



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thu 21 Mar
2019
6.30 pm

Committee Room Two
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 21st March, 2019

6.30 pm

Committee Room 2 - Town Hall
Redditch

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Joe Baker (Chair)	Pattie Hill
	Debbie Chance (Vice-Chair)	Anthony Lovell
	Joanne Beecham	Gemma Monaco
	Michael Chalk	Jennifer Wheeler
	Andrew Fry	

1. Apologies and named substitutes

2. Declarations of interest and of Party Whip

To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and / or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests, and any Party Whip.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2019 (Pages 1 - 8)

4. Bus Services - Interview with Representatives of Diamond Bus Services (Pages 9 - 10)

5. Pre-decision Scrutiny - Matchborough and Winyates District Centre - Outcomes of Soft market Testing - To follow

6. Public Speaking Report (Pages 11 - 14)

7. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Recommendation Tracker (Pages 15 - 24)

8. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19 (Pages 25 - 46)

9. Task Group Reviews - Draft Scoping Documents (Pages 47 - 52)

Scoping Documents in respect of the following subject have been submitted for Members' consideration:

a) Suicide Prevention – Submitted by Councillor Debbie Chance

10. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 53 - 70)

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11. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 71 - 74)

12. Task Groups, Short Sharp Reviews and Working Groups - Update Reports

- a) Budget Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Fry
- b) Performance Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Fry

13. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports (Pages 75 - 76)

- a) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Council representative, Councillor Chalk; and
- b) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Council representative, Councillor Chalk.



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Wednesday, 20th February, 2019

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Joe Baker (Chair), and Councillors Salman Akbar, Michael Chalk, Andrew Fry, Pattie Hill, Anthony Lovell, Gemma Monaco, Yvonne Smith and Mark Shurmer

Officers:

Jayne Pickering

Democratic Services Officers:

J Bayley and F Mughal

89. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Joanne Beecham, Debbie Chance and Jennifer Wheeler. It was confirmed that Councillors Salman Akbar, Mark Shurmer and Yvonne Smith were attending as their respective substitutes.

90. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

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

91. MINUTES

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4th February, 2019 were submitted for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4th February, 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

.....
Chair

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92. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - PROPOSED BUDGET - CONSIDERING SCRUTINY PROPOSALS

The Executive Director of Finance and Resources provided Members with an update on the proposed budget in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 – 2022/23 and stated that the budget would be considered by the Executive Committee on 25th February, 2019.

Members were informed that this was a four year plan which contained a number of assumptions to update it in line with the revised calculations and information from officers and Government.

At the beginning of the year it had been assumed that there would be a £475,000 gap in 2019/20. The report set out how this gap had been addressed and how the budget had been balanced.

The Executive Director of Finance and Resources highlighted the key features as follows:

- Efficiency savings and unidentified pressures.
- There was a statutory requirement that the budgets must balance in the final year.
- Negative Revenue Support Grant – the projections included the removal of the £331k negative grant payment to Government, however, there was uncertainty about whether the Council would have to pay this in future years;
- There was an assumption that the New Homes Bonus Scheme might change. This would have a significant impact on the budget moving forward.

Members were further advised that there was a level of uncertainty around the funding available from Government from 2020/21 onwards. Members were referred to the table within the report which outlined the position should the New Homes Bonus not be available and with no reallocation of central funding to offset the shortfall of £1.1 million. Members noted that this would place the Council's finances in a very precarious position over the next four years.

Members also noted the pay policy statement. The revised pay model had been approved pending consultation with the unions. With regards to the Council Tax, Members were proposing to increase it by 2.2 per cent rather than the 2.9 per cent maximum available to the Council without triggering a referendum.

Members subsequently discussed the following points:

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- Heads of Services, together with the Portfolio Holders, were reviewing the needs of service customers and ongoing conversations with Members were being undertaken to address the Council's budget challenges. There was a major concern in respect of balancing the budget for the Council. Members were advised that the Council review the services delivered and the vision for future years.
- Clarity was sought whether Seven Trent Water contributed towards the Council's budget for the North Worcestershire Water Management service.
- Members raised concerns in respect of the increase to Members remuneration and questions were raised as to whether Members should support this due to the financial challenges facing the Council. Members were advised that the changes had been proposed by the Independent Remuneration Panel, which had conducted a thorough investigation.

Members referred to the funding of £20k which was requested to support the Christmas lights. Concerns were raised that this was a lot of money to pay for the Christmas lights, however, there was uncertainty about whether this was for the running costs of maintaining the lights during the festive period or for the event of the switching on the lights. Members expressed the view that businesses should be asked to contribute to the funding of the lights and that the Council should look at how to generate additional income. Members were advised that similar questions had been raised during the Executive Committee meeting on 5th February 2019. Officers had subsequently advised the Executive committee Members that there had been a saving made by members two years previously for £20k to be taken out of the Christmas Lights budgets for 2019/20 in the hope that external funding could be found to cover the costs. Unfortunately no funds had been forthcoming and no other budgets were available to support the lights for 2019, therefore the £20k bid had been made to support the switch on event this year. The £20k bid that had been placed for 2019 was a one year only bid with a view to revisit options for both external funding and alternative light delivery in future years.

Members acknowledged in order for the Council to address the challenges ahead, the Council needed to look at long-term planning in order to lessen the budget pressures. As part of this the council had to explore options for generating additional income, and Members suggested that this could potentially be derived from introducing charges or a voluntary contribution model for the events delivered by the Council such as the Bonfire night.

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The Executive Director of Finance and Resources stated the Council was encouraging the Government to provide more funding to local government. Responses to the Government's consultation on Fair Funding Arrangement was being submitted by the Council in partnership with a number of other local authorities. The result of this would be reported to Members in due course.

Members also raised concerns about the Redditch Community Lottery Scheme. In particular, concerns were raised around the process and the extent to which the chosen insurance company would continue to work with the Council to reimburse successful participants, should a number of customers win the maximum £25,000 jackpot. Officers agreed to obtain further information about the financial risks of the scheme to the Council.

The chair noted some concerns about the Council's preparation in respect of addressing the budget pressures over the next four years. Members concluded that the Executive Committee should be asked to note the concerns raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Council should investigate the potential to introduce charges for Council events;**
- 2) the Council should review the local authority's assets and look at alternative uses of these assets to generate extra income; and**
- 3) the Executive Committee should note the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's concerns that there are aspects of the budget that haven't been thought out properly, for example the increase in Members' allowances and the long-term financial implications to the Council of the Redditch community lottery.**

93. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES AND SCRUTINY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME - SELECTING ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY

Members considered the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 5th February, 2019 and the Executive Committee's Work Programme from 1st March to 30th June 2019, which was tabled at the meeting.

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Members were informed that the Executive Committee had noted the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's concerns in relation to the Community Lottery Scheme and the recommendations outlined in the report had been endorsed. The Overview and Scrutiny committee's recommendations in respect of the Housing Revenue Improvement Plan were also endorsed by the Executive Committee.

Members also considered the latest edition of the Executive Committee's Work Programme and agreed to pre-scrutinise the New Cemetery Provision.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 5th February 2019 be noted;**
- 2) **the Executive Committee's Work Programme be noted;
and**
- 3) **the following item be included in the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for pre-scrutiny as agreed:**
 - a) **New Cemetery Provision.**

94. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Senior Democratic Services Officer (Redditch) presented the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme. Members were advised that the Private Sector Home Repair Assistance Policy would now be considered by the Executive Committee in June, 2019 and therefore it made sense to delay pre-scrutiny of the report. With regards to the Select Committee Findings and new Government Guidance for Overview and Scrutiny, Members were advised that this had not yet been published. The document would be presented for Members' consideration when it was published.

RESOLVED that

subject to the amendments detailed in the preamble above, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme be noted.

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95. TASK GROUPS, SHORT SHARP REVIEWS AND WORKING GROUPS - VERBAL UPDATES

Budget Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Andrew Fry

Councillor Fry informed Members that at the latest meeting of the Budget Scrutiny Working Group on 15th February, 2019, Members were provided with an update on the Enterprise System (the new finance system). The group had welcomed the new system and felt that this would be more efficient for the Council going forward.

The group had also considered an update on the transfer of Property Services back to the Council from the Place Partnership Ltd and the progress that had been made with this. Staff had been transferred over to the Council and no employees serving Redditch had lost their jobs.

Public consultation had been held by the group with members of the Redditch Community Panel. One of the questions in the consultation process related to the changes to the Council's grants process and another to the new Council lottery. The group had raised some concerns about both processes and had decided to revisit the feedback received in relation to the questions at meetings later in the year. The relevant officers and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s) would be invited to attend to comment on how both processes were working.

Members were advised that the group's third question had asked the public to comment on their priorities for the budget from 2020 onwards. A significant proportion of the respondents had highlighted housing as a priority, though recycling and waste collection services and business support were also popular. Unfortunately the feedback did not help to clarify which aspects of each area were causing concern, with the group recognising that housing could relate to a range of issues including the availability of affordable housing, the quality of Council houses or houses in the private rented sector or even to homelessness levels. The group had agreed to investigate the areas that had been highlighted by the community group as priorities in 2019/20 and their findings would inform recommendations in respect of the Council's budget during the year.

Members were asked to note that only 55 members of the Redditch Community Panel had responded to the group's third question in the consultation process and fewer than that to the other two questions. It was unclear whether this was a typical response rate for surveys circulated amongst members of the community, higher

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than average or lower. However, the group had noted that this was a small number of residents and that further consultation with the public might be required in future.

The committee was informed that the next meeting of the Budget Scrutiny Working Group was arranged to take place on 8th March, 2019.

Performance Scrutiny Working Group

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee raised concerns that the Group was not meeting frequently. And this could undermine its potential to monitor the performance of Council services. Members agreed that the frequency of the group's meeting should be reviewed, and the Chair suggested that at least six meetings should be held each year.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the update reports be noted; and**
- 2) **the Performance scrutiny working Group should review the frequency of its meetings to ensure that at least six meetings take place each year.**

96. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - VERBAL UPDATE

Councillor Chalk advised that there was no further updates to be provided since the last meeting.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.53 pm

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Bus Questions

- 1) What changes, if any, have been made to bus services in Redditch in the last five years?
- 2) How have the changes to bus services been communicated to Redditch residents?
- 3) To what extent are current buses in service energy efficient?
- 4) What are the current strengths of the bus services in Redditch?
- 5) What are the challenges facing bus services in Redditch?
- 6) How can public sector organisations help to address these challenges?
- 7) Is there anything else that you would like to add for our consideration?

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCILOVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21st March 2019

PUBLIC SPEAKING AT MEETINGS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Relevant Lead Member	Councillor Joe Baker, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The report outlines the background to the Council's recent decision to introduce public speaking arrangements for a number of Committees and invites Members to consider which public speaking arrangements to put in place for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** on the following arrangements for public speaking at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings:

- 1) to require members of the public to register in advance of a meeting, *(with the length of time in advance to be determined by the Committee)* in order to speak at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- 2) to set a limit of three or five minutes for each member of the public to speak at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- 3) to set a limit of a maximum of 15 minutes to be dedicated to public speaking at the start of the meeting; and
- 4) to specify any other arrangements considered necessary to enable public speaking at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3. KEY ISSUESBackground

- 3.1 At a meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party (CRWP) on 12th February 2019 Members considered a complaint with regard to the potential for the public to speak at public Committee meetings. Some Committees, including Council, the Executive Committee and Planning Committee, already have arrangements in place which permit Members of the public to speak at

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Committee meetings, subject to providing appropriate notice in accordance with the Council's constitutional requirements. However, public speaking arrangements are not formalised for some other Committees which meet in the public arena, including the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. At these meetings the public can only speak at the discretion of the Chair. The complaint called for residents to be provided with an opportunity to speak at all public Committee meetings.

- 3.2 The CRWP noted that at other local authorities the public are sometimes provided with an opportunity to speak at Committee meetings held in the public. Often a public speaking item will be included early on the agenda and residents can speak at Committee meetings during this item, subject to providing sufficient notice to the Council. Members agreed that a similar arrangement should be introduced at Redditch Borough Council for all Committees which held meetings that were open to the public and which did not already have arrangements in place that would enable the public to speak at those meetings.
- 3.3 The Licensing Committee, which considers and agrees changes to Licensing policies, recently considered a report in respect of public speaking. During this meeting Members agreed that each speaker should be allocated a maximum of three minutes to speak and a total of fifteen minutes would be dedicated to public speaking at the meeting. The Licensing Committee also agreed that members of the public should register to speak by 12 noon on the day of the meeting. As the Overview and Scrutiny Committee also reviews policies and working practices Members may want to consider agreeing a similar approach to public speaking to ensure consistency.

Registration and Public Speaking Content

- 3.4 The Council requires members of the public to register in order to speak at Committee meetings where public speaking arrangements have been in place for some time. For Planning Committee meetings residents are asked to register to speak on a particular item by 12 noon on the day of the Committee meeting.
- 3.5 Officers have reviewed public speaking arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny Committees in other parts of Worcestershire. The following arrangements are in place:
- Bromsgrove District Council – The public may speak at the discretion of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.
 - Malvern Hills District Council – There is a public speaking item at the start of the agenda. Each member of the public may speak for up to five minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes is allocated to public speaking. The public may speak on any issue relating to the general economic, social or environmental well-being or health of the community. Members of the public must register to speak by 9.00am on the working day before the meeting.
 - Worcester City Council – There is an item on the agenda for public speaking. Members of the public may speak about an item on the agenda and can

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speak for a maximum of five minutes about that item. Members of the public must register by 4.30pm the day before the meeting.

- Wychavon District Council – Members of the public are permitted to ask questions, submit evidence for a scrutiny investigation or suggest a scrutiny review. All requests to speak at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must be submitted by 10.00am the day before the meeting. Each resident can speak for a maximum of five minutes unless the Chair determines that more time should be allowed.
- Wyre Forest District Council – Members of the public may register to speak about items on the agenda. They must register by 12 noon the day before the meeting. Up to five members of the public who wish to speak on an item may address the Committee. If more than five people wish to speak on the item they must nominate speakers to talk on their behalf.

- 3.6 In Redditch public speaking could entail residents addressing the Committee regarding their views in respect of a particular item on the agenda. Should this occur Members may wish to agree a short notice period for the registration, potentially similar to that for the Planning Committee.
- 3.7 At the Planning Committee residents are permitted to speak for three minutes on an application and where there are a group of supporters or objectors they are allowed no more than ten minutes in which to address the Committee. The Licensing Committee recently agreed to allocate a total of fifteen minutes to public speaking at each meeting.
- 3.8 Officers would suggest that, to ensure consistency across the Council for public speaking arrangements, Members should consider introducing time limits for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that are similar to those that are already in place for the Planning Committee and Licensing Committee.
- 3.9 To avoid disrupting the flow of the meeting, officers would recommend that the public speaking item be placed on the agenda at the start of the meeting before discussion of the individual reports. As with public speaking at Council, Members would not enter into any discussion with the speaker about their comments at the time, but would be able to refer to them in the course of consideration of the relevant item.

Financial Implications

- 3.10 No specific financial implications have been identified.

Legal Implications

- 3.11 No specific legal implications have been identified.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.12 Members are asked to note that the CRWP did not propose to introduce public speaking arrangements at private meetings. Therefore the information detailed in this report would not result in changes to proceedings for scrutiny Task Groups, Working Groups or Short Sharp Reviews. However, scrutiny Members are always able to consider permitting public speaking at meetings of these groups and may wish to do so on a case by case basis.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.13 The introduction of public speaking arrangements at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will enable the public to engage more effectively with the local democratic process.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

No specific risks have been identified.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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Action Tracker Update
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
21st March 2019

RECOMMENDATION TRACKER REPORT

1. SUMMARY

This Recommendation Tracker lists all recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (including Task Group recommendations which have been agreed by Executive) until implementation is complete.

The recommendations are by;

- A. Task and Finish Group
- B. Budget Scrutiny Working Group
- C. Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the quarterly Recommendation Tracker, confirms the status of the recommendations and agrees to the removal of any items which the Committee feel have been completed.

Subject and Date of Meeting requested	Actions	Lead Officer	Date completion required	Comments	Completion Date and RAG Rating
Development Partner to progress the possible redevelopment of Winyates and/or Matchborough District Centres and Surrounding Areas	Recommended that assurances be given that no Council housing stock or business unit assets would be lost from the redevelopment of the Winyates and Matchborough district centres.	Paul Spooner		The Executive Committee will receive a report at its March Committee seeking agreement to a brief for development which will require potential development partners to work with the Council on the regeneration of the local centres and protect the Council's income and financial position, and ensure the provision of social housing at current level.	AMBER
Redditch Business Improvement District - Budget Scrutiny Working Group	The Executive Committee should support the introduction of a Business Improvement District in Redditch Town Centre	Lyndsey Berry	Dec 2018	At the Executive Committee on 11 Dec, the following recommendations was approved: a) the position in respect of the vote in favour of the BID in respect of Council properties in the Town Centre be agreed; ACTION COMPLETED.	GREEN

RED – Overdue **AMBER** – Ongoing **GREEN** – Completed

Subject and Date of Meeting requested	Actions	Lead Officer	Date completion required	Comments	Completion Date and RAG Rating
Enterprise System Budget Scrutiny Working Group 3 Dec 2018	<p>Recommended that there should be an all Member briefing on the subject of the new Finance System before Council makes a decision on this subject on 28th January 2019.</p>	<p>Chris Forrester and Jess Bayley</p>	<p>Before 15th April</p>	<p>This recommendation was approved in an amended form using the following wording:</p> <p><i>“Arrangements for an all Member briefing on the subject of the new finance system be made at the appropriate time.”</i></p> <p>This will be arranged to take place at some point between 26th March and 15th April.</p>	<p>AMBER</p>
Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Housing / HRA Overview and Recovery Plan O&S – Sept 18	<p>Recommended that Executive Committee consider the content of the report and endorse the strategic action plan;</p> <p>support the financial actions undertaken in respect of the Housing Revenue Account and note the proposed actions subject to formal budget and rent setting processes as detailed in the strategic action plan;</p> <p>support the Director / Heads of Service remits and authorise the</p>	<p>Sue Hanley, Guy Revans and Judith Willis</p>		<p>The recommendations were agreed at Executive Committee on 11 Sept 2018.</p> <p>Progress is being made in respect of the Housing Implementation Plan. This shall be reported to Committee through update reports, starting with the first to the Executive Committee in February which was the subject of pre-scrutiny.</p>	<p>AMBER</p>

	<p>Chief Executive / Corporate Management Team Officers to proceed to recruit to the proposed senior managers for the service (subject to service review) with support for phased service reviews for the whole of the services detailed, over the following 12 – 18 months;</p> <p>endorse that the governance and reporting of progress on the strategic action plan be through Executive Committee; and</p> <p>recommends that a sum of £350,000 (capital staffing costs) be built into the capital budget (HRA) for 2018/19 to resource the immediate review of Housing Capital / property and compliance team(s).</p>				
Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Leisure Services Re-Structure	Recommended that the proposed management structure, timeline and associated costs contained within this report are approved.	Jayne Pickering		<p>The recommendation was approved at Executive Committee on 11th September 2018.</p> <p><u>March 2019</u> We have recruited over the last week to most posts in the new structure. The 4th tier posts are all recruited to and the remaining vacant ones will be filled shortly.</p>	AMBER

Subject and Date of Meeting requested	Actions	Lead Officer	Date completion required	Comments	Completion Date and RAG Rating
<p>Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Leisure Services Business Plan</p> <p>6 Sept</p>	<p>Recommended approval of the Business Plan to include the key assumptions at Section 8 and confirmation of a date of transfer as from 1st December 2018 for the following services:</p> <p>Abbey Stadium Sports Centre Palace Theatre and Palace Youth Theatre Forge Mill Needle Museum and Bordesley Abbey Visitors Centre Inc. access to Bordesley Abbey Ruins Community Centres at Windmill Drive, Oakenshaw, Batchley and Winyates Green; and Pitcheroak Golf Course.</p> <p>Approval of the establishment of a member panel to undertake the recruitment of the Managing Director and Non-Executive Directors. It is proposed that this panel comprises the Leader, relevant Portfolio Holder and the leader of the opposition, or their nominees. This panel will be supported by 2 senior officers of the Council;</p>	Jayne Pickering		<p>The recommendations were approved at Executive Committee on 11th September 2018.</p> <p>Rubicon Leisure was launched on 1st December 2018. A Managing Director of the company has been appointed and elected Members were involved in making that appointment. A number of staff members and non-Executive Directors have also been appointed. All the funding requirements in the recommendations have been addressed or are in the process of being addressed.</p> <p>ACTION COMPLETED.</p>	GREEN

RED – Overdue **AMBER** – Ongoing **GREEN** – Completed

	<p>Approval of, in principle, the investment opportunities as detailed in Appendix 6 and request officers bring detailed business cases to the Board of Directors for final approval;</p> <p>Approval of the funding of £55k from balances to fund an Electronic Point of Sale (EPOS) system to ensure the NewCo has the functionality to enable marketing, income generation and customer insight to be at its most effective;</p> <p>Approval of a transfer from balances of £74k to cover the period of the initially agreed transfer date of 1st September 2018 to the revised date of 1st December 2018;</p> <p>Approval of the Company name as Forge Leisure Solutions trading as Forge Leisure</p>				
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Subject and Date of Meeting requested	Actions	Lead Officer	Date completion required	Comments	Completion Date and RAG Rating
Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Draft Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Wider Support Framework 6 Sept	the Council undertake a formal consultation with the major preceptors and the public on the proposed design of a revised scheme to take place for 8 weeks from 1 st October. The results of the consultation will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny and Executive in January when it will consider any recommendations that will go to full Council in February.	David Riley	Winter 18/19	Consultation on changes to the scheme took place from 1 st October 2019. The consultation evidenced limited support for adoption of major changes to the Local Council Tax Support scheme and it has been recommended that no significant changes are made to the scheme, other than to provide support for care leavers. The revised scheme was approved by full council on 25 th February 2019. ACTION COMPLETED.	GREEN
Redi Centre Lease Arrangement - Pre Decision Scrutiny Overview and Scrutiny – 5 July 2018	Recommended that the Executive Committee take into account the following three recommendations; a 12 year lease is granted to RYCE for the use of the REDI Centre subject to commence when the Lottery funding for works on the building is approved; approval of a rent of £7k per annum	Jayne Pickering		At the Executive Committee on 5 July 2018 the recommendations were approved. <u>March 2019</u> This piece of work is still in progress, as yet there is no further update.	AMBER

RED – Overdue AMBER – Ongoing GREEN – Completed

	<p>is agreed for the period of the lease; and</p> <p>should the Lottery grant be unsuccessful that a further report be presented to Members on the future opportunities for the centre.</p>				
<p>Bereavement Services Fees and Charges – capital works at Redditch Crematorium.</p>	<p>The following capital works were proposed for Redditch Crematorium facility and heating improvements; £344k of funding be allocated to enable capital works in the crematorium in 2016; and</p> <p>A proportion of the income from the increased fees to be allocated to covering the capital works costs</p>	<p>Bereavement Services / Environmental Services</p> <p>Guy Revans Michael Birkinshaw</p>		<p><u>Dec 2018</u></p> <p>This has been discussed with PHB on the 28th August 2018 and agreed to run through procurement (full tender 50k plus) and get the costings to develop Ipsley Church Lane as a new cemetery site. The appointment of the consultancy firm would be subject to coming back to exec and agreeing both cost & scope based on the recommendation of the report.</p> <p>Until it has conducted the procurement exercise (with a clause to only appoint after additional discussion with exec) it cannot inform members of prospective costs / options.</p> <p>A report will come to Exec in due course after an additional procurement exercise has been completed.</p>	<p>AMBER</p>

			<p><u>April 2016 Update.</u> Considerable work has taken place to look at providing an alternative chapel location for when the current chapel has to close to facilitate the works. Due to various issues this is not currently considered as being feasible and so alternative working arrangements are being sought with our partners. The Place Partnership architect will be working to finalise the detail of the scheme and the timing of the project will be considered in terms of complying with procurement processes, availability of contractors as well as limiting the impact on partners and customers.</p> <p><u>September 2016 Update:</u> Consultation with key stakeholders with regards to the Chapel closure during works is ongoing and options for how the business will operate during the works is being investigated. Early indications are that some limited provision will remain. Place Partnership and Jacobs (Architects) are finalising details with regards to the works (to ensure that we achieve the best</p>	
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			<p>long term outcome from the investment) which will allow for the relevant procurement processes to be followed.</p> <p><u>June 2017 update:</u> Place Partnership have issued tender documents and are in the process of evaluating the returns with a view to appointing a suitable contractor if appropriate. Consultation with all parties and key stakeholders with regards to alternative working arrangements during the works period is ongoing.</p>	
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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – 2019



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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

Over the last year it has been a privilege and a pleasure to be the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It has been an especially good year as most of the recommendations and suggestions given to the Executive Committee have been cross-party. This is significant in a number of different ways; the importance of cross-party decision-making when representing the community as a whole, decisions taken by the Executive Committee that have followed our recommendations have had added strength due to cross-party approval, and finally it shows that by working together in partnership we can move things forward as a Council.

It is noted that there have been no specific Task Groups or Short Sharp reviews established during the year, though the scrutiny of support for care leavers was completed in this municipal year. However, we have had in-depth group discussions at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Frequently we discussed individual items put forward by the whole Committee and raised issues that mattered to the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee who have contributed their time and energy to make this a successful year for Overview and Scrutiny.



**Councillor Joe Baker, Chair of
the Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

This report outlines the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Redditch Borough Council during 2018 – 2019.

THE ROLE OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

The role of overview and scrutiny is an important one in the Council's governance structure, in providing challenge and driving improvement. It is often referred to as the "critical friend" of the Council and can review any issues of concern or real interest to local residents.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a number of roles within the Council. These include:

- Holding the Executive Committee to account by thoroughly scrutinising their decisions to ensure that the Council continues to provide the best services possible for Redditch residents. As part of this role, the Committee has the power to 'call-in' decisions made by the Executive Committee and to request that the Executive Committee review the original decisions, taking into account the issues raised by the Committee.
- Acting as a 'critical friend' to the Executive Committee by reviewing Council policies and strategies, making recommendations where appropriate.
- Performance and financial monitoring, to ensure the Council's services are sustainable and to the highest possible standard.
- Commissioning reviews of services/topics that impact on the Council or on the lives of Redditch residents.
- Pre-scrutiny of items prior to a decision being made by the Executive Committee.
- Setting up Task Groups to focus on specific subjects and recommend ways to improve existing practices within the Council and community as a whole. A flow chart on how to consider potential scrutiny reviews can be found at Appendix A and the Council's scoping form at Appendix B.

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee appoints individual Members to oversee the work of Overview and Scrutiny. Membership of the Committee for 2018/2019 is as follows:



Cllr Joe Baker (Chair)



Cllr Debbie Chance (Vice Chair)



Cllr Joanne Beecham
(From August 2018)



Cllr Michael Chalk



Cllr Andy Fry



Cllr Pattie Hill



Cllr Anthony Lovell



Cllr Gemma Monaco



Cllr Mike Rouse
(From May to July 18)



Cllr Jennifer Wheeler

ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES DURING 2018/19

Non-Executive Members attended Overview and Scrutiny training in June 2018 and during this session the Councillors identified priority issues to add to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitors the impact of all of its recommendations that have been endorsed by the Executive Committee. A tracking report is presented to the Committee during the year stating progress made to date. Further information about the issues discussed by the Committee during the year and Members' findings are detailed below.

HOUSING BENEFITS PRESENTATION – 31 MAY 2018

The Committee received a presentation detailing the impact of changes to welfare support. The presentation made reference to the Benefit Cap, the Spare Room Subsidy, Discretionary Housing Payments, the Council Tax Support Scheme, the Hardship Scheme, Universal Credit, the Essential Living Fund and the work of the Financial Independence Team.

Members learned that following a number of welfare changes at a national level there had been some development in terms of the support available to those in receipt of housing benefit. For example, the introduction of the spare room subsidy, impacted on the amount of housing benefit available to some applicants. At Redditch Borough Council those struggling financially could access alternative means of support if housing benefit was unable to cover all of their expenses, for example support from the Essential Living Fund.

The Private Sector Housing Team was invited to attend a future Committee meeting to give a further update.

REDDITCH PARTNERSHIP - MONITORING UPDATE REPORT – 5 JULY 2018

A report was received on the Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and work of the Redditch Partnership. This update was provided to the Committee on an annual basis in response to a recommendation from a 2010 Task Group which considered the work of the Redditch Partnership.

In the course of the presentation, Members were advised that health inequalities, educational attainment levels, raising the expectations of young people, the economy in Redditch and transformational change of services were key priorities for the partnership. The Redditch Partnership was also leading on a piece of work to review mental health needs in the Borough.

**REDI CENTRE LEASE ARRANGEMENT - PRE DECISION SCRUTINY
5 JULY 2018**

The Committee received a report detailing the proposal to grant a twelve year lease to Redditch Youth and Community Enterprise (RYCE) for the use of the REDI Centre.

During consideration of this report Members learned that RYCE had been using the REDI centre since 2014 under a meanwhile lease arrangement. It was also noted that RYCE had since applied for big lottery funding to be spent on the building but this would be contingent upon securing a long-term lease. On balance Members concluded that it would be appropriate to grant a twelve year lease to RYCE for use of the building, subject to the lottery funding being approved.

PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - REDDITCH TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION 9 AUGUST 2018

The Committee was presented with a report in relation to the regeneration of Redditch town centre. This followed on from the Committee's consideration of proposals in respect of the One Public Estate in the previous municipal year. A regeneration prospectus had been drafted and this contained a number of proposals relating to Redditch Town Centre. This included a proposal to introduce a public sector hub on the site of the current Town Hall.

SAFEGUARDING AND EARLY HELP - WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

Representatives from Early Help and Commissioning for Worcestershire County Council presented a report in respect of Safeguarding and Early Help services. During the delivery of this presentation it was noted that Worcestershire Children's Services had been the subject of a full Safeguarding Inspection undertaken in October, 2018 by Ofsted, and subsequently had been subject to regular monitoring visits in order to assess progress.

A summary of the inspections was highlighted in the report together with areas for improvement. These outlined some of the significant challenges faced in the services provided to children and young people in Worcestershire, particularly those who were looked after. The Committee acknowledged that further work was required to ensure that the voice of the child was heard and services were making a difference to their lives. Members were also keen to ensure that services continued to improve, building on the lessons learned from the inspection.

Members questioned how Worcestershire County Council would ensure that children and young people were kept safe from harm. Officers advised that regular feedback from children and young people and quarterly reports were shared across Children's Services and there was good engagement with children and young people through welfare interviews.

Due to the importance of safeguarding matters every Member was invited to attend this meeting, as it was recognised that this was important in relation to their roles as corporate parents.

PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - DRAFT COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME AND WIDER SUPPORT FRAMEWORK – 6 SEPT 2018

The Committee received a report in relation to the Draft Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS) and Wider Support Framework. The Executive Director of Finance and Resources provided information on the work undertaken by the Customer Access and Financial Support Service to date in respect of the redesign of the CTSS for implementation by 1st April 2019. The report also set out proposals for public consultation in relation to the potential to introduce income bands for the CTSS.

Following discussions about the report the Committee recommended that the Council undertake a formal consultation with the major preceptors and the public on the proposed redesign of a revised scheme to take place for eight weeks from 1st October, 2018. This was subsequently agreed by the Executive Committee and the consultation process did take place. However, a decision was eventually taken by Council to not introduce income banding at this time.

**PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - LEISURE SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN
6 SEPTEMBER 2018**

A report was presented to the Committee in relation to the Leisure and Cultural Services – Local Authority Trading Company Business Case (LATC), prior to the introduction of Rubicon Leisure Ltd. The Executive Director of Finance and Resources provided an overview and highlighted the key areas.

Members were advised on the progress that was being made following approval in March, 2018, to set up a not for profit, Teckal compliant, Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) to operate a number of the Council's Leisure and Cultural Services subject to the approval of the final business plan.

The Committee was informed about the services that would be provided by the new company. Some services would remain within the Council's jurisdiction, in line with best practice across the country. The Council would be the only shareholder in the new company and Members would be included in the decision making process. In order to achieve this it was proposed that a new Shareholders' Committee be established.

PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - HOUSING / HRA OVERVIEW AND RECOVERY PLAN – 6 SEPTEMBER 2018 / FEBRUARY 2019

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the Housing / HRA Overview and Recovery Plan. During the presentation of the report the key findings arising from a recent review of Housing Services were highlighted for Members' consideration. The Committee was informed about the steps that were already being taken to address the issues that had been identified in the department. An action plan was also presented for Members' consideration which highlighted the timeframes for addressing key areas.

In February 2019, a further update was provided to the Committee outlining the progress that had been achieved to date. Members welcomed the hard work of officers to address various problems and invited the Executive Committee to formally thank staff.

HEREFORD AND WORCESTERSHIRE SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION PARTNERSHIP UPDATE - 18 OCTOBER 2018

Representatives from the Worcestershire Health and Care Trust and Worcestershire County Council provided an update in respect of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). This followed discussion of the STP at meetings of the Committee in previous years and those attending outlined the work of the various STP Workstreams.

The Committee was informed that the STP Programme Committee had agreed on its top priorities which were to address health and well-being; care and quality and finance and efficiency.

As this subject had been discussed on a number of occasions by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and significant progress had been achieved, Members discussed whether it was necessary to continue to debate this matter. However, due to the importance of health services to the people of Redditch the Committee concluded that a further update on the Herefordshire and Worcestershire STP should be provided at a future meeting.

EMERGENCY PLANNING (CIVIL CONTINGENCIES) ANNUAL UPDATE 18 OCTOBER 2018

The North Worcestershire Civil Contingencies and Resilience Manager provided an update on the Council's Civil Contingencies arrangements. This report had been requested in a Short Sharp Review of Civil Contingencies completed in 2017.

Members were advised that in 2018 there had been two incidents which required an internal and multi-agency debrief session to be commissioned. Training was being planned for Duty Incident Response Officers to enable them to fulfil their jobs effectively. A further update will be provided to the Committee in 2019/20.

PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - COUNCIL HOUSING GROWTH PROGRAMME 18 OCTOBER 2018

The Committee received a report in relation to the Council Housing Growth Programme, which was launched in 2017. Officers from the Private Sector Housing Team provided information on the proposed development sites. A number of options to increase the Council's housing stock were outlined for Members' consideration, which included the potential to construct new Council houses.

Members expressed the view that the Housing Growth Programme was beneficial, as work on this programme would help the Council to address the housing needs of residents living in the Borough.

Following consideration of the subject Members endorsed the recommendations in the report which were then considered and approved by the Executive Committee.

PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE ACTION PLAN 18 OCTOBER 2018

The Chief Executive presented the Corporate Peer Challenge, which had been conducted by representatives of other local authorities and the Local Government Association and covered both Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District Councils. Members were advised that similar exercises had been undertaken by other local authorities and they were designed to help Councils improve services moving forward.

Members were advised that the challenge focused on five key areas including, financial sustainability, priority setting, capacity to deliver, political and managerial leadership and governance and decision making. There had been a number of recommendations arising from this report; the majority of which Officers were suggesting should be acted on. However, Officers suggested that there would not be sufficient benefit in terms of moving on the Corporate Peer Challenge suggestion to move to a single workforce at this stage.

Members considered the proposals contained within the report in detail. Some concerns were raised that some of the recommendations, particularly in respect of the political and decision making process, were more applicable to Bromsgrove District Council than to Redditch Borough Council. When this matter was considered by the Executive Committee the concerns of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were noted, though the Executive Committee endorsed the report in full.

SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES IN REDDITCH UPDATE - 6 DECEMBER 2018

Representatives of Worcestershire County Council and the Worcestershire Health and Care Trust attended a meeting of the Committee at the request of Members to discuss sexual health services provided in Redditch. Written responses were provided to a series of questions.

During consideration of this item particular reference was made to the challenges in terms of services engaging with representatives of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. The Chair explained that there was a Redditch LGBT community group and it was noted that services could potentially work with this group to engage with the LGBT community. Reference was also made to the services provided to young people and it was suggested that the opening hours should be reviewed to align more closely with the needs of adolescents. The Committee also suggested that the Council could help to raise awareness of the white ribbon campaign in respect of domestic violence.

**HOMELESSNESS POLICY (HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ACT)
6 DECEMBER 2018**

Representatives of the Private Sector Housing Team were invited to present a report outlining the key features of the Council's Homelessness Policy and the impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and the impact that this had had on Council services. The report had been requested by Members during the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme planning session in June 2018.

Officers reported that the Homelessness Reduction Act profoundly altered the ways in which local authorities and their clients worked together to try and resolve housing issues. The Act recognised that there was a shortage of social housing and that by clients and the Councils working together there was a much better chance of preventing homelessness. The legislation placed a greater emphasis on preventing homelessness.

Members were advised that there were challenges and risks going forward which were identified as follows:

- the additional administrative requirements associated with the legislation could lead to backlogs in casework and lengthen waiting times for appointments;
- accommodation options had not increased to cater for the greater focus on prevention and relief so the increase in duties had not been accompanied by an increase in resources; and
- recruitment issues could impact on provision of the service - high turnover rates of temporary staff could be particularly challenging with a national shortage of experienced staff driving up the rates of pay.

One of the key challenges that local authorities were facing was the availability of experienced and trained staff to work in Housing Services. As part of the review Members were advised that the number of staff and the specialisms required were being assessed.

**REVIEW OF THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANTS POLICY -
PRE-SCRUTINY – 6 DECEMBER 2018**

The Head of Community Services provided Members with an overview of the draft policy and Councillor guidance notes in respect of the Councillor Community Grants Scheme. In November, 2018, full Council had agreed to change the way in which the Council allocated grant funding to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations in Redditch. From April 2019, all Members would have a budget of £5,000 from which they could provide funding to VCS groups.

The Committee was provided with full details in respect of the revised scheme. Members were advised that training would be provided to all Councillors which would be mandatory. In addition, guidance notes would be provided to all Members explaining the full process. The scheme would be piloted for one year with it being evaluated during the year.

The Committee recommended that the Council should retain the £20,000, due to be cut from the grants budget, to invest in town wide issues and issues of importance to Redditch. However, this proposal was rejected by the Executive Committee on 11th December, 2018.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019/20 TO 2022/23 - PRE-SCRUTINY 3 JANUARY 2019 / 20TH FEBRUARY 2019

The Committee was provided with an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 – 2022/23. The report outlined the issues faced by the Council in achieving a balanced budget and the action that was being taken to address this.

A number of key issues were highlighted including that unavoidable costs would not be included in the budget moving forward. A significant level of savings had been achieved, due to receiving additional income in some places, such as from a new contract for the Lifeline service. There were some unavoidable pressures which would need to be met and some budget bids had been submitted. However, the government had confirmed that the negative support grant, by which the Council would have had to pay funding back to the Government, would not need to be paid in 2019/20.

Members also pre-scrutinised the Executive Committee's proposed budget at a meeting on 20th February 2019. During that meeting Members were advised that the budget had been balanced for 2019/20. However, there remained considerable uncertainty about the budget position moving forward in relation to matters such as the New Homes Bonus and the negative support grant.

The Committee concurred that additional income was needed to help balance the Council's budget in future years. With this in mind Members proposed that the Council should investigate the potential to introduce charges for Council events, such as Morton Stanley Festival and a review should be undertaken of the Council's assets in order to maximise income. Members also raised concerns about some aspects of the Council's proposed budget, including the introduction of the Redditch Community Lottery. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee's proposals were noted by the Executive Committee at a meeting on 25th February, when Members were also advised that action was already being taken to review the potential to secure further income from use of the Council's assets and from Council events.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER TO PROGRESS THE POSSIBLE REDEVELOPMENT OF WINYATES AND / OR MATCHBOROUGH DISTRICT CENTRES AND SURROUNDING AREAS - PRE-SCRUTINY – 3 JANUARY 2019

The Interim Head of the North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWEDR) presented the report in respect of the redevelopment of Winyates and Matchborough District Centres and surrounding areas. The report outlined the initial proposals for the redevelopment of Winyates and Matchborough District Centres. Due to the relevance of these proposals to the local community Members had agreed in 2017/18 that all reviews focusing on the redevelopment of the district centres should be subject to detailed scrutiny.

The Committee recommended that assurances be given that no Council housing stock or business unit assets should be lost from the redevelopment of the Winyates and Matchborough District Centres. The Executive Committee determined that assurance should be provided that there would be no net loss of Council houses as a result of the redevelopment.

WASTE COLLECTION FROM HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION - 3 JANUARY 2019

The Head of Environmental Services provided Members with information in respect of waste collection services for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Members had requested an update in respect of this matter during the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Planning event in June 2018, in light of relevant licensing changes which were due to come into force on 1st October 2018. The changes meant that landlords needed to provide facilities for storing and disposing of household waste, recycling and garden waste. The changes also extended the description of HMOs to include properties which were less than three stories high. The Head of Environmental Services provided Members with details around the legal implications of the changes and the impact of failure by the licence holder to comply with the scheme.

Background information was provided in respect of HMOs and the important role that they played within the housing sector. Members were advised that the Environmental Services team was working closely with the Private Sector Housing Team to ensure that all future licenses granted for HMOs included a written statement that ensured waste was sufficiently catered for as part of their conditions. The team also carried out inspections before granting any licence with the specifics of those conditions being reiterated.

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY PANEL

Local authorities are required to have a Committee designated with responsibility to review the work of the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and this Committee must meet at least once a year to discuss the work of the partnership. In Redditch this role is undertaken by the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel, which is a permanent sub-committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Panel holds the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership to account for its work in Redditch.

A meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel took place in September 2018. During the meeting Members received an update on the work of the partnership in the Borough in the preceding 12 months, received an update on child sexual exploitation and the action that had been taken by the partnership to address this problem and considered information about rates of anti-social behaviour in the Borough and the work of the partnership to address this.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee in September 2018 Members considered a report in respect of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the action proposed by Officers to address the provisions in this legislation. Under this legislation Councils could take measures such as introducing Public Safety Protection Orders (PSPOs) and it had been proposed that power should be delegated to Officers to fulfil these duties. Due to the significance of these measures to community safety, Members agreed that Officers should report on a six month basis to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel about the implementation of these powers.

In 2017 Members agreed that two meetings of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel should take place due to the importance of the issue to the Borough. However, the second meeting of the panel that was due to take place in March 2019 was cancelled due to a lack of business. It is anticipated that the first update in respect of PSPOs and other new powers set out in the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 will be provided at the next meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel in September 2019.

TASK GROUPS AND SHORT SHARP REVIEWS

Task Groups are established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to conduct an in-depth review of any service, policy or issue that affects the Borough. The work carried out by Task Groups in 2018/19 is summarised below.

CARE LEAVERS SCRUTINY TASK GROUP

At the meeting of the Council on 29th January, 2018, it was agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, working with officers, should undertake a review and bring forward proposals to the Council to introduce any changes to either exempt or reduce the amount of Council Tax paid by care leavers for the age group of 18 to 25.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to launch a Short Sharp Review to investigate support for care leavers in Redditch, and in particular, the Council Tax Support available to care leavers. Members identified a lot of positive work carried out by multiple agencies in supporting care leavers as well as areas where improvements could be made.

At the end of the review, the Short Sharp Review group presented three recommendations, which proposed changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme designed to support care leavers. The recommendations were approved by the Executive Committee in an amended form in August 2018.

In February 2019 the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019/20 was debated at a meeting of full Council. Changes to the scheme to support care leavers, which built on the findings of the group, were agreed.

A detailed account of the group's findings can be viewed in their final report which can be accessed on the Council's website.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider a proposal to launch a Short Sharp Review of action that could be taken to prevent and reduce suicide rates in the Borough at a meeting on 21st March 2019. Should this be approved by the Committee the review will launch in the new municipal year.

WORKING GROUPS

In 2017 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish working groups that would focus on the Council's budget and the performance of Council services.

BUDGET SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP – CHAIR, COUNCILLOR JENNY WHEELER (UNTIL JANUARY 2019) AND COUNCILLOR ANDREW FRY FEBRUARY – APRIL 2019)

The Budget Scrutiny Working Group held a number of meetings in 2018/19. At the start of the year the Chair of the group agreed to schedule meetings of the group to consider items in accordance with the approach suggested by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS). This was designed to enable the group to comply with national best practice.

During the year the Budget Scrutiny Working Group considered the following matters:

- Proposals to introduce a Redditch Business Improvement District (BID) – The group supported this proposal as they concluded that a BID would enhance the economic vibrancy of the town centre.
- Fees and Charges – This year Members reflected back on the fees and charges report that had been agreed in January 2018 and based on this identified a number of areas where charges could be introduced or amended to meet the needs of the Council's customers. As part of this process the group recommended that Officers should investigate the potential to introduce special discount fees for frequent use of the Shopmobility Service. Members also pre-scrutinised the Fees and Charges report for 2019/20.
- Enterprise (Finance) System - The introduction of a new finance system has been reviewed in detail at meetings of the group. Members have been provided with regular updates on progress with the project and the group recommended that a briefing should be provided to all Members on the subject due to the financial implications for the Council. This took place on 19th March 2019.
- The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 2019/20 – Members pre-scrutinised the content of this report at a meeting in January 2019. The group welcomed news that the Council had balanced the HRA budget for 2019/20 and noted the challenges facing the Council in respect of the HRA moving forward.
- Members received an update in respect of the new Housing IT system that was due to be procured and welcomed news that this would replace a relatively old IT system that had been in use for many years.
- The group received an update on the work that had been undertaken in preparation for the return of Property Services to the Council from the Place Partnership Ltd. Members were pleased to learn that the transfer arrangements were progressing well.
- At every meeting of the group Members received a verbal update on the work of the Commercialism Board and progress in respect of the Council securing alternative sources of income.

- Members conducted a consultation exercise with members of the Redditch Community Panel about the Council's budget. Two of the questions included in a public survey circulated on the group's behalf focused on the Council's grants process and Redditch Community Lottery respectively. Members agreed to revisit the feedback received from the public in respect of this matter in the new municipal year when it was agreed that the grants process and lottery should be investigated in further detail. A third question from the group asked participants to highlight the services that they felt should be prioritised in the Council's budget. The group will revisit the top five priority areas in 2019/20 and their findings should inform any recommendations that will be made about the budget for 2020/21 onwards.

PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

The group has an important role in scrutinising the delivery of the Council's priorities. The group agreed Members would monitor performance of services in relation to the strategic purposes. Each Member was allocated responsibility for taking a lead on monitoring the Council's performance in relation to a single strategic purpose. Members agreed that, due to the significant number of changes being made to leisure services, resulting in the recent introduction of Rubicon Leisure Ltd, that the strategic purpose "good things to do, so and visit" would be monitored by the whole group.

The Group met three times in 2018/19. During one of these meetings training was provided in respect of the Council's measures dashboard and an invitation was extended to all Members to attend.

At a meeting in February 2019 the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee raised concerns about the number of meetings held in 2018/19 of the Performance Scrutiny Working Group. The Committee agreed that the group needed to meet more frequently in order to make an effective contribution to Council business. Therefore Members requested that the group should meet at least six times in 2019/20.

EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Council representative, Councillor Michael Chalk

The Committee received regular updates from Councillor Chalk, the Council's representative on the West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee. During the year Councillor Chalk frequently provided written updates about the work of the Committee and highlighted the following points:

- The “Local Industrial Strategy” and the links with the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).
- How Overview and Scrutiny could serve the WMCA by supporting and forming policies.
- The question and answer session for the WMCA Mayor in relation to housing, transport and air quality.
- The Transport group's report, and its focus on cycling, and new stations.
- The quorum for the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Unfortunately, Councillor Chalk reported that there had been some difficulties ensuring that a full quorum was present for all of the meetings and this highlighted the need for Members to attend or arrange a substitute where necessary.

Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Council Representative, Councillor Mike Rouse until July 2019 and then Councillor Michael Chalk.

The Committee received regular updates from Councillor Rouse and subsequently Councillor Chalk about the work of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC). Some of the issues highlighted during the year included:

- Winter pressures on hospitals and patient flow in and out of hospital.
- The ambulance divert pilot.
- An ongoing update in respect of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.
- The services provided at hospitals managed by the trust, particularly the Alexandra Hospital.

Further details are available at Worcestershire County Council website.

CONCLUSION

This has been a busy year for Overview and Scrutiny in Redditch. In particular Members have undertaken a significant amount of pre-scrutiny work and many of the Committee's recommendations have influenced the decisions reached by the Executive Committee and Council.

In 2019 the Government is due to publish new guidance in respect of Overview and Scrutiny. This should lead to changes at a local level, but whatever those changes may entail, Overview and Scrutiny will continue to have an important role to play in the local decision making process.

To ensure that the Council's Overview and Scrutiny process continues to meet the needs of Redditch residents whilst complying with legislative requirements, a scrutiny training session will be provided in the new municipal year. All non-Executive Members will be invited to attend.

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee express his thanks to all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, recognising in particular the valuable contribution made by Members through Task Group investigations and on the Budget and Performance Scrutiny Working Groups.

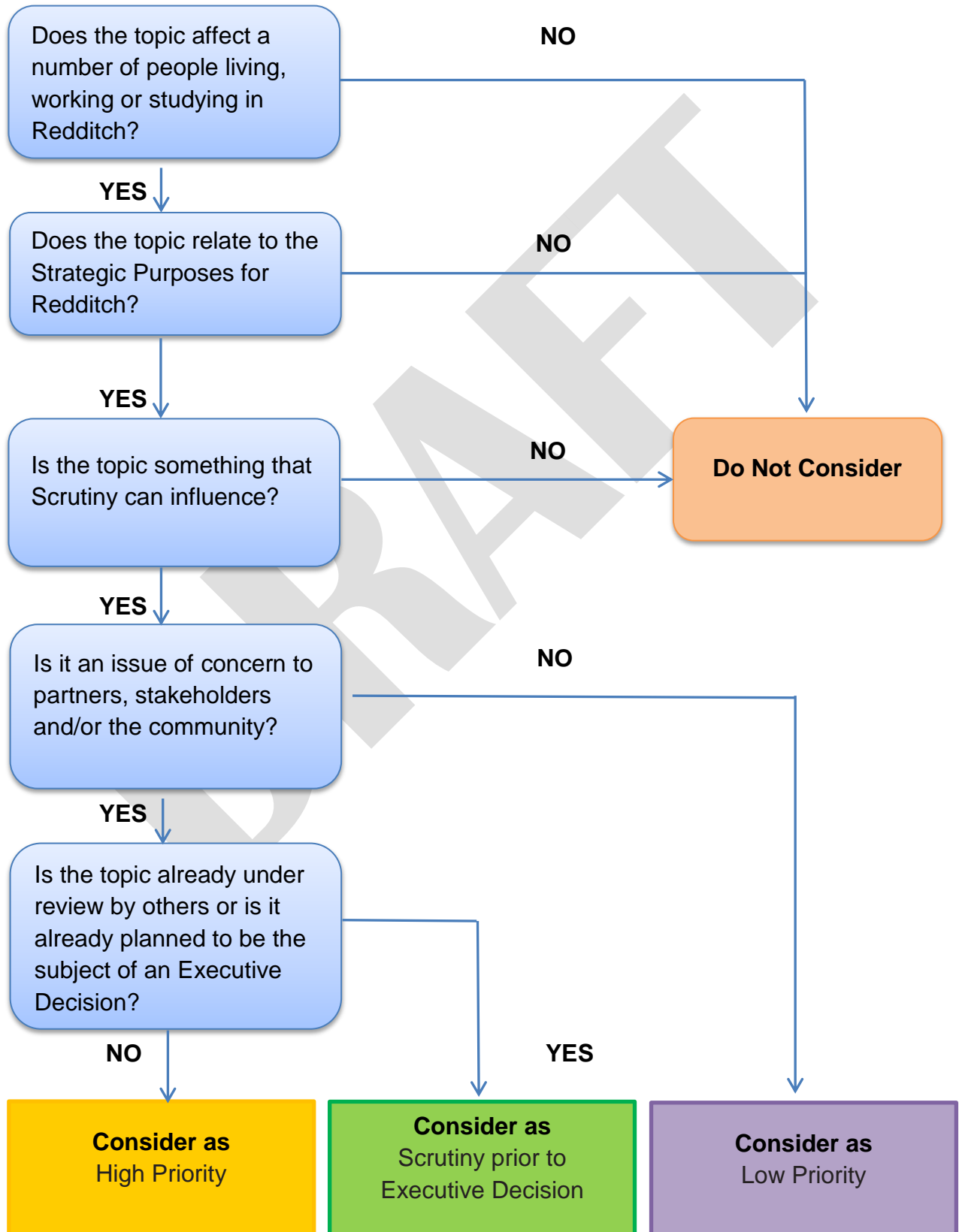
For any background information on the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committee in Redditch, please visit <https://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/council/the-council.aspx>

Democratic Services, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3268 email: scrutiny@redditchbc.gov.uk

Appendix A

Overview and Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool

The Overview and Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool can help determine priorities for each topic and provide members with a structured method of creating a focussed work programme.



Appendix B

Scrutiny Proposal Form

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

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

Proposer's name and designation		Date of referral	
Proposed topic title			
Link to local priorities including the strategic purposes			
Background to the issue			
Key Objectives Please keep to SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely)			
How long do you think is needed to complete this exercise? (Where possible please estimate the number of weeks, months and meetings required)			

Please return this form to: Jess Bayley, Louise Morris, Farzana Mughal or Amanda Scarce, Democratic Services Officers, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**21st March 2019**SUICIDE PREVENTION – PROPOSED TASK GROUP**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Gareth Prosser, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services.
Portfolio Holder Consulted	N/A
Relevant Director	Sue Hanley, Deputy Chief Executive
Ward(s) Affected	All wards.
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This report provides Members with an opportunity to consider a proposal that has been received for Members to undertake a Short Sharp review of suicide prevention.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** to approve one of the following options:

- 1) **Subject to any changes agreed during the meeting, the proposed Short Sharp Review of suicide prevention be launched.**
- 2) **Members receive a presentation on the subject of suicide prevention at a forthcoming meeting (or meetings) of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- 3) **No further action be taken by Overview and Scrutiny Members in respect of this matter.**
- 4) **Alternative action, to be identified and clearly specified during the meeting, be taken in relation to this matter.**

3. KEY ISSUES**Background**

- 3.1 The suggestion of setting up a Short Sharp Review to look at suicide prevention in Redditch has been put forward by Councillor Debbie Chance (Vice Chair). A copy of the proposal form is attached at Appendix 1. Councillor Chance believes this is an important topic to be investigated in light of the public health statistics from 2015 to 2017, which show that Redditch has the second highest suicide rate in Worcestershire. The death of a loved one by suicide can have a devastating impact on relatives, friends and colleagues and all communities can be affected. Suicide is preventable and research has shown that having a prevention strategy can be effective in reducing suicides.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**21st March 2019

- 3.2 In 2012 the need to establish local suicide prevention plans was set out in national strategy in the government publication "Preventing Suicide in England: a cross government outcome strategy to save lives in 2012" and is incorporated in the NHS "Five year forward view for mental health". In Worcestershire the issue falls under the remit of the county Health and Well Being Board, and in February 2018 the Board adopted the 2018 to 2021 Suicide Prevention Plan.
- 3.3 The overall aim of the suicide prevention plan is to reduce the number of suicides and to provide better support for those bereaved by suicide. Some specific sectors of the community who are at higher risk have been identified as priority groups including young and middle aged men and people in the care of the mental health services.
- 3.4 Members are referred to the Key Objectives for the proposed Short Sharp Review as set out on the proposal form. The suggestion is that this topic could best be investigated as a Short, Sharp Review and it is estimated that there would be four to five meetings required over approximately three to four months.

Financial Implications

- 3.5 There are no direct financial implications for the Council.

Legal Implications

- 3.6 There are no direct legal implications for the Council.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.7 At present there are no scrutiny Task Groups or Short, Sharp Reviews taking place in Redditch. There is therefore capacity amongst both Members and the Democratic Services team to support this review.
- 3.8 As there is an overlap on this topic with the County Council scrutiny function and the work of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), officers have checked that this proposal would not interfere with any work planned by that committee. Colleagues from the County Council have confirmed that there are currently no plans for this topic to be scrutinised at a county level. However, Officers would suggest that, should the review be approved, the Council's representative on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) should be appointed to the group so that s/he can report back to HOSC as the review progresses.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.9 None identified.

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4. RISK MANAGEMENT

No specific risks have been identified.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Suicide Prevention Task Group – Scoping Document.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Jess Bayley, Democratic Services Officer
Email: jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 64252 Ext: 3268

Name: Sarah Sellers, Democratic Services Officer
Email: sarah.sellers@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
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Scrutiny Proposal Form

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

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

Proposer's name and designation	Councillor Debbie Chance	Date of referral	March 2019
Proposed topic title	Suicide Prevention Short, Sharp Review		
Link to local priorities including the strategic purposes	<p>This links to the RBC Strategic Purpose of "Help me to live my life independently (including health and activity).</p> <p>Also links to the following strategies adopted by the Worcestershire Health and Well-Being Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide Prevention Plan 2018 -2021 (adopted in 2018) • Joint Health and Well-being Strategy 2016-21. 		
Background to the issue	<p>My attention was drawn to the suicide rate in Redditch as a result of information circulated when the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was considering sexual health issues in Redditch. I was disheartened and concerned to see that Redditch had one of the highest suicide rates in the County of Worcestershire; I had not been aware previously that this was the case.</p> <p>Mental health problems, including depression, seem to be increasing and in my work as a nursing assistant I come across people looking for help, including sometimes people who are in crisis. As premature death by suicide is preventable I am really interested to find out more about the situation as it affects the residents of Redditch and what could be done to try to improve the situation and reduce the suicide rate.</p> <p><u>Policy background</u></p> <p>In 2012 the need to establish local suicide prevention plans was set out in national strategy in the government publication "Preventing Suicide in England: a cross government outcome strategy to save lives in 2012" and is incorporated in the NHS "Five year forward view for mental health". In Worcestershire the issue falls under the remit of the Worcestershire County Council Health and Well Being Board, and in February 2018 the Board adopted the 2018 to 2021 Suicide Prevention Plan.</p> <p>Research has shown that having a prevention strategy can be effective in reducing suicides. The overall aim of the</p>		

	<p>Worcestershire Suicide Prevention Plan is to reduce the number of suicides and to provide better support for those bereaved by suicide. Some specific sectors of the community who are at higher risk have been identified as priority groups including young and middle aged men and people in the care of the mental health services.</p>
<p>Key Objectives Please keep to SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To analyse the current levels of premature death by suicide in Redditch and clarify the factors that have resulted in Redditch having a higher rate of suicide. 2. To assess the existing support services available for people experiencing depression and other mental health problems, and in particular the availability and accessibility of services for people in crisis. 3. To investigate the aims and objectives of the Worcestershire Suicide Prevention Plan, and the practical steps that are being taken to achieve the “action plan priorities”. 4. To research steps taken by other councils to address suicide prevention. 5. To review what steps could be taken to raise awareness of sources of support around suicide prevention 6. To consider what practical steps can be implemented around reducing access to means of suicide and tackling high risk locations. 7. To identify any additional action that the Council could take to help with the reduction of premature death by suicide in the Borough.
<p>How long do you think is needed to complete this exercise? (Where possible please estimate the number of weeks, months and meetings required)</p>	<p>Estimated time for this task group is 4 to 5 meetings over a 3 month period starting from the end of May / early June 2019.</p>

Please return this form to: Jess Bayley, Louise Morris, Farzana Mughal or Amanda Scarce, Democratic Services Officers, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH

Email: jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

louise.morris@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

farzana.mughal@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

a.scarce@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk



Executive Committee

Monday, 25 February 2019

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), and Councillors Tom Baker-Price, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Bill Hartnett, Gareth Prosser, Mike Rouse and Craig Warhurst

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton, Sue Hanley and Jayne Pickering

Senior Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley

97. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor David Bush.

98. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

99. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A written update on the Leader's Announcements was circulated at the meeting.

100. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday 5th February 2019 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

.....
Chair

**101. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019/20 TO 2022/23,
INCLUDING PAY POLICY STATEMENT AND COUNCIL TAX
SETTING**

The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources presented the Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23. During the presentation of this report the following matters were highlighted for Members' consideration:

- The Medium Term Financial Plan was designed to help the Council achieve its strategic purposes.
- The Budget Scrutiny Working Group had been reviewing the process for preparing the budget throughout the year and had been assisted by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its latest meeting.
- In the last Medium Term Financial Plan it had been assumed that in 2019/20 there would be a shortfall of £475,000 in the budget. The report set out the action that had been taken and the proposals that had been made to ensure that the budget balanced in 2019/20.
- The Council had achieved £1.1 million of savings and there were now no unidentified savings included within the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- The Government had confirmed that the Council would not need to pay back the negative revenue support grant in 2019/20 which had originally been built into the budget. Officers were assuming that the local authority would not need to pay this negative support grant in the subsequent three financial years.
- The Council had received more New Homes Bonus (NHB) funding than had been anticipated at the end of the previous financial year.
- The business rates bid for Worcestershire had been approved and the district Councils were putting forward bids for up front funding for projects that would help to reduce expenditure on social care overall.
- There was significant uncertainty moving forward about local authority budgets and this was impacting on the projected figures for the Council's budget in future years. By 2022/23 a deficit of £1.5 million was anticipated.
- In 2019/20 the Council would have balances of £1.4 million. Officers were anticipating that these would decline significantly during the period of the plan and by 2021/22 Officers were anticipating that balances would fall below the level set as a requirement by the Section 151 Officer.
- Unavoidable pressures had been included in the Medium Term Financial Plan. These were financial pressures that the Council had to deliver in order to continue to provide services.

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- A contribution of £150,000 to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) had been included in the plan. As the Council would be in the Worcestershire business rates pilot pool for a year, officers had built income from that pool into the budget to offset the costs in terms of the contribution to the GBSLEP.
- The bids and savings included the contract that had been secured by the Lifeline team with Cannock Chase District Council and the £50,000 in printing savings.
- The capital bids mainly comprised S106 funds, though there were also bids in respect of the fleet replacement process and for the North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) team.

Following the presentation of the report Councillor Baker, as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, was invited to present the recommendations arising from the Committee's scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan, which had occurred at a meeting that took place on 20th February 2019. Members were advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had scrutinised the proposed budget in detail. Based on the discussions during the meeting the Committee had concluded that action needed to be taken to generate further income in order to address some of the significant gaps in the budget anticipated for the last three years of the plan. Members had suggested that the Council could investigate the potential to charge residents to attend Council-run events, such as Morton Stanley Festival. The Committee had also suggested that the Council could explore alternative ways to utilise Council assets, such as the Town Hall, in order to generate income. Finally the Committee had raised a number of concerns in respect of the sustainability of the budget and the inclusion of some elements, such as the Redditch Community Lottery.

Members subsequently discussed the proposed budget in detail and in doing so raised the following points:

- The exploration of the potential for alternative uses to be made of the Council's budget, which was already the subject of considerable work.
- The work Officers had already undertaken to explore the potential to charge for Council events. Difficulties had been identified with this, such as the need to fence off the area where an event was taking place.
- The alternative options to generate income from Council events, such as through sponsorship or voluntary contributions.
- The total increase of £60,000 on Members' allowances should the recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) be approved.

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- The reduction in grant funding for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) of £20,000 as a result of changes to the Council's grants process.
- The introduction of £5,000 grants for each Councillor to distribute to VCS organisations in 2019/20 and the training that would be required by Members prior to distributing this funding.
- The introduction of the Redditch Community Lottery and the extent to which the financial projections for the lottery were realistic.

During consideration of this item an amendment was proposed by Councillor Bill Hartnett. This was seconded by Councillor Greg Chance.

The amendment proposed an alternative budget as detailed in the table below:

	2019-20 £000	2020-21 £000	2021-22 £000	2022-23 £000
Departmental base budget	9,116	9,173	9,387	9,388
Incremental Progression/Inflation on Utilities	132	206	281	483
Unavoidable Pressures	373	287	227	255
Revenue Bids/Revenue impact of capital bids	133	113	105	105
Savings and Additional income	1,107	-821	-826	-796
Reserve release	-262	0	0	0
Efficiency savings rolled forwards	1,117	1,271	1,282	1,282
Net Revenue Budget Requirement	9,503	10,229	10,456	10,717
FINANCING				
Contribution to Worcestershire County Business Rate Pool	2,855	-2,899	-2,941	-2,986
Council Tax	6,241	-6,524	-6,857	-7,178
New Homes Bonus	-754	-430	-231	-209
Collection Fund Surplus (Council Tax)	-14	0	0	0
Parish Precept	8	8	8	8
Parish Precept income	-8	-8	-8	-8
Bad Debt Provision	50	50	50	50
Investment Income	-661	-952	-1,349	-1,673
MRP (Principal)	1,004	1,159	1,249	1,610

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Interest payable	158	584	1,002	1,237
Recharge to Capital Programme	-38	-38	-38	-38
Discount on advanced pension payment	-193	-50	-50	-50
Funding Total	9,543	-9,099	-9,164	-9,237
General Balances				
Opening Balances	1,401	1,440	310	-982
Contribution (from) / to General Balances	40	-1,130	-1,292	-1,481
Agreed in year release of balances				
Closing Balances	1,440	310	-982	-2,463

Alternative Budget Includes :

- reinstating the grants budget of £20k
- reducing member allowances to previous year level saving £60k
- improves the financial position by £160k over 4 years

In proposing the alternative budget Councillor Hartnett explained that this would ensure that the £20,000 funding that had been removed from the grants process would be reinstated. The alternative budget did not include the additional £60,000 arising from the increase in Members' allowances proposed by the IRP. Nor would the alternative budget include the additional £9,000 in allowances that had been added by the Executive Committee on 5th February 2019 and which had not been proposed by the IRP. Councillor Hartnett noted that the alternative budget would have removed funding to establish the Redditch Community Lottery but this was not possible as this budget had already been spent.

In seconding the alternative budget Councillor Greg Chance commented that it was acknowledged that this would not resolve all of the financial difficulties facing the Council. However, the alternative budget would reinstate £20,000 to support VCS groups working in the local community. The alternative budget would also remove the increase of £60,000 in Members allowances which could instead be reinvested in frontline services.

Members subsequently debated the alternative budget and during this discussion raised the following matters:

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- The financial challenges facing local government and the fact that the budgetary position for Councils had been difficult for a number of years.
- The £40,000 savings that would be achieved in each year should the alternative budget be approved.
- The increase in Members' allowances proposed by the IRP and the length of time that had passed since the Council had agreed an increase to the allowances for Members.
- The rate of allowances paid to Redditch Members in 2018/29 and the fact that these were 70 per cent lower than the remuneration received by Councillors elected to serve on Bromsgrove District Council.

On being put to the vote the amendment was defeated.

RECOMMENDED

- 1) **the approval of the Unavoidable costs as attached at Appendix1:**
 - 2019/20 £373k
 - 2020/21 £287k
 - 2021/22 £227k
 - 2022/23 £255k
- 2) **the approval of the Revenue Bids as attached at Appendix 2:**
 - 2019/20 £193k
 - 2020/21 £173k
 - 2021/22 £165k
 - 2022/23 £165k
- 3) **the approval of the Identified Savings as attached at Appendix 3:**
 - 2019/20 £1,127k
 - 2020/21 £841k
 - 2021/22 £846k
 - 2022/23 £816k
- 4) **the approval of the Capital Programme bids as attached at Appendix 4:**
 - 2019/20 £1.875m
 - 2020/21 nil
 - 2021/22 nil
 - 2022/23 £1.352m
- 5) **the approval of the Pay Policy Statement as attached in Appendix 6;**

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- 6) the approval of the Council Tax Resolutions to include the increase of the Council Tax per Band D at 2.2% and the following:
- a) that it be noted at its meeting on 8th January 2019, the Executive Committee calculated the Council Tax Base 2019/20
 - (i) for the whole Council area as 26,096.00 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
 - (ii) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates; this being Feckenham Parish as 370.10.
 - b) that the calculation of the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2019/20 (excluding Parish precepts) is £6,240,858.40.
 - c) that the following amounts be calculated for the year 2019/20 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (i) £50,996,528 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act (taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils) (*i.e. Gross expenditure*)
 - (ii) £44,747,370 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act. (*i.e. Gross income*)
 - (iii) £6,249,158 being the amount by which the aggregate of 3 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3 (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
 - (iv) £239.47 being the amount at 3 (c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).

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- (v) £8,300 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Feckenham Parish precept) referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act.
- (vi) £239.15 being the amount at 3 (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3 (e) above by Item T (1 (a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
- (vii) £261.58 being the amount given by adding to the amount at 3(f), the amount of the special item relating to the Parish of Feckenham 3(e), divided by the amount in 1(b) above.
- (viii) The amounts below given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands.

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Parish of Feckenham £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6/9	174.38	159.43
B	7/9	203.46	186.01
C	8/9	232.52	212.58
D	1	261.58	239.15
E	11/9	319.70	292.29
F	13/9	377.84	345.44
G	15/9	435.96	398.58
H	18/9	523.16	478.30

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- d) it be noted that for the year 2019/20, Worcestershire County Council, Warwickshire and West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwelling in the Council's area as indicated below:

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Worcestershire County Council	840.50	980.58	1120.67	1260.75	1540.92	1821.08	2101.25	2521.50
Warwickshire and West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner	144.44	168.51	192.59	216.66	264.81	312.95	361.10	433.32
Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority	56.23	65.60	74.97	84.34	103.08	121.82	140.57	168.68

- e) Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4(h) and 5 above, that Redditch Borough Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the amounts shown below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2019/20 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings:

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Parish of Feckenham £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6/9	1,215.55	1,200.60
B	7/9	1,418.15	1,400.70
C	8/9	1,620.75	1,600.81
D	1	1,823.33	1,800.90
E	11/9	2,228.51	2,201.10
F	13/9	2,633.69	2,601.29
G	15/9	3,038.88	3,001.50
H	18/9	3,646.66	3,601.80

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Monday, 25 February 2019

- f) that the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make payments under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 from the Collection Fund by ten equal instalments between April 2019 to March 2020 as detailed below:

	Precept £	Surplus on Collection Fund £	Total to pay £
Worcestershire County Council	32,900,532.00	74,370.00	32,974,902.00
Warwickshire and West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner	5,653,926.95	12,089.00	5,666,015.95
Hereford & Worcester Fire	2,200,935.39	5,024.00	2,205,959.39

- g) that the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make transfers under Section 97 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 from the Collection Fund to the General Fund the sum of £6,263,532.40 being the Council's own demand on the Collection Fund (£6,240,858.40) and Parish Precept (£8,300) and the distribution of the Surplus on the Collection Fund (£14,374);
- h) that the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make payments from the General Fund to Feckenham Parish Council the sums listed above (£8,300) by instalment on 1 April 2019 in respect of the precept levied on the Council;
- i) that the above resolutions 3 to 5 be signed by the Chief Executive for use in legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court for the recovery of unpaid Council Taxes; and
- j) that notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Chief Executive are given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

RESOLVED that

the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in respect of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23, proposed at a meeting of the Committee on 20th February 2019, be noted.

Executive Committee

Monday, 25 February 2019

102. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair confirmed that there were no outstanding recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4th February 2019 for consideration at the meeting.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 4th February 2019 be noted.

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

The Chair confirmed that there were no outstanding matters referred by other Committees for consideration at the meeting.

104. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

- a) Constitutional Review Working Party – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

Councillor Dormer advised the Committee that a meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party had taken place on 12th February 2019. The recommendations arising from this meeting would be considered at the Council meeting on 25th February 2019.

- b) Corporate Parenting Steering Board – Council Representative, Councillor Gareth Prosser

Members were advised that, as discussed at the previous meeting of the Executive Committee, Councillor Baker-Price had attended the latest meeting of the Corporate Parenting Steering Board as a substitute.

Councillor Baker-Price explained that during the latest meeting of the Board Members had discussed the delays that could occur in terms of the provision of universal credit. Often when a young person left care s/he did not then receive universal credit for up to four weeks which could create difficulties and a Section 37 needed to be obtained to provide assistance.

- c) Grants Panel – Chair, Councillor Greg Chance

Councillor Chance confirmed that there was no update to provide.

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- d) Member Support Steering Group – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

Members were informed that the following meeting of the Member Support Steering Group was due to take place on the evening of Tuesday 26th February 2019. This was the rescheduled meeting of the group that had been due to take place in January and Members were asked to bring their agenda packs from that date in order to reduce the amount of paperwork generated for the meeting.

- e) Planning Advisory Panel – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

Councillor Dormer explained that the following meeting of the Planning Advisory Panel was due to take place on 13th March 2019.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.32 pm

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S

WORK PROGRAMME

1 April 2019 to 31 July 2019

(published as at 1st March 2019)



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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

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

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

The Executive Committee's meetings are normally held at 7pm on Tuesday evenings at the Town Hall. They are open to the public, except when confidential information is being discussed. If you wish to attend for a particular matter, it is advisable to check with the Democratic Services Team on (01527) 64252, ext: 3268 to make sure it is going ahead as planned. If you have any other queries, Democratic Services Officers will be happy to advise you. The full Council meets in accordance the Council's Calendar of Meetings. Meetings commence at 7.00pm.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Matthew Dormer, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Governance and Partnerships

Councillor David Bush, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Town Centre and Commercialism

Councillor Tom Baker-Price, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management

Councillor Michael Rouse, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism

Councillor Brandon Clayton, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

Councillor Gareth Prosser, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Councillor Craig Warhurst, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Councillor Greg Chance

Councillor Bill Hartnett

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report 2018/19 Key: No	Council 15 Apr 2019		Report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Jess Bayley, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Redditch) Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3268
High Quality Design - Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Key: No	Executive 11 Jun 2019 Council 24 Jun 2019		Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Tel: (01527) 881325
Homes England Asset Transfer Key: Yes	Executive 11 Jun 2019	Consideration of this item is the subject to agreement of certain matters with Homes England in January 2019. This report will contain commercially sensitive information and therefore parts of the report may need to be considered in private session.	Report of the Chief Executive	Paul Spooner, Interim Head of Economic Development & Regeneration - North Worcestershire, Lyndsey Berry, Town Centre Co-Ordinator Tel: 01527 587002

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Housing / Housing Revenue Improvement Plan - Progress Report Key: No	Executive 11 Jun 2019		Report of the Deputy Chief Executive	Sue Hanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Leisure, Environmental & Community Services) Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3601
Performance Report - Help me run a successful business and Help me be financially independent Key: No	Executive 11 Jun 2019		Report of the Chief Executive	Tracy Beech, Policy Officer Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3625
Private Sector Home Repair Assistance Policy Update Key: No	Executive 11 Jun 2019		Report of the Head of Community Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284
Redditch Business Centres Review Key: No	Executive 11 Jun 2019 Council 24 Jun 2019		Report of the Chief Executive	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development Tel: 01562 732192
Service Delivery Options - HRA Gas Maintenance Key: Yes	Executive 11 Jun 2019		Report of the Head of Environmental Services	Guy Revans, Head of Environmental Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3292

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Town Centre Regeneration (Community Hub and Railway Quarter) Key: Yes	Executive 11 Jun 2019	This report may contain exempt information which might need to be considered by the Executive Committee in private session.	Report of the Chief Executive	Lyndsey Berry, Town Centre Co-Ordinator Tel: 01527 587002
Unit 17, Rubicon Centre Key: Yes	Executive 11 Jun 2019	This report may contain exempt information and as such Members may be required to go into confidential session during consideration of the item.	Report of the Chief Executive	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development Tel: 01562 732192
North Worcestershire Economic Growth Strategy Key: No	Executive 9 Jul 2019 Council 22 Jul 2019		Report of the Chief Executive	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development Tel: 01562 732192

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Tenancy Conditions for Council Housing Tenants and Tenants' Handbook Key: No	Executive 9 Jul 2019 Council 22 Jul 2019		Report of the Head of Community Services	Jayne Baylis, Housing Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3825
New Cemetery Provision Key: No	Executive 10 Sep 2019		Report of the Head of Environmental Services	Michael Birkinshaw, Bereavement Services Manager Tel: 01527 62174
Performance Report - Help me live my life independently Key: No	Executive 10 Sep 2019		Report of the Deputy Chief Executive	Tracy Beech, Policy Officer Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3625
Performance Report - Provide Good things for me to see, do and visit Key: No	Executive 10 Dec 2019		Report of the Executive Director Finance and Resources	Tracy Beech, Policy Officer Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3625
Performance Report - Provide with somewhere to live in my locality Key: No	Executive 14 Jan 2020		Report of the Deputy Chief Executive	Tracy Beech, Policy Officer Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3625

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any)	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Performance Report - Keep my place safe and looking good Key: No	Executive 24 Mar 2020		Report of the Deputy Chief Executive	Tracy Beech, Policy Officer Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3625

21st March 2019**Overview & Scrutiny**

Committee

WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

(Report of the Chief Executive)

Date of Meeting	Subject Matter	Officer(s) Responsible for report
ALL MEETINGS	REGULAR ITEMS	(CHIEF EXECUTIVE)
	Minutes of previous meeting Consideration of the Executive Committee Work Programme Call-ins (if any) Pre-scrutiny (if any) Task Groups / Short, Sharp Review Groups – feedback Working Groups - feedback Committee Work Programme	Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chair of Task Group / Short, Sharp Review Chair of Working Group Chief Executive
	REGULAR ITEMS Update on the work of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel Tracker Report Updates on the work of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Monitoring Report – Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy	Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service Redditch Borough Council representative on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

21st March 2019**Overview & Scrutiny**

Committee

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
21 st March 2019	Suicide Prevention Scoping Document	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
21 st March 2019	Bus Services – Interview with representatives of Diamond Buses	
21 st March 2019	Pre-decision Scrutiny - Matchborough and Winyates District Centre – Outcomes of Soft market Testing	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
21 st March 2019	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2011/19	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
21 st March 2019	Public Speaking Report	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
21 st March 2019	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Recommendation Tracker	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
6 th June 2019	Acute Hospital Services Review – Proposed Short Sharp Review	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
6 th June 2019	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Housing / housing Revenue Improvement Plan – Progress Report	Relevant Director
6 th June 2019	Private Sector Home Repair Assistance Policy – Pre-Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

21st March 2019

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

6th June 2019	Pre-decision Scrutiny - Service Delivery Options – HRA Gas Maintenance	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
6th June 2019	Overview and Scrutiny – Select Committee Findings and new Government Guidance	Relevant Lead
4th July 2019	Pre- Scrutiny Tenancy Conditions for Council Housing Tenants and Tenants Handbook	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
5th Sept 2019	Pre-Scrutiny New Cemetery Provision	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
OTHER ITEMS – DATE NOT FIXED		
	Redditch Community Lottery – Six Months' Update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
	The Private Sector Housing Team update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
	Herefordshire and Worcestershire sustainability and Transformation Partnership - update	
	Emergency Planning (Civil Contingencies) Update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
OTHER POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY – DATE NOT FIXED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Gateway • Parking on roads inappropriately • Landscaping • Local Hospital Service Provision – outcome of Health Commission • Mental health services • Health services for young people 	

21st March 2019

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cuts to school budgets and parental choice• Council owned shops and rateable values• The night time economy	
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A pre meeting was held and determined that WMCA needs to facilitate building communities at Code 6 level. Also a need to scrutinise the merger of Mayor and PCC

The meeting was again not quorate needing 2/3 of voting members.

Wolverhampton has allocated a councillor to just work on WMCA matters

Chairman asked that we present questions in advance where possible to speed up the meeting.

Extra resources have been allocated to O&S in the budget, resulting in another officer.

There was a discussion on the results of the consultation for the merger of mayor and PCC. There was concern over the quality of the "reliability & validity" *technical statistical terms*. These concerns led to a discussion on the whole of O&S across all services.

Members were pleased that young people were being included in any consultation and asked that all developments were to be carbon neutral.

A discussion of the WMCA's Annual Plan led to a renewed emphasis on the need for pre-scrutiny. Next the debate moved on to the relationship between the various aspects of the WMCA's priorities i.e. housing / industry. As part of developing communities there is a £12K infrastructure budget for surgeries/ schools etc.

To enable outputs to be measured many members requested quantifiable results

The Wolverhampton Metro extension needs to be developed and linked to the whole devolution deal that needs to be brought into the 21 century.

The Portfolio holder and officer presented, for scrutiny, the housing scheme, reminding members that WMCA only facilitates the building of homes by helping with brown field sites or other difficult sites. *The slides are available*. There followed a general discussion on building homes.

This covers an 84 page report.

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