



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 1st March,
2016
7.00 pm

Committee Room Two
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
Jess Bayley and Amanda Scarce
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Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

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7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs: Jane Potter (Chair) Gareth Prosser
 Gay Hopkins (Vice-Chair) Paul Swansborough
 Joe Baker Jennifer Wheeler
 David Bush Nina Wood-Ford
 Andrew Fry

<p>1. Apologies and named substitutes</p>	<p>To receive apologies for absence and details of any Councillor (or co-optee substitute) nominated to attend this meeting in place of a member of this Committee.</p>
<p>2. Declarations of interest and of Party Whip</p>	<p>To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests, and any Party Whip.</p>
<p>3. Minutes</p>	<p>To confirm the minutes of the most recent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a correct record.</p> <p>(Minutes to follow)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>4. Local Strategic Partnership - Monitoring Update Report</p> <p>(Pages 1 - 6)</p> <p>Helen Broughton, Redditch Partnership Manager</p>	<p>To consider the latest update on the work of the Redditch Partnership, the Local Strategic Partnership for the Borough.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>All Wards</p>
<p>5. Housing Benefits - Presentation</p> <p>Amanda Singleton, Head of Customer Access and Financial Support</p>	<p>To receive a presentation concerning provision of housing benefit support to residents.</p> <p>(Presentation to follow)</p> <p>All Wards</p>

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<p>6. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/16 (Pages 7 - 22) Councillor Jane Potter</p>	<p>To consider the draft content of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/16 and to identify any changes to make prior to presentation of the report by the Chair at Council on 4th April 2016.</p> <p>(Draft annual report attached)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>7. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme (Pages 23 - 26)</p>	<p>To consider the minutes of the latest meeting(s) of the Executive Committee and also to consider whether any items on the Executive Committee's Work Programme are suitable for scrutiny.</p> <p>(Executive Work Programme attached, minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on 22nd February 2016 to follow).</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>8. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 27 - 30)</p>	<p>To consider the Committee's current Work Programme, and potential items for addition to the list arising from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Forward Plan / Committee agendas• External publications• Other sources. <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>9. Task Groups - Progress Reports Councillor Gareth Prosser, Councillor Gay Hopkins</p>	<p>To consider progress to date on the current reviews against the terms set by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>The current reviews in progress are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Improving Disabled People's Access to Redditch's Taxi Fleet Short, Sharp Review – Chair, Councillor Hopkins; andb) Increasing Physical Activity Task Group – Redditch Borough Council representative, Councillor Prosser. <p>(Oral reports)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>

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10. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

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

These paragraphs are as follows:

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

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

and may need to be considered as ‘exempt’.

**Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy – Overview and
Scrutiny Monitoring Report – March 2016**

Redditch Community Sustainable Strategy (SCS)

The Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy is the strategy produced by Redditch Partnership which sets out the strategic direction for Redditch and how partners can contribute to achieving a shared vision for the Borough. The current Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) was pre-scrutinised in March 2011 with the final Strategy gaining approval by full Council on 28th March 2011. Originally the Strategy was in place for 3 years. A mini refresh of the SCS priorities was undertaken during 2015 with the outcome that a few minor changes were made to the priorities.

The current vision of the Strategy is:

‘Redditch will be successful and vibrant with communities that have access to good job opportunities, good education, good health and are communities that people will be proud to live and work in’.

The four current priorities of the SCS are:

Priority One	Health Inequalities	Focus is on three issues: smoking, alcohol, drugs; obesity / healthy lifestyles and mental health and wellbeing.
Priority Two	Education attainment, school readiness and raising aspirations of young people.	Focus is on three issues: improving literacy and numeracy; raising aspirations; and improve statistical levels of attainment particularly for Early Years and Key Stage 2.
Priority Three	The economy of Redditch with a focus on providing a larger and more diverse job offer.	Focus is on three broad issues: promotion of Redditch as a business location; jobs and worklessness; and fostering economic ambition in young people.
Priority Four	Lead on transformational change of services for citizens in Redditch	Focus is on leading and implementing the Connecting Families programme which is being piloted in Redditch.

Redditch Partnership

The SCS is overseen by a group of strategic partners working in Redditch (see structure diagram appended to this report). This group used to be known as the Redditch Partnership Board but since April 2014, the group has been slightly reconfigured and is now known as Redditch Partnership Executive Group (RPEG). The remit of the group has been extended so as well as looking at the priorities, the group also provides strategic direction to current partnership initiatives and programmes in Redditch such as Early Help, Stronger Families, Future Lives, Social Prescribing. The Group is chaired by Duncan Berry from the YMCA.

Sitting underneath this group are several other groups including the Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust (RCWT). This is a Thematic Group looking at issues regarding children and young people and also health issues. This group oversees the Redditch Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Other groups include the Redditch Economic Development Theme Group, Positive Activities Sub group and the Mental Wellbeing in Children and Young People Task and Finish Group. Please see the appended structure chart which shows the groups linked into Redditch Partnership.

Redditch Partnership Executive Group (RPEG)

Over the past 12 months, RPEG has taken a lead role in helping to shape the Connecting Families programme in Redditch. Connecting Families is a new way of working across health, social, early years and family care and is being piloted in Redditch before being rolled out across the County.

The Group actively monitors strategic commissioning, initiatives and programmes being implemented across the County and in Redditch with a view to influencing decision making where possible and ensuring co-ordination and minimisation of duplication.

Redditch Economic Development Theme Group (REDTG)

This Group is chaired by Elected Members and includes business reps, and officers from North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration.

There is an Action Plan with four emerging priorities.

- Enterprising - nurturing existing businesses. Encouraging future entrepreneurs to start up their own business.
- Vibrant - enhancing the retail, leisure and residential offer within Redditch town centre. Improving the environment and urban fabric of the area.
- Confident - Positively promoting Redditch as a place to live, work, invest and visit and help to change perceptions of the area, encourage new inward investment into Redditch and positioning Redditch on the regional and national stage.
- Skilled - Improving the aspirations of our younger population, re-skilling and up-skilling our workforce to meet the future demands of employers, and creating a higher wage economy.

Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust (RCWT)

The RCWT holds meetings every two months. Meetings consist of items for information around health inequalities, children and young people and older people and also an element of identifying needs and actions to help with their action planning. Some of the projects, schemes and initiatives in the RCWT Action Plan include:

- Social Prescribing;
- Eating Well on a Budget staff training;
- Health Chat Training;
- Older People/Social Isolation - booklet Action Plan;

- Maternal Health/ Early Years including Breastfeeding/ Smoking in pregnancy/ Weight management in pregnancy and early years;
- Developing stronger links with Early Help/ Midwives/Health visitors through Children's Centre advisory board; and
- "Right from the Start" campaign being rolled out in early 2016.

Mental Wellbeing in Children and Young People Task and Finish Group

A task and finish group was set up which created a plan to support low level mental wellbeing for CYP, supported by a leftover pot of funding. Partners were invited to bid for pots of money to support local projects meeting the aims and objectives of the plan. Projects funded over the last 12 months include:

- Mental Health Champions project;
- local Mental Health First Aid / Youth Mental Health First Aid training;
- counselling hours for CYP;
- Protective Behaviours group;
- Safe Journey course;
- Development of the Early Help Youth Forum; and
- Development of a self harm peer support group.

Positive Activities Sub Group

This group is made up of organisations which provide activities for children and young people in the town. They meet to co-ordinate their activities to make sure that they are collaborating effectively, making best use of resources and avoiding duplication. Recently they have met to discuss the re-commissioning of the WCC funded Positive Activities Fund.

Wellbeing in Partnership Newsletter

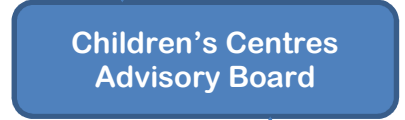
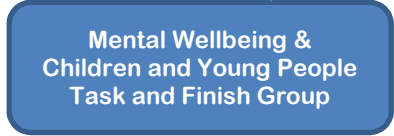
Last year, the Redditch Partnership Manager, Redditch Health Improvement Co-ordinator, Bromsgrove Partnership Manager and the Bromsgrove Health Improvement Co-ordinator decided to start up a monthly "Wellbeing in Partnership" Newsletter with the aim of providing information about strategic issues and local projects/initiatives being undertaken across both areas. It was envisaged the newsletter would act as one way of ensuring partners and locally elected Members were better informed about activity in their local area. Both Bromsgrove and Redditch Members should be receiving this newsletter but the current and previous copies can be accessed on the Redditch Partnership website.

Further information: - please contact Helen Broughton, Helen.broughton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk, ext.3237 or look at the Redditch Partnership webpages at www.redditchpartnership.org.uk

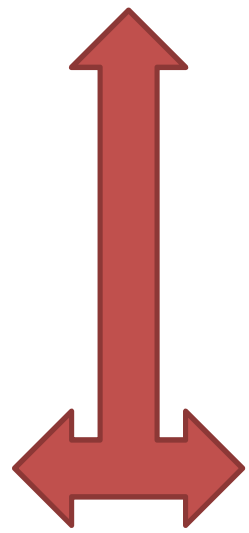
Regional & County Level Groups which input into Local Level Groups



Local Level Groups not reporting directly into Redditch Partnership structures



Local Level Groups reporting into Redditch Partnership structures





Overview & Scrutiny

Annual Report
2015 - 2016

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR

I am very pleased to present the annual report for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This report provides an account of the work that the Committee has undertaken during the last twelve months, highlights progress that has been made, and identifies potential areas for further development.

As Chair, the last year has been a busy yet rewarding period. The Committee has scrutinised the Council's budget-setting process, helping to improve the accountability and detail provided. It was also pleasing to note that the Committee was able to scrutinise elements of the budget earlier than in previous years which made our work easier.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has worked to ensure that Council services are fit for purpose and enhance the wellbeing of our residents. It has also embarked on a number of Task Group and Short Sharp reviews. In particular, the work undertaken on our services for the LGBT community was particularly successful in making proposals to improve the lives of those residents.

This year we have welcomed two Portfolio Holders to meetings when significant services within their remit were the subject of review. Councillor Witherspoon, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism, and Councillor John Fisher, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management, contributed during debates about the future delivery of leisure services in the Borough and the Medium Term Financial Plan respectively. I feel that having an opportunity to consult with the Portfolio Holders was really helpful, ensuring that our discussions were informed by decision makers and that those decisions could be held to account where appropriate. I would like to thank them both and I hope that we can continue to build on this process of involving Portfolio Holders constructively in scrutiny debates in the future.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all my fellow Committee Members for the hard work, support and enthusiasm that they have shown. I am also very appreciative of the hard work of Officers who support the work of the Committee, and would like to thank our lead support officers, Jess Bayley and Amanda Scarce, for the excellent work they have produced.



Councillor Jane Potter
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Redditch Borough Council

INTRODUCTION

There is an annual requirement for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to produce a report outlining its work and achievements during the previous year. The report contains information about the reviews that have been undertaken by Task Groups, Short Sharp Review Groups, and the work of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel. The report also provides Members with an opportunity to assess developments in scrutiny during the year.

This report has been produced by the Democratic Services Officers with lead responsibility for Overview and Scrutiny in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and the remaining eight Members.

KEY PRINCIPLES OF SCRUTINY

Members at Redditch Borough Council aim to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny process complies with the four key principles of scrutiny identified by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), the organisation set up to promote effective scrutiny in local government. The four key principles of effective scrutiny are:

- to provide a critical friend challenge to executive policy-makers and decision-makers;
- to enable the voice and concerns of the public and its communities to be heard;
- for scrutiny to be carried out by independent minded governors who lead and own the scrutiny process; and
- to drive improvement in public services.

MEMBERSHIP GALLERY

The following Councillors have served as members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee this year.



Councillor Jane Potter
Chair of the Committee



Councillor Gay Hopkins
Vice Chair



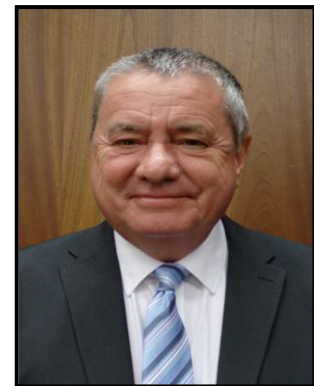
Councillor
Joe Baker



Councillor
David Bush



Councillor
Andy Fry



Councillor
Gareth Prosser



Councillor
Paul Swansborough



Councillor
Jenny Wheeler



Councillor
Nina Wood-Ford

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY

Membership: Councillors Gareth Prosser (Chair), Wanda King, Jane Potter, Paul Swansborough and Nina Wood-Ford.

The Police and Justice Act 2006 required every local authority in England and Wales from April 2009 to have a designated Committee with responsibility for scrutinising the work of the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CRDP). The North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership is the CDRP in Redditch. In Redditch the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel, established in 2010 as a Sub-Committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, has been allocated responsibility for scrutinising the work of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership.

The Panel held its annual meeting on 16th September 2015 when it considered a briefing paper which provided an update on the work of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership covering the previous 12 months. This included updates on the following areas:

- A recent review of Community Safety Partnership arrangements in the county.
- The future introduction by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner of a new commissioning approach to funding community safety projects.
- Work on Hate Crime Awareness Week.
- The Worcestershire Safer Places Scheme.
- Redditch Roadway Arts.
- Delivery of Crime Prevention training to Council staff.

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Councillor Nina Wood-Ford was the the Council's representative on the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) in 2015/16. District and Borough Councils are invited to appoint representatives to the HOSC to ensure that the interests of the district in relation to health are taken into account.

Councillor Wood-Ford has provided regular updates on a range of issues which had been discussed by HOSC including the following topics:

- Primary Care commissioning and GP access.
- Ongoing developments with the review of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust and the outcomes of an unannounced Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection.
- The work of the Patient Flow Centre at Wildwood in facilitating the return of patients from hospital to their homes.
- Maternity and Paediatric Services.
- The draft Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy for Worcestershire.
- Oncology services in the county.

A SNAPSHOT OF REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS RECEIVED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

During the course of the year the Board received a number of reports and presentations on a variety of subjects, including the following:

Leisure Services Pre-scrutiny

During the first three meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June and July 2015 Members undertook detailed pre-decision scrutiny of an item listed on the Executive Committee Work Programme: *Review of the Operation of Leisure Services*. This report outlined findings from an Options Appraisal of leisure and cultural services that had been completed by external consultants on behalf of the Council. Members felt that this scrutiny work was appropriate as it followed directly on from the completion of a Task Group review of the Abbey Stadium in June 2014 and a decision made by the Executive Committee that month that the Council should explore the options for a leisure trust to manage some or all of its leisure facilities, including the Abbey Stadium.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on 14th July 2015 Members considered the Options Appraisal. During this meeting Members agreed that further work by Officers was required prior to a decision on the future delivery of leisure and cultural services being taken. Meanwhile a decision was taken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to launch a Short, Sharp Review of the future options for the delivery of the Council's leisure and cultural services (further information about this review is provided on page 11).

The scrutiny review reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December 2015 alongside a report from Officers on the outcomes of the additional work they had undertaken. In respect of the Officers' work it was concluded that additional investigations were required into the current operation of leisure and cultural services. To ensure that the Executive Committee could make a considered decision about the future of leisure and cultural services at the Council Members agreed to postpone making any decisions about the scrutiny group's recommendations until the additional work had been completed.

Future Management of Redditch Outdoor Market

In 2012/13 Members completed a scrutiny review of Redditch outdoor market. The group proposed a considerable number of recommendations, the majority of which were approved. In summer 2015 Officers reported to the Council regarding proposals for the future management of Redditch market. Given the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's previous investigation of this subject and the likely public interest in the matter the Committee concluded that Redditch Outdoor Market was suitable for pre-decision scrutiny.

At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2015 Members considered a report on the subject of the market. This report detailed actions that had already been taken to implement the scrutiny group's recommendations. Various options for the future management of the market were also detailed within the report. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the option that Members felt would be best for the future sustainability of the market, market stall holders and the public. This proposed that the Council should conduct a procurement and contracting process to select and appoint a contractor to manage Redditch Outdoor Market. This proposal was

approved by the Executive Committee and a procurement process was subsequently undertaken.

Voluntary Sector Grants Programme

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor the implementation of recommendations that have been made as part of the scrutiny process on a quarterly basis. In September 2015 Members raised concerns about limited progress in relation to the implementation of the recommendations that were made by the Voluntary and Community Sector Task Group in July 2014. An update was provided by relevant Officers in October 2015 and Members welcomed reports that these recommendations would be implemented once Officer support for the Council's grants programme had been resolved.

Gas Safety Testing

Members were concerned to learn in the summer of 2015 that gas safety inspections had been overdue at some Council houses in the Borough. The Committee was advised that in response the Council had self-referred to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the matter would be reviewed by their Consumer Regulations Panel. Members welcomed the action that was taken by Officers in various teams to ensure that all outstanding inspections were resolved. However, the Committee noted that Members were also keen to ensure that the local authority learned lessons so that this problem did not recur in future. It was anticipated that the Internal Audit report which investigated this issue in detail would help the Council achieve this objective.

Quarterly Recommendation Monitoring Report

The Committee continued to monitor recommendations made through the scrutiny process to ensure that wherever possible these are implemented in a timely fashion. In consultation with the Chair this document was revised in the previous municipal year in order to make it more "user friendly". It now includes "smiley" and "sad" faces so Members can see at a glance when recommendations are progressing either satisfactorily or no action has been taken. This approach has been well received by Members and enabled the Committee to urge additional action where they have considered this to be appropriate

Budget Scrutiny

This year the Committee has also continued to make an active contribution to the Council's budget setting process. To a significant extent this has been conducted through pre-decision scrutiny including consideration of; the fees and charges 2016/17, Bereavement Services' fees and charges, and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The Committee would like to thank the Executive Committee for agreeing to release the fees and charges report for publication earlier than usual as this provided the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with sufficient time to consider the proposed charges in detail and enabled Members to make informed recommendations on the subject. It is hoped that a similar arrangement will be implemented in future years to the benefit of the Council's finances.

In line with previous years the Committee has also considered and commented on the Council's overarching budget. Various reports, including drafts of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2018/19, have been considered by the Committee. Members

have been mindful of the challenging financial circumstances facing Redditch Borough Council, like many local authorities, and this has informed the debate at meetings. Despite the fact that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee did not make any recommendations Members were pleased to note that the points raised during consideration of the Medium Term Financial Plan were noted and informed the Executive Committee's decision making on this subject in February 2016.

Housing Provision

An Overview and Scrutiny training session was provided to all Non-Executive Committee Members at the beginning of the municipal year. During this training exercise there were interactive workshop sessions designed to enable Members to identify items of interest to the local community, which linked to the Council's strategic purposes, that would be suitable for scrutiny during the year. One of the issues that was identified during this training session was the quality, quantity and accessibility of private, social and Council housing in the Borough.

At a meeting of the Committee in October 2015 Officers from the Council's Housing and Strategic Housing teams provided further information about the housing available to residents living in the Borough. As part of this process Members considered data relating to demand for social housing, the Council's allocations system and policy, the Council's holistic approach to allocating housing and supporting tenants in their own homes and action taken to resolve problems with any void properties.

Housing Benefits

The subject of housing benefits was also identified by Members as an issue of concern to local residents during the Overview and Scrutiny training session.

(An update on the outcomes of the Housing Benefits presentation is to be added after the 1st March 2016 meeting).

Redditch Partnership

In 2010 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was allocated responsibility for monitoring the work of the Redditch Partnership and progress in respect of local partners' priorities, as detailed in the Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

(An update on the outcomes of the latest monitoring update on the subject of the partnership is to be added after the 1st March 2016 meeting).

S106 Funding

Whilst the Overview and Scrutiny Committee did not propose any recommendations during consideration of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2018/19 Members did identify that further information about s106 funding would be useful. A briefing on this subject has therefore been arranged for the meeting of the Committee that is due to take place on 12th April 2016. Due to general interest in this subject all Members have been invited to attend this meeting.

Performance Dashboard

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has an important role to play in monitoring the performance of Council services. In recent years a dashboard, containing comprehensive information about service performance in relation to the Council's strategic purposes, has been developed. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is keen to explore opportunities for the Committee to access and use the information provided on the dashboard. In order to identify the most appropriate way to utilise this resource a presentation on the subject of the dashboard is due to be provided for the Committee's consideration on 12th April. As this will continue to be a resource available to Members the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may want to revisit the dashboard and the findings from this presentation in the new municipal year.

TASK GROUPS AND SHORT, SHARP REVIEWS

The final reports of all completed investigations can be found on the Council's website within the Overview and Scrutiny section.

PROVISION OF SUPPORT NETWORKS FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY TASK GROUP

Membership: Councillors Joe Baker (Chair), Natalie Brooks, Gay Hopkins and David Thain.

Deadline: The work of the Task Group was completed in July 2015.

A gathering took place at Redditch Town Hall in June 2014 to enable participants to demonstrate solidarity with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) community. Councillor Baker was approached after the gathering had taken place by a number of representatives of the LGB&T community who were concerned about the support available to them and who sought reassurance about the action being taken locally to address homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee subsequently agreed to undertake a review of the support networks available to the LGB&T community in the Borough.

The Group's investigations included the following actions:

- An interview with the Council's Policy Manager
- Consideration of scrutiny reports on similar subjects produced by other local authorities.
- Assessing the content of the Homophobic Hate Crime report produced by Stonewall in 2013.
- An interview with a representative of the Council's Community Safety team.
- An interview with senior representatives of West Mercia Police.
- An interview with the Council's Head of Leisure and Cultural Services.
- An Interview with representatives of Stonewall.
- A visit to the Birmingham LGB&T community group and interview with a representative.
- An interview with representatives of Arrowside Sexual Health Clinic.
- An interview with a representative of the Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

At the end of the review the group proposed six recommendations based on the evidence they had gathered. The recommendations promoted policies and services that benefitted the health of members of the LGB&T community and highlighted the need for improved communications locally to help better inform the LGB&T community about local support services. Recommendations were also proposed which focused on enhancing the support provided by Redditch Borough Council to LGB&T staff and by Worcestershire County Council to LGB&T pupils in local schools as well as to their families. Each of these recommendations was endorsed by the Executive Committee, though a number require action from external partner organisations. The response to the group's review and findings has been overwhelmingly positive. Updates provided to date indicate that action is being taken locally to implement the group's proposals with a leaflet for the LGB&T community having been launched in February 2016 to coincide with LGBT History month.

LEISURE SERVICES SHORT SHARP REVIEW

Membership: Councillors Jane Potter (Chair), Tom Baker-Price, Gay Hopkins and Paul Swansborough.

Deadline: The work of the Task Group was completed in December 2015.

In September 2015 a Short, Sharp Review of all of the Council's Leisure and Cultural Services was launched. Members agreed it was appropriate to launch this review partly due to the expertise that Members had developed during the Abbey Stadium Task Group exercise in 2014/15 as well as through pre-scrutiny of reports on this subject in June and July 2015. The review was tasked with addressing a number of objectives including the following:

- To consider the general requirements of a number of different operating models for the delivery of leisure and cultural services.
- To review the financial implications for the Council of all of the delivery models.
- To assess the implications of each delivery model for the quality of services delivered to the customer.
- To consider the governance arrangements that would apply in relation to each model.
- To consult with other local authorities about the operational models that they have adopted for the delivery of leisure and cultural services.
- To identify suitable delivery models for leisure and cultural services. This included considering whether different delivery models might be suitable for different elements of leisure and cultural services.

During the course of the review the group addressed these objectives by gathering evidence from a variety of sources. This included interviews with relevant Officers, consideration of appropriate documentation and consultation via questionnaires with other district Councils which deliver services to residents in an area with similar demographics to the Borough of Redditch. Members were pleased to receive completed questionnaires from 12 local authorities. The group was also very impressed by information provided by the Leader of Tamworth Borough Council during an interview and by representatives of Cannock Chase District Council during a visit to Chase Leisure Centre.

At the end of the review Members proposed three recommendations about the future delivery of leisure and cultural services. These recommendations, as detailed in the group's final report, were considered at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8th December 2015. The Committee also received an update on the work of Officers in respect of leisure and cultural services at this meeting. As Officers were suggesting that they needed to undertake further work in their review of leisure and cultural services Members agreed that it would be premature for the Executive Committee to make a decision about the scrutiny group's recommendations in December 2015. For this reason the Committee agreed to postpone a vote on the group's recommendations and on referring the matter to the Executive Committee until the outcomes of this additional work by Officers is available for Members' consideration. At the time of writing it was anticipated that this additional work would be completed by April 2016.

**IMPROVING DISABLED PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO REDDITCH'S TAXI FLEET
SHORT, SHARP REVIEW**

Membership: Councillor Gay Hopkins (Chair) and Councillor Tom Baker-Price (the rest of the membership remained to be confirmed at the time of writing).

Deadline: April 2016.

In 2011-12 a Task Group investigation of action that could be taken to improve access for people with disabilities to Redditch town centre took place. The group proposed a number of recommendations, including two which were designed to enhance provision of taxi services to passengers with disabilities living, working in or visiting the Borough. These two recommendations were approved by the Licensing Committee and action has been taken to implement these proposals.

However, in January 2016, during a meeting of the Taxi Licensing Forum, concerns were raised about the taxi services that were available to people with disabilities in the Borough. The Forum was advised about the recent experiences of a lady with disabilities who had become stranded at local shops because she had not provided 48 hours' notice to a taxi firm of her requirements for travel. Information was also provided about issues that had been raised with Disability Action Redditch (DAR), which had learned about customers with disabilities being charged three times more than people without disabilities for undertaking the same journey. Furthermore, concerns were raised that some taxi firms were refusing to take bookings for passengers who used wheelchairs.

In this context in February 2016 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee concluded that a review of action that could be taken to improve access of people with disabilities to Redditch's taxi fleet would be useful and help to address public concerns.

The group has been tasked with addressing three key objectives:

- 1) to identify ways to prevent taxi firms from overcharging passengers who have disabilities for using their services;
- 2) to determine action that could be taken to encourage firms to increase the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles operating in local taxi fleets; and
- 3) to identify appropriate action that could be taken to reduce the length of notice required when booking a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

As this investigation is being conducted as a Short, Sharp Review Members are aiming to complete this exercise by April 2016.

JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY INVESTIGATIONS**INCREASING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY JOINT SCRUTINY TASK GROUP****Review Host: Worcestershire County Council****Redditch Borough Council representative: Councillor Gareth Prosser****Deadline: Original deadline January 2016, final deadline date to be confirmed.**

The Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) at a meeting on 26th February 2015 discussed the Worcestershire Public Health Annual Report 2014. A key theme in this report is a local aim to increase opportunities for participation in physical activities. The report highlighted that "*...physical activity rates decrease quite steeply after the age of 45...*" (although) "*...when comparing with the region and England, Worcestershire participation rates are relatively high...*" It also noted that "*...there is fragmentation of responsibility between County, District and national (Sport England) levels...*" The County Council was keen to ensure opportunities to access sport and physical activity were available to all, and were interested to find out what impact the 2012 Olympics had had on participation rates. For these reasons the Board concluded that a review of this subject would be worthwhile.

The Board recognised that, due to the involvement of district Councils with the delivery of leisure and cultural services at the local level, it would be appropriate for this review to be conducted as a joint exercise. The Redditch Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the terms of reference for this review on 7th July 2015. The Committee agreed that this was an important subject and noted that participation would correspond with addressing two of the Council's strategic purposes including: provide good things for me to do, see and visit and help me to live my life independently (including health and activity). The review could also help to address significant issues relating to health inequalities which the local authority is committed to addressing as a member of the Redditch Partnership. Furthermore, Members noted the links to a previous review completed by the Committee, a review of action that could be taken to tackle obesity levels in the Borough, which was completed in March 2015.

Worcestershire County Council is hosting this joint scrutiny exercise. At the time of writing the deadline for the review and the substance of the group's proposals remained to be confirmed.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CONTACT DETAILS

For additional copies of this report, or to find out more about Overview and Scrutiny at Redditch Borough Council, please contact:

Jess Bayley, Democratic Services Officer
Jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 64252 Extn: 3268

Amanda Scarce, Democratic Services Officer
a.scarce@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881443

Address:

Overview and Scrutiny,
Democratic Services,
Redditch Borough Council,
Redditch Town Hall,
Walter Stranz Square,
Redditch
Worcestershire
B98 8AH

Further Information

Further information about the Overview and Scrutiny process at Redditch Borough Council can also be found on the Council's dedicated web pages. To access these web pages please use the web address attached here:

<http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/council/the-council/overview-and-scrutiny.aspx>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

7 March 2016 to 30 June 2016

(published as at 5th February 2016)



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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

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

If you wish to make representations on the proposed decision you are encouraged to get in touch with the relevant report author as soon as possible before the proposed date of the decision. Contact details are provided. Alternatively you may write to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, The Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH or e-mail: democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

The Executive Committee's meetings are normally held at 7pm on Tuesday evenings at the Town Hall. They are open to the public, except when confidential information is being discussed. If you wish to attend for a particular matter, it is advisable to check with the Democratic Services Team on (01527) 64252, ext: 3257 to make sure it is going ahead as planned. If you have any other queries, Democratic Services Officers will be happy to advise you. The full Council meets in accordance the Council's Calendar of Meetings. Meetings commence at 7.00pm.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Bill Hartnett, Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership
Councillor Greg Chance, Portfolio Holder for Planning, regeneration, Economic Development and Transport
Councillor John Fisher, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management
Councillor Yvonne Smith, Portfolio holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Councillor Mark Shurmer, Portfolio Holder for Housing
Councillor Debbie Taylor, Portfolio Holder for the Local Environment
Councillor Pat Witherspoon, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism
Councillor Juliet Brunner
Councillor Brandon Clayton

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Budget Monitoring Quarter 3 Key: No	Executive 8 Mar 2016		Report of the Executive Director Finance and Resources	Jayne Pickering, Executive Director, Finance and Resources Tel: 01527 881207
Council Tax Support Scheme Key: Yes	Executive 8 Mar 2016		Report of the Head of Customer Access and Financial Support	Amanda Singleton, Head of Customer Access and Financial Support Tel: 01527 64252
Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2016-17 Key: Yes	Executive 8 Mar 2016		Report of the Executive Director Finance and Resources	Sam Morgan, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3790
Health and Safety Policies Key: No	Executive 8 Mar 2016		Report of the Head of Business Transformation and Organisational Development	Becky Talbot, Human Resources and Development Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3385
Proposed feasibility study into the possible redevelopment of the Winyates District Centre Key: No	Executive 8 Mar 2016		Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration	Laura Buckton, Planning Officer Tel: 01527 534122

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Housing Business Case Key: No	Executive 8 Mar 2016 Council 4 Apr 2016		Report of the Head of Housing Services	Liz Tompkin, Head of Housing Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3304
Applying Article 4 directions to The Council's schedule of locally listed buildings Key: Yes	Executive Not before 8th Mar 2016		Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration	Emma Newfield, Planning Officer Tel: 01527 597031
Borough of Redditch Plan no.4 - Modifications Key: No	Executive Not before 19th Apr 2016 Council Not before 20th Jun 2016		Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning and Regeneration Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3219
Review of Pay Enhancements for Leisure Assistants Key: No	Executive Not before 2nd Feb 2016	May be exempt information relating to individuals' pay	Report of the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services	Dave Wheeler, Leisure Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3313
Leisure Intervention Update Key: No	Executive 19 Apr 2016		Report of the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services	John Godwin, Head of Leisure and Cultural Services Tel: 01527 881762
Reorganisation and Change Policy Key: No	Executive Not before 2nd May 2016 Council Not before 2nd May 2016		Report of the Head of Transformation and Organisational Development	Deb Poole, Head of Business Transformation and Organisational Development Tel: 01527 881256

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Tenancy Policy Key: No	Executive		Report of the Head of Housing	

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

1st March 2016

WORK PROGRAMME

(Report of the Chief Executive)

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

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

1st March 2016

	<p>REGULAR ITEMS</p> <p>Updates on the work of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report – Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy</p>	<p>Redditch Borough Council representative on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service</p>
OTHER ITEMS - DATE FIXED		
1st March 2016	Housing Benefits - Presentation	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
1st March 2016	Local Strategic Partnership – Monitoring Update Report	Relevant lead Director
1st March 2015	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report	Councillor Potter
12th April 2016	Corporate Dashboard Presentation	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
12th April 2016	Improving Disabled People’s Access to Redditch’s Taxi Fleet Short, Sharp Review – Final Report	Councillor Hopkins
12th April 2016	Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
12th April 2016	S106 Funding Presentation	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

1st March 2016

OTHER ITEMS – DATE NOT FIXED		
	Tackling Obesity Task Group - Feedback	Councillor Potter
	Leisure Services Options Short, Sharp Review – reconsideration of the group’s final report	Councillor Potter

