



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wed 20 Feb
2019
6.30 pm

Committee Room Two
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

Wednesday, 20th February,
2019

6.30 pm

Council Chamber - Town Hall
Redditch

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Joe Baker (Chair)
Debbie Chance (Vice-Chair)
Joanne Beecham
Michael Chalk
Andrew Fry

Pattie Hill
Anthony Lovell
Gemma Monaco
Jennifer Wheeler

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 - 8)

4. Medium Term Financial Plan - Proposed Budget - considering scrutiny proposals - To follow

5. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 9 - 28)

6. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 29 - 32)

7. Task Groups, Short Sharp Reviews and Working Groups - Verbal Updates

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

8. External Scrutiny Bodies - Verbal Update

- 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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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 4th February, 2019

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Joe Baker (Chair), Councillor Debbie Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Salman Akbar, Roger Bennett, Michael Chalk, Andrew Fry, Pattie Hill, Anthony Lovell and Mark Shurmer

Officers:

Ann Dallison, Sue Hanley, Guy Revans and Judith Willis

Democratic Services Officers:

J Bayley and Farzana Mughal

80. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Joanne Beecham, Gemma Monaco and Jennifer Wheeler. It was confirmed that Councillors Salman Akbar, Roger Bennett and Mark Shurmer were attending as their respective substitutes.

81. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

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

82. MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETING HELD ON 3 JANUARY 2019

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd January, 2019 were submitted for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on

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Chair

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3rd January, 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

83. COMMUNITY LOTTERY - PRE SCRUTINY

The Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Co-ordinator provided Members with an overview of the Community Lottery Scheme for Redditch Borough Council. Members were reminded that the Executive Committee and Council had already agreed in September to set up a Council lottery.

The business plan outlined raising money for local community and voluntary sector groups from a weekly draw, with the potential for players to win a £25,000 jackpot. With regards to the ongoing costs of the annual license fee and annual lotteries, Council membership would be met through the 10% share of ticket sales.

Members discussed the following matters in relation to the implementation of this scheme:

- The potential that people from deprived backgrounds would be encouraged to take part in gambling.
- The extent to which the scheme would be sustainable and the basis for the projected figures in the report.
- The safeguarding policy proposed for the scheme and whether the policy would be robust enough to protect those who were under age and vulnerable people.
- The potential impact of the Council's lottery on income derived from organisational lotteries by local charities.
- The extent to which there was demand for a lottery in Redditch. Members expressed concerns that no market testing had been undertaken in the Borough before a decision had been taken to launch a Council lottery.
- The arrangements for the Council to hold a license for the lottery and the role of the external company that would be managing the scheme.
- The potential impact that a number of jackpot winners would have on the insurance premiums for the external management company and the impact that this could have in the long-term on the organisation's willingness to support the lottery. Members were advised that it was likely the lottery would be managed by an experienced external company.
- The possibility that residents would take part in the Council lottery in order to provide financial support to good causes. Members were advised that participants could nominate

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charities that would receive funding following their purchase of a lottery ticket.

- The examples of Council lotteries that had been successfully launched in other parts of the country.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Business Plan and suite of Policies found in Appendix 1 - 6 of the report be approved, and implemented for the Redditch Community Lottery Scheme;**
- 2) **the Head of Community Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder be granted delegated authority to adapt the policies as and when required to ensure ongoing compliance with the rules and regulations set by the Gambling Commission as per our lottery licence;**
- 3) **the Executive Committee note the concerns raised in the preamble above by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and**

RESOLVED that

- 4) **an update be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the numbers participating in the council lottery scheme six months after the scheme has been launched.**

84. HOUSING / HOUSING REVENUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - PRE-SCRUTINY

The Committee received a report in relation to the Council Housing/Housing Revenue Account Strategic Improvement Plan outlining the progress made to date. Whilst presenting the report the Deputy Chief Executive highlighted the following matters for Members' consideration.

Members were reminded that in September, 2018 the Executive Committee agreed a number of decisions which included the endorsement of a Strategic Improvement Action Plan.

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- This was the first progress report presented to Members. Further updates would follow every six months.
- A revised timetable had been developed in respect of the Gas Services Business Case. Major improvements had been made with the number of voids being reduced from approximately 120 to 51.
- The Housing Capital, Property and Compliance Teams had been reviewed and revised management and service structures had been developed. These would be subject to formal consultation with the Trade Unions and staff.
- The Strategic Measures Dashboard would be updated regularly and Members could request to look at the Corporate Performance report for the six strategic purposes.
- The current risks were reviewed on a regular basis with a full formal review to be undertaken in advance of the new financial year 2019/20.

The Chair informed the Committee that a resident had informed him that a member of the Housing Team had dealt with their enquiry and had been very helpful and courteous.

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

- With regards to the gas contract, the Council would be looking to get external help to ensure that the issues were managed appropriately.
- It was recognised that the voids numbers would not reduce further until the new Housing IT system was in place.
- Pre-inspections on properties would be carried out as well as regular inspections when necessary and photographs would also be taken of the properties.
- The stock condition survey would be completed in the spring and checks would be made at regular intervals.
- The new Housing IT system would be operational in May/June 2019 with the expectation that this would be fully implemented within 18 months.
- The tenants' handbook would be revised in due course.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked all housing staff, including the Deputy Chief Executive, the Head of Environmental Services and the Head of Community Services for their hard work

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to address the issues in respect of Housing Services that were identified in 2017/18.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **thanks be extended to all housing staff, including the Deputy Chief Executive, the Head of Environmental Services and the Head of Community Services for their hard work to address the issues in respect of Housing Services that were identified in 2017/18; and**
- 2) **the Executive Committee consider the content of the report and endorse the progress reports for each of the items detailed.**

85. 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 8th January, 2019 and the Executive Committee's Work Programme from 1st March to 30th June 2019, which was tabled at the meeting.

Members agreed to pre-scrutinise the following item:

- Matchborough and Winyates District Centres – Outcome of Soft Market Testing report.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 8th January 2019 be noted; and**
- 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) **Matchborough and Winyates District Centres – Outcome of Soft Market Testing report.**

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86. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Senior Democratic Services Officer (Redditch) presented the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme. The Committee was informed that there would be short timescales available for Members to consider the Medium Term Financial Plan should the meeting on 18th February take place. Therefore Officers suggested that the meeting should be rescheduled to take place on 20th February in order to allow Members more time to review the report prior to the budget being agreed at Council on 25th February.

Members were provided with the following updates:

- Pre-decision Scrutiny - Matchborough and Winyates District Centre Redevelopment Consultation that was due to be considered in February had been replaced with Matchborough and Winyates District Centres – Outcome of Soft Market Testing report and this would be considered in March, 2019.
- CCTV Service Provision Review – Pre-Scrutiny had been removed from the work programme as this was now not being considered by the Executive Committee.
- Pre-decision Scrutiny - Service Delivery Options – HRA Gas Maintenance would be considered in June, 2019.
- Tenancy Conditions for Council Housing Tenants and Tenants Handbook would be considered in July, 2019.
- Overview and Scrutiny – Select Committee Findings and new Government Guidance had not yet been published. This would be presented for Members' consideration when it was published.

RESOLVED that

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

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

Members were advised that Councillor Jennifer Wheeler would be unavailable to Chair meetings of the Budget Scrutiny and Performance Scrutiny Working groups for the rest of the year. Therefore the Committee agreed that Councillor Andrew Fry should Chair the Budget Scrutiny and Performance Scrutiny Working Groups until the end of the municipal year.

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The committee was informed that the next Performance Scrutiny Working Group meeting would be arranged in February, 2019.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **Councillor Andrew Fry be appointed Chair of the Budget Scrutiny Working Group for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year; and**
- 2) **Councillor Andrew Fry be appointed Chair of the Performance Scrutiny Working Group for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year.**

88. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE

Councillor Chalk provided a written update in respect of the West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members were also provided with an update in respect of Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC). Councillor Chalk advised that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 5th February 2019. He informed Members that he had attended the Budget Scrutiny meeting in Worcestershire the previous week and it was highlighted that there were concerns in relation to the increasing numbers of adults with a learning disability requiring care.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.20 pm

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Executive Committee

Tuesday, 5 February 2019

MINUTES

Present:

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

Also Present:

Ali Brill (Worcestershire County Council)

Officers:

Matthew Austin, Ann Dallison, Clare Flanagan, Sue Hanley, Jayne Pickering, Guy Revans and Judith Willis

Committee Services Officer:

Jess Bayley

82. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

84. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair circulated a written update on the Leader's Announcements.

85. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 8th January 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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Chair

86. REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY LOTTERY

The Voluntary Community Sector Grants Co-ordinator presented a report in respect of Redditch Borough Council's Community Lottery. The programme had been agreed in September 2018 but before the lottery was launched the Council had to approve a number of policies in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Gambling Commission. The policies had been circulated for the consideration of relevant staff in advance of the Committee meeting to ensure that they did not conflict with other Council policies. Delegated powers had also been requested to enable officers to update the policies quickly in response to any changing requirements set by the Gambling Commission.

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

- The basis for the projected figures that would be generated by the lottery, which were detailed in the report.
- The potential impact that the introduction of a community lottery would have on participation in lotteries for local charities, such as that held by the Primrose Hospice.
- The impact that the introduction of the lottery might have on the Council's grants programme.
- The lottery schemes that had been introduced by other local authorities in the country which had been relatively successful.
- The advice that Aylesbury Vale District Council had provided to the Council prior to the decision to introduce a lottery.

During consideration of this item Members referred to the recommendations that had been made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the community lottery. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had raised a number of concerns with respect to the lottery scheme and these had been detailed in a written summary of the discussions, which was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED that

the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a meeting on 4th February in respect of the community lottery be noted; and

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Business Plan and suite of Policies be approved, and implemented for the Redditch Community Lottery Scheme; and**

- 2) **the Head of Community Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder be granted delegated authority to adapt the policies as and when required to ensure ongoing compliance with the rules and regulations set by the Gambling Commission as per our lottery licence.**

87. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019/20

The Principle Solicitor presented a report outlining the findings of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in respect of Members' allowances. The IRP had made a number of recommendations which would lead to an increase in the allowances paid to Redditch Members.

The Committee was asked to note that at the request of the Chair the financial implications of an increase to Members' allowances had been reviewed. Officers had found that the proposed changes, should they be approved, would result in an increase of £60,000 to the budget, rather than the £51,000 that had been detailed in the report. This would be incorporated in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) should Members agree the rise.

Included within the report was reference to the position of members of the Executive Committee without portfolio. The IRP had not made any recommendations in respect of their Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA). This was because no other Council covered by the Worcestershire IRP had an arrangement whereby members without portfolio served on the Executive Committee so there was no comparable information available. The Chair suggested that it would be fair to provide Members in this position with an SRA and he proposed that this should be increased by a multiplier of 1, in line with the proposed rise to the basic allowance for all Councillors.

Members subsequently discussed the following matters:

- The fact that Redditch Borough Council had not agreed an increase to Members' allowances for ten years.
- The need to attract new candidates to stand as Councillors and the fact that the financial remuneration might impact on their ability to commit to the role.
- The potential for the Council to attract candidates from deprived backgrounds to serve as Councillors and the impact that enhanced remuneration might have on their ability to take up the role.
- The recent decision taken by the Council in respect of the pay model for staff and the fact that this would lead to an increase in wages for many staff.

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- The allowances paid to Members serving on Bromsgrove District Council and the value of achieving parity in terms of allowances paid, given the shared services arrangements between the two Councils.
- The allowances paid to Councillors in other parts of Worcestershire and the significant differences in remuneration between Redditch and the other districts that had arisen over the ten years that Redditch Members had not increased their allowances.
- The increasing responsibilities of a local Councillor and the time that Members needed to dedicate to the role in order to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.
- The impact that an increase in Members' allowances would have on the Council's ability to meet the authority's equality duties.
- The reasons why Members decided to serve on the Council. There was general consensus that this was not for financial reasons.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Basic Allowance for 2019-20 is £4,437, representing 2% increase;**
 - 2) **the Special Responsibility Allowances are as set out in Appendix 1 to the Independent Remuneration Panel's report;**
 - 3) **travel allowances for 2019-20 continue to be paid in accordance with the HMRC mileage allowance;**
 - 4) **subsistence allowances for 2019-20 remain unchanged;**
 - 5) **the Dependent Carer's Allowance remains unchanged;**
 - 6) **for Parish Council in the Borough, if travel and subsistence is paid, the Panel recommends that it is paid in accordance with the rates paid by Redditch Borough Council and in accordance with the relevant Regulations; and**
 - 7) **the Special Responsibility Allowance for members of the Executive Committee without Portfolio be increased by a multiplier of 1.**
88. **ARROW VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE - CHANGE OF OPERATOR**

The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources presented a report outlining proposals for the change of operator at the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre. Members were advised that

the operation of the service at the countryside centre had been outsourced to an external company in 2011 with a ten year lease. During the course of their tenure concerns had been raised by Members, Officers and customers about a range of matters relating to the building and the consistency of the service. There had also been limited performance data provided to the Council over the past few years, despite this being a requirement in the contractual agreement. The current leaseholders had indicated to the Council that they would be withdrawing from the contract by March 2019, which was before the end of the lease. This provided the council with an opportunity to review future arrangements. The initial business case for Rubicon Leisure had noted that the local authority might seek to manage additional Council owned facilities once their leases expired and it was considered expedient to ask Rubicon Leisure to take over management of the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre. The Council was not required to undertake a tendering process in order to finalise this arrangement.

The Council was aiming to ensure that the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre in future operated in a manner that would meet the Council's strategic purpose 'provide good things to do, see and visit'. Rubicon Leisure had provided projected income figures for the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre. As a precaution these figures were low as it had been difficult to estimate potential income generation due to the lack of available data from the existing leaseholder. Should Members agree to transfer management of the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre the staff would be TUPE transferred over the Rubicon Leisure.

Members discussed the report and proposals for the future use of the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre and noted the following points during consideration of the matter:

- The need to improve the services available to customers at the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre.
- The alterations made by the current contractor to the countryside centre and the extent to which this had been made at a cost to the Council.
- The potential to recoup any costs from the current leaseholder. Members were advised that it was important to review the terms of the contract as well as to consider the potential court costs that might arise should the Council seek to recoup costs from the current leaseholders.
- The financial costs to the Council involved in making sure the building was in a good condition should it not prove possible to recoup the funding from the current leaseholder.
- The need to ensure that the office space, including the mezzanine level in the countryside centre remained available for community use. Members commented that they were not

willing to permit Rubicon Leisure to use the centre as office space.

- The need to ensure that the Council was clear about the terms of use of the Arrow Valley countryside Centre with Rubicon Leisure.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Council accepts the surrender of the current service provider's lease of the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre on 31 March 2019;**
- 2) **operation of the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre be transferred to Rubicon Leisure Ltd from 1st April 2019; and**
- 3) **the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is revised to reflect the reduction in the overall Rubicon Leisure management fee expected to result from the transfer.**

89. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME AND WIDER SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources presented the Council Tax Support Scheme and Wider Support Framework. The Committee was advised that the Council had had a scheme since 2013. The current system enabled working age applicants to receive up to 80 per cent relief on their Council Tax. In September Members had agreed that the Council should launch a consultation about the potential to introduce a banded discount scheme. This consultation exercise had subsequently been held and the majority of respondents had reported that they were not in favour of this proposal.

Officers had concluded that the current arrangements should remain in place for 2019/20. This would provide time to observe how changes to Council tax support schemes that were being introduced by other local authorities impacted in their communities and on this basis the most appropriate arrangements for Redditch could be selected. Changes were proposed however in respect of the Council Tax Support available to care leavers and proposals detailed in the report were designed to help them. These proposals corresponded with recommendations that had been made by the Care Leavers Short Sharp Scrutiny Review in 2018.

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

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- The needs of care leavers, including the benefits arising from further information being provided to care leavers about Council Tax and the support they were entitled to.
- The reasons why the Council decided not to introduce a banded support scheme.
- The number of residents who responded as part of the consultation exercise. Officers advised that they would provide this information outside the meeting.
- The problems that had been experienced by other local authorities that had already introduced a banding system. Some Councils had incorrectly inputted details about residents which had caused problems with the system.

During consideration of this item a care leaver was invited by the Chair to speak about his experiences and the extent to which additional support through the Council Tax Support Scheme would be appreciated by care leavers. Members were informed that many care leavers struggled financially and emotionally when they left care and moved into alternative accommodation. The proposals in the report would help care leavers at a time when they were particularly vulnerable to regain some stability. Many care leavers would repay the community in the long-term as they were all keen to succeed in life.

RECOMMENDED that

the Local Council Tax Support scheme is revised to provide:

- 1) Care Leavers under 21 years of age are treated as a protected group and provided 100% Local Council Tax Reduction (LCTR);**
- 2) Care leavers aged 21 years or over and under 25 years of age are treated as a protected group and provided up to 100% LCT;**
- 3) the scheme is updated in line with national welfare benefits; and**
- 4) Council Tax Hardship Scheme is amended to enable transitional support to be provided to care leavers under 25 whose income results in significant withdrawal of support.**

90. BUSINESS CASE - DOMESTIC WASTE COLLECTION RESOURCES

The Environmental Services Manager presented a report in respect of the resources for domestic waste collection services. The Committee was advised that the report had been prepared following significant disruption to waste collection services in the summer of 2018. This had impacted on 20,000 households, with 10,000 not receiving a waste collection service until the following week. The problems had occurred for a variety of reasons, including staff leave and sick leave. The Place team had provided support but this had distracted them from their work. Agency staff had also been employed to help, though this had occurred at a cost to the Council. Officers were proposing the introduction of three new posts in order to enhance resilience within the team.

So far in 2018/19 the Council had spent £91,000 on agency staff, whilst the previous year the cost had been over £100,000. There was no budget for agency staff so this represented an overspend. Officers were suggesting that the extra staff proposed in the report would help to address the problems that had caused the Council to employ agency staff temporarily, leading to a reduction in costs for the service. However, Officers noted that the Council might continue to need to use agency staff from time to time.

Members were asked to note that the Government would be consulting on proposed changes to waste collection services in 2019. There were a number of proposals detailed in the report which would have implications for Council services should they be approved. The proposals included the suggestions that:

- There should be compulsory weekly refuse collections.
- Garden waste collection services should be free.
- The range of plastics in use in the country should be reduced.
- Approaches to recycling should be standardised across the country.

Redditch Borough Council was working with the other local authorities in Worcestershire, as well as the County Council, to respond to these proposals from the Government. Members would be notified of the outcomes of the Government's consultation and the implications of any changes to the Council in due course.

Members subsequently discussed a number of issues relating to domestic waste collection services:

- The reciprocal arrangement with Bromsgrove District Council whereby the refuse collection teams collected waste in

locations close to their boarders. Officers confirmed that this would be continuing.

- The need for a budget for replacing bins.
- The positive impact that the chargeable garden waste service had had on the Council's budget. Members were advised that the number of customers for garden waste collection services had exceeded expectations.
- The need to ensure that expenditure on waste collection services was derived from relevant budgets.

RECOMMENDED that

Members agree the recommendation from the Business Case, and that £83,674 additional funding is included in the medium term financial plan to fund 3 members of staff to support the waste collection service.

91. 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 and Housing Revenue Improvement Plan.

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

- This was the first progress report in respect of the Housing Implementation Plan that had been presented to Members. Further updates would follow at six month intervals.
- The report had been pre-scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a similar report was due to be considered by the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee in April.
- The Council had a balanced Housing Revenue Account (HRA), though the financial position for the Council remained challenging.
- Service reviews were being undertaken and would be taken forward during the year.
- Consideration of the gas business case by the Executive Committee until June 2019. This would provide time to seek external expert advice.
- The Council was complaint with requirements in terms of gas services but Officers needed to review the boiler replacement programme.
- The number of voids had been reduced from approximately 120 to 51. Further reductions in the number of void properties would only follow once the Council had procured a new Housing IT system.

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- In total 20 per cent of the stock condition survey had been completed.
- Service development continued to be treated as an area of high risk.
- Since the previous report to Committee on this subject a risk had been added in respect of seeking housing advice.
- Health and safety risks had been upgraded from medium to high. Whilst the Council was compliant with health and safety requirements some issues had been identified, including with the Council's high rise buildings, that merited the upgrade.

Members discussed the report in detail and noted that Officers had worked hard to address the problems that had been identified with Housing Services in 2017/18. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had also concurred that the staff had worked hard and Members had agreed that they should be thanked for this hard work. There had been a number of difficulties that had had to be overcome and both Officers and Members had found this stressful.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **thanks be extended to all housing staff, including the Deputy Chief Executive, the Head of Environmental Services and the Head of Community Services for their hard work to address the issues in respect of Housing Services that were identified in 2017/18; and**
- 2) **the Executive Committee consider the content of the report and endorse the progress reports for each of the items detailed.**

92. PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the performance report and explained that the focus was on the performance of services in relation to the strategic purpose 'help me to find somewhere to live in my locality'. Key strategic measures had been included within the report, including one focusing on mental health issues which was being led by the Redditch Partnership Executive Board.

Changes were due to be made to housing services, in line with plans detailed in the housing implementation plan. As part of the process Officers were planning to involve tenants in the development of relevant new policies. Information had also been provided about the Council's compliance in relation to gas safety, electrics and asbestos.

There were pressures at the Council in respect of homelessness reduction. Nationally there were staff shortages and this was

having an impact in Redditch. The Council was working to address this and £250,000 would be invested in homelessness prevention.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

93. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - UPDATE REPORT

The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources presented an update on the MTFP 2019/20 to 2022/23. Members were advised that the budget would not be finalised until the Executive Committee meeting that was due to take place immediately before Council on 25th February 2019. On the date of the meeting there remained a budget gap of £195,000 which would need to be addressed by 25th February. As the budget remained to be finalised Members were advised that details such as the budget bids would change and therefore Members were advised that it would be sensible not to make any decisions at this stage.

The gap over the four year period was projected to increase to £1.6 million. However, there remained a lot of uncertainty with respect to government funding for local government. Clarity still needed to be provided about how much revenue support grant, if any, would be received by the Council in future years, whether the Council would continue to receive any additional funding from the New Homes Bonus and how much funding would be received by local authorities from business rates. For these reasons the figures were estimates.

Officers were working on the basis that Council Tax would increase by 2.99 per cent and this had been incorporated into the MTFP. There was the potential that the Council would need to make a £150,000 contribution to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP). As the Worcestershire Business Rates Pool had been approved by the Government it was likely that this would be funded from that budget. The £150,000 was an estimate based on the figure that had been noted by both Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest District Councils.

During discussions about the GBSLEP questions were raised about the payments that had been made to the Worcestershire LEP and the Staffordshire LEP and the reasons why this payment had not also been made to the GBSLEP. The Chair explained that it had recently been clarified that the GBSLEP should also have received this funding from the Government and this would happen in due course.

To address the budget gaps Officers would be reviewing the Council's reserves to assess whether these were all required.

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There was also the possibility there would be funding opportunities for the Council in terms of social care and early help intervention services.

Members noted that reference was made in the report to funding for the Christmas lights. This had been included as a budget bid in the MTFP in 2018 but at the time Members had been assured that this would only happen the once. Officers were therefore asked to double check why a budget bid for Christmas lights was being requested for a second year.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

94. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee was informed that there were no outstanding recommendations arising from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd January 2019 that remained to be considered.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd January 2019 be noted.

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

The Chair confirmed that there were no outstanding recommendations from either the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any other Committees for consideration at the meeting.

96. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORTS

Constitutional Review Working Party – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

Councillor Dormer advised that the next meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party would take place on Tuesday 12th February 2019. Any recommendations arising from this meeting would be reported to Council at a meeting on 25th February 2019.

Corporate Parenting Board – Council Representative, Councillor Gareth Prosser

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 5 February 2019

Councillor Prosser advised that the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board was due to take place on 7th March. As this clashed with the next meeting of the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel, which Councillor Prosser was also due to attend, Councillor Baker-Price would be attending the meeting as his substitute.

Grants Panel – Chair, Councillor Greg Chance

Councillor Chance informed Members that the Grants Panel had recently considered metal recycling issues and had made a recommendation about the organisation that would receive the associated funding.

Member Support Steering Group – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

Councillor Dormer advised that a meeting of the group that had been due to take place on 29th January had been postponed due to inclement weather and the limited availability of Members to attend the meeting. The meeting of the group had been rescheduled to take place on 26th February 2019.

Planning Advisory Panel – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

There had been no meetings of the Planning Advisory Panel since the previous meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.28 pm

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 March 2019 to 30 June 2019

(published as at 1st February 2019)



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
Arrow Valley Catchment Restoration Project Key: Yes	Executive 26 Mar 2019		Report of the Head of Environmental Services	Thomas Curwell, Water Management Engineer Tel: 01527 881206
Far Moor Lane, Redditch - Land Disposal to Homes England Key: No	Executive 26 Mar 2019 Council 15 Apr 2019	This report may contain some exempt information and might need to be considered by the Councillors in private session.	Report of the Interim Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development Unit	Paul Spooner, Interim Head of Economic Development & Regeneration - North Worcestershire
Finance System Key: No	Executive 26 Mar 2019 Council 15 Apr 2019		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources	Chris Forrester, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881673

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
Homes England Asset Transfer Key: Yes	Executive 26 Mar 2019	<p>Consideration of this item is the subject to agreement of certain matters with Homes England in January 2019.</p> <p>This report will contain commercially sensitive information and therefore parts of the report may need to be considered in private session.</p>	Report of the Chief Executive	Paul Spooner, Interim Head of Economic Development & Regeneration - North Worcestershire
Finance Monitoring Quarter 3 2018/19 Key: No	Executive 26 Mar 2019		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Chris Forrester, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881673

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
Homelessness Grant, Flexible Homelessness Support and Homelessness New Burden's Fund Report 2019/20 Key: No	Executive 26 Mar 2019 Council 15 Apr 2019		Report of the Head of Community Services	Derek Allen, Housing Strategy Manager Tel: 01527 881278
Matchborough and Winyates District Centre Redevelopment Consultations Key: Yes	Executive Not before 26th Mar 2019		Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning and Regeneration Tel: 01527 64252
Performance Report Key: No	Executive 26 Mar 2019		Report of the Head of Business Transformation and Organisational Development	Deb Poole, Head of Business Transformation and Organisational Development Tel: 01527 881256
Private Sector Home Repair Assistance Policy Update Key: No	Executive 26 Mar 2019		Report of the Head of Community Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284

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
Unit 17, Broad Ground Road, Redditch Key: Yes	Executive 26 Mar 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	Jeremy Williams, Estates Surveyor Tel: 01526 64252
Worcestershire Strategic Direction for Tackling Homelessness Key: No	Executive 26 Mar 2019		Report of the Head of Community Services	Derek Allen, Housing Strategy Manager Tel: 01527 881278
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
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

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
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
Service Delivery Options - HRA Gas Maintenance Key: Yes	Executive 11 Jun 2019			Guy Revans, Head of Environmental Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3292
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

20th February 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

20th February 2019**Overview & Scrutiny**

Committee

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
20 th Feb 2019	Medium Term Financial Plan – Proposed Budget – considering scrutiny proposals	Relevant Lead Director
21 st March 2019	Suicide Prevention Scoping Document	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
21 st March 2019	The public bus service in Redditch	Diamond Bus Company
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	Private Sector Home Repair Assistance Policy – Pre-Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
21 st March 2019	Overview and Scrutiny – Select Committee Findings and new Government Guidance	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	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

20th February 2019**Overview & Scrutiny**

Committee

6th June 2019	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Housing / housing Revenue Improvement Plan – Progress Report	Relevant Director
6th June 2019	Pre-decision Scrutiny - Service Delivery Options – HRA Gas Maintenance	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
4th July 2019	Pre- Scrutiny Tenancy Conditions for Council Housing Tenants and Tenants Handbook	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
OTHER ITEMS – DATE NOT FIXED		
	Redditch Community Lottery – Six Months' Update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
	Herefordshire and Worcestershire sustainability and Transformation Partnership - update	
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 • Cuts to school budgets and parental choice • Council owned shops and rateable values • The night time economy 	

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