckenham
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	Yes
Key Decision	No

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 A local planning authority (LPA) must designate a neighbourhood area if it receives a valid application and some or all of the area has not yet been designated for the purposes of neighbourhood planning. The LPA should take into account the relevant body's statement explaining why the area applied for is considered appropriate to be designated as such.
- 1.2 Following consideration of the supporting statement submitted to the Council by Feckenham Parish Council, Executive Committee resolved to undertake a six week period of public consultation relating to the proposed Feckenham Neighbourhood Plan Area Application (28th October 2014).
- 1.3 This report sets out the steps taken to consult on the application, summarises the outcome of the consultation period, proposes a resolution to accept the Area designation and outlines the next stages of preparation of the Feckenham Neighbourhood Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee is asked to RESOLVE

- 2.1 **That having considered the Feckenham Neighbourhood Plan Area Application and the outcome of the consultation period, the Feckenham Neighbourhood Plan Area as identified at Appendix 1 of this report, is formally designated as it provides a 'sound' basis for developing a neighbourhood plan in accordance with the regulations.**

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**20th January 2015

3. KEY ISSUES**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (s7) state that at this stage in the Neighbourhood Plan process, the LPA must publicise the designation (or refusal) of a neighbourhood area on their website and in such other manner as they consider is likely to bring the area to the attention of the people who live, work or carry on business in the area to which the area designation relates.
- 3.2 In this instance, it is expected that the Council will incur costs for the insertion of a public notice in the local press, with an estimated cost of approximately £280.
- 3.3 As the neighbourhood plan process progresses, the Council will incur additional costs in future financial years. The Council must pay for the cost of an examination of the neighbourhood plan and for a local referendum to take place. Officer time is also required to provide advice and support.
- 3.4 The Government has put a grant in place to help LPAs towards the cost of supporting the neighbourhood plan process. LPAs will be able to claim for up to £30,000 Neighbourhood Planning Grant per designated neighbourhood area. Officers will apply for staged funding as it becomes appropriate:
- The **first stage payment** of £5000 from the grant will be made following designation of a neighbourhood area and recognises the time that officers will have to put into supporting and advising the community group to this point.
 - The **second stage payment** of £5,000 from the grant will be made when the LPA publicises the neighbourhood plan prior to examination. This payment is expected to contribute towards the cost of the examination as well as other staff costs incurred at this stage.
 - The **third stage payment** of £20,000 from the grant will be made on successful completion of the neighbourhood planning examination. This will also part pay for the examination as well as the further costs that will be incurred in taking a neighbourhood plan through a referendum.
- 3.5 The 'first stage' grant application will be processed by Officers during the current financial year following designation of the Neighbourhood Area as a result of this Report.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

20th January 2015

- 3.6 Based on the Parish Council's indicative timetable, costs will be incurred by the Borough Council in the following financial years; however these can be recovered through the grant payments identified above:

2014/15	Publicise Area application (Nov 2014)	£280
	Publicise designation / refusal of Area application (see above at paragraph 3.2)	£280
2015/16	Publicise Plan proposal	£300
	Submit Plan for examination (possible print costs)	£500
2016/17	Plan Examination (£700 per day plus expenses) (allow maximum of 11 days)	£10,000
	Referendum	*£10,000
	Publicise Plan adoption	£320
	Total	£21,680
*This is an estimated cost at this stage based on the experiences of other Councils which have held residential-only neighbourhood plan referendums. A more detailed estimate of referendum costs can be reported at a later date.		

- 3.6 Officer time to support the Neighbourhood Plan process will be covered by existing salary budgets.

Legal Implications

- 3.7 The Localism Act 2011 and The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 ("The Regulations") introduced the concept of and processes for "neighbourhood planning", which devolve some planning powers to "relevant bodies" [parish councils and neighbourhood forums]. Feckenham Parish Council has submitted a qualifying application to the Council.
- 3.8 The process for designation of an area and for the adoption of neighbourhood plans are set out in Schedule 9 of the Act and the Regulations. Redditch Borough Council has a statutory requirement to support the preparation of neighbourhood plans and to adopt such a plan if supported by a referendum. The Council is required to arrange such referendum/s.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.9 Neighbourhood plans are required to be 'pro-development'. They cannot be used to stop development already allocated or permitted, or propose less development than that set out in the Local Development Plan, (in this case, the emerging Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4). However, the process provides an opportunity for local communities to work with the Council in the preparation or delivery of additional sites for housing, employment or community uses, have a say on what development should look like and include other matters in their plan that are important to the community.

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**20th January 2015

- 3.10 The neighbourhood planning regulations became effective on 6th April 2012, setting out the statutory procedures for neighbourhood plans. The Council is responsible for determining applications for the designation of a neighbourhood area following a statutory six week consultation period, and consideration of any representations received.
- 3.11 A Neighbourhood Area application was received from Feckenham Parish Council on 15th August 2014, which included the required information set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (s5):
- A map which identifies the area to which the area application relates;
 - A statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area; and
 - A statement that the organisation or body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of the relevant legislation.
- 3.12 The Feckenham Neighbourhood Area application is considered appropriate against the regulations. The designation of the whole parish area is seen as logical and supportive of delivering the purposes of the neighbourhood plan. The Parish Council meets the requirement of a 'relevant body' under the regulations.
- 3.13 The consultation for the Feckenham Parish Neighbourhood Area Application commenced on 3rd November 2014 and ended at 5pm on 22nd December 2014. Two responses were received on the public consultation, with no objections raised to the boundary proposed. The responses contained useful information, which should be taken into consideration and inform the Neighbourhood Plan as it progresses. These responses will be forwarded to the Feckenham Neighbourhood Plan Working Party in due course.
- 3.14 In summary:
- The organisation making the area application is a relevant body under section 61G(2) of the 1990 Act
 - The Neighbourhood Area is considered to be appropriate under section 61G(4) of the 1990 Act
 - The area does not overlap with another designated area (section 61g(7))
 - No modifications are required to this neighbourhood area (section 61G(6))
 - No representations were received during the consultation period, which would warrant refusal of this area application

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.14 If Neighbourhood Area approval is given by the Council, the Council must publicise the neighbourhood area designation as appropriate in accordance with the Regulations. The Parish Council can then formally move forward to the next stages of their plan preparation.

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**20th January 2015

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 As a statutory process, failure to designate the neighbourhood area runs the risk of the Parish Council being unable to proceed with its neighbourhood plan and potential loss of its grant funding. It is possible for a local authority to refuse to designate a neighbourhood area if it considers that the area is not appropriate, but it must give reasons for this decision.
- 4.2 It is expected that the Referendum will be a residential-only referendum. The cost estimate included at paragraph 3.5 of this report is based on this format. However, in the unlikely event that the Referendum should include the vote of businesses in the area, costs and administration implications may rise significantly.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Feckenham Neighbourhood Plan - Designated area boundary

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

National Planning Practice Guidance - Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood Plans Roadmap Guide -

<http://locality.org.uk/resources/neighbourhood-planning-roadmap-guide/>

Funding and resources information is available at:

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/web/pas1/funding-and-resources>

7. KEY

N/A

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Alison Grimmett

email: alison.grimmett@redditchbc.gov.uk

Tel: 01527 64252 extn. 3209

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE - Appendix 1**

20th January 2015

Designated Area for the Feckenham Neighbourhood Plan



REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

20th January 2015

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL'S VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY
SECTOR GRANT PROGRAMME 2015/16 - FUNDING
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Hartnett, Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership & Partnership inc. Vol. Sector.
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes.
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis, Head of Community Services.
Wards Affected	All Wards.
Key Decision: Key.	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The Committee is asked to consider the recommendations of the Grants Assessment Panel in awarding grants to voluntary sector organisations for 2015/16. The total budget available to the Grants Panel was £222,000 and 20 applications totalling £204,807 were received. The Panel recommends funding of £182,060, giving an underspend of £39,940.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** that

- 1) **grants are awarded to voluntary sector organisations as detailed in Section 3.11 of this report; and**
- 2) **a) that the grants programme be re-run in February 2015 to seek bids for the themes currently underspent; OR**
 - b) that the underspend of £39,940 be identified as a saving and be put in to balances.**

3. KEY ISSUES**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The total budget for grants to voluntary organisations for 2015/16 is £241,000, as outlined in 3.7.

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

20th January 2015

- 3.2 The total funding being recommended in this document is £182,060 with an underspend of £39,940. The Grants Panel recommended that the underspend be re-advertised to the voluntary sector. An alternative option would be that the underspend is put in to balances as a saving to the Council.
- 3.3 Stronger Communities Grants programme has £15,000 allocated for 2015/16.
- 3.4 All successful applicants are detailed on the Councils website. Monitoring for each applicant is approved by the Grants Officer with any changes or deviations that affect the original application being approved via the Grants Panel where necessary in line with agreed timescales.

Legal Implications

- 3.5 Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to incur expenditure which in its opinion is in the interest of and will bring direct benefit to its area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants. The direct benefit accruing must also be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred.
- 3.6 There is a further power to make grants to voluntary organisations providing recreational facilities under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.7 Executive Committee approved a total grant funding budget for 2015/16 of £241,000 on 8th September 2014. This included a provision of £4,000 to deliver support and events throughout 2015/16 and £15,000 allocated to the Stronger Communities Grants Programme.
- 3.8 Applications for grant funding were required to address the themes recommended by the Executive Committee on 8th September 2014 these were:-
- Help me to be financially independent.
 - Help me to live my life independently.
 - Provide good things for me to do, see and visit.
 - Keep my place safe and looking good.
- 3.9 The Council received 20 grant applications requesting a total of £204,807. The Grants Panel met on 17th November 2014 and considered and scored the applications.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

20th January 2015

- 3.10 At its meeting on the 17th November 2014, the Grants Panel recommended the approval of applications that totalled £182,060 from the available £222,000. This provided the grants pot with an underspend of £39,940.
- 3.11 Following the scoring of the applications the Grants Panel recommend the following 12 grants to be awarded:-

	Name of the Project	Organisation	Amount proposed	Score
<u>Help me to be Financially Independent - £75K</u>				
1	Redditch CAB Vulnerable People Experiencing Debt & Related Problems with Resolutions Through Working Together	CAB	£75,000	59
<u>Help me to be Financially Independent - £50K</u>				
2	Carers Telephone Support Service	Carers Careline	£3,905	59
4	Achieving Wellbeing	IDC Sewing Café	£10,000	55
5	Where Next Association	Where Next Association	£10,000	59
<u>Help me to Live My Life Independently - £35K</u>				
6	Young Mums "Get Creative" Group	IDC Sewing Cafe	£5,120	57
11a	Food Friends and Family Project	Yum Tum Club	£3,000	53
<u>Help me to Live My Life Independently - £18K</u>				
12	Adult Mentoring Project	Mentor Link	£3,000	53
13	Where Next Hub	Where Next Association	£3,000	55
14	Well being Jigsaw Project	Mental Health Action Group / Yum Tum Club	£3,000	51
<u>Provide Me With Good Things to Do, See and Visit - £9K</u>				
15	Arts , crafts and cookery for families.	What's Your Point?	£2,785	47
18	Inspire ADHD Positive Activities Club	Inspire	£3,000	59
<u>Keep My Place Safe and Looking Good - £15K</u>				
20	The Ditch Youth Project	The Ditch Youth Project	£3,000	43

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

20th January 2015

- 3.12 In respect of the £39,940 remaining unallocated, the Grants Panel recommended that the grants programme to be re-run in line with the underspent themes in February 2015. Officers propose that to support this work is undertaken in January to upskill local groups on bid writing, budgeting and the importance of researching the wide range of external funding streams available to the VCS.
- 3.13 The Policy for Award of Grants to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (Grants Policy) was approved by Full Council on the 17th October 2011.

Human Resources implications

- 3.14 None identified.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.15 By supporting the VCS organisations to successfully identify alternative/match funding we can help mitigate total reliance on Redditch Borough Council's grant programme for many VCS organisations allowing them to explore other funding streams. This will allow Redditch Borough Council's grants programme to move forward year on year.
- 3.16 The Grants process facilitates engagement with and support for more marginalised people and promotes equality and diversity issues within the local authority.
- 3.17 Value can be added to the local VCS by ensuring transparency of grant-giving practices thus promoting fairness and diversity. See background papers.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 All successful grant applicants are required to sign a terms and conditions form prior to the release of any funding. Applicants are required to attend quarterly monitoring meetings with a requirement that a minimum of one member of the organisation is in attendance at any training/workshop sessions provided under the Training & Support programme. Members of the Grants Panel will be invited to attend events and projects throughout 2015/16 that are supported via the grants programme.
- 4.2 All appropriate documentation pertaining to the Grants process is retained and readily available where requested.

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**20th January 2015

5. APPENDICES

None.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Redditch Borough Council's Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Policy.

Local Government Transparency Code 2014.

7. KEY

VCS - Voluntary and Community Sector.

LSP - Local Strategic Partnership

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Donna Hancox
E Mail: donna.hancox@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 64252 ext: 3015

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**20th January 2015**LAND AT EASEMORE ROAD, REDDITCH**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor John Fisher
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Amanda de Warr, Head of Customer Access and Financial Support
Wards Affected	Abbey Ward
Ward Councillor Consulted	Yes
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to amend a recommendation in relation to the disposal of land at Easemore Road.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the land at Easemore Road, Redditch be disposed of at market value.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Redditch Borough Council owns a strip of land to the rear of 146-162 Easemore Road as shown hatched on the plan attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 In January 2003, the Executive Committee approved disposal of the land in conjunction with the owners of the garden land to the rear of 146-162 Easemore Road.
- 3.3 Unfortunately several sales fell through after initial marketing and in 2013 the council in conjunction with the owners consortium agreed to make a further attempt to sell the site.
- 3.4 In 2013 the Council marketed the site extensively through a local agent and received several offers but it has proved impossible to get consensus from all the members of the consortium to agree sale terms.
- 3.5 The division of opinion within the consortium has involved Council officers in many hours of abortive work trying to broker a deal and we are no closer to making that deal.
- 3.6 The Council has now been approached by one of the developers who wishes to purchase the land. This developer has indicated a preference

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**20th January 2015

to purchase the land owned by the Council and then negotiate with each individual member of the consortium.

- 3.7 The consortium members have been advised of this offer and have responded favourably to this approach to secure the sale of their individual property holdings.
- 3.8 For this reason Members are asked to consider amending the Council's decision in 2003 to enable officers to proceed with the sale of the land in the Council's ownership, independently of the other interested parties.

Financial Implications

- 3.9 Information relating to the financial implications can be found at Appendix 2 and is exempt from publication under s.100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to financial affairs.
- 3.10 The sale of this land will generate a capital receipt to the General Fund. It is worth noting that there have been a number of changes to the use of capital receipts which may enable a proportion of the receipt received to be used for revenue purposes

Legal Implications

- 3.11 The Borough Council is required to dispose of any interest in land at Best Value in accordance with Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.12 The Redditch Borough Council site area totals 2,516 square metres.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.14 None

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 None identified

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**20th January 2015

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site plan

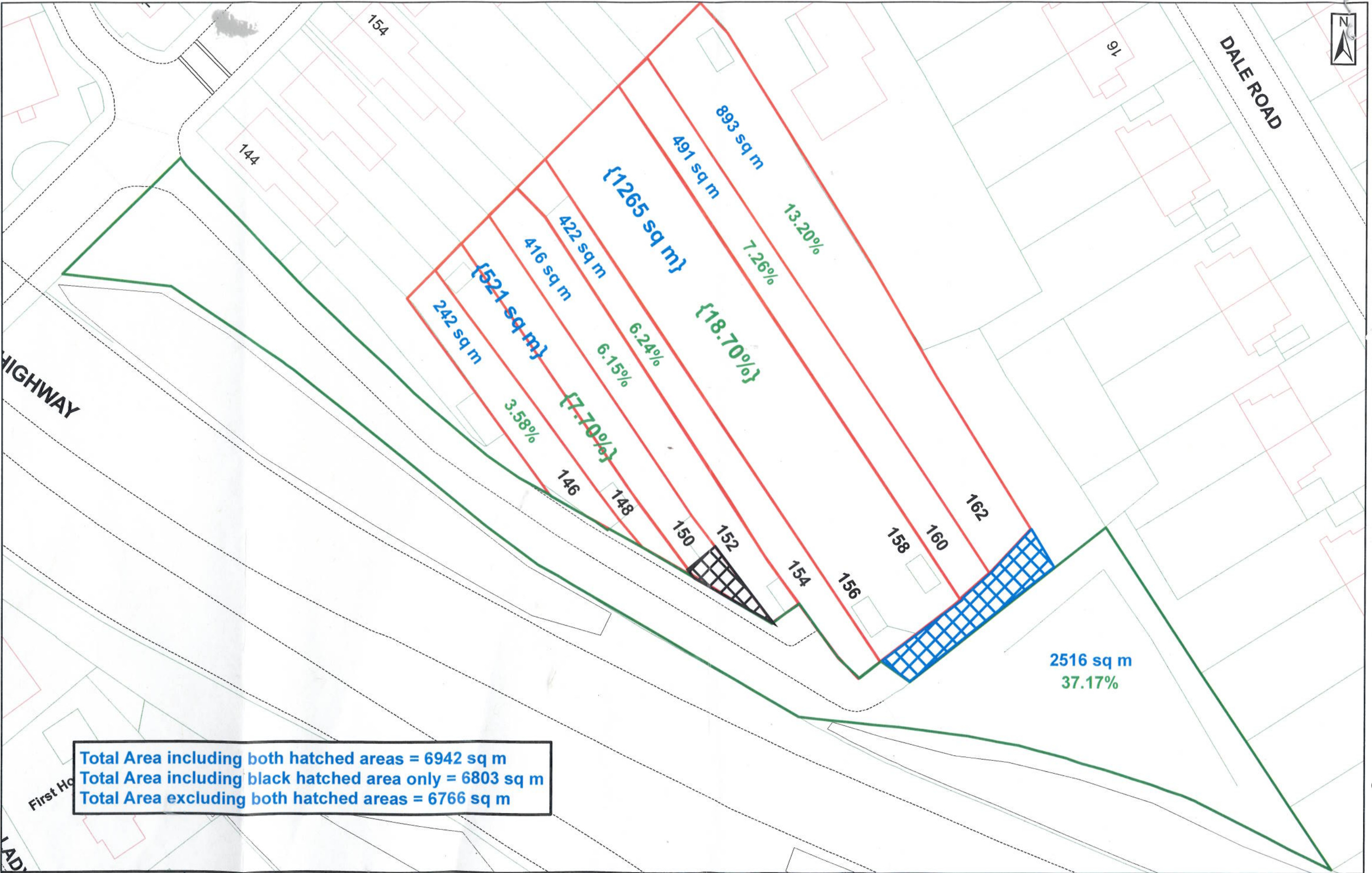
Appendix 2 – Financial implications – EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

Name: Amanda de Warr

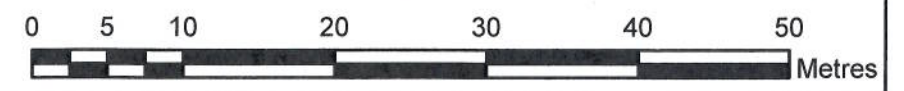
E Mail: a.dewarr@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Tel: (01527) 881241



Total Area including both hatched areas = 6942 sq m
 Total Area including black hatched area only = 6803 sq m
 Total Area excluding both hatched areas = 6766 sq m

worcestershire county council
 Scale: 1:500



County Hall,
 Spetchley Road,
 Worcester
 WR5 2NP

Land at Easmore Road, Abbeydale, Redditch

© Crown copyright and database rights
 2011 Ordnance Survey 100024230.
 06/12/2012

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

Document is Restricted

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**20th January 2015**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL –
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES FOR 2015-16 AND THE
MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillors B Hartnett, Leader and J Fisher, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Each Council is required by law to have an Independent Remuneration Panel which recommends the level of allowances for Councillors. The Panel for Redditch also makes recommendations to the other District Councils in Worcestershire. The Panel’s report is enclosed for consideration by the Executive Committee and ultimately by the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to consider the report and recommendations and RECOMMEND to Council

2.1 whether or not to accept the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2015-16;

2.2 having considered the Panel’s report and recommendations, whether or not changes are required to the Council’s scheme of allowances for Members.

3. KEY ISSUES**Financial Implications**

3.1 If the Council was to accept the Panel’s recommendations in full, the budget for Members’ basic and special responsibility allowances for 2015-16 would be approx. £193,000. This would be an increase of £56,000 on the total for the same allowances in the current year.

Legal Implications

3.2 The Council is required to “have regard” to the recommendations of the Panel. However, it is not obliged to agree to them. It can choose to implement them in full or in part, or not to accept them.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE20th January 2015

- 3.3 The Council is also required to review its scheme of allowances for Councillors on an annual basis.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.4 There are no direct service or operational implications arising from this report. Once the Council has agreed the allowances for 2015-16 Officers will update and publish the Members' Allowances Scheme as appropriate.

Customer/Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.5 None arising from this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

Payments to Councillors can be a high profile issue. The main risks are reputational. However, the Council is transparent about the decisions made on allowances. The Allowances scheme and sums paid to Councillors each year are published on the Council's website.

5. APPENDICES

Report and recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2015-16.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Members Allowances Scheme – in the Council Constitution at Part 15 and on the website at:

<http://redditch.whub.org.uk/cms/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-committees/members-allowances-redditch.aspx>.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Sheena Jones

Tel.: 01527 548240

email: sheena.jones@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

**Independent Remuneration Panel for Worcestershire
District Councils**

Annual Report and Recommendations for 2015-16

Redditch Borough Council

December 2014

Contents	Page
Recommendations to Council	1
Background Evidence and Research Undertaken	3
Basic Allowance 2015/16	4
Special Responsibility Allowances 2015/16	4 - 5
Mileage and Expenses 2015/16	6
Allowances to Parish Councils	6
The Independent Remuneration Panel	6
Appendix 1 – current and recommended allowances	9 - 10
Appendix 2 – summary of research	11

Recommendations

The Independent Remuneration Panel recommends to Redditch Borough Council the following:

1. That the Basic Allowance for 2015-16 is £4,200.
2. That the Special Responsibility Allowances are as set out in Appendix 1.
3. That travel allowances for 2015-16 continue to be paid in accordance with the HMRC mileage allowance.
4. That subsistence allowances for 2015-16 remain unchanged.
5. That the Dependent Carer's Allowance remains unchanged.
6. That for Parish Councils in the Borough, if travel and subsistence is paid, the Panel recommends that it is paid in accordance with the rates paid by Redditch Borough Council and in accordance with the relevant Regulations.

Introduction

The Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) has been appointed by the Council to carry out reviews of the allowances paid to Councillors, as required by the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation. The Panel has carried out its work in accordance with the legislation and statutory guidance.

The law requires each Council to “have regard” to the recommendations of the Independent Panel and we noted that last year the Council did not accept our recommendations but decided instead to award no increase to allowances and for all allowances to remain at the rate agreed by the Council previously.

This year we offered to meet with the Leader of the Council to discuss any other particular issues. We agreed mutually that there were no specific issues to discuss this year.

At this point we would like to stress that our recommendations are based on thorough research and benchmarking. We have presented the Council with what we consider to be an appropriate set of allowances to reflect the roles carried out by the Councillors. The purpose of allowances is to enable people from all walks of life to become involved in local politics if they choose.

However, we acknowledge that in the current challenging financial climate there are difficult choices for the Council to make. Ultimately it is for the Council to decide how or whether to adopt the recommendations that we make.

Background Evidence and Research Undertaken

There is a rich and varied choice of market indicators on pay which can be used for comparison purposes. These include:

- National survey data on a national, regional or local level;
- Focussed surveys on a particular public sector;
- Regular or specific surveys
- Use of specific indices to indicate movement in rewards or cost of living.

As background for the decisions taken by the Panel this year we have:

- Analysed and considered the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) statistics for 2014;
- Benchmarked the Basic Allowance against allowances for comparable roles paid by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) “Nearest Neighbour” Councils for each authority;

We give more details about these areas of research at the end of the report.

The figure being recommended by the Panel of £4,200 for the Basic Allowance does appear reasonable when compared to other Local Authorities.

Arising from our research we have included information showing the members' allowances budget for Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances paid for 2013-14 as a cost per head of population for each Council. We also show the average payment per member of each authority of the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances, to give context to our recommendations.

Table 1 - Total spend on Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances as a cost per head of population 2013-14 figures

Authority and population¹	Total spend Basic Allowances 2013-14 £:	Total spend on Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) £:	SRA as a percentage of total Basic Allowance %:	Cost of total basic and SRA per head of population £:
Bromsgrove DC 94,744	168,074	64,150	38%	2.45
Malvern Hills DC 75,339	159,227	61,762	39%	2.93
Redditch Borough 84,521	97,020	39,928	41%	1.62
Worcester City 100,405	139,650	58,937	42%	1.98
Wychavon 118,738	188,650	70,096	37%	2.18

Table 2 showing average allowance per member of each authority (Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances, 2013 – 14 figures)

Authority (number of Councillors)	Amount £
Bromsgrove District (39)	5,954
Malvern Hills District (38)	5,816
Redditch Borough (29)	4,722
Worcester City (35)	5,674
Wychavon District (45)	5,750

¹ ONS population figures mid 2013. Totals for Basic and Special Responsibility allowances paid are as published by each authority for the 2013-14 financial year.

Basic Allowance 2015 - 16

Calculation of Basic Allowance

The Basic Allowance is based on:

- The roles and responsibilities of Members; and
- Their time commitments – including the total average number of hours worked per week on Council business.

We then apply a public service discount of 40% to reflect that Councillors volunteer some of their time to the role.

Having reviewed the levels of wage rates and the benchmark information available to us from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) “nearest neighbours” authorities, we do not recommend any increases in the Basic Allowance for 2015-16.

Further analysis of relevant research data indicates that there is no justification for increasing the basic allowance from the £4,200 recommended.

The Council has previously not accepted our recommendations to increase the Basic Allowance to £4,200. In this circumstance we suggest it may be appropriate for the Council to consider increasing the Basic Allowance to match the pay award for local government employees and to move towards the rate we recommend for the role.

Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) 2015-16

General Calculation of SRAs

The basis for the calculation of SRAs is a multiplier of the Basic Allowance as advocated in the published Guidance.

The Panel has reviewed the responsibilities of each post, the multipliers and allowances paid by similar authorities. As in last year, the Panel has benchmarked the allowances against those paid by authorities listed as “nearest neighbours” by CIPFA.

Appendix 1 to this report sets out the allowances recommended for 2015-16.

1. Leaders of Political Groups

In the legislation, a Political Group on a Local Authority consists of 2 or more Councillors.

In most cases the Leader of the Council also leads the main political group on the authority. In the past the IRP for South Worcestershire had recommended payments to political group leaders on a per head basis, based on the number of Councillors in each group. Whilst this reflected changes in group sizes and

allowed for flexibility following changes in political balance, we were persuaded to change this approach for one Council and to recommend a lump sum allowance for the Leader of the Opposition Group. We received a similar request from another Council in 2013.

We noted that in some cases the Allowances Scheme for their authority did not enable a Leader to receive any support for the Group Leader role.

We considered carefully evidence from the data we collected and checked the Statutory Guidance about the potential to be paid more than one SRA. We are content that Councillors can be in receipt of more than one. Therefore, we are have recommended that Leaders of all Political Groups are entitled to an allowance of 0.25 of the Basic Allowance, recognising that they all have an important role to play in the governance of the Council.

2. Deputy Leader

We are recommending that the multiplier for the Deputy Leader role be 1.75 x the Basic Allowance as recommended for 2013-14.

3. Portfolio Holders on the Executive Committee

We are recommending that the multiplier for Portfolio Holders be 1.5 x the Basic Allowance as recommended for 2013-14.

4. Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Guidance on Members Allowances for Local Authorities in England states that Special Responsibility Allowances may be paid to those members of the Council who have “significant additional responsibilities”, over and above the generally accepted duties of a Councillor. It also suggests that if the majority of members of a Council receive a Special Responsibility Allowance, the justification for this may be questioned.

We consider the Basic Allowance to include Councillors’ roles in Overview and Scrutiny, as any non-Executive member of the Council is able to contribute to this aspect of the Council’s work. It is for this reason that we do not recommend any Special Responsibility Allowance for members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

The Panel notes that in 2014-15 the Council merged the work of the former Standards Committee into the existing Audit and Governance Committee. The Panel will review the role of audit and the responsibility for chairing the Committee which deals with this during the next year. The Panel continues to recommend a Special Responsibility Allowance is paid to the Chair of the Committee but notes that Redditch does not currently pay an allowance for this role.

Mileage and Expenses 2015-16

The Panel notes that the Council has used the HMRC flat rate for payment of mileage for Councillors and recommends that this continues.

The Panel is satisfied that the current levels of subsistence allowances are set at an appropriate level and recommends that these continue.

The Panel notes that the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances provides that Dependant Carer Allowances are payable to cover reasonable and legitimate costs incurred in attending approved duties and recommends that this provision continues.

Allowances to Parish Councils

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Worcestershire District Councils acts as the Remuneration Panel for the Parish Councils in each District.

This year the Panel has not been asked to make recommendations on any matters by the Parish in Redditch. In the past the Panel which covered the three South Worcestershire Districts has considered travel and subsistence, and we consider it appropriate to apply this consideration to each of the Districts. We have reviewed the Parish Council travel and subsistence allowances and recommend for 2015 - 16 that no changes are made.

The Independent Remuneration Panel

The Members' Allowances Regulations require Local Authorities to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel. The purpose of the Panel is to make recommendations to the authority about allowances to be paid to Elected Members and Local Authorities must have regard to this advice. This Council's Independent Remuneration Panel is set up on a joint basis with 4 of the other 5 District Councils in Worcestershire, the decision having been taken during 2010 to follow the principle previously established by having a joint Panel in the South of the County. Wyre Forest District Council withdrew from the arrangement in 2014. Separate Annual Reports have been prepared for each Council.

The members of the Panel are:

- Rob Key, the Chair of the Panel – Rob has 42 years' experience of working in District Councils in a variety of operational and management roles, including senior positions at Worcester City, Wychavon District and Wyre Forest District. He was an Independent Chair for the Strategic Health Authority for Continuing Care and sits on County Council Appeals Panels for School Preference Appeals and Service Complaints.
- Elaine Bell, JP, DipCrim – Elaine has been a Magistrate for 18 years on the South Worcester Bench. She was Deputy Chair of the Bench for 5 years, standing down in July 2014 when bench boundaries changed. She was

Chair of the Bench Training and Development Committee for 9 years, and sat on the Magistrates Advisory Panel for 9 years (interviewing and selecting applicants for appointment as Magistrates). She sits as Chair in both Adult and Family courts in the newly constructed Worcestershire Bench stretching geographically from Hereford, Kidderminster, Redditch and Worcester. She is also Chair of the Lloyds Educational Foundation, past member of Sytchampton School Appeals Panel; Past Hon Treasurer of Ombersley and Doverdale Tennis Club and a Past Governor of Ombersley Primary School.

- Bill Simpson MBE JP – Bill spent 30 years in Further Education culminating in 11 years as Principal of Pershore College. He then entered the private sector as Director of two national Horticultural Societies, one being the Royal Horticultural Society. He served as a magistrate for 9 years until retirement. He is a Trustee of several charities including chairing Thrive between 1993 and 2008. Currently he is Vice Chair of Governors of Red Hill CE Primary School Worcester and a Chair/Member of the County Council and Diocesan Panels for Schools Preference and Exclusions Appeals.
- Terry Cotton - Terry spent 34 years working in central and local Government, mostly managing regeneration programmes across the West Midlands. Until May 2011 he worked at The Government Office for The West Midlands where he was a Relationship Manager between central and local Government and a lead negotiator for local performance targets. Following voluntary early retirement in May 2011, he worked part-time in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, setting up a new business led community development trust and currently works part-time for Worcestershire County Council on sustainable transport initiatives. He is also a trustee of a small charitable trust providing grants to grass roots community initiatives in deprived communities.
- Don Barber – After several Human Resources and Productivity Improvement Management roles in Industry, Don became Chief Executive of a change management facilitating consultancy. Over the last 20 years he has been an independent consultant and advisor on a number of United Nations, European Commission, and World Bank transition projects, in particular in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australasia. He also operates in an advisory role to other consultancy groups seeking EU contracts. This experience has included the development of national civil service/public sector reform programmes including aspects of the effect of legislative change for central and local government and, in the U.K., working for the Office of Manpower Economics (advisors to the Prime Minister) on Public Sector Pay, in particular relating to: Civil Service Pay Reform, UK Armed Forces and the Medical Professions.

The Panel has been advised and assisted by:

- Claire Chaplin from Worcester City Council;
- Sheena Jones from Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils;
- Mel Harris from Wychavon District Council;
- Matthew Box from Malvern Hills District Council.

The Panel wishes to acknowledge its gratitude to these officers who have provided advice and guidance in a professional and dedicated manner.

Rob Key

Chairman of Independent Remuneration Panel

Appendix 1

**Independent Remuneration Panel for District Councils in Worcestershire
Recommendations for 2014-15**

Redditch Borough Council

Role	Recommended Multiplier	Current Multiplier	Recommended Allowance £	Current Allowance (paid) £
Basic Allowance – all Councillors	1	1	4,200 ²	3,350
Special Responsibility Allowances:				
Leader	3	2	12,600	6,697 Plus 1,560 as Portfolio Holder
Deputy Leader	1.75	1.4	7,350	4,687 Plus 1,560 as Portfolio Holder
Portfolio Holders	1.5	0.46	6,300	1,560
Executive Members without Portfolio	0.25	0.32	1,050	1,072
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	1.5	0.6	6,300	2,009
Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	0	0.32	0	1,072

² This figure takes into account a public service discount of 40%

Role	Recommended Multiplier	Current Multiplier	Recommended Allowance £	Current Allowance (paid) £
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Task Groups	0.25	0	1,050 paid pro-rata for the length of the Task Group	0
Chair of Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	0.25	0	1,050	0
Chair of Planning Committee	1	0.47	4,200	1,560
Chair of Licensing Committee	0.75	0.4	3,150	1,340
Political Group Leaders	0.25	0.31	1,050 X 2	1,040 X1
Borough Council representatives on the following bodies:				
Local Government Association (LGA) and General Assembly	0	N/A	0	269
West Midlands Employers	0	N/A	0	269

Appendix 2

Summary of ResearchChartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) “Nearest Neighbour” authorities tool.

No two Councils or sets of Councillors are the same. Developed to aid local authorities in comparative and benchmarking exercises, the CIPFA Nearest Neighbours Model adopts a scientific approach to measuring the similarity between authorities. Using the data, Redditch’s “nearest neighbours” are:

- Tamworth
- Cannock Chase
- Wellingborough
- Mansfield
- Worcester City
- Gravesham

Information on the level of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances was obtained to benchmark the levels of allowances recommended to the District Council.

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) Data on Pay

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/ashe/annual-survey-of-hours-and-earnings/2014-provisional-results/index.html>

Published by the Office for National Statistics, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) shows detailed information at District level about rates of pay. For benchmarking purposes the Panel uses the levels for hourly rates of pay excluding overtime. This is multiplied by 11 to give a weekly rate. This was the number of hours spent on Council business by frontline Councillors which had been reported in previous surveys. The rate is then discounted by 40% to reflect the element of volunteering that each Councillor undertakes in the role.

CPI (Consumer Price Inflation)

In arriving at its recommendations the Panel has taken into account the latest reported CPI figure available to it, published by the Office for National Statistics. This was 1% for November 2014.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

20th January 2015

COUNCIL TAX BASE 2015/16

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr. John Fisher, Corporate Management Portfolio Holder
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering, Director of Finance & Resources
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	Not Applicable
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To enable Members to set the Council Tax Base for 2015/16.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS**2.1 The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that**

- 1) the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for the whole and parts of the area for 2015/16, be approved; and
- 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 2015/16 be 24,846.71 and for the parts of the area listed below be:

Parish of Feckenham	363.06
Rest of Redditch	<u>24,483.64</u>
	<u>24,846.71</u>

3. KEY ISSUES**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 With the introduction of the Council Tax Support Scheme, the base has been calculated and adjusted by the estimated amount of Council Tax Support discounts awardable.
- 3.2 The Council Tax support is estimated using data as at *30th November* 2014. Any changes to the amount payable will have a direct impact on the chargeable amount of Council Tax. The authority will receive a grant for the financial year for an estimated 90% of Council Tax Support payable; this will be set and not varied with changes in the number of discounts awarded under the Council Tax Support.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**20th January 2015

Legal Implications

- 3.3 The Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 require a billing authority to notify its major precepting bodies (and its Parishes, if required) of the Tax Base, for the whole or part of the area for the following financial year. The precepting bodies - Worcestershire County Council, West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner and Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Authority - need this information in order to calculate and notify the Borough Council of their precept requirements for 2015/16. This will enable tax setting resolutions to be finalised and bills to be produced early in March 2015.
- 3.4 The legislation also requires a billing authority to calculate the tax base for any "special areas" within its boundary. There are no such areas in the Redditch Borough.
- 3.5 It is necessary to outline the method by which these calculations have been carried out so that the Council can formally adopt them for the purposes of the 1992 Regulations.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.6 In October 2014, form CTB1 was submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government. This analyses the draft Valuation List of properties into the various bands and then provides further details of those properties which are subject to the full charge, those entitled to discounts and those which are exempt.
- 3.7 This report is a summary of that return updated to include any known changes since November. It also makes provision for anticipated changes which could arise for a variety of reasons such as appeals, new properties or properties falling off the list. An allowance of 1.00% has been made for non-collection of the tax.
- 3.8 The Council is required to set a Council Tax Base each year, this forms part of the process of setting the following year budget. Failure to do so will result in the Council not being a Well Managed Organisation.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.9 The Tax Base for 2015/16 has been calculated to be **24,846.71**. Once this has been agreed, the County Council, Police & Crime Commissioner and Fire Authority will be notified and the figures will be used in the setting of the Council Tax to be presented to the Executive Committee and approved by the Council on 24th February 2014.

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**20th January 2015

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

There is no identified risk associated with the proposal contained in this report.

5. APPENDICES

None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

CTB1 (October 2014) Return.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Sam Morgan
E Mail: sam.morgan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 64252 ext. 3790

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**20th January 2015**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT INITIAL ESTIMATE 2015/16**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Mark Shurmer, Portfolio Holder for Housing
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering, Director Finance & Resources Liz Tompkin, Head of Housing
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To present Members with the Initial Estimates for the Housing Revenue Account for 2015/2016 and the proposed dwelling rents for 2015/2016.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that

- 1) the draft 2015/2016 Estimates for the Housing Revenue Account attached to the report at Appendix A, be approved;**
- 2) the actual average rent increase for 2015/2016 be 2.2% (1.2% CPI plus 1% as per government guidelines); and**
- 3) that £3m be transferred to a reserve as a Revenue Contribution to Capital to fund the future Capital Programme and repay borrowing.**

3. KEY ISSUES**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 This report only considers those items included in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). General Fund items will be considered separately when setting the Council Tax.
- 3.2 The system of housing revenue account subsidy ceased on the 31st March 2012 and was replaced with a devolved system of council housing finance called self-financing. The proposal in the form of a financial settlement meant a redistribution of the 'national' housing debt. This resulted in the Council borrowing £98,929 million from the PWLB.

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**20th January 2015

- 3.3 Self-financing has placed a limit (Debt Cap) on borrowing for housing purposes at the closing position for 2011/12. This is set at £122,158,000. The figures at Appendix A allow for the payment of interest on this sum. This means that all future capital programmes will have to be funded from revenue contribution, capital receipts or grants.
- 3.4 Rent convergence was due to continue until 2015/16, however government policy has changed. In May 2014 Government produced a paper on Guidance on Rents for social Housing which signalled their change in policy. From 2015/16 rents in the social sector should increase by CPI plus 1% annually, rather than the previous formula of RPI + 1%. The move from RPI to CPI follows the office for national statistics' announcement in January 2013 that the formula used to produce the retail price index does not meet international standards.
- 3.5 Failure to increase the rents by the recommended amount will affect the authority's ability to manage the debt in line with the 30 year Business case that was agreed as part of self-financing. The capital programme for maintaining our stock at decent homes standards also requires a high level of investment which can only be achieved by increasing our rents.

2015/16

- 3.6 This section of the report outlines the major issues which have an impact upon the Housing Revenue Account budget setting process for 2015/16.
- 3.7 Based on the CPI figure for September 2014 of 1.2% and using the new government guide lines for calculating dwelling rents, the actual average rent increase for 2015/16 will be 2.2%. The average rent on a 52 week basis will be £80.23 or £86.91 on a 48 week basis. This compares to the actual average for 2014/15 on a 52 week basis of £78.59 and £85.14 on a 48 week basis. See Appendix B for examples of rent by property type.

Capital Resources

- 3.8 From the 1st of April 2004 capital receipts from the sale of housing land and dwellings have been subject to pooling, (75% of Right to Buy (RTB) receipts have to be paid to the Government for redistribution).
- 3.9 In April 2013 the government gave council's the option to retain these receipts in agreement that they would be used to replace the sales with either new build, buy back of properties or purchase on the open market. In the case where these receipts are not used then the council

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**20th January 2015

will have to pay a fee back to the government for retaining them. This council has opted to retain the receipts.

- 3.10 Officers have estimated that in the short term the number of RTB sales for this Council will be around 40 per annum, generating around £600k in usable capital receipts.
- 3.11 The introduction of the Major Repairs Allowance from April 2001 provided the Council with additional capital resources. Following the introduction of self-financing the Council is able to continue to use this amount for a transitional period of 5 years. The figure has been adjusted for the reduction in stock and uplifted by CPI in line with the rents. The figure for 2015/16 is £5,834,171.
- 3.12 The Council has previously made transfers of monies from the HRA, when resources permit, to a reserve to fund future capital programmes. It is estimated that there will be sufficient resources in the HRA in 2015/16 to allow £3.m to be transferred in this way. With the introduction of a Debt Cap from 1st April 2012 these monies will be required to support the Housing Capital Programme. The approved capital programme for 2015/16 totals £7.48million.

Housing Repairs Account

- 3.13 The budgeted contribution to the Housing Repairs Account as shown at Appendix A is £4,682,986 for 2015/16, including inflationary increases where appropriate.

Right to Buy Scheme – Rent Income

- 3.14 In 2015/16 figures it is anticipated there will be the sale of 40 Council homes. However it is not likely to impact rental income due to the plans to 'buy back' properties and the mortgage rescue scheme which will increase the rental income.

Housing Revenue Account Balances

- 3.15 The Section 151 Officer has previously advised Members on the minimum level of revenue balances to be maintained in lieu of unforeseen events affecting the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's housing stock. Members have previously approved the retention of a minimum balance of £600,000.
- 3.16 The figures shown in Appendix A indicate that the estimated balance carried forward at the 1st April 2015 will be £1,106,002 which will leave a working balance of £978,097 at the 31st March 2016.

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**20th January 2015Legal Implications

- 3.17 Section 76 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the Council sets its budget relating to the Housing Revenue Account such that the account does not plan to be in a deficit position.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.18 The Council needs to approve the rents in a timely manner in order to allow officer time to notify the tenants of the annual rent increase.

Customer/Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.19 The rents have been increased by the same percentage regardless of property size. The increase enables us to keep rents affordable also enabling the continuation of the capital programme investing in the councils housing stock.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

There is a risk to the HRA Capital Programme if sufficient resources do not exist within the Housing Revenue Account to provide funding now that the Council is unable to borrow to fund the housing capital programme.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2015/16.
Appendix B – Examples of rent by property type

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

AUTHORS OF REPORT

Names: Liz Tompkin, Head of Housing
Sam Morgan, Financial Services Manager
Emails: liz.tompkin@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk /
sam.morgan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 64252 Ext:

Appendix A – Budget for Housing Revenue Account

	2014/15 Budget £	2015/16 Budget £
B/fwd Balance	1,031,192	1,106,002
INCOME		
Dwelling Rents (Gross)	23,941,960	24,465,780
Non-Dwelling Rents (Gross)	460,000	471,000
Charges for Services and Facilities	298,750	472,040
Contribution towards Expenditure	808,440	231,804
Interest Received	79,750	78,300
TOTAL INCOME	25,588,900	25,718,924

EXPENDITURE		
Supervision and Management (General) (includes 300K JE)	4,314,890	4,597,851
Supervision and Management (Special)	2,256,060	2,794,925
Rent, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges	171,390	188,653
Contributions to the Housing Repairs Account	4,665,630	4,682,986
Depreciation	5,986,920	5,834,171
Financing Charges	4,164,750	4,148,243
Subsidy Limitation transfer to GF	54,450	0
Provision for Bad / Doubtful Debts	400,000	600,000
Revenue Contribution to Capital Programme/set aside to repay borrowing	3,500,000	3,000,000
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	25,514,090	25,846,829

Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	74,810	(127,905)
C/fwd Balance	1,106,002	978,097

Appendix B – Examples of Property with current and proposed rents

Property Address	Current Rent	Govt CPI + 1% (2.2%)		Weekly Increase
		New 48wks	New 52wks	
Bedsit				
Salterns Lane Batchley	£ 64.26	£ 65.67	£ 60.62	£ 1.41
Winslow Close Winyates East	£ 61.29	£ 62.63	£ 57.82	£ 1.34
Malvern House Headless Cross	£ 66.62	£ 68.08	£ 62.85	£ 1.46
1 Bedroom Bungalow				
Ilmington Close Matchborough	£ 80.84	£ 82.62	£ 76.27	£ 1.78
Sandhurst Close Church Hill	£ 85.26	£ 87.14	£ 80.44	£ 1.88
1 Bedroom Flat				
Fownhope Close Winyates Wes	£ 71.42	£ 72.98	£ 67.37	£ 1.56
Neville Close Abbeydale	£ 71.67	£ 73.24	£ 67.61	£ 1.57
High Trees Close Oakenshaw	£ 75.22	£ 76.87	£ 70.96	£ 1.65
Bushley Close Woodrow	£ 74.39	£ 76.01	£ 70.17	£ 1.62
2 Bedroom House				
Arley Close Church Hill	£ 88.23	£ 90.17	£ 83.24	£ 1.94
Netherfield Greenlands	£ 88.97	£ 90.92	£ 83.93	£ 1.95
2 Bedroom Flat				
Fownhope Close Winyates West	£ 77.61	£ 79.32	£ 73.22	£ 1.71
Poplar Road Batchley	£ 83.53	£ 85.36	£ 78.80	£ 1.83
Lygon Close Abbeydale	£ 79.58	£ 81.32	£ 75.07	£ 1.74
Woodrow Centre Woodrow	£ 79.08	£ 80.81	£ 74.60	£ 1.73
3 Bedroom				
Loxley Close Church Hill	£ 94.41	£ 96.48	£ 89.06	£ 2.07
Eathorpe Close Matchborough	£ 110.00	£ 112.41	£ 103.77	£ 2.41
Salterns Lane Batchley	£ 97.63	99.78	92.11	2.15
4 Bedroom				
Langley Close Matchborough	£ 103.30	£ 105.57	£ 97.45	£ 2.27
Willow Way Batchley	£ 99.35	£ 101.53	£ 93.72	£ 2.18
Bushley Close Woodrow	£ 96.88	£ 99.00	£ 91.39	£ 2.12
Upperfield Close Church Hill	£ 100.58	£ 102.79	£ 94.89	£ 2.21
5 Bedroom				
Rushock Close Woodrow	£ 103.30	£ 105.57	£ 97.45	£ 2.27
Heronfield Close Church Hill	£ 106.77	£ 109.11	£ 100.72	£ 2.34
Farnborough Close Matchborough	£ 106.02	£ 108.35	£ 100.02	£ 2.33
6 Bedroom				
Barnwood Close Church Hill	£ 134.37	£ 137.33	£ 126.77	£ 2.96
Longdon Close Woodrow	£ 127.24	£ 130.04	£ 120.04	£ 2.80
7 Bedroom				
Beoley Rd Lakeside	£ 136.12	£ 139.11	£ 128.41	£ 2.99

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

20th JANUARY 2015

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2015/16 – 2017/18

Relevant Portfolio Holder	John Fisher
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering (Exec Director)
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	None specific

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To enable Members to consider the current financial position for the revenue budget 2015/16 – 2017/18.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive is asked to RESOLVE to

- 2.1 **note the current position for 2015/16 – 2017/18 and to request that officers review the savings that can be delivered to achieve a balanced budget.**

3. KEY ISSUES**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) provides the framework within which the revenue and capital spending decisions can be made over a 3 year period. The plan addresses how the Council will provide financial funding to the Strategic Purposes and ensure residents receive quality services to meet their needs in the future. The Purposes that drive the financial considerations are :
- Help me find somewhere to live in my locality
 - Provide good things for me to see, do and visit
 - Help me live my life independently
 - Help me run a successful business
 - Help me be financially independent
 - Keep my place safe and looking good
- 3.2 When reviewing the budget projections officers consider the impact of demand on service and the costs associated with this demand. This may result in additional costs (associated with maintaining current service delivery) or reductions in anticipated income revenue over the next 3 years.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**20th JANUARY 2015

3.3 As Members are aware there continue to be considerable pressures facing the Council over the next 3 years as a result of a number of issues including:

- Reduction in Council Tax Benefit Grant received
- Changes to welfare reform and the impact on the Council from residents service need
- Transfer from Housing Benefit to Universal Credit
- Continued reduction in Government Grant

3.4 Officers will continue to work with our partners to identify the costs that may be associated with some of these changes.

Formula Grant / Localised Business Rates

3.5 The provisional settlement that was received recently by the Council for 2015/16 was as indicated previously at £3,580. However this confirms the £647k reduction in the grant allocated for 2014/15. The grant includes a number of allocations that were previously received as separate funding streams and therefore the cut is across all funding received by Central Government.

3.6 Forecasting Government funding beyond 2015/16 is challenging, the key issue will be the outcome of the next Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), due for publication after the General Election in May 2015. Recent Government and opposition announcements indicate that the austerity measures are set to continue into future years, in line with the Government's objective of achieving a budget surplus. Further estimated reductions of approximately 5% per annum have been factored into the MTFP.

3.7 The forecast for Council Tax income includes a Council Tax increase (1.9% p.a.) in the assumptions over the medium-term plan period but decide on the actual increase each year as part of the budget setting process. The Government has continued to provide a Council Tax Freeze Grant of up to 1% as part of the settlement for 2015/16. Redditch did not take up this grant in 2014/15 due to the impact it has on the future income generated. However there remains Council Tax Freeze grant included in the projections from prior year decisions.

3.8 The new localised regime on Business Rates (BR) took effect in April 2013. Redditch is part of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Business Rates Pool, set up as a mechanism to retain more BR growth funding within the area, and to manage risk on BR losses on a shared basis.

3.9 In the first year of this new regime, all members of the pool benefited financially from being in the pool. A net £750k growth levy was

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE20th JANUARY 2015

retained in the area which would have been returned to Central Government. An allocation of £307k was to the LEP Growth Fund and a payment to Redditch of £200k was made in relation to the “safety net” payment arrangement to compensate for the loss in Business Rate income for the financial year.

New Homes Bonus

- 3.10 The Council has received notification that the New Homes Bonus (NHB) total grant for 2015/16 will be £803K. This includes the 2015/16 grant of £129k which is significantly higher than the £126k included in the original budget estimates. This is due to the number of properties in the District increasing during 2014/15. A review of future years has been made and additional properties have been included in the medium term plan calculations. The Finance team will work more closely with Planning in the future to ensure that a more accurate estimate is used for projections.
- 3.11 As Members are aware all income received from New Homes Bonus grant is currently used within the General Funds of the Council and is utilised to offset the pressures facing the Council over the medium term.

Council Tax

- 3.12 To ensure that necessary levels of funding are available given the large reductions in government grant highlighted above, the Council Tax increases will have to be sufficient to ensure that funding is available for the services that create value to the customer have appropriate levels of financial resource.
- 3.13 The government have offered a grant equivalent to a 1% rise in Council Tax for 2015/16 for councils who freeze their Council Tax in the next financial year. Acceptance of this freeze grant will cost the Council £101k pa once the grant ceases (assuming Council Tax would otherwise rise by 1.9% in 2015/16). The budget projections include an increase of 1.9% each year.

Transformation

- 3.14 The significant reductions in funding are not anticipated to improve for a number of years and therefore officers have looked at alternative ways to deliver savings whilst improving services to the community. As previously reported the services provided by the Council are undergoing transformational change using a different approach to assessing the value provided by the service. This work will focus on

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE20th JANUARY 2015

the purpose of services to the community and will aim to realise savings and protect those services that create value to our customers.

- 3.15 Members will be aware of the recent review to the provision of some services across a locality /place and the significant savings that have been identified whilst improving and enhancing the services to the community. In addition the work across customer services and departments continues to develop to ensure that an expert is on hand to support our residents.
- 3.16 Officers are focused on reducing costs of services that do not provide front line services to support the Strategic Purposes and will continue to drive out waste and redesign provision to reduce costs.

Current Position

- 3.17 Officers have also identified a number of budget pressures that have either been deemed “unavoidable”. Unavoidable includes the ongoing effects of pressures identified during 2014/15 together with any issues that have been raised as fundamental to maintaining service provision as part of the budget process. In addition income shortfalls that cannot be managed by improved marketing or price increases have been addressed during the budget planning. These pressures are detailed in Appendix 1 and include :
- Loss of Supporting People funding £39K
 - Loss of income from Concessionary Rents £49K
- 3.18 In addition to the unavoidable pressures one revenue bid has been identified to continue to support the essential living fund which will no longer be supported from any external grant allocations. The bid is for £30k which will provide a minimum level of support to our residents who are in need of urgent financial support. In the last 2 years the funding received from County was £489k which is being fully utilised. It has been confirmed recently by Central Government that this funding will no longer be made available separately and there is an expectation that Councils will fund any support from existing budgets.
- 3.19 Savings have been considered across the Council to ensure that front line services that add value to the residents are protected. The schedule at Appendix 2 details the savings proposed to include:
- Reviews with Customer Services / Fraud £62k
 - Place review – Environmental & Community Services £225k
 - Alternative models of Leisure Service Delivery £195K

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

20th JANUARY 2015

Financial Position

3.20 The current summary position at 3.22 includes the financial impact of the above in addition to the following assumptions:

- 2.2% pay award in relation to the National Agreement in place
- General inflationary increases in relation to contract arrangements
- A estimate of reduction for 2016/17 (10%) & 2017/18 (5%) in Central Government Grant
- 3% increase in fees and charges (where appropriate)
- An estimation of the New Homes Bonus income
- Additional income estimated in relation to the Business Rates receivable by the Council

3.21 The revised position is shown below.

	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000
Base cost of General Fund Services	11,788	11,788	11,788
Pressures –unavoidable & income shortfalls	337	280	289
Savings (quick wins, additional income, shared services, transformation)	-709	-842	-842
Other pressures – pay award/contract increases	-	273	396
Borrowing to fund capital programme	1,016	1,016	1,016
Investment Income	-484	-484	-484
Recharge to capital programme	-598	-598	-598
Bids	30	30	30
Previous Years Savings	-200	-200	-200
Vacancy Management	-150	-150	-150
Net operating expenditure	11,030	11,113	11,245
New Homes Bonus	-803	-1,011	-1,015
Parish Precept	8	8	8

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

20th JANUARY 2015

Business Rate Retention			
	-2,003	-2,003	-2,003
Net Business Rate Growth	-200	-200	-200
Council Tax Freeze Grant	-58	0	0
Surplus from Collection Fund	0	0	0
Government Grant	-1,567	-1,499	-1,424
Assumed Council Tax	-5,397	-5,504	-5,712
Use of Reserves	-805	-	-
Overall Shortfall	205	904	899

- 3.22 The Council is to set a balanced budget for 2013/14 – 2015/16 and therefore will have to approve further savings, increase income or reduce high pressures for the 3 year period. Any additional spending, over and above the pressures identified above, would also need to be funded by additional savings. Officers are committed to realise the necessary levels of savings through transformation and will continue to work with staff to enable services to be delivered at a reduced cost to meet the cuts anticipated.

General Fund Balances

- 3.23 The level of the general fund balance is currently £1.1m. The current level of balances is sufficient but it is recommended that these should not drop below £750K
- 3.24 The estimated level of government funding over the MTFP will reduce more rapidly than the increase in Council Tax revenues. Consequently, there will be a continuing focus on transforming service delivery to reduce waste and to ensure that the funding available is aligned to the services that create value to the community of Redditch.

Capital Programme

- 3.25 The Capital Programme is a 3 year rolling programme and officers are currently working to ensure that the level of expenditure falls within the current estimated project allocation. The full details will be brought to the early February Executive for approval. The plan currently includes :

- Replacement of Fleet

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE20th JANUARY 2015

- S106 funded Leisure schemes
- Disabled Facilities Grants

Legal Implications

3.26 None as a direct result of this budget update.

Service / Operational Implications

3.27 The MTFP will enable services to be maintained and, where achievable, improvements to the community.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.28 The impact on the customer has been reduced due to the savings being realised by reduction of waste in the services and ensuring that all service that create value to the customer are resourced.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 To mitigate the risks associated with the financial pressures facing the Authority regular monitoring reports are presented to both officers and Members to enable proactive action being undertaken to address any areas of concern.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Unavoidable Pressures (including income shortfalls)
Appendix 2 – Savings Proposed

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Jayne Pickering – Exec Director Finance and Resources
Sam Morgan – Financial Services Manager
E Mail: j.pickering@Redditchandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: 01527-881400

UNAVOIDABLE PRESSURES	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	
ENABLING				
Customer Access & Financial Support	139	87	85	<i>increased cost of building/reduction in income/ impact of concessionary rent scheme</i>
IER - estimated costs of delivery	5	-	-	<i>Additional cost to be incurred in respect of Individual Electoral Registration</i>
Postage - additional postage costs	4	4	4	<i>Additional postage costs incurred to meet demand for information being sent across the District</i>
Land Charges	-	-	11	<i>Changes to Land Charges scheme will impact on income received</i>
Business Transformation	71	71	71	<i>Additional maintenance within the IT servers and systems</i>
PROVIDE GOOD THINGS FOR ME TO SEE, DO AND VISIT				
HELP ME RUN A SUCESSFUL BUSINESS				
increased building costs/loss of income	33	33	33	<i>there are increase building costs and also an income pressure on sport pitches</i>
Car Parking Income - reduced income from enforcement	36	36	36	<i>There is a projected shortfall in income relating to enforcement as drivers are now parking in a more compliant way</i>
HELP ME LIVE MY LIFE INDEPENDENTLY				
Community Services	10	10	10	<i>income pressure for Shopmobility</i>
Losss of Supporting People income/transitional from HRA	39	39	39	<i>Reduction in Supporting People income from WCC</i>
TOTAL PER SUMMARY ABOVE	337	280	289	

STRATEGIC PURPOSE SAVINGS	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	Comments
ENABLING				
Customer Access & Financial Support - Service Review Fraud / Customer Services / General savings	-247	-230	-230	<i>Number of initiatives to reduce the costs of Enabling the Council to include: - Customer Access & Financial Support - Legal and Democratic Services - Human Resources - Financial Services</i>
Finance - various general savings	-42	-42	-42	<i>Various Supplies and Service and Contracted payment Savings</i>
KEEP MY PLACE SAFE AND LOOKING GOOD				
Place Review - Environmental/Community Services savings	-225	-225	-225	<i>Service review to reduce the costs of keep my place safe and looking good</i>
PROVIDE GOOD THINGS FOR ME TO SEE, DO AND VISIT				
Leisure Services	-195	-345	-345	<i>Potential savings that could be delivered from a review of how Leisure Services are delivered</i>
TOTAL AS PER SUMMARY ABOVE	-709	-842	-842	

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**20th January 2015**ADVISORY PANELS, WORKING GROUPS, ETC - UPDATE REPORT**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor John Fisher, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To provide, for monitoring / management purposes, an update on the work of the Executive Committee's Advisory Panels, and similar bodies which report via the Executive Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** that

subject to Members' comments, the report be noted.

3. UPDATES**A. ADVISORY PANELS**

	<u>Meeting :</u>	<u>Lead Members / Officers :</u> (Executive Members shown <u>underlined</u>)	<u>Position :</u> (Oral updates to be provided at the meeting by Lead Members or Officers, if no written update is available.)
1.	Economic Advisory Panel	Chair: <u>Cllr Greg Chance</u> / Vice-Chair: <u>Cllr John Fisher</u> Georgina Harris	Disbanded. Members now part of the Economic theme group under the Local Strategic Partnership
2.	Planning Advisory Panel	Chair: <u>Cllr Greg Chance</u> / Vice-Chair: <u>Cllr Rebecca Blake</u> Ruth Bamford	Next meeting planned for 20 th January 2015.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**20th January 2015

3.	Housing Advisory Panel	Chair: <u>Cllr Mark Shurmer</u> / Vice-Chair: <u>Cllr Greg Chance</u> Liz Tompkin	Next meeting – Date to be established.
----	------------------------	--	---

B. OTHER MEETINGS

4.	Constitutional Review Working Party	Chair: <u>Cllr Bill Hartnett</u> / Vice-Chair: <u>Cllr Greg Chance</u> Sheena Jones	Next meeting – 27 th January 2015
5.	Member Support Steering Group	Chair: <u>Cllr John Fisher</u> / Vice-Chair: <u>Cllr Phil Mould</u> Sheena Jones	Next meeting due to be held during early February
6.	Grants Assessment Panel	Chair: Cllr David Bush / Vice-Chair: <u>Cllr Greg Chance</u> Donna Hancox	Last meeting – 17 th November

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Sheena Jones
E Mail: sheena.jones@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 64252 (Extn. 3257)

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**20th January 2015**ACTION MONITORING**

Portfolio Holder(s) / Responsible Officer	Action requested	Status
8th September 2014		
Cllr Fisher J Pickering, C Felton and J Godwin	Finance Monitoring Report 2014/15 April to June (Quarter 1) Officers undertook to let all Committee members have the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of voluntary bodies using Council accommodation and where these are: • Whether any posts are being deleted to make anticipated savings in the Legal and Democratic Services Department; • The split between the swimming pool and gym in the projected overspend (shortfall in income) for the Abbey Stadium. 	
<u>Note:</u>	<i>No further debate should be held on the above matters or substantive decisions taken, without further report OR unless urgency requirements are met.</i>	Report period: 08/09/14 to present

