



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thu 5 Sep
2019
6.30 pm

Committee Room Two
Town Hall
Redditch

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GUIDANCE ON PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Council has introduced public speaking at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings, which allows members of the public to comment on agenda items due to be considered at the meeting.

The total maximum time permitted for public speaking is 15 minutes and the time limit for individual speakers is 3 minutes.

Only those members of the public who have registered to speak in advance of the meeting will be permitted to do so.

To register to speak you must contact Democratic Services by phone on 01527 64252 ext 3268, or by email at democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk before 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

When registering to speak you must give your name and contact telephone number and indicate which agenda item you wish to speak about.

**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
Jess Bayley**

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Overview and Scrutiny

Thursday, 5th September, 2019

6.30 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Committee

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Joe Baker (Chair)	Peter Fleming
	Debbie Chance (Vice-Chair)	Andrew Fry
	Salman Akbar	Mark Shurmer
	Joanne Beecham	Jennifer Wheeler
	Michael Chalk	

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 (Pages 1 - 10)

4. Public Speaking

To invite members of the public who have registered in advance of the meeting to speak to the Committee.

5. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 11 - 22)

6. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 23 - 26)

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

- a) Budget Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Wheeler
- b) Parking Enforcement Task Group – Chair, Councillor Mark Shurmer
- c) Performance Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Andrew Fry
- d) Suicide Prevention Scrutiny Task Group – Chair, Councillor Debbie Chance

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8. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports

- 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.

9. Exclusion of the press and public

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

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

These paragraphs are as follows:

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

- Para 3 – financial or business affairs;

10. Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Disposal of HRA Asset at Green Lane, Studley - to follow



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 4th July, 2019

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Joe Baker (Chair), Councillor Debbie Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Joanne Beecham, Michael Chalk, Andrew Fry, Anthony Lovell, Nyear Nazir, Mark Shurmer and Jennifer Wheeler

Officers:

Jayne Baylis, Sue Hanley, Guy Revans and Judith Willis

Democratic Services Officers:

J Bayley and F Mughal

13. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Salman Akbar and Peter Fleming. It was confirmed that Councillors Anthony Lovell and Nyear Nazir were attending as their respective substitutes.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

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

15. MINUTES

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 6th June, 2019 were submitted for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 6th June, 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

.....
Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 4th July, 2019

16. PUBLIC SPEAKING

Members noted that on this occasion there were no public speakers registered.

17. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - TENANCY CONDITIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSING TENANTS AND TENANTS HANDBOOK

Members considered a report providing an update in respect of proposed changes to the Council's Housing Tenancy Agreement and Conditions. The Housing Services Manager and Head of Community Services highlighted the key areas in the report.

The Conditions of Tenancy detailed the tenant's rights and responsibilities as well as the Council's rights and responsibilities as a landlord. The Committee was informed that the Tenants' Handbook was also being revised which contained more detailed information on managing a tenancy.

The revised agreement and conditions would go out for consultation with tenants and a final report would be presented to the Executive Committee at a later date.

During consideration of this matter the following points were noted:

- The draft document proposed that the landlord would replace any faulty toilet seats. However, Members noted that at Birmingham City Council this was the responsibility of the tenant and it was suggested that this could be a requirement in Redditch too.
- The handbook would provide information to enable tenants to understand the difference between damp and condensation. Members noted that they often received complaints about damp but sometimes this was due to condensation that could be managed before it caused any problems.
- With regards to dealing with tenants who suffered from mental health issues, the Council's Housing Officers worked with Mental Health teams to provide support. The Council's Housing Allocations Policy also took the needs of those with mental health illnesses into account.
- Concerns were raised that it was important for tenants to be informed not just about their rights but also of the need to take their responsibility as tenants seriously and with this in mind Members suggested that the 'Your Rights' section should be renamed 'your rights and responsibilities' Officers explained that the agreement and handbook both stressed both the rights and the responsibilities of the tenant.

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- Members expressed the view that it was important for the Council's housing Officers to participate in more community engagement as this would enable them to identify problems in the wards.
- Questions were raised about how the Council would enforce compliance with the conditions detailed in the agreement and handbook. Officers advised that training had recently been received on the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act which provided landlords with a range of enforcement tools and powers.
- Members noted that they had observed untidy gardens and rubbish in gardens whilst in their wards and concerns were raised about the extent to which the Council currently undertook effective enforcement action to resolve these types of issue.
- The proposed agreement stipulated that the tenant had no right to sub-let their property, or rooms in their property, without prior permission from the Council.
- Members suggested that when circulated the handbook should include information about waste and recycling services.
- The Committee thanked officers for their hard work and noted that Officers in the Locality Teams were working hard to support local communities.

RECOMMENDED that

- a) the tenancy agreement should be amended at paragraph 9.20, to read "park vehicles in areas set aside for emergency vehicles and allocated disable bays";**
- b) the Council be more pro-active with enforcement, in particular, with regard to rubbish deposited in gardens, to ensure that gardens are kept tidy; and**
- c) the 'your rights' section be retitled 'your rights and responsibilities'.**

18. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - HOUSING / HOUSING REVENUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the Housing Strategic Improvement/Action Plan – Progress Report and in so doing the following matters were highlighted for Members' consideration:

- The report outlined the progress that had been made in relation to the Housing Improvement Action Plan, which was endorsed in September 2018.

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- With regard Leadership/Management Development Programme, a revised timescale was proposed for October 2019.
- The Gas Business Case would be presented to the Executive Committee for consideration in October 2019.
- All information in relation to governance, performance and measures for the Housing Service was updated on a monthly basis and available for Members to view on the Council's dashboard.
- Officers were aiming to complete the stock condition survey by the end of November 2019.

Following the presentation of the report Members discussed a number of points in detail:

- Members noted that there were two vacant posts detailed in the report and questioned whether these would be filled. Officers advised that these vacant posts were due to be advertised by the end of July 2019.
- The Committee requested clarification in terms of the percentage of rent that was collected from tenants by the Council per month. Members were informed that the data in relation to arrears was reported on the dashboard; however, the percentage of rent collected was not monitored. Members requested a further update in respect of this matter for consideration at the following meeting of the Committee.
- Members questioned when the last stock condition survey had been undertaken by the Council. Officers explained that a stock condition survey had previously been undertaken in 2001; however, this had only covered 10% of the Council's housing stock.
- With regard to the Gas Maintenance a business case would be presented to the Executive Committee for consideration in due course which would outline the various options available to the Council in terms of future service delivery.
- Members welcomed news that all gas inspections of the council's properties were up to date.
- The Council's new Housing Management IT system was briefly discussed and Members questioned how this would operate alongside the new Enterprise finance system. Officers advised that the two systems would be integrated.
- Members noted that in previous years new kitchens and bathrooms had been installed at properties even when they were not necessarily needed. The stock condition survey would enable the Council to identify where there was a need for these to be replaced.

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In conclusion, Members thanked officers for all their hard work.

RESOLVED that

the Housing Strategic Improvement/Action Plan – Progress report be noted.

19. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND NEW GOVERNANCE GUIDANCE - PRESENTATION

Members were reminded that at the previous meeting of the Committee on 6th June, 2019 the Committee had considered the Overview and Scrutiny Statutory Guidance that had been published by the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government in May 2019. As requested during that meeting a report had been produced which highlighted the areas in the guidance that diverged from local scrutiny practice. Members were invited to consider whether to make any amendments to local practice based on the content of the report.

During consideration of the report the following points were highlighted:

- The guidance stressed the need for early and regular engagement between the Executive and Scrutiny. Although the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed scrutiny matters with the Leader of the Council when necessary, the Committee suggested that this arrangement should be formalised as it was at other Councils. To ensure that these meetings were useful Members proposed that the Leader of the Council should meet with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as the leader of the opposition to discuss scrutiny matters. In line with practice at other Councils Members suggested that these meetings should take place on a quarterly basis, though additional meetings could be arranged if required.
- Communicating Scrutiny's Role and Purpose to the Wider Authority and Communicating Scrutiny's Role to the Public was another section of the guidance that was discussed. Members noted that the local press were not always able to attend scrutiny meetings, though could help to disseminate information about scrutiny activities to the public. The Committee agreed that the Council's Communications Team should be invited to attend a future meeting to help discuss action that could be taken to help raise awareness of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the public.

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- Conflicts of interest, including familial links was a future point in the guidance that was considered by the Committee. Members noted that it was important to avoid any perception that a Member's approach to scrutiny was shaped by their familial links to a Member of the Executive committee. However, Members also agreed that in a small authority such as Redditch Borough Council there was always the possibility that scrutiny Members would have family links members of the Executive Committee. It was agreed that where Members were scrutinising the work of a particular Portfolio Holder any scrutiny Members related to that Portfolio Holder should declare an interest.

RECOMMENDED to the Constitutional Review Working Party that

the Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should meet on a quarterly basis with the Leader of the Council and the leader of the opposition to discuss scrutiny matters.

20. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TRAINING EVENT - MEMBERS TO CONSIDER POTENTIAL ITEMS TO REVIEW

Members considered a report which detailed the potential items for scrutiny that had been identified by Members during Overview and Scrutiny training in May 2019. The potential topics for scrutiny that had been suggested by the Councils Corporate Management Team (CMT) were also considered by the Committee. The Chair reminded the Committee that there were two task group reviews being undertaken and any further reviews that Members identified for investigation would not be able to take place until these reviews had been completed. Members were also asked to note that the Committee had successfully undertaken a lot of pre-scrutiny of items on the Executive Committee's work Programme and it was suggested that this approach to scrutiny at Committee meetings needed to continue.

Based on the items detailed in the report Members agreed that the following subjects would be suitable for scrutiny in 2019/20:

- Poverty – Members agreed that this subject might be suitable for a Short Sharp Review or Task Group exercise. Councillor Wheeler agreed to produce a scoping document in respect of this subject for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee.

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- Mental Health Services, to include loneliness, in particular, with older people. Members agreed to invite officers from Worcestershire County Council to attend a future meeting to provide an update in respect of this matter. As Councillor Debbie Chance advised the Committee that some elements of mental health would be covered by Suicide Prevention Scrutiny Task Group Members agreed that this presentation should take place once that investigation had been completed.
- Skills in the local workforce – Members agreed to invite representatives of the north Worcestershire Economic Development Unit to attend a future meeting of the Committee to deliver a presentation in respect of this matter. The Committee suggested that this presentation should cover training needs for young people entering the workforce, skills and training for adults seeking to move careers and local employees' salaries.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – Members agreed that the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel should consider the work of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership to address anti-social-behaviour in Redditch. As this had been the subject of a similar report to the Panel in 2018 it was agreed that comparative data for the two years should be provided in this report for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that:

the items suggested by Members during the discussion be incorporated onto the Committee's Work Programme.

21. 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 11th June, 2019 and the Executive Committee's Work Programme for the period 1st August to 30th November, 2019.

Officers advised that the recommendation the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had made in June 2019 to the Executive Committee in relation disabled facilities grants had been approved.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 11th June 2019 be noted; and**

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- 2) **the content of the Executive Committee's Work Programme for the period 1st August to 30th November, 2019 be noted.**

22. **TASK GROUPS, SHORT SHARP REVIEWS AND WORKING GROUPS - UPDATE REPORTS**

- a) Budget Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Wheeler

Councillor Wheeler informed the Committee that the Budget Scrutiny Working Group met on 1st July, 2019 and welcomed Councillor Akbar to the group. Members were informed that the model of this working group worked well last year and therefore a similar approach had been agreed for 2019/20.

The Financial Services Manager had attended the meeting to provide an update in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan which outlined the potential budget gap for 2020/21 – 2023/24.

Relevant senior Officers had been invited to attend a future meeting of the group to provide an update in respect of the work of the Commercialism Programme Board.

- b) Parking Enforcement Task Group – Chair, Councillor Mark Shurmer

Members were informed that the first meeting had been arranged to take place on 11th July, 2019.

- c) Performance Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Andrew Fry

Members were informed that the first meeting of this municipal year took place on 21st June, 2019. During this meeting Members had considered the corporate performance report in respect of one of the strategic purposes 'Help me be Financially Independent'. Members would consider the performance report for 'Help run a successful business' at the following meeting of the working group.

- d) Suicide Prevention Scrutiny Task Group – Chair, Debbie Chance

Members were advised that five members had been appointed to the Task Group but a sixth Member was also now interested in participating in the review. It was confirmed that Councillor Baker should be appointed to sit on the group.

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Councillor Debbie Chance informed the Committee that the first meeting of the Task Group took place on 27th June, 2019 and a work programme had been produced. A series of meetings had been scheduled and key witnesses had been identified to attend future meetings of the group.

RESOLVED that

Councillor Joe Baker be appointed to sit on the Suicide Prevention Task Group.

23. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

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

Members considered the content of the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report for 2018/19. Members were informed that the next meeting of the Committee was due to be held on 15th July, 2019.

- b) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Council Representative, Councillor Michael Chalk

Councillor Chalk provided a written update in respect of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting that had been held on 27th June, 2019. During this meeting an update had been provided in respect of acute stroke services. Members had been advised that there was a national shortage of consultants for stroke services. In Worcestershire the service was provided at the Worcester Royal hospital, though sometimes the consultant provided advice from Herefordshire via skype.

Members discussed stroke service provision in the county. Some personal examples were provided by Members in respect of their experiences when suffering with a stroke and concerns were raised that residents from Redditch might struggle to access the service when needed due to the distance that they had to travel to Worcester. Members also commented that if consultants were providing advice via skype to Worcester Royal Hospital a similar service should be made available at the Alexandra Hospital to serve the needs of local residents.

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Concerns were raised that increasingly younger people were having strokes. Many younger people lived in the Borough of Redditch and it was important to ensure that local health services met their needs.

Members concurred that the subject required further investigation and Members therefore agreed to invite representatives of Worcestershire Acute Hospital NHS Trust to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the matter further.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the content of the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report 2018/19 be noted; and**
- 2) **representatives of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to deliver a presentation in respect of stroke services.**

24. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Senior Democratic Services Officer (Redditch) presented the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme and in doing so informed the Committee that the items that had been identified earlier for scrutiny would be incorporated into the work programme.

Members were advised that the Service Delivery Options – HRA Gas Maintenance report would now be considered by the Executive Committee in October, 2019 and therefore this item would moved back to October on the Overview and Scrutiny's Work Programme for Pre-Decision Scrutiny.

RESOLVED that

the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 8.07 pm



Executive Committee

Tuesday, 9 July 2019

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Julian Grubb, Bill Hartnett, Mike Rouse, David Thain and Craig Warhurst

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Sue Hanley, Jayne Pickering, Guy Revans, Judith Willis, Jayne Baylis, Anna Wardell-Hill and Kath Manning

Committee Services Officer

Sarah Sellers

16. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader circulated a written update in respect of his announcements at the meeting.

19. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday 11th June 2019 be held as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

.....
Chair

20. REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL LOW EMISSION VEHICLE STRATEGY

The Environmental Policy and Awareness Officer and the Climate Change and Energy Support Officer presented a report in respect of introducing an Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle (ULEV) Strategy including a five year action plan. The policy was designed to assist in the development of the necessary infrastructure in light of the change over to wider use of electric vehicles.

It was explained that officers were seeking delegated authority to allow them to apply for central government grant funding to enable the installation of electric vehicle charging points.

In particular the Council would be seeking funding towards:-

1. On street residential charging point schemes. These would be relevant to streets where home charging of vehicles would not be possible, and instead drivers would require off-street parking facilities with access to charging points.
2. Workplace Charging Schemes. This funding would contribute towards the installation costs of electric vehicle (EV) charging points for employees.

It was noted that the aims of the strategy would also contribute towards improving air quality and the sustainable environment. There would also be links to the Council's commercialism agenda. Initial areas which could be focussed on included streets with no off street parking, for example terraced housing areas, and provision of charging points to serve the council's own housing stock.

Officers were mindful of the need for charging points to be compatible in the wider area and a North Worcestershire working group had been set up to promote a consistent approach.

In response to questions from Members officers clarified that:-

- A review of the Council's own vehicle fleet would be undertaken to find out what changes could be made to transfer to alternative fuels, and the potential costs and timescales.
- No immediate changes to the rules around licenced taxi vehicles were envisaged; however the installation of charging points would provide the infrastructure to support any future moves to encourage taxis to switch to alternative fuels.
- Clean Air Zones were being introduced to large cities such as Birmingham; there were no government plans for smaller conurbations such as Redditch.

- The aim of the strategy was to enable the Council to pursue initiatives using the government grant funding provided for this purpose.
- As this was a new area, there are no recognised models of how tenants would be charged for use of charging points; the solution might be to have an operator as an intermediary.
- At a national level, work was being undertaken to ensure that the grid could cope with the increasing demand that would be placed upon it arising from the transition to EVs.
- The designs of plugs and charging points were becoming more standardised as the technology developed, and officers would ensure that charging points installed were compatible to as wide a spectrum of users as possible.

Members acknowledged the importance of making preparations to establish the infrastructure required for EVs, as this was the way technology was progressing. To this end the report was welcomed and Members were supportive of the work officers were doing to apply for grant funding and install EV charging points.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1. The ULEV strategy and associated action plan attached at Appendix 1 be adopted.**
- 2. The Head of Environmental Services and Head of Community Services have delegated power to act following consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, to apply for, accept, and administer (including in partnership with other local authorities) future funding in line with this strategy.**

21. TENANCY CONDITIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSING TENANTS

Members considered a report providing an updated version of the Housing Tenancy Agreement and Conditions, and seeking Members approval to carry out a formal consultation with tenants on the document.

The Housing Services Manager and the Head of Community Services presented the report and highlighted the key areas. The Housing Tenancy Agreement had not been updated since 2007; the revised document was designed to give tenants a clearer understanding of the operation of tenancies, and in particular the responsibilities of tenants. Alongside the updated Housing Tenancy Agreement, officers were also updating arrangements for recharging of tenants, and a separate policy in this regard would be considered at Executive in September.

Members were referred to paragraph 5.8 of the report which summarised the key changes that were being made to the document.

During consideration of this matter the following points were noted:-

- That the updated Housing Tenancy Agreement would reinforce the responsibilities of tenants, and help to promote better care being taken of properties; in the recent past this had been area where there had been problems with the Council having to fund significant repair work, particularly upon the surrender of tenancies. It was hoped that the changes would foster more responsibility by tenants to care for their properties and this would have benefits for the community at large.
- That the ability of officers to ensure that the conditions of tenancies were complied with would continue to be challenging. The core process would remain the same and officers were intending to make greater use of powers under the Crime and Disorder Act, including the issuing of Community Protection Notices.
- That it was important to encourage good landlord and tenant relationships, and officers would have a role to support tenants in making sure that they were able to comply with the terms of their tenancies.

Members considered the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out at pages 2 to 3 of the agenda pack Additional Papers 1, and agreed that they should be added to the recommendation, and that subject thereto the updated document should be released for formal consultation.

RESOLVED that

- 1. The revised Housing Tenancy Agreement & Conditions attached at Appendix 1, be released for formal consultation with tenants.**
- 2. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, a final version of the Tenancy Agreement be brought back to Executive Committee for formal adoption.**
- 3. The tenancy agreement should be amended at Paragraph 9.20, to read “park vehicles in areas set aside for emergency vehicles and allocated disabled bays”.**

4. **The Council be more proactive with the enforcement, in particular, with regard to rubbish deposited in gardens, to ensure that gardens are kept tidy.**
5. **The “your rights” section be retitled “your rights and responsibilities”.**

22. FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2018/19 AND RESERVES

The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources presented the Finance Monitoring Outturn Report 2018/19 and in so doing highlighted the following points for the Committee’s consideration:

- Members were referred to the Revenue Budget Summary table on page 113 which showed that for some strategic purposes there had been a shortfall in income or overspend of costs and that for others there had been an underspend.
- Overall there had been an overspend of £183k on general services which would be balanced by drawing down £183K from reserves.
- The budget had set out to achieve unidentified savings of £1m, and taking into account the overspend savings of circa £800k had been achieved.
- The capital budget was underspent by just under £3m. The majority of the underspend would be carried forward to the following year to spend on any delayed projects. More work was planned with Heads of Service regarding the capital budget going forward.
- The General Fund Balance as at 31st March 2019 was £1.223m.
- There had been savings of £176k in the HRA resulting from additional rental income and lower than expected numbers of Right to Buys. However, this had been offset by higher costs for repairs resulting in a drawdown of £706k from reserves.
- The balance of reserves as at 31st March 2019 was £770k.

In response to questions from Members clarification was given as to the overspend regarding housing benefits detailed on page 114 of the agenda, and it was confirmed that the scheme for grants for residents for Energy Efficiency installation had now been restarted.

RESOLVED that

The Executive Committee note the current financial position in relation to revenue and capital budgets for the period April – March 2019 as detailed in the report.

RECOMMENDED that

1. **Approval of the movement of £122k in existing reserves as included in Appendix 2.**
 2. **Approval of the addition of new reserves of £3,385 as included in Appendix 2.**
 3. **Approve the carry forward to the 2019/20 capital programme of £2,943k as detailed in Appendix 4.**
 4. **Approval of an increase in the 2019/20 Capital Programme of £39k for Disabled Facilities Grants. This is due to the budget allocations having now been announced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). This will increase the available budget to £839k.**
 5. **Approval of an increase to the Capital programme 2019/20 of match funding from PCC for digital upgrade of CCTV infrastructure.**
 6. **Approval of an increase to the capital programme 2019/20 of £3k s106 monies for Borough wide open space improvements.**
 7. **Approval of an increase to the Capital programme 2019/20 of £33k for Arrow Valley park Safety Improvements. (£180k already approved at Budget 2019/20)**
 8. **Approval of an increase to the Revenue budget 2019/20 of £5k due to grant being received from Communities and Local Government towards High Street clean up and future community environmental enhancements and approval for BARN to administer the grant and any future monies received which have similar requirements to this grant, as per paragraph 3.4.**
- 23. HOUSING / HOUSING REVENUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT**

The Deputy Chief Executive presented a report in respect of the progress that had been achieved with the implementation of the Housing Strategic Improvement/ Action Plan.

It was noted that Overview and Scrutiny had pre-scrutinised the report at its meeting on 4th July but had not put forward any recommendations.

During the presentation of the report the following matters were highlighted for Members' consideration:

- This was the second progress report in respect of the Housing Implementation Plan that had been presented to Members since December 2018.
- Whilst corporate actions were being progressed, the cultural changes would need a longer timeframe.
- Recruitment was ongoing for the two senior posts in the structure which were vacant, and it was anticipated that these would be filled by September.
- Pending appointment to those two posts the service reviews listed at paragraph 3.3.8 would be deferred.
- The Gas Business Case was being progressed and was due to be considered by Executive in October 2019. The Council remained compliant with its statutory requirements in this regard; the business case would look at options for future service delivery.
- The Stock Condition Survey was progressing and was anticipated to be 60% to 70% complete by November 2019.
- 43 out of the 50 strategic and operational measures approved earlier in the year had been placed on the Council's dashboard. The measures were being regularly monitored and reviewed.
- The procurement of the Housing Management IT system was progressing subject to a slight delay.
- Risk logs were being maintained and regularly reviewed, and Members were referred to the 4 areas categorised as high risk as set out on page 135 of the main agenda.

Members discussed the report in detail and thanked the officers for their continuing work in addressing the areas identified for improvement within Housing Services in 2017/18.

RESOLVED that

The contents of the report and progress reports be noted.

24. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members were advised that there were no outstanding recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED that

Executive Committee

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the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6th June 2019 be noted.

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

There were no additional referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or from any other Committees.

26. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

The following updates were provided:

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

Councillor Dormer confirmed that the next meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party would take place on 16th July 2019.

- b) Corporate Parenting Steering Board – Council Representative, Councillor Juliet Brunner

Councillor Brunner advised that the Corporate Parenting Steering Board was carrying out work with regard to young persons.

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

Councillor Dormer confirmed that the Group had last met on Tuesday 18th June 2019. He urged any Councillors who had not yet returned their form for the Members IT survey to do so as soon as possible.

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

Councillor Dormer confirmed that there had been no meetings of the Planning Advisory Panel since the last Executive meeting.

27. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that

under S.100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 9 July 2019

meeting for the following matter on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act (information relating to financial or business affairs).

28. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Members considered a report in respect of an investment opportunity in exempt session.

[During consideration of this item Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to exclude the press and public during the course of the debate on the grounds that information would be revealed which related to the financial and business affairs of the local authority].

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 8.05 pm

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

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Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

5th September 2019**WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

(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	Chief Executive
	Consideration of the Executive Committee Work Programme	Chief Executive
	Call-ins (if any)	Chief Executive
	Pre-scrutiny (if any)	Chief Executive
	Task Groups / Short, Sharp Review Groups – feedback	Chair of Task Group / Short, Sharp Review
	Working Groups - feedback	Chair of Working Group
	Committee Work Programme	Chief Executive
	REGULAR ITEMS	
	Update on the work of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel	Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel
	Tracker Report	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
	Updates on the work of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Redditch Borough Council representative on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
	Annual Monitoring Report – Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

5th September 2019

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
5 th Sept 2019	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Disposal of HRA Asset at Green Lane, Studley	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
24 th October 2019	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Service Delivery Options – HRA Gas Maintenance	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
24 th October 2019	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Homes England Asset Transfer	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
24 th October 2019	Pre-decision Scrutiny - Town Centre Regeneration (Community Hub and Railway Quarter)	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
24 th October 2019	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - New Cemetery Provision	Relevant Lead
24 th October 2019	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Redditch Council Plan	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
24 th October 2019	Waste Services - Presentation	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
24 th October 2019	Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership - update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
5 th December 2019	Presentation in respect of promoting Overview and Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

5th September 2019

5th December 2019	Redditch Partnership Annual Report	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
5th December 2019	Civil Contingencies Annual Report	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
5th December 2019	Parking Enforcement Task Group – Final Report	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
5th December 2019	Skills in the local workforce presentation	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
5th December 2019	Suicide Prevention Task Group – Final Report	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
20th February 2020	Consideration of the Executive Committee's Budget Proposals	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
19th March	Finalising the content of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
OTHER ITEMS – DATE NOT FIXED		
	Redditch Community Lottery – Six Months' Update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

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