



Executive Committee

Tue 13 Oct
2015
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Executive Committee

Tuesday, 13th October, 2015

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs: Bill Hartnett (Chair) Mark Shurmer
 Greg Chance (Vice- Yvonne Smith
 Chair) Debbie Taylor
 Juliet Brunner Pat Witherspoon
 Brandon Clayton
 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 - 8) Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive</p>	<p>To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 8th September 2015.</p> <p>(Minutes attached)</p>
<p>5. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Pages 9 - 18) Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive</p>	<p>To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1st September, 2015.</p> <p>There are no recommendations to consider.</p> <p>(Minutes attached)</p>

<p>6. Energy Efficiency Fund (Pages 19 - 26)</p> <p>Judith Willis, Head of Community Services</p>	<p>To consider a proposal for introducing an energy efficiency fund.</p>
<p>7. Worcestershire Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan (Pages 27 - 62)</p> <p>Judith Willis, Head of Community Services</p>	<p>To consider the enclosed report seeking endorsement of the County-wide Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Action plan and to consider how the Council can contribute to its achievement.</p>
<p>8. Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 - 2018/19 - Budget Assumptions (Pages 63 - 68)</p> <p>Jayne Pickering, Executive Director, Finance and Resources</p>	<p>To consider principles for the preparation of the Budget.</p>
<p>9. Minutes / Referrals - Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Executive Panels etc.</p> <p>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>10. Advisory Panels - update report (Pages 69 - 70)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p>

11. 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’.



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Committee

8th September 2015

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Brandon Clayton, John Fisher, Mark Shurmer, Yvonne Smith and Pat Witherspoon (during Minute No.'s 25 to 33)

Officers:

Emma Baker, Rebecca Dunne, Clare Flanagan, Sue Hanley, Mark Hanwell, Sam Morgan, Jayne Pickering, Dean Piper and Judith Willis

Committee Officers:

Debbie Parker-Jones

25. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Greg Chance and Debbie Taylor.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

27. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Additional Papers

One set of Additional Papers had been circulated; Response to Stratford-on-Avon District Council Core Strategy Proposed Modifications. Consideration of this was required in order to meet the 25th September 2015 deadline for submission of representations on the proposed modifications.

Work Programme

It was noted that the following reports which were due to be considered at the meeting had been deferred to a later date:

- Reorganisation and Change Policy; and
- Housing Business Case.

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Chair

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28. MINUTES**RESOLVED that**

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 14th July 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

29. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7th July 2015.

It was noted that there were no recommendations to consider as the recommendations at Minute No.'s 19, 20 and 21, relating to the LGBT Task Group, Redditch Outdoor Market and Review of Leisure Services respectively, had been dealt with by the Executive at its last meeting.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7th July 2015 be received and noted.

30. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

Members were asked to consider, for recommendation to full Council, a draft Equal Opportunity Policy. This report had previously been delayed at full Council in order for some minor alterations to be made.

It was noted that the Policy applied to all staff who worked for the Council, including those employed on a temporary or part-time basis, or on work experience. Appendix 2 had been added to the Policy which clarified the position in relation to Local Authority Members. Specific exemptions applied for agency and contract workers and Appendix 4 detailed some of the legislation which worked in conjunction with the Policy, including the Agency Worker Regulations 2010. Section 4 of the Policy had also been expanded to set out the position for workers under 18 years of age.

The policy would be reviewed at least every two years or sooner to comply with changes to the law or policy and practice. Union representatives had been consulted on the Policy and amendments had been made as a result.

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RECOMMENDED that

the Equal Opportunity Policy, as appended to the report, be approved and adopted.

31. STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING - CHARGES

Members were asked to consider, for recommendation to full Council, a report which sought to introduce charges for the discretionary elements of the street naming and numbering service. The report also detailed the relevant legislation to be adopted by full Council as part of the process for introducing charges.

It was noted that the charges would not apply to individual residents but to developers and house builders. A number of other local authorities had recently introduced such charges and if approved by Council the income generated would cover the cost of providing the street naming and numbering post within ICT Services.

Officers were currently in discussion over which department would be best placed to notify developers of the proposed charges, ICT or Planning, and Members requested that they be informed once a decision had been made on this.

In response to Member questions, Officers clarified the need to adopt the relevant legislation detailed in the report, together with the position in relation to previous charges which had been made.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) Sections 64 and 65 of the Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847 and Sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 be adopted by the Council;
- 2) charging for the discretionary element of Street Naming and Numbering be introduced from April 2016 and the fees set out at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted; and
- 3) authority be delegated to the Head of Transformation and Organisational Development to make the necessary amendments to the Street Naming and Numbering Policy resulting from the decisions at 1) and 2) above.

32. ECONOMIC PRIORITIES FOR REDDITCH

The Committee received a report which detailed a new set of economic themes, priorities, Action Plan and associated deliverables for Redditch.

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Members heard that the economic priorities had been developed in close consultation with the Redditch Economic Development Theme Group, which included a number of business representatives and partner organisations. It was proposed that the Theme Group would continue to act in an advisory capacity to the Council in the delivery of the Action Plan, which would provide some external support and insight. Monthly briefings and updates would be provided to the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for economic development, to ensure that effective progress was being made in delivering the plan.

A request was made by one Member to amend recommendations 2 and 3 of the report to extend the remit for the management and monitoring of the Action Plan to specifically include the Portfolio Holder, and for a 6-monthly progress report to be taken to the Executive Committee. The amendments were not seconded and were therefore not considered or voted on.

A discussion took place on the 'Skilled Redditch' economic theme and the Heart of Worcestershire College's role in this regard. Officers advised that the College was a member of the Theme Group and had therefore assisted in the development of the Action Plan and would continue to be involved with this. There were additional providers of education who Officers and the Council needed to work with. These included the Employment and Skills Board and Local Enterprise Partnerships, with business pool funding being available for the districts to assist with skills growth. North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration was looking to be proactive in terms of apprenticeships with local employers in order to support the town's young people into sustainable employment by equipping them with the relevant skills and expertise required by employers.

Members queried the current position in relation to The Anchorage property in Redditch, which had been considered by the Executive some years previously and on which confirmation was awaited from the College. Officers agreed to check the position with this and to report back to Members.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the economic themes, priorities and Action Plan for Redditch and the associated deliverables set out at Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed;**

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- 2) the management and monitoring of the Action Plan be delegated to the Head of Economic Development & Regeneration; and
- 3) a report setting out progress against delivery of the priorities and Action Plan be brought to the Executive Committee on an annual basis.

33. VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report, for recommendation to full Council, on the funding split and themes for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) grants process 2016/17. The report also recommended changes to update and improve the scoring matrix and Grants Policy.

Whilst the overall budget of £241k for the grants process remained the same as for 2015/16 (£4k of which would facilitate the delivery of training to the Voluntary and Community Sector on external funding workshops/events), the themes and proposed funding for 2016/17 had been updated to reflect the Council's Strategic Purposes and customer demand.

Officers advised that it had been recommended that the scoring matrix at Appendix 2 to the report be trialled at the next Grants Panel meeting, and that this continue to be used moving forward if this were found to be successful. Members supported this proposal.

Officers responded to Member questions on current staffing issues and confirmed that whilst a member of staff had been on long-term sick leave this had not affected the grants progress to date, nor would it affect it moving forward.

Whilst the majority of Members felt that any underspend in the grants at the end of the year should be put back into balances some did not support this approach.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the themes and percentages of funding be allocated for the 2016/17 voluntary and community sector grants process as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- 2) the scoring matrix and Grants Policy be updated as set out in Appendices 2 (subject to a satisfactory trial of the

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scoring matrix at the next Grants Panel meeting) and 3 to the report; and

- 3) any underspend in the grants at the end of the year be put back into balances.

34. STRATFORD ON AVON CORE STRATEGY PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS - RESPONSE

Members received, for recommendation to full Council, the Council's draft response to Stratford-on-Avon's 'Core Strategy Proposed Modifications in response to the Inspector's Interim Conclusions'. This report had been issued under cover of Additional Papers in order to meet the 25th September deadline for the submission of representations.

Officers advised that the response, which raised a possible concern in relation to the supply of labour force, reflected the debate which had taken place at the Planning Advisory Panel meeting.

RECOMMENDED that

the Council's response to Stratford-on-Avon's Core Strategy Proposed Modifications, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, be endorsed.

35. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN AND FINANCIAL RESERVES STATEMENT

The Committee received a report which detailed the Council's final financial position for 2014/15 for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account. It was noted that this report was originally scheduled for consideration at the July meeting but had been delayed owing to the late submission of the accounts to the external auditors.

Officers highlighted the key elements of the report. The final position showed that in addition to the unidentified savings of £635k being delivered, a further £103k of savings had been achieved on general services, together with an additional £716k of savings on other funding and financial budgets, therefore generating an overall underspend of £819k. The £819k of savings had been transferred to balances to increase the balances level to £1.985m. This was significantly in excess of the £750k reserves level agreed by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan. Following the savings a full review was underway to ensure the reduced cost base was captured for future years' budget reductions.

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Members were pleased to note the current financial position and expressed their thanks to staff for their work on the savings. Balances had not been at the £2m mark since 2009 and cuts in government grants in recent years had totalled 49%, with a total of £2.2m savings having been delivered by the Council. The Council was continually reviewing its services and making improvements and front line services had not been cut.

Officers provided clarification on a number of questions raised by Members. A Member questioned how much money had been saved by not having filled vacant posts. Officers advised that they did not have this information to hand and agreed to check the position with this and report back to Members outside of the meeting. Officers added that some posts were retained to allow for re-deployment opportunities.

RESOLVED that

the financial position on Revenue and Capital for the financial year 2014/15, as detailed in the report, and the transfer to balances of £819k to increase the balances level to £1.985m 31st March 2015 be noted; and

RECOMMENDED that

the movement in reserves as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

36. FINANCE MONITORING - QUARTER 1, APRIL - JUNE 2015

Members considered a report which detailed the Council's financial position across the Strategic Purposes for the period April to June 2015 (Quarter 1 2015/16), which enabled Members to be aware of the level of funding attributed to these areas.

The report focussed on the position with the Revenue Budget and Officers advised that they would be looking to enhance the report over the following quarters, with capital details to be included in the next report.

In line with a commitment previously given by Members, Officers were in the process of reviewing the costs associated with enabling services. Officers were also due to meet with Wychavon District Council and Worcestershire County Council to discuss financial issues related to civil parking enforcement.

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A Member queried the variation for Lifeline and whether there was any trend in the reduction of Lifeline users. Officers agreed to look into this and to report back to Members on the position.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

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

There were no additional referrals for the Committee to consider.

38. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

39. ACTION MONITORING

Members noted the update provided in the report in relation to the LGBT Community Task Group's findings.

Councillor Hartnett advised that the response which he had received from Adrian Hardman, Leader of Worcestershire County Council, had been positive, details of which Councillor Hartnett had fed back to the Task Group Chair and Officers.

RESOLVED that

the update be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.25 pm

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Chair



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 1st September, 2015

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Jane Potter (Chair), Councillor Gay Hopkins (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Joe Baker, David Bush, Andrew Fry, Gareth Prosser and Nina Wood-Ford

Officers:

Sue Hanley and Jayne Pickering

Democratic Services Officers:

J Bayley and A Scarce

27. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Paul Swansborough.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor party whip.

29. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

30. BUDGET SCRUTINY 2015/16 - DISCUSSING APPROACH FOR THE YEAR

The Chair reminded Members of the role of the Committee and its duties, including being a critical friend and highlighting the need to be apolitical. She went on to explain the background to the report and that the information received by the Committee in the previous year had not been sufficient to enable them to make a constructive contribution to the budget setting process. She had therefore met

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Chair

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with the Executive Director, Finance and Resources to agree the format, which was being presented to Members for discussion.

Officers acknowledged that the information provided previously was not as comprehensive as Members would have liked and explained that the template attached to the report had a much wide range of information within it, including the previous two years figures and the projections for 2015/16. This was linked to the strategic purposes, which had been agreed by Members, and further detail given in respect of each team's expenditure within that specific purpose. Whilst the information provided allowed Member to concentrate on the proposed budget for 2016/17 the Council would be producing a three year budget.

The initial budget, together with the Fees and Charges report, would be discussed at the Committee's December meeting with the capital budget, planned savings and income and expenditure being presented at the January 2016 meeting. It was anticipated that the detail provided would allow the Committee to select any particular areas of concern and request, if necessary, further information in order to make any recommendations.

Members discussed the expenditure that the Council would incur due to the Gas Testing which was currently been carried out on Council house properties. Officers confirmed that this would be included within the Housing Revenue Account with a separate cost centre being used in order for these costs to be easily identified.

Officers finally assured Members that the information would be available within the appropriate timescale in order to allow time to consider the reports prior to each meeting.

31. TASK GROUP REVIEWS - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENTS

The Chair explained that she had put together a scoping document for a short sharp review in respect of the options for the management of Leisure and Cultural Services in Redditch. She explained that she felt it was important that the Council did not lose sight of making savings, but also ensured that excellent services continued to be provided. Whilst the Committee had looked at the options appraisal at its previous meeting, the Committee had not received enough information in order for it to make an informed decision. A Short, Sharp Review of this subject would enable an in depth investigation to be carried out into the financial and service benefits of all models which were detailed under the Key Objectives section of the scoping document.

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The Chair appreciated that this was a large piece of work, but believed that a questionnaire could be created and sent out to other local authorities that delivered leisure and cultural services in order to establish which model might be the most suitable for Redditch.

Officers raised concerns in respect of the officer time needed to fulfil the piece of work and reminded Members of the decision by the Executive Committee, which was for officers to carry out transformational work within Leisure Services. It had been highlighted within the options appraisal report presented to the Executive Committee that if a detailed business case was required in respect of the options then this would need to be carried out by external experts.

Following presentation of the scoping document Members discussed a number of areas in detail, including:

- Whether this review represented a duplication of the work carried out by the previous Abbey Stadium Task Group.
- The timing of the review and whether it would be more appropriate to postpone this until the service transformation work was completed.
- The timeline for the service transformation work and the areas covered by it.
- Discussions held by the Chair with the Leader and Deputy Leader about carrying out further scrutiny of this subject.
- The number of reviews currently being undertaken by the Committee.

In order for the Task Group to hold its initial meeting as soon as possible, Members agreed to a deadline of Friday 11th September for notifications of interest from Members who wanted to join the group.

RESOLVED that

- 1) a short sharp review in respect of Leisure Services Options be launched; and**
- 2) Councillor Jayne Potter be appointed Chair of the Leisure Services Options Short Sharp Review.**

32. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKER

Officers reminded Members of the purpose of the Quarterly Monitoring Recommendation Tracker and explained that the

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recommendations were in chronological order. Members' attention was drawn to the following:

- Installation of a canopy over the ramp access to Shopmobility continued to be outstanding and no further updates had been provided.
- The introduction of exhibition space at the Palace Theatre and the Abbey Stadium. Space had been made available at the Abbey Stadium for some time and officers were pleased to report that it would also be available at the Palace Theatre from 8th September 2015.
- All recommendation from the LGBT Task Group had been endorsed by the Executive Committee who had complimented the group on its informative report.
- The Leader had already written to Worcestershire County Council in respect of recommendation 2 from the LGBT Task Group and a positive response had been received back from them.
- Councillor Joe Baker, Chair of the Task Group, had met with the LGBT Hate Crime Forum and received positive feedback on the content of the report. The Forum had been appreciative of the support and funding which would be available for future LGBT History Month events.

Members congratulated Councillor Baker and the Task Group on an excellent piece of work, which had already had a positive impact on the LGBT community in Redditch.

The Committee debated the recommendation in respect of the ramp access to Shopmobility. Concerns were raised as to whether this item would ever be completed, with Members noting that the recommendation had been made in August 2012. Consideration was therefore given as to whether it should be removed from the tracker. However, Members' were mindful that this had been agreed by the Executive Committee and that implementation of this proposal could lead to positive outcomes for residents and visitors with physical disabilities. Members therefore requested that officers speak to the Kingfisher Centre and an update on the current position be provided as soon as possible, detailing reasons why the delay had occurred.

Concerns were also raised in respect of the recommendations from the Voluntary and Community Sector Task Group, with particular regard to the recommendation for an apprentice to support the Council's grants programme. Officers explained that due to staff sickness absence a decision had been taken to postpone recruiting to the apprenticeship post as there was no resource to support an

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apprentice available in the grants programme. Members accepted these difficulties but questioned whether the post could initially be created in the Policy Team, as there had originally been a proposal for the apprenticeship to be shared between the grants programme and the Policy Team, with the apprentice taking on duties in the grants programme at a later date once this was an option. Members stressed that the Council's Grants programme was important and needed to have sufficient support to operate effectively and to ensure that the grants were reach those that needed them the most within the voluntary and community sector.

Officers suggested that it might be helpful for the Committee to receive a report at its next meeting providing more detailed information in respect of administrative support for the Grants Panel and a time scale of how this could be resolved. It was highlighted that parts of this report might need to be considered in confidential session.

RESOLVED that

- 1) Officers contact the Kingfisher Centre and an update be provided in respect of Recommendation 2 of the Access for Disabled People Task Group – Installation of a canopy over the ramp access to Shopmobility;**
- 2) a report be provided to the next meeting of the Committee in respect of the Council's grants programme; and**
- 3) the latest edition of the Quarterly Recommendation Tracker be noted.**

(During consideration of this item Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed relating to identity of an individual. However, there is nothing exempt in this record of the proceedings.)

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

Members considered the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 14th July and Officers highlighted the following points:

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- The Committee's recommendation in respect of no longer requiring the landscaping data for each ward had been approved and actioned with immediate effect.
- The Committee's recommendation in respect of procurement and contracting processes to select and appoint a contractor to manage Redditch Outdoor market had been endorsed.
- Future arrangements for Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee and Worcestershire Regulatory Services: it was noted that the recommendations in respect of governance, which had been brought forward were similar to those which had previously been proposed by the Joint Scrutiny Task Group.
- The Committee's comments in respect of the review of the operation of Leisure Services had been noted by the Executive Committee.

Whilst the latest version of the Work Programme was not currently available, officers provided the following updates:

- Consideration of the item in respect of Reorganisation and Change Policy by the Executive Committee had been postponed until December 2015.
- The Housing Business case would now be considered at the October meeting of the Executive Committee.
- The Business Rate Relief – Poundstretcher Unit, Town Centre item had been removed from the Work Programme as it transpired that officers had delegated authority in this matter.
- The Tower at Site of former Methodist Church, Headless Cross item had also been removed from the Work Programme.
- An item in respect of Worcestershire Child Exploitation Strategy and Action plan, which had been referred by Worcestershire County Council, would be considered at the October meeting of the Executive Committee.
- Three Health and Safety Policies – Lone Working for Staff, Contractor Safety and Contractor Security would also be considered at the October meeting.

RESOLVED that

the Executive Committee Minutes of 14th July 2015 and the latest edition of the Executive Work Programme be noted.

34. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Officers reminded Members that the Work Programme would be updated to take account of the Fees and Charges report being put back to December 2015.

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Members discussed the value of receiving an update in respect of Gas Testing in Council house properties which had recently emerged as a cause for concern, and noted that this was something the Committee could consider investigating further in order to ensure that problems did not arise again. Officers informed Members that Internal Audit had been asked to undertake a full audit which would look both back at how this had happened and forward at procedures that could be put in place to ensure that problems did not happen again. This report was expected to be available shortly. The Council had self-referred to the Homes and Communities Agency and the matter would be reviewed by their Consumer Regulations Panel. It was understood the local M.P. had also referred the matter to the Health and Safety Executive, but to date the Council had not been contacted by this agency.

Concerns were also raised regarding testing of the air conditioning units within Council properties as well as legionella testing. Officers advised that such testing would be carried out through the contract the Council had with the Worcestershire Joint Property Vehicle Place Partnership and they could be approached to provide full details.

RESOLVED that

- 1) an update report be received by the Committee in respect of the Gas Testing and this report to include any Internal Audit Report recommendations;**
- 2) Members to receive via email details of the testing carried out in respect of legionella testing within Council properties; and**
- 3) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme be noted.**

35. TASK GROUPS - PROGRESS REPORTS

Joint Worcestershire Increasing Physical Activity Task Group –
Redditch Borough Council Representative, Councillor Gareth
Prosser

Councillor Prosser provided Members with a brief summary of the background of this joint Task Group, including its aims and objectives. He explained he had arranged to meet with the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services to discuss specific issues within Redditch and in order to feedback to the joint Task Group. The next meeting of the Task Group had been arranged for 3rd

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September with a presentation from Steve Brunston, Sports Partnerships. A further meeting had been arranged for 18th September when the group would carry out a health walk; these walks were aimed at promoting and supporting well-being in Worcestershire. It was anticipated that the group's final report would be presented to the Worcestershire Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board in November 2015 and considered by Cabinet at its December 2015 meeting.

36. HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Nina Wood-Ford, as the Council's representative on the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) confirmed that the last meeting of the HOSC had been held on 15th July and with two presentations being received.

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

The Committee had received information about the Worcestershire Acute Hospital NHS Trust's response to the findings from the Care Quality Commission's (CQC's) unannounced inspection. This had covered details of staffing levels and procedures put in place to provide better patient care, together with concern about patient flow through the EDs where some improvements had been made. Funding had also been received to create further car parking spaces, which were due to be completed by the end of the year. Information had also been received in respect of the closure of Cookley Ward at Kidderminster Hospital. This had occurred following a fire safety assessment, when it had been determined that the ward was no longer safe in the event of evacuation.

Primary Care Commissioning and GP Access

A presentation had been given which outlined the background, changing commissioning arrangements, development of local plans and delivery of seven day access to services. New commissioning services would allow Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to commission additional services which reflected their agreed local priorities.

It was noted that recruitment and retention was an issue with an increase in GPs seeking part time employment. However, it was acknowledged that nationally there was skills gap and Members discussed whether consideration had been given to increasing the number of student doctor places, the decrease in nursing spaces and the requirement for some nursing staff to have a degree qualification.

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A seven day delivery of services had also been discussed and it was understood that this was already happening if the out of hours service was taken into consideration. Many GP practices had also extended their opening hours to include evenings and Saturdays.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.15 pm

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

13 October 2015

Creation of a new Energy Efficiency Fund for homeowners in Redditch

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Mark Shurmer/ Debbie Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	No
Key Decision Yes	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report summarises proposals to use existing resources to launch a new Energy Efficiency Fund which will help homeowners in Redditch improve the energy efficiency of their properties, helping them to heat their homes more affordably and reliably, also producing carbon savings.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- 1) **An Energy Efficiency Fund for homeowners in Redditch be launched and delivered between November 2015 and November 2018;**
- 2) **That authority be delegated to the Head of Community Services to finalise the inclusion of the Energy Efficiency Fund within the existing Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Act on Energy.**
- 3) **That authority be delegated to the Head of Community Services to finalise details of the approved scheme and, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Housing and the Local Environment, to make minor amendments to the scheme and review the scheme as required.**

The Committee is asked to **RECOMMEND**:

- 1) **The transfer of the £17k remaining Warmer Worcestershire funds capital grant to fund the revenue schemes as detailed in this report.**

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3. KEY ISSUES**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 Funding for the Energy Efficiency Fund has been identified within existing budgets. On 11 June 2013 Executive resolved that 'all historic/existing energy efficiency and conservation schemes currently available through the Council's capital budget be formally suspended to avoid conflict with the incoming Green Deal initiative and the remaining funding is redeployed to support the Affordable Warmth initiatives, Green Deal incentives and general Energy Efficiency initiatives'. The Council therefore has £94k capital budget available to undertake these types of initiatives, and it is proposed to utilise this resource to finance the creation of the Energy Efficiency Fund.
- 3.2 It is proposed to divide this £94k into £64k for fuel poverty alleviation and £30k for incentivising replacement of energy inefficient heating systems (£10K per year for the three year period of the scheme). Any underspends will be carried over into subsequent financial years.
- 3.3 The Council also retains £17k of previously unspent Capital Grant from Warmer Worcestershire Home Insulation Scheme funds, which officers at Worcestershire County Council have now confirmed may be used to fund boiler repairs and servicing for vulnerable residents. On 6th July 2011, Executive resolved that funding of £40k from Worcestershire County Council be incorporated into the Council's existing Energy Efficiency Installations budget for a home insulation scheme, and that subject to the agreement of Worcestershire County Council, to utilise such funding remaining at 1st April 2012 for other Home Energy Efficiency initiatives if appropriate. To enable this capital grant to be utilised for revenue schemes there has to be Council approval.

Legal Implications

- 3.4 Although the Council is not legally obliged to provide an Energy Efficiency Fund it does have a broader agenda around improving energy efficiency, especially for households on low incomes, and around reducing carbon emissions under international agreements, EU Law and the Climate Change Act. The general power of competence in s1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the council to undertake such a project.
- 3.5 The scheme will be delivered by local energy advice agency Act on Energy. There is an existing service level agreement (SLA) in place between the Council and "Act on Energy" and delegation is sought for the Head of Community Services to agree the final terms of the SLA in

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respect of the boiler scheme on behalf of the Council.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.6 The fund of £111k will enable the installation and repair of a range of cost effective energy efficiency measures via grants, together with holistic advice and signposting for eligible households.
- 3.7 Energy efficiency links to the following council purposes;
- Help me to be financially independent
 - Help me to live my life independently
- It also plays a role in sustaining good mental and physical health, so partner agencies may also benefit from positive outcomes in this area of work.
- 3.8 The scheme will be delivered by Act on Energy, which is the Council's energy efficiency advice partner. Along with other local councils, including all Worcestershire councils, we have a longstanding partnership with Act on Energy, which has included the delivery of several energy efficiency projects across Redditch.
- 3.9 The Energy Efficiency Fund aims to have a preventative impact, by focussing on helping to prevent a crisis as well as assisting when difficulties do occur. The measures that can be provided within the available budget are those which are most cost effective – heating and heating controls, loft and cavity insulation, draught proofing, heating system insulation and energy efficient lighting (see Appendix 1). It will help fill a gap in available funding for these measures.
- 3.10 A home visit will be offered by Act on Energy, including a review of and advice on energy bills and home energy efficiency measures. If other issues are identified, Act on Energy will also refer or signpost as appropriate to other agencies.
- 3.11 Act in Energy will assist the resident to arrange the works, as described in 4. Risk Management.
- 3.12 Payment will be from a lump sum held by Act on Energy to the contractor, on receipt of an invoice from the contractor with proof of completion of works. A legal agreement will be drawn up between the Council and Act on Energy to cover these financial arrangements.
- 3.13 Act on Energy will also follow up with the homeowner following the installation of measures. They will also contact the homeowner in a years' time to offer further advice including regarding the benefits of regular servicing of heating appliances.

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- 3.14 Act on Energy will also collect data about the home and health benefits to the resident from the intervention – to enable auditing of the effectiveness of the programme. This will aim to show the cost savings achieved for others agencies e.g. health partners, helping to build a case for partnership working and funding of a continuation of the scheme if it is successful.

The benefits of delivery by Act on Energy include

- The delivery of this scheme by Act on Energy should minimise the Council officer time required to undertake these activities.
- The holistic approach taken by Act on Energy, particularly in relation to vulnerable residents, may help the council and partners to deliver a joined up, more effective service for those residents.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.11 The scheme should benefit homeowners on low incomes and in receipt of qualifying benefits in Redditch
- 3.12 The scheme offers an opportunity to help homeowners tackle some of the financial and health issues they experience as a result of ineffective heating in their home.
- 3.13 By assisting residents in this way, we may reduce the demand on our and partners services in relation to crisis situations and health needs

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Some of the measures available within the fund must be undertaken by suitably qualified tradespersons – for example, the installation, servicing and repair of boilers.
- 4.2 The proposed scheme has safeguards in place to ensure this is adhered to at all times. The homeowner will be asked to provide two quotes from accredited contractors, which will be reviewed by Act on Energy. Any application for grant monies will only be accepted after the contractor provides evidence of appropriate accreditation and current public liability insurance.
- 4.3 Any liability regarding the contract remains between the homeowner and the contractor, but Act on Energy will be available to advise the homeowner if issues arise.

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- 4.4 The scheme will be monitored by the Council's Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Officer.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Summary of energy efficiency measures available within the fund and eligibility criteria for accessing the fund.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

AUTHORS OF REPORT

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Appendix 1 Energy Efficiency Fund

The fund will only be available to Redditch owner occupiers and where the property concerned is their only and principle home. The fund will only be made available when there are no other funding streams available to resolve the homeowner's difficulties.

The Head of Community Services will have discretion to consider applications which fall outside of the normal criteria but in respect of which 'exceptional circumstances' apply.

The measures and eligibility are set out below:

<u>Eligibility</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Financial Support available</u>	<u>Additional support</u>
In receipt of qualifying benefit*	<p>Condensing boilers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to replace low efficiency boilers (F or G rated) • to replace boilers broken beyond economic repair • associated works <p>Gas condensing heating systems where these are not already present and a connection to mains gas is possible</p> <p>Heating controls</p> <p>Heating system insulation (cylinder, pipes)</p> <p>Cavity wall insulation</p> <p>Loft insulation</p> <p>Draught proofing</p> <p>Energy efficient light fittings and bulbs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully funded up to a total cost of works of £5000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home visit by Act on Energy to assess which measures would be beneficial and to offer additional energy efficiency advice. • Signposting to accredited contractors to obtain quotes • Review of quotes and check of contractor's accreditation and public liability insurance. • Follow-up by Act on Energy after installation. • Follow-up by Act on Energy after 1 year.
If under Redditch average local household income of £36k (County Council district profile)	<p>Condensing boilers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to replace low efficiency boilers (F or G rated) • to replace boilers broken beyond economic repair <p>Gas condensing heating systems where these are not already present and a connection to mains gas is possible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £500 towards cost of works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposting to accredited contractors to obtain quotes. • Review of quotes and check of contractor's accreditation and public liability insurance. • Follow-up by Act on Energy after installation. • Follow-up by Act on Energy after 1 year.

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<u>Eligibility</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Financial Support available</u>	<u>Additional support</u>
In receipt of qualifying benefit*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boiler servicing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of cost up to £35 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signposting to accredited contractors to obtain quotes Review of quotes and check of contractor's accreditation and public liability insurance.
In receipt of qualifying benefit*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boiler repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully funded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signposting to accredited contractors to obtain quotes Review of quotes and check of contractor's accreditation and public liability insurance.

***Qualifying benefits:**

- Income Support
- Pension Credit Guarantee (not pension saving credit)
- Working Tax Credit (with an income, after tax, of less than £16,010)
- Jobseekers allowance (JSA) (income based)
- Employment Support Allowance (ESA) (income based)

OR

- Universal Credit – The benefit recipient with an earned monthly take home income of £1,250 or less in any assessment period in the previous 12 months

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CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION STRATEGY

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Yvonne Smith, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis, Head of Community Services
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To endorse the County- wide Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy 2015–2017, and to consider how the Council can contribute to its achievement.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Worcestershire Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2015-2017 and the Council's contribution as outlined in section 3.12 is endorsed.

3. KEY ISSUES**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The Council's contribution to the Strategy will be met within existing budget provisions.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 There is a duty on local authorities under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 to make arrangements to promote co-operation to improve the wellbeing of all children in the authority's area.
- 3.3 A range of individual organisations and professionals working with children and families have specific statutory duties to promote the welfare of children and ensure they are protected from harm. In addition Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on District Councils that provide children's and other types of services including housing, sport, culture and leisure services, licensing authorities and youth services.

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- 3.4 Safeguarding people is everyone's responsibility and as a District Council we have a duty to ensure that all children and young people are safeguarded from all types of harm and this clearly includes CSE.
- 3.5 In respect of the role of Worcestershire Regulatory Services and in particular around licensed premises and taxi licencing, the Strategy is to be presented to a meeting of their Joint Committee.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.6 In Worcestershire the main response to CSE has been led through the Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and individual agencies have also acted according to their service responsibilities.
- 3.7 CSE is defined in the Strategy as:

'The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation can occur through use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones with no immediate payment or gain. In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.'

- 3.8 By endorsing the Strategy the Council supports and accepts as its own principles the four points set out in Louise Casey's report 'Reflections on CSE (March 2015). These are set out in full in section 5 of the Strategy and in summary are **that CSE: is child abuse and is a crime; the victims are children; it is squarely a community safety issue; and the failure is not in the existence of CSE but in not recognising it and taking appropriate action.**
- 3.9 To date, the evidence suggests that CSE exists in Worcestershire on a relatively small and generally individualised scale, and until recently there was no evidence of a link to gangs, organised crime or any specific minority ethnic group. Within the last couple of months there has been one reported incident of possible organised CSE activity in Worcestershire. The men were arrested and police enquiries are ongoing. There is also no indication that disclosures or reporting have been ignored as was the case in Rotherham.

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- 3.10 The WSCB has undertaken a great deal of work to develop the pathway for CSE referrals. The pathway is unique in that it allow for non-child specific concerns to be logged with the Access Centre e.g. Concerns about a commercial premises.
- 3.11 The Worcestershire Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy, which incorporates a multi-agency action plan, is attached as Appendix 1. This has been developed by the WSCB and there are four overarching priorities against which key target areas for action have been identified:
- 1. Prevention and Education.**
 - 2. Recognition and Identification**
 - 3. Intervention and Support**
 - 4. Pursue and Disrupt**
- 3.12 As with any safeguarding matter, the Council has a duty to contribute to preventing and responding to CSE. To help fulfil this duty the following work is being undertaken/proposed:
1. District Council Officer Representation at the WSCB, the CSE Strategy Group and the CSE Panel (representation is via the Chief Executive and the Head of Community Services).
 2. A Lead Professional for CSE has been identified as the Head of Community Services with the Head of Leisure & Cultural Services and Head of Housing as Deputy Lead.
 3. Training on identifying low level non-child specific concerns and training on CSE and use of the Worcestershire Screen Tool to be provided to identified teams within the Council. This work has commenced and will be completed by the end of 2015.
 4. From May 2015 Members safeguarding training has incorporated a section on CSE. In addition Licensing Committee Members are to receive additional training in respect of their role in safeguarding against CSE in determining licences.
 5. The Council's Safeguarding Policy has been updated to include CSE.
 6. CSE Raising Awareness to all staff via internal communications, including team brief and posters and support provided to the WSCB publicity campaigns.
 7. Through the Redditch Partnership CSE awareness raising with partner agencies, including the voluntary sector.
 8. Through the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership and Tasking Group, to receive CSE intelligence and implement a partnership response to identified 'hot spots'.
 9. The annual Community Safety Partnership Plan has been updated to incorporate CSE responsibilities.
 10. To support WRS in undertaking a CSE awareness raising campaign with licenced premises via the Community Safety Tasking Group.

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11. To assist the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership in developing and implementing CSE guidance for bed and breakfast providers, hostels and HMO licencing.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.13 Endorsement of the Strategy and the proposed proactive contribution by the Council as detailed in the report, will support that children and young people are kept safe.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

Endorsement of the Strategy and the proposed proactive contribution by the Council as detailed in the report, will enable the council to achieve its statutory duties in respect of safeguarding.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – WSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2015-2017

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Children Act 2004

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GLOSSARY

CSE – Child Sexual Exploitation
WSCB – Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board
WRS – Worcestershire Regulatory Services
HMO – Housing in Multiple Occupation

Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2015 - 2017

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board's
strategic commitment to tackle child sexual
exploitation



April 2015

Building upon the effective work undertaken in developing and delivering the CSE Pathway, WSCB is committed to further developing knowledge of the prevalence of Child Sexual Exploitation across the county and building a robust strategic framework to tackle the problem and keep children safe. This strategy sets out how multi-agency partners will continually be encouraged to work together pro-actively to safeguard children and young people at risk.

Foreword

This strategy sets out the commitment of Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) to undertake all actions possible to tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE), and to safeguard children and young people experiencing and/or at risk of this form of child abuse. WSCB acknowledges that this is a very complex and challenging area of our work and that it is only possible to tackle CSE through a co-ordinated multi-agency approach, where victims/potential victims are identified and safeguarded and perpetrators are disrupted and prosecuted.

This strategy has been written to support, and be supported by, the West Mercia Child Protection Procedures and the Worcestershire Thresholds Guidance. When practitioners become aware of children who are affected by, or at risk of, sexual exploitation they have a duty to comply with the West Mercia Child Protection Procedures, with specific regard for section 7.2 which relates specifically to the process to be followed in Worcestershire:

http://westmerciaconsortium.proceduresonline.com/chapters/g_step_by_step_respond_cse.html

The strategy outlines WSCB's strategic principles as the basis for its approach in tackling CSE. It also states its key priorities under the four main headings of Prevention and Education; Recognition and Identification; Intervention and Support; and Pursue and Disrupt. An action plan to deliver the key target areas for each of those priorities is included, and the delivery of this will be closely monitored and reported to WSCB. All partners own and take responsibility for the effectiveness of its outcomes and will measure the difference it makes in tackling CSE in Worcestershire

Diana Fulbrook
Independent Chair
Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board

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1. Introduction

In line with national guidance, HM Government (2009) Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation, Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board seeks to develop locally a prevention, protection and investigation strategy to

- identify those at risk of being sexually exploited
- take action to safeguard and promote the welfare of particular children and young people who are being, or may be, sexually exploited, and
- Take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people in this way.

This document should be read in conjunction with HM Government (2009) Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation, HM Government (2015) Working Together to Safeguard Children, WSCB (2009) Safeguarding Children Who May Have Been Trafficked, and West Mercia Joint Runaway and Missing From Home and Care Protocol (Revised 2015).

2. Definition

Child Sexual Exploitation Definition

The National Working Group on Child Sexual Exploitation has developed the following definition which is utilised in UK government guidance and policy, including the Department for Education 2009, and is the definition of CSE that Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board have adopted:

'The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation can occur through use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones with no immediate payment or gain. In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.'

The National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People (2008)

3. National Context

"The Government deplores the sexual exploitation of children, and will not tolerate failure at any level to prevent harm....."

"Tackling child sexual exploitation must be a shared effort. Government can lead the national response. Local authorities, police, children's and health services have a statutory duty to work together to identify and stamp it out in their area."

"Dealing with Child Sexual Exploitation" (2015)

(Appendix 1)

The recently revised Working Together March 2015 states that *"LSCBs should conduct regular assessments on the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to child sexual exploitation and include in the [Annual] report information on the outcome of these assessments. This should include an analysis of how the LSCB partners have used their data to promote service improvement for vulnerable children and families, including in respect of sexual abuse. The report should also include appropriate data on children missing from care, and how the LSCB is addressing the issue."*

(Working Together 2015 Chapter 3 para 18)

4. Local Context

In Worcestershire the main response to CSE has been led through the Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) although individual agencies have also acted according to their own drivers.

WSCB launched the Child Sexual Exploitation Pathway in August 2013. This sets out a clear pathway for referrals and response to child specific concerns with operational oversight delivered through a monthly multi-agency panel.

Targeted training of staff to raise awareness and to ensure understanding of the pathway and procedures has also taken place. WSCB also makes available an e-learning module for all agencies. The WSCB Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group has responsibility for the strategic oversight of child sexual exploitation and produced its first CSE Report for the Board in November 2014

WSCB is required to both be assured and to provide assurance that large scale and organised CSE is not present in Worcestershire and that the mechanisms are in place to identify, support and protect potential victims from further harm. A great deal of work has been undertaken to develop the pathway for CSE referrals and whilst the numbers of identified victims is relatively low (as opposed to the numbers of children and young people about whom there have been concerns), we do not, however, know what we do not know as the identification of actual victims is not easy. Taking a broader view, it is clear that the focus of co-ordinated multi-agency activity has been predominantly on protection and that prevention and the pursuit of perpetrator activities are both also in need of development. This strategy therefore focuses on how WSCB progresses this work with partner agencies.

*Child sexual exploitation is not exclusive to any single community, race or religion.
There is no culture in which sexual abuse is not a serious crime*

(HM Government, 2015:4)

WSCB is committed to raising awareness of child sexual exploitation locally. As such the WSCB Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group is working to incorporate a national and regionally accepted dataset within performance management data to capture and collate the existing CSE picture in Worcestershire. To date, the evidence suggests that CSE exists in Worcestershire on a relatively small and generally individualised scale, with no evidence of a link to gangs, organised crime or any specific minority ethnic group. There is also no indication that disclosures or reporting have been ignored as was the case in Rotherham.

5. Strategic Principles

This strategy fully supports and accepts as our own principles the four points set out in Louise Casey's report 'Reflections on Child Sexual Exploitation' (March 2015), these being:

That **CSE is child abuse and is a crime**, and our efforts need to be directed towards perpetrators in order to detect, prevent and disrupt that abuse at the earliest stages as well as the prosecution of individual perpetrators to ensure that they face the full force of the criminal justice system for their crimes. These are not mutually exclusive activities.

That **the victims are children**, however they present themselves. They cannot consent to their abuse, all the more given that grooming itself removes any real sense of self determination from these children. There should be no scenarios in which victims are viewed as young women or as making choices.

Thirdly that **CSE is squarely a community safety issue** and local government working with police and others need to make use of community safety tactics and action to keep children safe. The regulatory and enforcement functions of the local authority are vital in preventing and disrupting CSE and in building intelligence which can help with prosecutions. Those in upper tier authorities and district authorities where responsibilities for children's social care and community safety lie in different tiers, have additional partnership challenges, but these can not be insurmountable.

Finally, that local government and the police should not fear seeking out and shining a light on sexual exploitation for fear they may be held to account for what they find. **The failure is not in the existence of CSE but in not recognising it and taking appropriate action.**

WSCB's aim is to deliver an effective system and infrastructure to address Child Sexual Exploitation across the children's partnership underpinned by the following principles:

- CSE is a form of child abuse which can involve the sexual, physical and emotional abuse of children as well as neglect
- Children do not make informed choices to enter into or remain within sexually exploitative situations, as they do so via coercion, manipulation, grooming and/or other forms of enticement
- Children under 16 years cannot consent to sexual activity with an adult, and sexual activity with a child aged less than 13 years is statutory rape
- Children who are sexually exploited will experience difficulty and/or confusion around their autonomy to make choices, and their understanding around sex, sexuality and the sexual activity into which they have been coerced
- Sexually exploited children must be treated as victims of child abuse, and not as offenders
- Help and support to families should be tailored to their individual needs and circumstances, taking into account sexuality, gender, physical disability or learning disabilities, those from ethnic communities, and those with additional language needs
- Law enforcement efforts must involve disruption of sexually exploitative activity, and target offenders as sexual abusers, who may be adult, but could also be the child's peers and/or other young people. CSE is one of those problems where silo working is actively harmful to the protection of children and stopping offenders
- It is essential that the 'voice of the child' is heard and agencies actively engage with children and young people to provide them with the opportunity to tell their own story, to seek to understand the child/young person's perspective, experience and the impact of this upon them.

6. Key Priorities

WSCB recognises the requirement to understand the scale of child sexual exploitation in the local area and to continue to develop a local 'problem profile'. In line with this WSCB's key priorities are as follows:

Prevention and Education

Overarching priority: Increasing knowledge and understanding of CSE, including the development of protective factors, across children and young people (to include victim focus), the children and young people's workforce and local communities

Key target areas:

- Undertake a public awareness campaign
- All schools to deliver a CSE awareness programme to children and young people, tailored to their age
- All staff to receive awareness training
- Develop a means of evaluating the effectiveness of the staff training programme

Recognition and Identification

Overarching priority: Providing information and tools to support the identification of potential indicators of CSE; providing and publishing agreed models of assessment; and agreed protocols for the effective sharing of information across the multi-agency partnership

Key target areas:

- Identify vulnerable children for potential sexual exploitation and develop a risk assessment framework and pathway to protect them
- Develop professional curiosity amongst front line staff to ensure they look for and act on signs of potential CSE (particularly social workers, Health workers and school staff)
- Identification of vulnerable children who have the potential to become perpetrators
- Promote the crucial importance of effective information sharing

Intervention and Support

Overarching priority: Drawing on models of recognised good practice to develop local responses; tailoring intervention and support to individuals; and mapping and publicising a range of available intervention/support services

Key target areas:

- Develop different methods/casework suited to CSE
- Develop victim and family specialised support
- Develop community safety, regulatory and taxi licensing functions (consider a Partnership Enforcement Team)

Pursue and Disrupt

Overarching priority: Being pro-active across multi agency partnerships to identify, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of child sexual exploitation through criminal or civil means

Key target areas:

- Align cross-border arrangements with neighbouring areas/regions
- Develop an ongoing problem profile, mapping hot spots and keep relevant agencies informed
- Use criminal and civil powers wherever possible to bring to justice perpetrators who exploit and abuse children

Appendix 2 outlines how these priorities will be met.

7. Governance and Accountability

WSCB has statutory responsibility for co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in each partner agency and collectively. It will therefore hold partners to account for their individual arrangements and challenge any silo working to ensure children are properly protected from CSE and perpetrators are stopped. Full ownership and responsibility for the effective delivery of this strategy lies with individual agencies and with Board members collectively. More specifically, the Board will:

- ensure that the needs of children and young people who have been or may be sexually exploited, and their families, have been considered when planning and commissioning local services
- provide analysed and reconciled data that is shared with relevant agencies, building a composite picture of CSE in Worcestershire over time
- routinely seek assurance of the effectiveness of the CSE strategy, building its implementation into its operational planning and reporting mechanisms
- undertake regular assessments on the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to CSE and include the outcomes in its Annual Report
- monitor the sharing of information protocol to ensure this is not a barrier to effective working in CSE cases
- work with other local partnerships to co-ordinate any CSE activity, particularly Community Safety Partnerships
- work with other regional/national groups to develop a co-ordinated approach and learn from best practice
- ensure its governance structure has clear lines of accountability for CSE (see Appendix X for proposed arrangements)
- ensure that delivery of the strategy is properly supported
- provide external assurance as appropriate that CSE is being properly tackled and managed in Worcestershire

8. Monitoring and Review

The implementation of this strategy will initially be overseen by the Strategic CSE Group and then by the Vulnerable Children Sub-Group with regular reporting to WSCB. Key measures of its effectiveness will include evidence of:

- Prevention being managed through staff awareness of CSE – knowing how to spot it and taking appropriate action
- Knowledge of the perpetrators and hot-spots
- Responding to CSE victims in a timely and suitable manner to meet their needs and wishes

The strategy will be reviewed annually by WSCB, or updated more frequently if required, to ensure it is making a difference to the children and young people of Worcestershire involved in CSE

Appendix 1

Policy and Legislation

1. "Dealing with Child Sexual Exploitation" March 2015 Government Response

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation--2>

2. HM Government (2009) *Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation* 2009

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278849/Safeguarding_Children_and_Young_People_from_Sexual_Exploitation.pdf

3. HM Government (2015) *Working Together to Safeguard Children*

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf

4. HM Government (2003) *Sexual Offences Act* 2003

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/section/3>

5. WSCB Safeguarding Children Who May have been Trafficked 2009:

http://westmerciaconsortium.proceduresonline.com/chapters/g_sg_trafficked.html

6. Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board Guidance, Policy and Procedures:

<http://westmerciaconsortium.proceduresonline.com/>

7. Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-police-bill>

WSCB Guidance for Practitioners *Child Sexual Exploitation*

Practitioner guidance can be found at:

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/550/practitioner_guidance_august_2013

Appendix 2

WSCB Action Plan for Implementation

Key Priority 1 Prevention and Education Overarching priority: Increasing knowledge and understanding of CSE, including the development of protective factors, across children and young people (to include victim focus), the children and young people's workforce and local communities				
Key Target Areas/Objectives				
1.1 Undertake a public awareness campaign				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable body	Timeframe
1.1.1 Commission a communications / publicity campaign based on best practice across the region, including the publicising of helplines and support centres	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People/Head of Corporate Communications – West Mercia Police	Options report to Board and decision made	West Mercia Police	End November 2015
1.1.2 Draw up a timed action plan including media engagement	WSCB Business Support Team	Timed action plan produced	Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board	End November 2015

1.1.3 Undertake the campaign and evaluate it	WSCB Business Support Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase in levels of awareness •Increase in CSE referrals received 	Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board	Campaign : January 2016 Evaluation : March 2016
1.2 All schools to deliver a CSE awareness programme to children and young people, tailored to their age				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable body	Timeframe
1.2.1 The Board to develop and endorse a 'whole school' model for raising CSE awareness, in line with the Children's Commissioner's report: 'If only someone had listened' (Nov 2013), and to evaluate its impact. This will include the production of a menu of resources for use in schools.	WSCB Head Teacher Reps	Numbers of schools implementing Whole School Approach. (Including academies, post 16, and independent schools)	WSCB Head Teacher's Group	December 2015
1.2.2 WSCB to seek assurance that schools and FE colleges are raising awareness of CSE within their own organisation.	Chair of the Monitoring Effectiveness Group	Percentage of schools evidencing they have a robust programme in place for raising awareness	Monitoring Effectiveness Sub Group	July 2016

1.3 All staff to receive training in line with their role and responsibilities.				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
<p>1.3.1 Review existing CSE training strategy and refresh in line with CSE Strategy 2015-2017.</p> <p>To include training pathway, suite of training materials and evaluation framework.</p>	Chair of WSCB Workforce Development Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training strategy covers all elements of the CSE Strategy 2015-18 • Practitioners and managers have a clear understanding of their training requirements • Staff are trained at the appropriate level for their role and responsibilities. 	Improving Frontline Practice Sub Group	November 2015
<p>1.3.2 Ensure that commissioners of services to children young people and their families make CSE training a requirement within their contracting processes from a given date</p>	Individual agencies (TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSE training is a requirement for all commissioned services • Assurance is provided through the S11 Audit undertaken by WSCB 	Monitoring Effectiveness Sub Group	January 2016
<p>1.3.3 Evaluate effectiveness of training strategy through the WSCB annual audit of training and workforce development</p>	Chair of the Monitoring Effectiveness Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of agencies providing assurance that all staff are trained at the appropriate level • Increased awareness/ 	Monitoring Effectiveness Sub Group	End March 2016

		confidence levels		
Key Priority 2				
Recognition and Identification				
Overarching priority: Providing information and tools to support the identification of potential indicators of CSE; providing and publishing agreed models of assessment; and agreed protocols for the effective sharing of information across the multi-agency partnership				
Key Target Areas/Objectives				
2.1 Identify vulnerable children for potential sexual exploitation and develop a risk assessment framework and pathway to protect them				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
2.1.1 All key statutory partners to devise a flagging protocol for those deemed to be at risk of child sexual exploitation; NHS, GPs, Sexual Health, CAMHS.	Missing, CSE and Trafficking Subgroup Chair	Establishment of flagging process within each agency, and numbers of children identified as at risk.	CSE Strategic Group	September - December 2015
2.1.2 Work with pharmacies to develop a checklist for identifying those at risk of CSE to improve early identification of risk, and	Chair of Missing, CSE and Trafficking Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Checklist developed •Increase in numbers of children flagged to MASH 	CSE Strategic Group	30 September 2015

information sharing. To include GP dispensing surgeries and school nurses.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase in risk assessments undertaken 		
2.1.3 Identification of care providers within Worcestershire to create closer links (see 2.1.2)	Missing Person Co-ordinator within the Police/ Chair of Missing, CSE and Trafficking Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •List of care providers maintained within Children’s social care – including 16+ and independent providers •Increase in numbers of children flagged to MASH •Increase in risk assessments undertaken. 	CSE Strategic Group	End October 2015
2.1.4 Embed widely existing screening tool to support the assessment and management of risk (links with 1.3.1) Develop and embed risk indicator toolkit for professionals	Chair of Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Percentage of referrals where screening tool has been completed •Risk indicator toolkit available for professionals 	CSE Strategic Group	November 2015 November 2015
2.1.5 Complete full review of existing CSE Pathway to align with CSE Strategy 2015-18	Chair of Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group	Refreshed pathway in place	CSE Strategic Group	July 2015

2.2 Develop professional curiosity amongst front line staff to ensure they look for and act on signs of potential CSE (particularly social workers, Health workers and school staff)				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
2.2.1 Ensure CSE Training Strategy and materials include specific reference to learning about the need to exercise professional curiosity.(Links to 2.1.1)	Chair of Workforce Development Group	Increased reporting of CSE concerns across all key partners.	Improving Frontline Practice Sub Group	November 2015
2.3 Identification of vulnerable children who have the potential to become perpetrators				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
2.3.1 Scope national good practice in the emerging field of understanding children who have the potential to become perpetrators.	YOS within Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group	Scoping completed within time scale	Vulnerable Children Sub Group	November 2015
2.3.2 Review toolkit to assist professionals to identify children who have the potential to become perpetrators.	YOS within Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group	Toolkit produced and promoted through WSCB website.	Vulnerable Children Sub Group	January 2016

2.4 Promote the crucial importance of effective information sharing				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
2.4.1 Develop an information sharing agreement between all partners which differentiates between different levels of information required and the processes for sharing information	Chair of MASH Operational Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Establishment of internal information sharing pathways within and between agencies re CSE •Increase in numbers of children flagged to Access Centre •Increase in numbers of children flagged to MASH •Increase in risk assessments undertaken 	CSE Strategic Group	September 2015
<p>Key Priority 3</p> <p>Intervention and Support</p> <p>Overarching priority: Drawing on models of recognised good practice to develop local responses ; tailoring intervention and support to individuals; and mapping and publicising a range of available intervention/support services</p>				
<p>Key Target Areas/Objectives</p> <p>3.1 Develop different methods/casework suited to CSE</p>				

Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
3.1.1 Each child or young person identified at risk of CSE or experiencing CSE has a completed CSE risk assessment and management of risk plan	Chair of Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group /Chair of CSE Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Proportion of completed assessments and risk management plans •Repeat MACFA findings demonstrate robust risk management plans 	CSE Strategic Group	November 2015
3.1.2 Develop links with adult safeguarding to ensure transition for those young adults still at risk of exploitation.	Independent Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Adult safeguarding representative on Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group; MASH •Transition protocol for those from children's social care to adult social care updated to refer to CSE •Providers for 16+ have clear pathway written for CSE safeguarding for client. 	Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board	December 2015
3.1.3 Develop CSE Communication strategy for a range of media and audiences (Links with 1.1)	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People/Head of Corporate Communications – West Mercia Police	CSE Communications Strategy in place	CSE Strategic Group	October 2015

3.1.4 Develop protocol for information sharing and management of risk re CSE with care providers to include the flagging of CSE concerns when children are placed in or outside of county.	Head of Assessment and Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Protocol established and embedded •Increase in children flagged as being at risk of CSE •Evidence that risk management plans are in place. 	CSE Strategic Group	November 2015
3.2 Develop victim and family specialised support				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
3.2.1 Undertake a needs assessment to map existing support services and to identify gaps in provision for children at risk of CSE (To include research into established good practice)	Designated Nurse/Strategic Lead for Early Help and Partnerships	Assurance that appropriate services are in place	CSE Strategic Group	December 2015
3.2.2 Ensure West Mercia SARC has adopted training, facilities and pathways to address the needs of sexually exploited children and young people in Worcestershire.	The Glade management reporting through Missing children, CSE and Trafficking Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assurance that SARC links directly with CSE pathway •Documented evidence of CSE provision for staff within the SARC. 	CSE Strategic Group	September 2015

3.3 Develop community safety, regulatory and taxi licensing functions (consider a Partnership Enforcement Team)				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
3.3.1 District Community Safety Partnerships Tasking Groups to receive CSE intelligence and implement a partnership response to identified 'hot spots' in consultation with the Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group	Community Safety Partnership (North and South)	CSP multi-agency action plan in place for each identified 'hot spot'.	Safer Communities Board	October 2015
3.3.2 Community Safety Partnerships to encourage links with existing prevention and disruption strategies, e.g. Nightsafe and Street Pastor initiatives	Community Safety Partnership (North and South)	Completion of actions contained within CSP Partnership Plan (North and South)	Safer Communities Board	March 2016
3.3.3 Community Safety Partnerships to develop and incorporate CSE responsibilities within their annual Partnership Plan, taking a proactive approach to identification, risk assessment and evidence	Community Safety Partnership (North and South)	CSE responsibilities clearly set and monitored as part of the North and South Partnership Plan.	Safer Communities Board	December 2015

gathering				
3.3.4 Undertake a CSE awareness raising campaign with Hackney carriage and private hire licenced drivers/operators	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Guidance issued to all licence holders upon annual renewal of licences •CSE awareness raising rolled out through district taxi forums and liaison meetings 	WRS Joint Committee (WRS Board from April 2016)	From July 2015 (review in 6 months)
3.3.5 Undertake a CSE awareness raising campaign with licenced premises in in partnership with the CSP District Tasking Groups, e.g. Nightsafe in Worcester Pub Watch in Redditch and Bromsgrove town centres	Worcestershire Regulatory Services and Community Safety Partnerships	Issuing and dissemination of information to licenced premises with a focus on 'hotspot' areas	WRS Board	December 2015
3.3.6 District Council Licence Committee Members to be made aware of CSE responsibilities	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	CSE awareness training is incorporated into Licence Committee Member inductions	WRS Joint Committee & Partner Licensing Committees (WRS Board from April 2016)	September 2015

3.3.7 Develop CSE guidance for Bed and Breakfast providers, hostels and HMO Licencing	District Council Strategic Housing Officers	Guidance developed and disseminated.	Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership (WSHP)	January 2016
3.3.8 Review the need for a partnership enforcement team following refreshed problem profile and increased awareness raising	Chair of CSE Strategic Group	Review completed and decision made.	CSE Strategic Group	March 2016
Key Priority 4 Pursue and Disrupt: Overarching priority: Being pro-active across multi agency partnerships to identify, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of child sexual exploitation through criminal or civil means				
Key Target Areas/Objectives 4.1 Align cross-border arrangements with neighbouring areas/regions				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
4.1.1 To ensure that appropriate intelligence is shared regionally with partners	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, West Mercia Police	Evidence of sharing at regional level	Police Strategic CSE Group	November 2015

4.1.2 To ensure relevant intelligence from areas other than Worcestershire is shared with partners to maximise safeguarding	Operational Lead for CSE, Police	Effective CSE problem profile incorporating multi-agency information and regional threats and intelligence	CSE Strategic Group	November 2015
4.1.3 Embed PPRC (People Presenting a Risk to Children) information sharing within agencies to ensure that those who perpetrate CSE within statutory and collaborating agencies are identified and managed accordingly (Links to 2.4.1)	Chair of Missing Children, CSE and Trafficking Group	PPRC information guidance published on WSCB website.	CSE Strategic Group	30 September 2015
4.2 Develop an ongoing problem profile, mapping hot spots and keep relevant agencies informed				
Action	Action Owner	Measure	Accountable Body	Timeframe
4.2.1 Production of an annually refreshed Alliance CSE problem profile, to be informed by data from police and other partners	Head of Head of Protecting Vulnerable People– West Mercia Police /Chair of CSE Strategic Group	Document to be made available annually to the LSCB.	CSE Strategic Group	31 October 2015
4.2.2 LSCB to agree a				

common dataset for CSE in line with national good practice	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, Police/Chair of CSE Strategic Group	Dataset agreed and implemented	CSE Strategic Group	30 September 2015
4.3 Use criminal and civil powers wherever possible to bring to justice perpetrators who exploit and abuse children				
Actions	Action Owner	Measure		Timeframe
4.3.1 Utilise ancillary and civil orders to maximum effect to assist investigation, restrict and manage offenders and support victims	Police/YOS/Probation/CRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Data showing numbers and type of orders obtained •Number of breaches of orders •Number of abduction notices served 	CSE Strategic Group	November 2015
4.3.2 CSE investigations are driven by appropriately accredited staff	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, Police	Numbers of SC Abuse Investigation Development Programme and Achieving Best Evidence accredited investigators	CSE Strategic Group	Nov 2015
4.3.3 Adoption of appropriate screening tool to assist in identification of CSE	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, Police	Increase in numbers of children identified	CSE Strategic Group	30 September 2015
4.3.4 Maximise potential for forensic recovery with appropriate investigative strategies and training for	Head of Protecting	Compliance with HMIC child protection recommendations and delivery of Alliance CSE	CSE Strategic	31 March 2016

officers	Vulnerable People, Police	Action Plan	Group	
4.3.5 Establish a proper framework to investigate on-line CSE, appropriately resourced, with the necessary skill set	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Utilise a Nationally accredited risk assessment tool for on-line CSE •Toolkit for officers for on-line CSE 	CSE Strategic Group	September 2015
4.3.6 Ensure that hi-tech capabilities are keeping pace with new and emerging patterns of offending and able to meet increasing demand	Head of Protecting Vulnerable People, Police	Sufficient resources within the Hi-tech capability and equipment to meet demand	CSE Strategic Group	1 January 2016

Appendix 3

Child Sexual Exploitation Useful Resources:

1. "Research into gang-associated sexual exploitation and sexual violence; Interim Report", Beckett, H et al (2012) pub: University of Bedfordshire

http://www.beds.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/215873/GASV_Interim.pdf

2. "If only someone had listened", Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, Final Report (November 2013) Sue Berelowitz, et al

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_743

3. Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation

<http://www.paceuk.info/>

4. National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day:

<http://www.stop-cse.org/national-child-exploitation-awareness-day/>

5. National Working Group Network for Child Sexual Exploitation

<http://www.nwgnetwork.org/>

6. Just Whistle (no date) *Prevention Protection and Investigation* (on line)

<http://www.justwhistle.org.uk/index.php/home/whats-on/prevention-protection-and-investigation>

7. National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People (2008) *Sexual Exploitation Intervention Diagram* (on line)

<http://www.nationalworkinggroup.org/what-is-child-sexual-exploitation/sexual-exploitation-intervention-diagram>

Appendix 4

Models of Grooming and exploitation

Grooming

Grooming may take place face to face and can occur over a long period of time or relatively quickly. Grooming using the internet and mobile technology is increasingly common. Along with the significant risk in the use of mobile phones, including Bluetooth technology, perpetrators target children and young people through online sites, games and through picture messaging and texting.

Child sexual exploitation can occur in a variety of settings and may involve one or more person. Barnados has identified three different sexual exploitation abuse models . Examples of quotes from young people are also included below.

Abuse model 1

Inappropriate Relationships

This usually involves one abuser who has inappropriate power – physical, emotional or financial - or control over a young person. The young person may believe that they have a genuine friendship or loving relationship with the abuser.

Abuse model 2

Boyfriend model and Peer exploitation, also known as party model

The abuser grooms the victim by striking up a normal relationship with them, giving them gifts and meeting in cafes/fast food outlets or shopping centres. A seemingly consensual sexual relationship develops but later turns abusive.

Victims are required to attend parties and sleep with multiple men and threatened with violence if they try to seek help. They may also be required to introduce their friends as new victims.

Abuse Model 3

Organised exploitation and trafficking

Young people are passed through networks, possibly over geographical distances, between towns and cities where they may be forced/coerced into sexual activity with multiple men. Often this occurs at 'sex parties' and young people who are involved

may be used as agents to recruit others into the network. Some of this activity is described as serious organised crime and can involve the organised buying and selling of young people by perpetrators.

Organised exploitation varies from spontaneous networking between groups of perpetrators to more serious organised crime where young people are effectively 'sold'. These activities are described as 'internal trafficking' or 'trafficking for child sexual exploitation.'

Victims of sexual exploitation may also be used as agents to recruit other children and young people and in some cases a young person may be both a perpetrator and a victim of CSE.

Sexual exploitation can be group and gang associated. Group associated exploitation refers to the number of perpetrators involved.

Gang Associated CSE

Research undertaken by Beckett et al (2012) outlined key features of gang-associated sexual violence and exploitation that are unique to, or exacerbated by, the gang environment:

- Using sex as a means of initiating young people into a gang;
- Sexual activity in return for (perceived) status or protection;
- Young women 'setting up' people in other gangs;
- Establishing a relationship with, or feigning sexual interest in, a rival gang member as a means of entrapment; and
- Sexual assault as a weapon in conflict.

*"Research into gang-associated sexual exploitation and sexual violence,"
(2012)*

Examples of quotes from young people

1. 'I was 12 maybe a wee bit older, and I remember my mummy run out of drink and she says to me, there was fellas in the house and she says to one of them to take me up the stairs and she got me to go with this man for a bottle of vodka for her.'
(Beckett 2011)

2. 'There was a guy running parties for sex. What was described to me was someone initially looking after you, taking you out, buying you clothes, looking after you, giving you lots of emotion and care. Then there were parties where other girls were there and it became a going upstairs with one person type of thing, but then it

came down to being the only girl with four or five men and it became quite frightening. There was also a separate pornography side to it, and they were getting pulled in to that as well.' (Beckett 2011)

3. 'We have a young woman at the moment who is Eastern European and was trafficked here and continues to be exploited by people. She lives with her parents but we reckon she is being sold on a regular basis. Well, she says she lives with her parents but we aren't entirely sure if they are her parents. She is saying she is 17, but we suspect she's more like 14.' (Beckett 2011)

4. Sexual exploitation that involves one or multiple perpetrators who are themselves gang associated and where the CSE takes place as a form of introduction or inter-gang related violence. (Office of Children's Commissioner 2012)



Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren

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EXECUTIVE

13th OCTOBER 2015**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2016/17-2018/19 – BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS**

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 recommend the budget assumptions to be used in preparing the detailed 2016/17 budget and provisional budgets for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Executive recommend to Council that the revenue assumptions detailed in 3.5 be incorporated into the budget setting process.**

3. KEY ISSUES**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The Council is legally obliged to set a balanced budget. The budget setting process is complex and must be undertaken in a planned way. It is equally important that assumptions used in the preparation of the budget are agreed, reasonable and consistently applied by all services. A number of recommendations from the Councils External Auditors, Grant Thornton, are addressed by ensuring robust assumptions and a transparent planned approach is undertaken when agreeing the budget.
- 3.2 Officers are aiming to link the costs associated with delivering the Strategic Purposes of the Council across the whole organisation. This will enable Members to have a wider understanding of the whole costs with delivery rather than the departmental approach that has been seen in previous years. This new financial modelling will be trailed within specific areas to ensure a clear and transparent framework is in place for Members considerations.
- 3.3 In addition members have previously agreed that the following principles would be the focus of the Medium Term Financial plan :

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- Reduce enabling costs
- Identifying waste and removing this from the system and its associated costs
- Design new systems for delivery to meet customer demand

3.4 The budget forecast has been based on a number of assumptions, known levels of expenditure and anticipated levels of resources. Final confirmation of these assumptions will not be finalised until December this year. There are a number of areas of the Council's budget where risks to the projections contained in this report have been identified. The most significant of these are:-

- The new Government is to set out its spending plans early in the new parliament; this will have a significant impact on local government funding.
- The Finance Settlement for Redditch Borough Council - the level of resources received from Central Government from the Revenue Support Grant may be different to those assumed. The decrease assumed for 2016/17- 2018/19 is 5% per year
- Monitoring of the 2015/16 budget will provide Executive with regular updates on any pressures/savings for the Council. Any associated on going implications will be incorporated into the budget projections for 2016/17 and future years.
- Savings – The level of savings required for 2016/17, 2017/18 are currently being considered. It is accepted that the savings require clear monitoring to ensure they are being delivered.
- Specific Grants and Contributions – The number and amount of specific grants received by the Council may be lower/higher than anticipated. The budget assumes no increase or reduction in specific grants. If the grant decreases, the associated expenditure must also be reduced to reflect the reduction in the grant received.
- Council Tax – Central Government provided a cap on the amount of Council Tax increase a Local Authority could make before a referendum of the local residents was required. Officers have assumed a 1.9% increase in 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19. This assumption will be reviewed as further announcements are made on both a Referendum and Council Tax Freeze Grants for the relevant years.
- Council Services- The impact of the economic climate on the residents of Redditch Borough and the increased demand this

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may have for Council Services could impact on cost of services as could general demographic changes.

- Inflation - Impact of changes in the price of goods and services used by the Council compared to the percentage assumed in the budget projections.
- Fees and charges income – Impact of any economic slowdown on levels of usage of charged for Council services could lead to income levels not being achieved.

- 3.5 The Council while setting the budget is working within a time of significant financial uncertainty. The potential implications to the Council of the Chancellor's budget statement on the 8th July, the consultation on the budget for 2016/17 over the summer and the proposed reduction in Central Government's departmental budgets, could be significant. The impact for individual Local Authorities will not be known until provisional figures are released in December 2015 following the Comprehensive Spending Review in late November. The Chancellor announced in his Spring Statement that the level of reduction would be at the same rate as over the previous parliament.
- 3.6 The timing of the Provisional Funding Settlement in means that this report is based on the available information at this point in time. Future reports will make Executive aware of any changes that impact on the current budget assumptions.
- 3.7 As part of the budget setting process the Council makes a number of assumptions in respect of the key elements of the Council's revenue budget. The following paragraphs in this section outline the areas where these assumptions are made.

Council Tax

The budget assumes an increase in Council Tax for 2016/17, 2017/18, and 2018/19 of 1.9%. Central Government has yet to announce plans to freeze Council Tax for 2016/17.

Pay Inflation

The budget assumes that the pay award will be 1% for 2016/17 to 2018/19. The budget also includes payment of the Living Wage for all staff. Should a decision be made on the implementation of Job Evaluation, the impact of this will be included in the budget projections.

Superannuation Rates

The employer superannuation contribution rate increases are 12.8% in 2016/17, 13.3% in 2017/18 and 2018/19. These are based on the advice by Worcestershire Pension Fund. The next valuation of the fund

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is due in 2016, therefore the rate of increase assumed for 2016/17 and 2018/19 are subject to change following this valuation.

Price Inflation

The budget assumes 0% inflation across the majority of the Council's non-pay expenditure budgets including grants that the Council gives out. Contractual arrangements and other significant inflation issues will be considered on a case by case basis.

Discretionary Fees and Charges

Fees and Charges are reviewed on an annual basis and officers assess the impact of increases in income charges on the demand on the services. When the financial plan was set it was assumed that inflation would be at a level of 3% over the 3 year period. The cost of Council services increases annually by a number of factors, not just general inflation, including; the nationally set pay award which is estimated at 1% together with the increase in customer demand on our services. It is recommended that, in line with the current Medium Term Financial Plan the increase for 2016/17 to 2018/19 be 3% as there would be further shortfalls to be funded if this level of increase was not implemented.

3.8 Capital

A review of the capital programme is currently being undertaken. This review will provide a three year capital programme for 2016/17 to 2018/19 taking into consideration the estimated reduction in capital resources and the limited revenue funding available for Capital Schemes in these years. A report to Executive in December will recommend a Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2018/19 for consideration .

3.9 HRA

A review of the HRA budget, Business Plan and rent setting implications is currently being undertaken and a report will be presented to Executive in December with the recommended budget for the medium term. This will include the 1% rent reduction implications on the HRA income levels.

- 3.10 This is an initial report on the budget process which identifies the decision making, assumptions. The forecasts will be refined over the coming months and further reports will be presented to Executive leading up to the approval of the budget and Council Tax in February 2016.

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Legal Implications

- 3.11 The Council is under a duty to calculate the budget in accordance with Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and must make three calculations namely:
- An estimate of the Council's gross revenue expenditure; an estimate of anticipated income and a calculation of the difference between the two. The amount of the budget requirement must be sufficient to meet the Council's budget commitments and ensure a balanced budget. The amount of the budget requirement must leave the Council with adequate financial reserves. The level of budget requirement must not be unreasonable having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its Council Tax payers and non-domestic rate payers.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.12 Budget Holders will prepare budgets to enable services to be delivered to meet the Councils Strategic Purposes. It is expected that officers will work across the organisation to establish financial projections that best meet the wider community needs and identify any savings or additional income to fund any budget shortfalls.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.13 Clarity on budget assumptions will ensure services are delivered to meet customer needs and expectations

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The risks associated with the budget process and calculations mainly relate to the uncertainties around external funding and the resulting pressures on the budget. To mitigate this risk officers work on a number of scenarios to ensure all options can be reported to members in a timely fashion.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**13th October 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.	Planning Advisory Panel	Chair: <u>Cllr Greg Chance</u> / Vice-Chair: Cllr Bill Hartnett Ruth Bamford	Meeting dates: Tuesday 8th September Tuesday 13th October Tuesday 15th December Tuesday 12th January 2016 Tuesday 2nd February Tuesday 8th March Tuesday 19th April

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**13th October 2015

2.	Housing Advisory Panel	Chair: <u>Cllr Mark Shurmer</u> / Vice-Chair: <u>Cllr Bill Hartnett</u> Liz Tompkin	Last meeting – 18th March 2015.
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B. OTHER MEETINGS

3.	Constitutional Review Working Party	Chair: <u>Cllr Bill Hartnett</u> / Vice-Chair: <u>Cllr John Fisher</u> Sheena Jones	Last meeting – 27 th January 2015
4.	Member Support Steering Group	Chair: <u>Cllr John Fisher</u> / Vice-Chair: <u>Cllr Bill Hartnett</u> Sheena Jones	Next meeting – to be arranged.
5.	Grants Assessment Panel	Chair: Cllr David Bush / Vice-Chair: <u>Cllr Greg Chance</u>	Last meeting – 28 th September Panel meetings for major grants planned in December

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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