



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thu 3 Sep
2020
6.30 pm

Virtual Meeting

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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GUIDANCE ON VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic Redditch Borough Council will be holding this meeting in accordance with the relevant legislative arrangements for remote meetings of a local authority. For more information please refer to the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police Crime Panels meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

The meeting is open to the public except for any exempt/confidential items. Where a meeting is held remotely "open" means available for live viewing. Members of the public will be able to see and hear the meeting via a live stream to the Council's YouTube Channel which can be accessed using the link below:

<https://youtu.be/9ZnONPV9XVk>

Members of the Committee, officers and public speakers will participate in the meeting using Skype, and details of any access codes/ passwords will be made available separately.

If you have any questions regarding the agenda or attached papers please do not hesitate to contact the officer named below.

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 and Jo Gresham**

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Tel: (01527) 64252 (Ext. 3268 / 3031)

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Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

Thursday, 3rd September, 2020

6.30 pm

During the Covid-19 outbreak
Committee meetings are taking
place on Skype for Business

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Joe Baker (Chair)
Salman Akbar
Michael Chalk
Peter Fleming
Pattie Hill

Andrew Fry
Ann Isherwood
Mark Shurmer
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 - 12)

The minutes of meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the following dates have been attached for Members' approval:

- 2nd July 2020
- 30th July 2020

4. Public Speaking

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

5. New Cemetery - Update Report

Report to follow.

6. Pre-scrutiny - Restoration and Recovery Plan

Report to follow.

7. Pre-Scrutiny - Housing Revenue Account Strategic Improvement Plan Progress

Report to follow.

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8. Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny

The next edition of the Executive Committee's Work Programme is due to be published on 1st September 2020 so will be made available for Members' consideration in a supplementary pack.

9. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 13 - 16)

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

- a) Budget Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Wheeler
- b) Dementia Task Group – Chair, Councillor Michael Chalk
- c) Performance Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Andrew Fry

11. 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.

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 2nd July, 2020

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Joe Baker (Chair), and Councillors Salman Akbar, Michael Chalk, Peter Fleming, Andrew Fry, Pattie Hill, Ann Isherwood, Mark Shurmer and Jennifer Wheeler

Also Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer – Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnerships

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Judith Willis and Helen Broughton

Democratic Services Officers:

J Bayley and J Gresham

1. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

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

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Thursday 4th June 2020 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no registered public speakers on this occasion.

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Chair

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5. REDDITCH COMMUNITY LOTTERY - UPDATE

The Redditch Partnership Manager introduced the Redditch Community Lottery Update and in doing so highlighted the following:

- the timeline of activity
- the promotional channels of the lottery including the use of social media and local newspapers and the impact of Covid-19 on the promotion of the lottery
- the percentage split of each lottery ticket purchased

Councillor Dormer, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnerships thanked officers for their hard work on setting up the Redditch Community Lottery.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the figures that were presented in the report and whether they were as expected. The Redditch Partnership Manager explained that the operator of the lottery, Gatherwell Ltd, had indicated that they were in line with their expectations. It was requested that the Redditch Partnership Manager review the figures provided and report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a later date.

In addition, Members requested future updates on the following: -

- What were the average number of tickets sold per week?
- What was the average cash pay out to the organisations per week?
- Was the Council expected to meet the target?
- How did the Council keep the lottery in residents' minds?
- What areas of Redditch have most of the ticket sales come from including the demographics?

Members requested a breakdown of the charities and the amount each had received in order to understand the differing amounts that had been awarded. The Head of Community and Housing Services reported that organisations promoted to their customers and some were more effective at raising support. As many organisations had not been able to meet during the Covid-19 Lockdown this might have had an impact on their ability to promote the lottery.

At this point the Chair moved to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee. The recommendation was as follows: -

“That the Executive Committee

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review the financial implications to the Council in terms of costs and viability of continuing with the Redditch Community Lottery”
On being put to the vote the proposal was agreed.

RESOLVED that

the Executive Committee review the financial implications to the Council in terms of costs and viability of continuing with the Redditch Community Lottery.

6. DEMENTIA - TASK GROUP

Councillor Chalk presented a scoping document to investigate Dementia within the Borough. In doing so, the following was highlighted: -

- The length of the review – Members agreed that the investigation might take longer than six months and that more meetings might be needed.
- The ageing population and the increase in numbers of people diagnosed with dementia
- The different types of dementia
- Services provided to those diagnosed with dementia and their families and how to access these services

During consideration of this item there was a discussion about whether the relevant Portfolio Holder should be invited to attend meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when scoping documents were considered. Members requested that this matter be referred to the Monitoring Officer after the meeting for further consideration.

RESOLVED that

- 1) a Dementia Task Group be launched; and**
- 2) Councillor Chalk be appointed to Chair the group.**

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

During consideration of this item Members discussed the content of the Executive Committee's Work Programme for the period 1st July to 30th November 2020. The Suicide Prevention Task Group Report, which was due to be considered at the meeting of the Executive Committee on Tuesday 4th August 2020 was added to

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the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. As this item was due to be considered before the next scheduled meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee it was decided that an extra meeting would be needed and Members agreed that this meeting would take place on Thursday 30th July 2020.

It was explained that the Financial Outturn report for 2019/20 would be scrutinised at the next Budget Scrutiny Working Group meeting. In addition to this item, it was requested that the Homelessness Grant be scrutinised at the Budget Scrutiny Working Group and then brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members also considered the minutes from the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday 9th June 2020 when the Parking Enforcement Task Group report was considered. It was explained that the majority of recommendations were endorsed by the Executive Committee with the exception of one recommendation where the wording had been slightly amended.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 9th June 2020 be noted; and**
- 2) the content of the Executive Committee's Work Programme for the period 1st July to 31st November 2020 be noted.**

8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The content of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme was considered by Members. It was confirmed that the extra meeting due to be held on 30th July 2020 would be added to the Work Programme and the Suicide Prevention Task Group report item included.

RESOLVED that

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

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

The following updates were provided in respect of the work of scrutiny Task Groups and Working Groups:

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

Councillor Wheeler informed members that the first meeting of the municipal year had been arranged for Monday 13th July 2020 at 6pm. The Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services was to be invited and an overview of how the Budget Scrutiny Working Group operated would be discussed.

b) Performance Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Andrew Fry

Councillor Fry explained that the first meeting of the new municipal year was still to be arranged.

c) Suicide Prevention Task Group

Councillor Baker explained that there were recommendations to be put forward to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the next meeting.

10. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

Councillor Chalk informed members that he had not attended the latest West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny meeting. However, he would contact them in order to obtain the minutes and would provide a detailed update from both this and the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 8.43 pm

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 30th July, 2020

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Joe Baker (Chair), and Councillors Salman Akbar, Michael Chalk, Debbie Chance, Peter Fleming, Pattie Hill, Andrew Fry, Ann Isherwood and Mark Shurmer

Also Present:

Councillor Nyear Nazir – Portfolio Holder for Community Services and Regulatory Services

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Sarah Sellers and Judith Willis

Democratic Services Officers:

J Bayley and J Gresham

12. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Jennifer Wheeler. Officers confirmed that Councillor Debbie Chance was attending as her named substitute.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

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

14. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no registered public speakers on this occasion.

15. SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK GROUP - FINAL REPORT

Councillor Debbie Chance, in her role as Chair of the Suicide Prevention Task Group, presented the report to the Committee.

The Committee was informed that in total the group had held 11 meetings and spoken to eight witnesses between June 2019 and

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Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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June 2020. There had been a slight delay in bringing the report before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Suicide Prevention was a very sensitive subject to investigate and the members of the group had learned a lot about the impact of death by suicide on bereaved families and friends. Members were advised that on average one person died each week as a result of suicide in Worcestershire. In Redditch, for the three year period from 2015 to 2017, there were 26 deaths by suicide of which 84% were among men.

The group had been really surprised by the data around the economic cost of death by suicide and the evidence of the long-term effects on bereaved relatives. Research showed that those who had lost a loved one to death by suicide were at a higher risk of suicide themselves. Another surprising finding was that many of the deaths were amongst persons not previously known to mental health services, or who had not confided in anyone that they were struggling.

The Committee was asked to note that the investigation had focused on issues outside the day-to-day service remit of Redditch Borough Council and had relied on a number of external witnesses. There was a Suicide Prevention Plan for Worcestershire and locally this was co-ordinated and led by Worcestershire County Council.

The two main areas the group focused on in detail were:

- 1) Suicide prevention generally and in particular the Worcestershire Suicide Prevention Policy. In these discussions the group was greatly assisted by Officers from Worcestershire Public Health.
- 2) Mental health services available in Redditch, including the options that were available for people in crisis, and the role of the voluntary sector.

The feedback received from witnesses during the review had highlighted the need for awareness raising and training and this was reflected in the group's recommendations. The group had also been guided by the Council's Policy Team to identify how the Council's Equalities Strategy could be updated to include actions that supported suicide prevention. The final recommendation from the group covered the benefits of promoting awareness around suicide prevention.

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

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- The important work that had been undertaken by the group and the impact that suicide could have on friends and families.
- The evidence that had been submitted by Mr Mike Lewington to the group. The Committee was informed that sadly Mr Lewington had since passed away and therefore the report was dedicated to him.
- The financial implications of the proposals detailed in the report. Officers advised that this information had been received after publication of the report and it was anticipated that the action proposed could be covered within existing budgets. Members were asked to note that, if it was discovered during implementation by Officers that more significant financial resources were needed, then a further report would be presented inviting Members to approve additional funding.
- The incidence of suicide within all communities and the higher incidence of suicide amongst young men compared to other sections of the population.
- The work that Members could undertake to address suicide following the completion of the review. The Committee was asked to note that Members could ensure that mental health considerations were taken into account during the policy setting process. Elected Members could also help to raise awareness within the local community and signpost local constituents to support services where they were reporting mental health problems.
- The difficulty in terms of helping people who did not display any mental health difficulties prior to suicide.
- The role of the Redditch Partnership in the community and the fact that mental health had been identified as a priority area to address. The group were suggesting that Members' findings should be taken into account by the partnership.
- The actions of Members of the Task Group and the Democratic Services Officer who supported the group. They were thanked for their hard work.

During consideration of this item Councillor Nyear Nazir was invited to speak to the Committee in her capacity as Portfolio Holder for Community Services and Regulatory Services as well as a former member of the group. She highlighted the value of the review in terms of raising awareness of the impact of suicide in the community and the importance of suicide prevention work. Members were asked to note that the subject of suicide prevention was very complex and the group had interviewed a wide range of witnesses. Councillor Nazir concluded by thanking all the

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Members, Officers and external witnesses who had contributed to the review.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Redditch Borough Council Equalities Strategy should reflect the Council's commitment to suicide prevention and supporting good mental health, and that in producing the updated version of the Equalities Strategy for 2020 to 2024 objectives and actions should be included to cover the following:-**
 - a) **that officers continue to publicise messages around positive mental health to staff and promote opportunities to participate in training and events;**
 - b) **that officers develop the signposting information available on the intranet to support staff in being able to signpost either service users or colleagues to the relevant support services;**
 - c) **that officers mark suicide prevention awareness day in September 2020 including using this as an opportunity to promote the work of local groups that support suicide prevention;**
 - d) **recognising that not all staff may undertake the Mental Health First Aid training, that officers arrange for some alternative web based training resources to be provided for staff, to be aimed at those working in front line posts;**
- 2) **support to local voluntary sector organisations around improving promotion of their organisations:**
 - a) **that officers from the Communications Team work with the Partnership Manager to identify local voluntary sector organisation which offer support around mental health and wellbeing and/ or promote suicide prevention;**
 - b) **that the organisations identified be invited to participate in workshop training sessions to be provided by the Communications Team to help them to better publicise the support and services their organisations provide through use of social media and other publicity; and**
- 3) **publicise the findings of the Task Group:**

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given that suicide prevention work is carried out by multiple agencies and stakeholders, that officers be tasked with publicising the outcome of the Task Group in the Wellbeing in Partnership Newsletter and by giving details of the findings to the Worcestershire Suicide Prevention Plan Partnership Group (sub-group of the Health and Well-being Board).

16. SCRUTINY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME - SELECTING ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY

Members considered the content of the Executive Committee's Work Programme for the period 1st August to 30th November 2020 and agreed that the Recovery and Restoration Plan be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the content of the Executive Committee's Work Programme for the period 1st August to 30th November 2020 be noted; and**
- 2) the Recovery and Restoration Plan be added to the Committee's Work Programme for pre-scrutiny.**

17. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Officers explained that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme would be updated in accordance with the request made under Minute Item No. 16.

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

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

The Senior Democratic Services Officer (Redditch) reported to Members that the Budget Scrutiny Working Group had met on 13th July 2020 and had pre-scrutinised the Financial Implications of Covid-19 report and the Quarter 1 Financial Outturn Report 2019/2020. It was reported that the Head of Environmental Services and Housing Property Services had been in attendance to discuss the Capital Expenditure Programme for a number of items within his remit.

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

Councillor Fry advised Members that a date had been identified for the next meeting and that the Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy would be in attendance to discuss the impact of Covid-19 on Council Services.

- c) Dementia Task Group – Chair, Councillor Michael Chalk

Councillor Chalk reported that the members of the Task Group had been confirmed and were as follows: -

- Councillor Michael Chalk – Chair
- Councillor Joanne Beecham
- Councillor John Fisher
- Councillor Jennifer Wheeler

It was confirmed that the first meeting would take place in September 2020.

19. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

- a) West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Redditch Member, Councillor Michael Chalk

The Committee was informed that Councillor Chalk had missed the last two meetings of the Committee but he offered to circulate the minutes.

- b) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Redditch Member, Councillor Michael Chalk

Councillor Chalk explained that the previous two meetings of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) took place on Thursday 18th June 2020 and Monday 20th July 2020. Councillor Chalk referred Members to the updates provided in the supplementary agenda and explained that, unsurprisingly, the main thrust of the discussion was the impact of Covid-19 on services across Worcestershire.

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3rd September 2020**WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21**

(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

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MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
September 2020	New Cemetery – Update Report	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
September 2020	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Recovery and Restoration Plan	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
September 2020	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Housing Revenue Account Strategic Improvement Plan Progress	Deputy Chief Executive
October 2020	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Housing Strategy	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
November 2020	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - New Cemetery Provision	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
December 2020	Skills in the Local Workforce Update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
December 2020	Civil Contingencies Annual Report	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
December 2020	Pre-Decision-Scrutiny - Homes England Asset Transfer	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

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January 2021	Redditch Community Lottery Update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
January 2021	Redditch Partnership Plan	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
January 2021	Homelessness Grant	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.

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