



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thu 18 Mar
2021
6.30 pm

Microsoft Teams

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If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
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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.

Please note that this is a public meeting conducted remotely by Microsoft Teams conferencing between invited participants and live streamed for general access via the Council's YouTube channel.

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[Live stream for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting - 18th March 2021](#)

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

Notes:

As referred to above, the virtual Microsoft Teams meeting will be streamed live and accessible to view. Although this is a public meeting, there are circumstances when the committee might have to move into closed session to consider exempt or confidential information. For agenda items that are exempt, the public are excluded and for any such items the live stream will be suspended and that part of the meeting will not be recorded.

Overview and Scrutiny

Thursday, 18th March, 2021

6.30 pm

Virtual Meeting - Teams

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Joe Baker (Chair)	Andrew Fry
	Jennifer Wheeler (Vice-Chair)	Ann Isherwood
	Salman Akbar	Mark Shurmer
	Michael Chalk	Yvonne Smith
	Peter Fleming	

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. Public Speaking

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

5. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-2021 (Pages 9 - 30)

6. Recommendation Tracker Update (Pages 31 - 40)

7. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 41 - 52)

8. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 53 - 56)

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

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

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- b) Performance Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Andrew Fry
- c) Dementia Task Group – Chair, Councillor Michael Chalk
- d) Parking on Unicorn Hill Short, Sharp Review – Chair, Councillor Peter Fleming

10. 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.
- c) Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) – Council representative, Councillor Chalk



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MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Joe Baker (Chair), Councillor Jennifer Wheeler (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Salman Akbar, Michael Chalk, Peter Fleming, Andrew Fry, Ann Isherwood, Mark Shurmer and Yvonne Smith

Also Present:

David Thain

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Chris Forrester, Sue Hanley, Claire Felton, Kate Goldey, Deb Poole and Judith Willis

Democratic Services Officers:

J Gresham

70. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies for absence.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor of any Party Whip.

72. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday, 18th January 2021 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

73. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no registered public speakers on this occasion.

.....
Chair

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74. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021/22 TO 2024/25 (INCLUDING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT) - PRE-SCRUTINY

The Head of Financial and Customer Services presented the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2023/24 (including the Capital Programme and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)). During the delivery of this presentation the following matters were highlighted for Members' consideration:

- A key proposal detailed in the report was that Council Tax should be increased by £5. This would result in a slightly higher return to the Council than an increase of 2.99 per cent and was the maximum level at which Council Tax could increase.
- There had been a significant financial gap for 2021/22 which had been addressed in the report.
- This budget gap had partially been addressed through projected income and savings.
- The Council had also received funding for one year only from the New Homes Bonus (NHB), which had not been anticipated.
- There were unavoidable pressures which had had to be built into the budget.
- A key pressure on the Council's financial position was related to Rubicon Leisure Limited. A significant proportion of the Covid-19 grant funding that the Council had received from the Government would be allocated to addressing the financial pressures relating to the company.
- In excess of £700,000 of earmarked reserves had been used to help balance the budget for 2021/22.
- The capital bids included one in respect of Disabled Facilities Grants. These were not funded by the Council but were distributed by the authority.
- A capital bid had also been included for electric vehicle charging points and Officers were anticipating that the Council would receive grant funding to support this initiative.
- The capital programme had been reprofiled as a number of projects in the programme could not be delivered during the Covid-19 pandemic. This reprofiling work enabled the Council to realign the MRP (minimum revenue provision) in respect of investment income.
- The proposed budget would result in a return of £44,000 in 2021/22 to balances. However, there remained gaps in the budget for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years which would need to be addressed moving forward.

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- There remained some uncertainty about what would replace NHB funding for Councils in the future. There was also continuing uncertainty in relation to the Fair Funding Review and localisation of business rates.
- The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic during the period of the plan was a risk factor that was difficult to address.
- The Council had already distributed a lot of grant funding to local businesses that had been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Another risk to the Council's future budget position was Brexit. There remained uncertainty about how Brexit would impact on local businesses, which in turn could have implications for the business rates collected by the Council.
- The position of the HRA had improved significantly when compared to recent years. This was partly due to the fact that the Council was once more able to increase rents paid by Council tenants as well as to an improvement in the turnaround times for void properties.
- The Council was intending to invest in more Council houses and this was reflected in the HRA capital programme, where capital reserves would fall from £13 million to £3 million.
- Officers were anticipating that there would be an increase in capital receipts which would have a beneficial impact on the HRA moving forward.

Following the presentation of the report, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling Services, Councillor David Thain, was invited to speak on the report. Councillor Thain commented that the Council had achieved a balanced budget for 2021/22 despite the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic had had on local authority finances. The proposed budget aligned more closely with the Council's strategic purposes and supported the green thread that ran through the Council Plan. There remained the need to make savings moving forward and further decisions would need to be taken. Councillor Thain concluded by thanking the Financial Services department for their hard work and the Budget Scrutiny Working Group, particularly the Chair, for their work during the year.

Members subsequently discussed the report in detail and welcomed the positive news about the position of the HRA. The Committee noted that the Repairs and Maintenance team had been prioritising urgent work during the Covid-19 pandemic and questions were raised about the extent to which work that had not been completed during this time had been factored into the budget. Officers clarified that it was recognised that this work would need to be completed once the threat posed by Covid-19 had receded and for this reason

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the savings for this service achieved in 2020/21 had not been built into the budget for future years.

Reference was also made to the bid that had been submitted for Christmas lights and questions were raised about the need for an annual bid to be submitted in respect of this matter. Members suggested that additional funding should be requested from local businesses to help cover these costs moving forward.

The Committee noted that a significant level of reserves was being used to balance the budget in 2021/22 and Members questioned whether this was prudent and the extent to which any limits were placed on the use of reserves for this purpose. The Committee was informed that the reserves had been in place for some time but had never been used, therefore it was appropriate to use the reserves for this purpose. However, it was acknowledged that reserves could not be reused again at a later date and the budget would need to be balanced in a different way in future years.

During consideration of this item the Chair of the Budget Scrutiny Working Group, Councillor Jenny Wheeler, advised Members that the group had recently discussed the potential for tensions to arise between the resources available to the Council and the services that the authority delivered. Many Councils faced similar tensions, as local authorities needed to be able to fill gaps where there was considered to be market failure. To address these tensions, the Council needed to achieve service efficiencies moving forward in order to continue to meet the needs of residents and deliver in relation to the strategic purposes.

The financial support that had been and continued to be provided by the Council to Rubicon Leisure Limited was also discussed. Members acknowledged that the appropriate body to scrutinise the financial position of the company was the Shareholders Committee, not the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Given the significant amount of funding involved, Members urged the Shareholders Committee to scrutinise the financial position of the company and contributions from the Council in detail moving forward.

Consideration was given to the information that had been provided in the report about proposed savings and income. Members raised concerns that there was not always sufficient detail available to enable Members and the public to assess the value of the proposals. By contrast, further detail was provided in the financial monitoring reports and this made those documents easier for Members to review. Officers acknowledged this issue and

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confirmed that this would be raised for consideration at a forthcoming meeting of the Corporate Management Team (CMT).

Clarification was requested with respect to the purpose of the £8,000 savings that had been proposed for equalities. Officers explained that these savings had arisen as an Officer had requested a reduction in working hours. Clarification was also requested about the purpose of the proposed extra income for the community lottery. The Committee was advised that this related to the income from the community lottery in cases where participants did not nominate a local charity that would receive their contribution. This budget would be allocated to supporting local community groups.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

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

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 19th January 2021.

The latest edition of the Executive Committee's Work Programme for the period 1st March to 30th June 2021 was also considered by the Committee. The Chair commented that many of the items on the work programme had already been selected for pre-scrutiny.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 19th January 2021 be noted; and**
- 2) the content of the Executive Committee's Work Programme for the period 1st March to 30th June 2021 be noted.**

76. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the content of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme and noted that there were no updates.

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

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

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

Councillor Wheeler advised the Committee that the latest meeting of the Budget Scrutiny Working Group had taken place that week. During the meeting, Members had pre-scrutinised the Medium Term Financial Plan and had received a presentation on the subject of the Covid-19 grant funding that had been received by the Council during the pandemic.

The following meeting of the group was due to take place on 17th March 2021. During the meeting, Members would interview Officers about the Covid-19 grant funding, interview a representative of Black Radley regarding the Council's progress with commercialism and pre-scrutinise the third quarter monitoring update report in respect of the Council's budget.

b) Dementia Task Group – Chair, Councillor Michael Chalk

Councillor Chalk explained that the group had been unable to interview a clinician about dementia, primarily due to the pressures placed on the health service by the Covid-19 pandemic. The group would be holding a meeting the following month to discuss progress.

During consideration of this update Members were advised that it was unlikely that the group would be able to report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18th March 2021 as originally intended. Therefore, Members agreed that the timeframes for the investigation should be extended and the group should aim to complete their review after the local elections in May 2021.

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

Councillor Fry advised that a meeting of the group had taken place in January 2021. During this meeting, an interview had been held with the Heads of Community and Housing Services and Environmental and Housing Property Services about the Housing Services provided by the Council. This had included consideration of information about the turn around times for

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void properties and the group had agreed that the subject should be revisited for further scrutiny in 12 months' time.

Members were advised that a further meeting of the group would take place in March 2021.

d) Unicorn Hill Task Group – Chair, Councillor Peter Fleming

The Committee was informed that the following Members had been nominated to serve on the Task Group: Councillors Fleming (Chair), Baker, Beecham and Smith. Officers would be contacting Members shortly to organise the first meeting of the group.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the deadline for the Dementia Task Group be extended to after the local elections in May 2021; and**
- 2) **the update reports be noted.**

78. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

Councillor Michael Chalk provided a verbal update on the latest meeting of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership's (GBSLEP's) Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting. Members were advised that during that meeting the Chair of the Committee had invited Councillors to identify areas of work delivered by the LEP which would be suitable for further scrutiny. Councillor Chalk urged Members to let him know if there were any areas that they wanted him to raise with the Committee on their behalf.

During consideration of this update, clarification was requested regarding the level of young people who were were employed, which had been highlighted at 9.1 per cent in the update provided in the agenda. Councillor Chalk explained that this related to the level of young people who were not in employment, education or training (NEETs) in the whole of the area covered by the LEP and not specifically to the Borough of Redditch. These figures were derived from data provided for December 2020 and there was the possibility that the levels had changed by February 2021.

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The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.25 pm

**Redditch Borough Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Annual Report 2020 – 2021**



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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

Over the last year it has been a pleasure to be the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It has been a good year as there has been a lot of cross-party working. This is significant in a number of different ways; the importance of cross-party decision-making when representing the community as a whole, in addition it shows that by working together in partnership we can move things forward as a Council. The majority of the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were cross-party recommendations.

It is noted that there have been two specific Task Groups established during the year the Dementia Task group and the Parking on Unicorn Hill Task Group. We have had in-depth group discussions at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which have resulted in these task groups being set up. It is worth noting that the Parking on Unicorn Hill Task Group was set up as a result in closer working with the Leader of the Council. Frequently we discussed individual items put forward by the whole Committee and raised issues that mattered to the community.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee used its powers to scrutinise decisions made by the Executive Committee as well as to pre-scrutinise items before the Executive Committee made a decision. During the year, training was provided to reinforce Members' understanding and skills to undertake scrutiny effectively. Since that training was delivered, we've had some really constructive, apolitical meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee who have contributed their time and energy to make this a successful year for Overview and Scrutiny. It has been a difficult year during lockdown with the meetings being online. However, we have got through this and continued with the job in hand. Thanks also go to Andy Fry, Jenny Wheeler as well as to Councillor Mike Chalk who has provide excellent written updates on the work of the West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny sub-Committees during the year. I am proud that I have been able to continue in my role as Chair.

I would also like to pay tribute to Councillor Pattie Hill and the work and dedication she put in during her time on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Joe Baker
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee



INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Redditch Borough Council during 2020 – 2021.

THE ROLE OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee appoints individual Members to oversee the work of Overview and Scrutiny. Membership of the Committee for 2020/21 is as follows:



Cllr Joe Baker (Chair)



Cllr Jennifer Wheeler (Vice-Chair)



Cllr Salman Akbar



Cllr Michael Chalk



Cllr Peter Fleming



Cllr Andy Fry



Cllr Pattie Hill
(June 2020 – December 2020)



Cllr Ann Isherwood



Cllr Mark Shurmer



Cllr Yvonne Smith
(January 2021)

ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES DURING 2020-21

In most years, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would hold a scrutiny training and work programme planning session at Redditch Town Hall at the start of the municipal year. During the Covid-19 pandemic, this was not possible to arrange and therefore there was no specific work planning session. However, the Committee has a rolling work programme and items were identified for scrutiny by Members of the Committee throughout the year, including:

- Items for pre-scrutiny, identified from the Executive Committee's Work Programme.
- Subjects considered suitable for further scrutiny through a Task Group investigation.
- Overview items, or subjects for discussion at a single meeting of the Committee.

Training was provided in a virtual setting to members of the Committee in Autumn 2020. This training focused on the key powers of Overview and Scrutiny as well as best practice requirements and received positive feedback from members.

Covid-19 And Remote Meetings

During the municipal year 2020-2021 the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on Council operations. In order to mitigate the impact on Council activities, the Government temporarily removed the legal requirement for local authorities to hold public meetings in person. This meant that Councils had powers to hold public meetings virtually by using video or telephone conferencing technology. The Regulations were made in Parliament on 2nd April 2020 and applied to meetings taking place before 7th May 2021.

Meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were therefore held initially on Skype for Business and later on Microsoft Teams, with the meetings streamed to the Council's YouTube channel. Meetings of scrutiny Task Groups and Working Groups were also held remotely, though as these meetings are private, they were not streamed.

At the time of writing, it is anticipated that in the 2021/22 municipal year, formal, public Committee meetings will need to take place "physically" once more. However, these rules do not apply to informal meetings of Task Groups and Working Groups and Members may wish to continue to hold remote or hybrid meetings of these groups to provide colleagues with greater flexibility to participate in the scrutiny process moving forward.

As agreed by Members in 2019/20, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee met with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive on a number of occasions to discuss the scrutiny process. A number of ideas for scrutiny were raised at these meetings, which helped to inform the Committee's work programme during the year.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitors the impact of all of its recommendations that have been endorsed by the Executive Committee. A tracking report is presented to the Committee during the year stating progress made to date.

During consideration of the Executive Committee's Work Programme, Members agreed to pre-scrutinise the following items:

- Restoration and Recovery Plan
- Housing Strategy Report
- Housing Revenue Account Strategic Improvement Plan Progress
- Church Green Draft Conservation Area and Management Plan Consultation
- Redditch Town Centre Redevelopment – Town Investment Plan

In addition to pre-scrutiny of Executive Committee Work Programme items the following items were included in the Committee's Work Programme and were considered at meetings throughout the municipal year:

- Civil Contingencies Annual Report
- Skills in The Local Workforce
- Redditch Community Lottery
- Redditch Partnership Annual Report
- E-Scooter Trial

Further information about the issues discussed by the Committee during the year and Members' findings are detailed below.

REDDITCH COMMUNITY LOTTERY – UPDATE – 2ND JULY 2020 AND 18TH JANUARY 2021

At the first meeting of the municipal year the Redditch Partnership Manager introduced the Redditch Community Lottery Update for Members' consideration, including the timeline of activity, the promotional channels and the percentage split of each lottery ticket purchased. This report had been prepared as requested by Members in the previous municipal year.

Members were advised that there had inevitably been an impact on sales due to Covid-19 and the associated lockdown, as organisations were not able to hold events and promote their fundraising.

The Committee did propose that the financial implications of the Community Lottery should be investigated further. The Executive Committee considered this proposal in August 2020 but concluded that it was too early to assess the financial implications of the lottery when it had only been in operation for approximately six months by that time.

The second update in respect of the Redditch Community Lottery Update was presented to Members on 18th January 2021.

It was reported during the update that the target number of participants during the year had not been met. However, Members were informed that the demographic of people purchasing the tickets was spread evenly across the Town and were advised that it was mainly women between the age of 36 and 40 that had purchased tickets throughout the year.

Members expressed the hope that next year would provide a clearer picture of its performance. Officers undertook to provide a further update to the Committee in six months' time.

E-SCOOTER TRIAL - REPORT TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 26 AUGUST 2020 (EXTRA MEETING)

The Committee was asked to consider a report outlining the Council's proposals for a bid to take part in a national e-scooter trial.

Members were informed that the deadline for applications to be submitted to the Department for Transport to participate in the e-scooter trial was 31st August 2020. The Committee was consulted to provide an opportunity for the Council's bid to be

scrutinised in detail before it was submitted. It was reported that if the bid was successful, the location for the trial in Redditch would range throughout parts of the town centre and that the Council would need to ensure that appropriate Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) were in place before the trial could be launched.

A bid was subsequently successfully submitted, and e-scooters have been introduced in the town. Members agreed that an update should be provided on the trial six months after the launch of the scheme in Redditch and the item was added to the Work Programme.

NEW CEMETERY - UPDATE REPORT - 3RD SEPTEMBER 2020

During the year, a request was made for an update to be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress with respect to the new cemetery space required for Redditch. This request was made in a context in which many members of the public were keen to obtain further information about the plans for a new cemetery.

The focus of the discussions on this item were on the process for the introduction of a new cemetery and the stage that had been reached by the Council. The Committee was very clear that Overview and Scrutiny could not scrutinise any planning applications connected to the introduction of a new cemetery, which would need to be dealt with separately by the Planning committee.

The Bereavement Services Manager explained that there had been delays in the process for several reasons including the ecology and archaeology of certain sites and the appropriateness of surveying these areas. This was in addition to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdown.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has asked to pre-scrutinise a report in respect of the new cemetery provision, currently scheduled on the Executive Work Programme for consideration in August 2021, though the date may change.

PRE-SCRUTINY - RESTORATION AND RECOVERY PLAN - 3RD SEPTEMBER 2020

During the year Members considered the Restoration and Recovery Plan, which outlined the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdown.

The key areas of the plan that were highlighted were as follows:

- Delivery of essential services had continued during the pandemic.
- Economic recovery plans were being established across both Redditch and the Worcestershire area and the Restoration and Recovery Plan would sit alongside these two documents.

- Learning from the 'first wave' of Covid-19 had been recognised and had resulted in major changes to how the Council operated.
- The Restoration and Recovery Plan had been formulated around the authority's five Strategic Purposes and included priorities from the Council Plan. As the Council Plan was drafted prior to Covid-19 and, due to changes in priorities during the pandemic, a Council Plan review was scheduled to take place in early 2021 to ensure priorities were refreshed and remained relevant.

PRE-SCRUTINY - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT STRATEGIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS - 3RD SEPTEMBER 2020

This year, the Committee continued to monitor action taken in respect of the Housing Revenue Account Strategic Improvement Plan Progress report. Members were advised that there had been successes since the previous update in the key compliance areas including gas servicing, asbestos and fire safety. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdown there had been impacts on the provision of Housing Services which had forced a change in priorities so that major compliance issues and emergency and essential repairs were only carried out after risk assessments were carried out and ensuring that staff were provided with adequate Personal Protective Equipment.

It was also confirmed that rent collection had been impacted due to the increase in Universal Credit applicants and residents who had been placed on furlough or had lost jobs. However, measures had been put in place to mitigate the deficit in rent arrears. Members welcomed news that the Housing Revenue Account was in a sustainable position.

As part of this discussion there was interest from Members regarding the numbers of rough sleepers and homeless people in the Borough. Members were encouraged that there were no homeless people in the Borough and that rough sleepers were provided with temporary accommodation during lockdown.

PRESENTATION FROM PUBLIC HEALTH CONSULTANT, WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - OVERVIEW ITEMS – 22ND OCTOBER 2020

As requested in the previous municipal year at a meeting between the Leader of the Redditch Brough Council, the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Chief Executive of the Council, a presentation was received on the subject of the following public health issues:

- Flu Vaccinations
- Fruit and Vegetable Consumption
- Alcohol Admissions
- Dementia Diagnosis

- Childhood Obesity

A Public Health Consultant from Worcestershire County Council attended a meeting of the Committee in October 2020. In her presentation she outlined key information, which included statistics for the flu vaccination programme and childhood obesity in Reception age to Year 6 children. It was highlighted that Redditch was performing well in some of these areas however the number of alcohol admissions was higher, and the number of Dementia diagnoses was lower than the national average.

PRE-SCRUTINY - HOUSING STRATEGY - 22ND OCTOBER 2020

The Committee pre-scrutinised the Housing Strategy at a meeting of 22nd October 2020. This report was identified for pre-scrutiny due to the implications for Council tenants, particularly those living in the private rented sector.

Members were informed that the Housing Strategy had previously been a County-wide strategy that was complex and a decision had been made to adopt a more localised approach to the strategy where tangible outcomes could be measured more easily. Consideration was also given to the Stock Condition Survey and the work that would be undertaken over the following 20 years to improve the Council's housing stock.

CIVIL CONTINGENCIES ANNUAL REPORT - 3RD DECEMBER 2020

The Civil Contingencies Annual Report was presented by the Civil Contingencies and Resilience Manager in December 2020. The key area that was presented for Members information was the debrief exercise that was carried out in respect the Council's response to Covid-19 after the first lockdown. Eighteen recommendations had been made as a result of the debrief and accepted by the Chief Executive. It was reported to the Committee that all actions, except for one, were undertaken within four weeks. The outstanding recommendation was concerning data sharing which would be an ongoing action and monitored closely.

SKILLS IN THE LOCAL WORKFORCE - VERBAL PRESENTATION - 3RD DECEMBER 2020

The Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWEDR) presented a verbal update in respect of Skills in the Local Workforce which had been highlighted as an area for scrutiny at an Overview and Scrutiny training session attended by Non-Executive Members in May 2019.

The presentation detailed the support programmes and courses for 16–21-year-olds including CV preparation, communications and working in teams. There was also information provided regarding Worcestershire County Council Skills Hub service which had recently been launched and was available to employers and individuals.

The Committee was informed that a number of apprenticeship grants were available to young people and initiatives were in place to enable young people to be matched with suitable placements and vacancies within the Borough.

Members agreed that initiatives and support measures should be clearly communicated to local businesses and individuals through various business networks and channels and encouraged local businesses to do more to engage with young people in order to close the skills gap in the Borough.

CHURCH GREEN DRAFT CONSERVATION AREA AND MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION - PRE-SCRUTINY - 3RD DECEMBER 2020

A detailed report was presented to the Committee for pre-scrutiny in respect of the Church Green Draft Conservation Area and Management Plan consultation.

A summary was provided of the Church Green Conservation Area and areas of special interest and Members were informed that there were a high number of buildings within the area that were Designated Heritage Assets. It was considered that the Conservation Area would act as a focus for the future regeneration of the Redditch Town Centre.

It was noted during consideration of this item that there were areas for concern which included the poor state of shop fronts, parking around St Stephens' Church and vacant units. In addition to this it was discussed that there may be a need to consider the current parking on Unicorn Hill and the impact it had on the businesses that were situated there.

At the end of the debate on this item the Committee endorsed the recommendations detailed in the report.

REDDITCH TOWN DEAL INVESTMENT PLAN – PRE-SCRUTINY – 18TH JANUARY 2021

The Head of Economic Development & Regeneration from North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWEDR) presented a report in respect of the Redditch Town Deal Investment Plan in January 2021. Consideration of this subject followed pre-scrutiny of previous reports in respect of regeneration and redevelopment of the town centre in recent years.

The Committee was informed that there were three key themes included in the scope of the Town's Fund including urban regeneration, enterprise and connectivity (including digital and transport) and that unlocking Redditch was the vision in order to move Redditch from a traditional New Town to a New Town that was fit for the 21st Century.

Members were advised that Government guidance regarding public consultation was followed during the process. An external consultant specialising in consultation had co-ordinated public engagement measures for this process. Some concerns were raised about the number of people who had responded in this consultation process, though the Committee was advised that there had been a high rate of responses and feedback had been taken into account from previous consultation exercises too.

During consideration of this item Members raised some concerns in respect of the Redditch Town Deal Investment Plan website and transparency for residents. The situation of the current Police Station future library provision were also discussed in detail.

It was agreed at the meeting that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would receive regular, six monthly updates in respect of the Redditch Town Deal Investment Plan, should this be approved by the Government.

REDDITCH PARTNERSHIP REPORT 2021 - 18TH JANUARY 2021

The Redditch Partnership Manager presented the Redditch Partnership Annual Report 2021. It was noted that changes had inevitably occurred over the previous year as a result of Covid-19. Members were informed that it had proven more difficult to meet in lockdown however it was confirmed that some meetings had taken place virtually. The Business Leaders Group had continued to meet regularly and had undertaken a project, mentoring young people in schools.

It was reported to the Committee that the Redditch Partnership structure had been really effective during the response to the pandemic and the Partnership was able to consolidate support and create links between the Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups. There were hopes that this kind of work would continue in the future and that links would continue to flourish after the lockdown.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021/22 TO 2024/25 (INCLUDING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT) – 11TH FEBRUARY 2021

The Medium-Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2023/24 (including the Capital Programme and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)) was pre-scrutinised at a meeting of the Committee held in February 2021.

The Committee was informed about the particular challenges involved in balancing the budget during the Covid-19 pandemic. There remained some uncertainty about future plans for local government funding and this, together with uncertainty about the potential impact of Brexit on local businesses and therefore business rate collections, made it difficult to plan ahead. However, opportunities to achieve savings and secure further income had been highlighted in the report as well as the balanced position for 2021/22.

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY PANEL – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2020

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

A meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel took place on 30th September 2020. During the meeting Members received an update on the work of the partnership in the Borough in the preceding 12 months, this included an update on the action that was being taken to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour. There was also a discussion regarding Hate Crime Awareness Week 2020 and projects that related to and focussed on diverting young people from crime and Anti-Social Behaviour and their delivery in schools.

TASK GROUPS AND SHORT SHARP REVIEWS

Task Groups are established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to conduct an in-depth review of any service, policy or issue that affects the Borough. The work carried out by Task Groups in 2020-2021 is summarised below.

SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK GROUP

The Suicide Prevention Task Group completed their review in the summer in 2020. The group comprised six Members including Councillor Debbie Chance (Chair) and Councillors Baker, Isherwood, Lovell, Nazir (until May 2021) and Shurmer.

The Committee was informed that in total the group had held 11 meetings and spoken to eight witnesses between June 2019 and June 2020. It was clarified that there had been a slight delay in bringing the report before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The group had gathered data on the economic cost of death by suicide, the higher incidence of suicide amongst young men compared to other sections of the population and the evidence of the long-term effects on bereaved relatives.

At the end of the review the group proposed three recommendations, all of which were endorsed by the Executive Committee. Progress with the implementation of these recommendations will be monitored in the Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker.

DEMENTIA TASK GROUP

At the start of the municipal year Members decided to launch a review into Dementia in the Borough. This subject had been raised as an area of concern given the ageing population. The scope of the task group was agreed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 2nd July 2020. The scope included a requirement to investigate the provision of Dementia services in the Borough and to clarify the different types of dementia.

Councillor Michael Chalk was elected as Chair for the Task Group. Councillors Joanne Beecham, John Fisher and Jenny Wheeler were also appointed to the group.

The meetings have included interviews and consideration of evidence submitted by the following officers and representatives from partnership organisations:

- Representative from Age UK
- Redditch Partnership Manager (Redditch Borough Council)

There were delays in the investigation as a result of Covid-19 and time constraints on Members' and officers' time. However, the group has made some suggestions in respect of their recommendations and will report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on their findings in the new municipal year.

PARKING ON UNICORN HILL – SHORT, SHARP REVIEW – 18TH JANUARY 2021

At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 18th January 2021 it was agreed that a Short, Sharp Review of Parking on Unicorn Hill would be undertaken.

Members were informed that the scoping document had been proposed as a result of discussions that had taken place in respect of the available parking on Unicorn Hill during the meeting of the Committee held on 3rd December 2020.

The objectives for the Short, Sharp Review were proposed and included analysis of the need for car-parking on Unicorn Hill, confirmation of what parking already existed.

Councillor Peter Fleming was elected as Chair of the Short, Sharp Review. Councillors Joe Baker, Joanne Beecham and Yvonne Smith were also appointed to the review. This exercise will be completed in the new municipal year.

WORKING GROUPS

The Council has two permanent scrutiny working groups, the Budget Scrutiny Working Group and the Performance Scrutiny Working Group.

BUDGET SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP – CHAIR, COUNCILLOR JENNY WHEELER

The Budget Scrutiny Working Group held a number of meetings in 2020-2021. The model of the working group had been considered successful in the previous year and therefore a similar approach was adopted in 2020-2021. Members concluded that this was a challenging time financially for the Council in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and that the Budget Scrutiny Working Group had an important role to play in terms of providing assurance to the Executive Committee and scrutinising any plans that might have significant financial implications for the Council.

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

- Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25 (including the capital programme and Housing Revenue Account)
- Flexible Homelessness Support Grant and Homelessness Reduction Grant 2021/22
- Section 24 Notice and the implications of this for the Council's financial position moving forward.
- Commercialism Programme Board including the progress within the Authority with delivering commercial services and the role of Black Radley. An interview was held with a representative of Black Radley as part of this process.
- Brexit
- Impact of Covid-19
- Fees and Charges 2021/22
- Financial Monitoring reports
- Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rate Collection
- Housing Revenue Account

A recommendation was made to the Executive Committee in respect of the future structure of Fees and Charges reports. This was agreed with only a minor amendment by the Executive Committee at their meeting held on 8th December 2020.

**PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP – CHAIR, COUNCILLOR
ANDREW FRY**

The group has an important role in scrutinising the delivery of the Council's priorities. The group agreed at the end of 2019/20 that Members would continue to focus on scrutinising the performance of services in accordance with the strategic purposes. However, this would be conducted collectively, rather than through one Member monitoring a particular strategic purpose.

The Group met twice times in 2020/21. This represented a significant decline in the number of meetings compared to the previous year. However, the frequency of meetings was impacted by Covid-19. Members intend to hold more frequent meetings in 2021/22. Every meeting of the group was quorate.

During these meetings the following items were discussed:

- Voids – Process and Timescales – Interview with the Head of Environmental Services and Housing Property.
- Anti-Social Behaviour - Interview with the Head of Community and Housing Services
- Update on How Covid-19 Has Affected Council Services - Interview with the Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy

EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES

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

The Committee received regular updates from Councillor Chalk, the Council's representative on the West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

During the year Councillor Chalk frequently provided written updates about the work of the Committee and highlighted the following points:

- The Battery Gigafactory
- The Comprehensive Spending Review
- Questions of the Mayor – Andy Street

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

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

- The impact of Covid-19 and vaccination programme
- End of Life Care and ReSPECT

Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) Joint Scrutiny Committee - Council Representative, Councillor Michael Chalk.

For the first time, this year the Committee received verbal updates on the work of the GBSLEP's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The following points were highlighted during the year:

- Skills and Apprenticeship Hub
- Low Carbon and Environmental Technologies
- Route to Recovery

The written updates from Councillor Chalk provide useful information of scrutiny work being undertaken by other authorities across the local area and the Committee are grateful of the time taken by Councillor Chalk in providing these updates.

CONCLUSION

This has been a very different year for Overview and Scrutiny in Redditch. The Covid-19 pandemic meant a whole new way of working was introduced when undertaking public meetings. Despite this, a significant amount of pre-scrutiny work has been carried out by the Committee. In addition to this, items of interest for overview were carefully considered, providing greater clarification on those subjects to the benefit of Members and the public.

Many recommendations have been made during the year and these have often been accepted by the Executive Committee, either in totality or in an amended form. It is hoped that, regardless of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, Overview and Scrutiny can continue to make a constructive contribution to the Borough in 2021/22.

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

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

Democratic Services, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3031 email: joanne.gresham@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Appendix A

Scrutiny Proposal Form

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

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

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

Please return this form to: Jo Gresham, Democratic Services Officer, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH

Email: joanne.gresham@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

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Action Tracker Update
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
February 2021

RECOMMENDATION TRACKER REPORT

1. SUMMARY

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

The recommendations are by;

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Subject and Date of Meeting requested	Actions	Lead Officer	Date completion required	Comments	Completion Date and RAG Rating
Church Green Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan	1) the draft Church Green Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan be endorsed; and 2) a six-week public consultation period be approved. The result of this consultation will be reported back to the Executive Committee in due course			These recommendations were endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3 rd December 2020. Recommendation agreed at the Executive meeting held on 8th December 2020	GREEN
Budget Scrutiny Working Group – Fees and Charges	3) Fees and Charges are set following due consideration of the strategy of each service area, taking into account overheads, cost recovery and the provision of the service.	Democratic Services		Amendment made to the recommendation: “Fees and Charges are set following due consideration of the strategy of each service area, taking into account overheads, <i>business benefits deriving from such strategies</i> , cost recovery and the provision of the service. The proposals detailed in this recommendation will be taken into account when officers prepare the next fees and charges report, Recommendation agreed at the Executive meeting held on 8th December 2020	GREEN
Suicide prevention Task Group	4) That 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			The final report was presented at O&S in July 2020. A further recommendation (recommendation 4) was made by Executive at the meeting held on 4 th	GREEN

RED – Overdue AMBER – Ongoing GREEN – Completed

	<p>version of the Equalities Strategy for 2020 to 2024 objectives and actions should be included to cover the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>2) Support to local voluntary sector organisations around improving promotion of their organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 			<p>August 2020. (Actioned on 15th September 2020)</p> <p>All recommendations were agreed at the Executive meeting held on 4th August 2020.</p> <p>1)The Equality Strategy is currently under review and will be going to CMT at the end of May. One of the main objectives will be a Mental Health Objectives and the recommendations from the Suicide Task Group will key actions against this objective covering communication, signposting, events, training, and partnerships.</p> <p>The Policy Team will be annually reviewing the strategy once adopted and the objectives will be in place for 4 years.</p> <p>The Policy Team have made contacted the newly formed Suicide Prevention Team at WCC who will be working across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The 3-year project secured Wave 3 funding from NHS England to reduce the risk of suicide with a particular focus on middle aged men. Key elements of the project include raising awareness, suicide prevention training and developing localised community centred initiatives to build opportunities for men to talk and build relationships.</p> <p>The Policy Team will work with the Redditch Partnership Manager, Communications and HR colleagues on</p>	
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	<p>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.</p> <p>3) Publicising the findings of the Task Group</p> <p>4) Officers be tasked with sending a copy of the Suicide Prevention Task Group's final report to Worcestershire County Council and the Member of Parliament for Redditch.</p>			<p>the signposting element marking Suicide Prevention Day 2021.</p> <p>a) The Communications Unit continue to do this where possible through the intranet and have instigated initiatives such as the Staff Space enabling staff to link up for chats if struggling with making links with others while working at home. Redditch Partnership Manager has promoted a whole range of mental health projects and initiatives provided by partner organisations in the "Wellbeing in Partnership" news bulletin which goes to all 4th Tier Managers and CMT</p> <p>b) Mental health programmes/initiatives and projects are available by searching "mental health" in the Council's online directory Knowledge Bank. Future work can be undertaken to develop this.</p> <p>c) This was not undertaken owing to Officer capacity but please see section 2.</p> <p>d) Officers to follow up with HR in respect of progress</p> <p>2) the Pandemic unfortunately prevented any face to face training to take place on this issue. It is suggested that a face to face workshop be undertaken in and around 20 Sept to mark World Suicide day this year instead.</p> <p>3) Redditch Partnership Manager has publicised the review at meetings she has attended regarding mental health and also through the Wellbeing in Partnership newsletter. She has also brought it to the attention of the County Council's Suicide Prevention Group. Redditch Partnership</p>	
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				<p>Manager is attending a county Suicide Prevention workshop on 3rd March and will feedback to relevant channels any relevant work or opportunities which arise from this to link in with the Task Group review.</p> <p>With the establishment of a Suicide Prevention Team in Public Health, as mentioned above, the Redditch Partnership Manager and Policy Team will link in with this team and explore ways of supporting each other going forward with work around suicide prevention in Redditch.</p>	
<p>Parking Enforcement Task Group Final Report – June 2020</p>	<p>1) that at a meeting of Worcestershire Leaders' Board the Leader should raise the need to introduce Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) for all zigzag road markings outside schools in the county. As part of this process the Leader should formally request that Worcestershire County Council write to the Secretary of State for Transport to request that additional, ring-fenced funding be provided to Worcestershire County Council that can be invested in introducing these additional TROs;</p> <p>2) subject to the successful implementation of Recommendation 1 above, Redditch Borough Council should fund an additional Civil Enforcement Officer post dedicated to enforcement action around schools, to work term-time only;</p>			<p>Amendment made to recommendation 2 to "<i>that</i>, subject to the successful implementation of Recommendation 1 above, <i>and following a scoped trial period</i>, Redditch Borough Council should consider funding an additional Civil Enforcement Officer post dedicated to enforcement action around schools to work term-time only;"</p> <p>All recommendations and amendments were agreed at the Executive meeting held on 9th June 2020.</p> <p>In respect of recommendation 1 - The Leader has raised the issue of parking enforcement at a meeting of Worcestershire Leaders' Group and a letter formally setting out the group's findings was sent to relevant lead Members and Officers at Worcestershire County Council on this subject.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

	<p>3) Officers from Redditch Borough Council work with Worcestershire County Council, local schools and West Mercia Police to develop a strategy to tackle problem parking near schools;</p> <p>4) the need for road markings to be replaced as soon as possible after resurfacing work has been undertaken should be discussed at a forthcoming Redditch Highways Forum meeting. All Worcestershire County Councillors representing a Redditch division should be provided with a copy of the group's final report to facilitate a discussion of this subject;</p> <p>5) training in respect of parking enforcement arrangements in the Borough should be provided in a single training session each municipal year as part of the member induction programme. New elected Members should be offered the opportunity to shadow a Civil Parking Enforcement Officer;</p>			<p>A copy of the group's report was sent to all of the county councillors representing a Redditch division. A formal response was received from some of those Members, a copy of which was shared with members of the scrutiny group.</p> <p>The proposed training has been considered and agreed by the Member Support Steering Group. However, due to the current social distancing measures in place during the Covid-19 pandemic the Member Support Steering Group has decided to focus on quasi-judicial and overview and scrutiny training in 2021/22. It is anticipated that the training in respect of parking enforcement will take place at a later date once it is safe to do so.</p> <p>The Parking Team liaise with County, other Districts and the Local PCSOs and discuss a number of topics one of these is parking outside schools. However due to COVID-19 and the Schools being shut for a large part of the last year some delays have been experienced. However, the Parking Team are planning to get all partners together including representatives of some schools once pupils return to discuss this topic.</p>	
Budget Scrutiny Working Group - Commercialism	An all-Member briefing from Black Radley's Professor Peter Latchford, in respect of commercialism take place in January 2020.	Democratic Services		This recommendation was agreed at the Executive meeting held on and the briefing took place on 28 th January 2020 – the caveat was there needed to be a minimum number of members in attendance	GREEN
Pre decision scrutiny – Disposal of HRA Asset –	No. 65 Green Lane, Studley be declared surplus to requirements and officers to dispose of the site;	Guy Revans		These recommendations were agreed at the Executive meeting on 10th September 2019.	AMBER

RED – Overdue AMBER – Ongoing GREEN – Completed

<p>Green Lane Studley – 5th September 2019</p>	<p>any HRA capital receipt achieved based on the current market value of No. 65 Green Lane, be used to increase the HRA stock;</p> <p>Option C - The Capital Engineering Scheme be approved, with Authority be delegated to the Head of Environmental Services to submit a detailed planning application to Stratford-on-Avon District Council, for the complete scheme. If successful, the Planning consent will include an outline approval for the erection of 2 No. 4 bed houses</p> <p>the sites for the 2 No. 4 bed houses be marketed and the received monies, after deduction of the amount as described in ii) above, shall be used as Capital funds towards the cost of the Engineering Works</p> <p>the additional funds required to complete the Engineering Works be taken from the Capital Locality Scheme Budget, as the proposed works are of the nature that the budget was set up for in the first instance;</p> <p>the estimated cost of the Engineering Works cannot be finalised at this time, as Officers are currently endeavouring to determine the most cost effective method of disposing of the extensive surplus material from the excavated embankments. However, subject to the satisfactory outcome of this analysis the total Engineering Works should not exceed £200k</p>			<p>A Hybrid Planning Application was made to both Stratford-upon-Avon District Council (SoADC) and this Authority, which included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Full Application - Demolition of former railway brick arched bridge, removal of embankments, and realignment of existing footpath/cycle way to form an at-level crossing. 2.Outline Application - Demolition of No.65 Green Lane, and construction of 2 No. 4-bed houses with all matters reserved. <p>After some weeks the relevant Planning Case Officer at SoADC confirmed that the Planning Application recommendation was for refusal (residential part of the application and a number of objections had been received against the demolition of the bridge structure itself).</p> <p>The Planning Application was withdrawn, and would be re-submitted after a re-design of the scheme eliminating the residential proposal.</p> <p>When the revised planning application was submitted to Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC), without the proposed residential development, they have advised that this constitutes a new planning application and that a fee, together with a detailed structural survey of the bridge was required. There was no requirement of a detailed structural survey</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 37</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Agenda Item 6</p>
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				<p>of the bridge was mentioned in the original application. Additionally, planning officers at SDC have advised that the second application, purely for the removal of the bridge structure and replacement with an at-level Cycle Way/Footpath crossing, is unlikely to be approved.</p> <p>Given the above, Officers are currently in discussion with Warwickshire County Council (WarCC), on the possible adoption of the bridge by the WarCC. Consequently, we are awaiting a formal response from WarCC on the likelihood that such an option will be accepted. Once a detailed response is received back from WarCC, a further report will be presented to Executive Committee, either to accept the transfer of this asset to WarCC, or failing an agreement being reached, considerations of the way forward.</p>	
<p>Endorsement of Proposals for the Redevelopment of Matchborough and Winyates for the Purposes of Public Consultation (formally Development Partner to progress the possible redevelopment of Winyates and/or Matchborough District Centres</p>	<p>Recommended that assurances be given that no Council housing stock or business unit assets would be lost from the redevelopment of the Winyates and Matchborough district centres.</p>	<p>Paul Spooner</p>		<p>The Executive Committee will receive a report seeking agreement to a brief for development which will require potential development partners to work with the Council on the regeneration of the local centres and protect the Council's income and financial position and ensure the provision of social housing at current level.</p> <p>This item appears on the Executive Work Programme and the report will be pre-scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee before being considered by the Executive Committee (The report is currently due to be considered in</p>	<p>AMBER</p>

<p>and Surrounding Areas)</p>				<p>September 2021, though the date may change.)</p>	
<p>Redi Centre Lease Arrangement - Pre Decision Scrutiny</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny – 5 July 2018</p>	<p>the Executive Committee take into account the following three recommendations;</p> <p>a 12 year lease is granted to RYCE for the use of the REDI Centre subject to commence when the Lottery funding for works on the building is approved;</p> <p>approval of a rent of £7k per annum is agreed for the period of the lease; and should the Lottery grant be unsuccessful that a further report be presented to Members on the future opportunities for the centre.</p>	<p>Jayne Pickering</p>		<p>At the Executive Committee on 5 July 2018 the recommendations were approved.</p> <p><u>March 2019</u> This piece of work is still in progress, as yet there is no further update.</p> <p>The Lease was completed on 30th August 2019.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

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Executive Committee

Monday, 22nd February,
2021

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), Councillor Mike Rouse (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Bill Hartnett, Anthony Lovell, Nyear Nazir, David Thain and Craig Warhurst

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton, Chris Forrester, Kate Goldey and Sue Hanley

Democratic Services Officers:

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 Leader advised that there were two agenda packs to refer to; the main agenda and a supplementary pack. There had been a delay in receiving the report in respect of the Council Tax Resolutions as the Council had been waiting for information from some of the preceptor authorities that received Council Tax. However, the Executive Committee minutes from a meeting held on 16th February 2021 and Overview and Scrutiny Committee minutes from a meeting held on 11th February 2021 had been available for Members to access electronically since Friday, 19th February 2021.

85. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 16th February 2021 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

Chair

Executive Committee	Monday, 22nd February, 2021
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86. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS (REPORT TO FOLLOW)

The Head of Financial and Customer Services presented the Council Tax Resolutions for the Executive Committee's consideration. Members were advised that the report detailed the Council Tax calculations for the Council and the other precepting authorities.

The Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority had not yet held a meeting to determine their requirements and therefore assumptions had had to be made in the report about the contribution to that organisation. Delegated authority had been requested for Officers to be able to amend the resolutions should the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority agree a position that differed from the assumptions detailed in the report.

During consideration of this item reference was made to the late notice that had been provided to Members in respect of the report, with publication having occurred on the day of the meeting. The Chief Executive explained that this delay was not caused by Council Officers but as a consequence of the precepting authorities communicating their position to the Council at a late stage. Members who served on the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority were urged to raise the timing of their meetings with the authority to ensure that in future the Council could receive reports in respect of the Council Tax Resolutions in a timely manner.

RESOLVED to NOTE:

that at its meeting on 12th January 2021, the Executive Committee calculated the Council Tax Base 2021/22 as:

- (a) for the whole Council area as 26,158.13 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and**
- (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates; this being Feckenham Parish as 367.22.**

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the calculation for the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021/22 (excluding Parish precepts) as £6,517,245.77;**
- 2) the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:**

**Executive
Committee**

Monday, 22nd February, 2021

- (a) £47,617,501 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act (taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils) (*i.e.*, *Gross expenditure*);
- (b) £41,090,255 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act. (*i.e.*, *Gross income*);
- (c) £6,527,246 being the amount by which the aggregate of 1.2.2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 1.2.2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act);
- (d) £249.53 being the amount at 1.2.2 (c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1.1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts);
- (e) £10,000 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Feckenham Parish precept) referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act;
- (f) £249.15 being the amount at 1.2.2 (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 1.2.2 (e) above by Item T (1.1 (a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates;
- (g) £276.38 being the amount given by adding to the amount at 1.2.2(f), the amount of the special item relating to the Parish of Feckenham 1.2.2(e), divided by the amount in 1.1(b) above;
- (h) the amounts below given by multiplying the amounts at 1.2.2(f) and 1.2.2(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Band D,

Executive Committee

Monday, 22nd February, 2021

calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands;

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Parish of Feckenham £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6/9	184.25	166.10
B	7/9	214.96	193.78
C	8/9	245.67	221.47
D	1	276.38	249.15
E	11/9	337.80	304.52
F	13/9	399.21	359.88
G	15/9	460.63	415.25
H	18/9	552.76	498.30

- 3) it be noted that for the year 2021/22, Worcestershire County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwelling in the Council's area as indicated below:

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Worcestershire County Council	895.89	1,045.20	1,194.52	1,343.83	1,642.46	1,941.09	2,239.72	2,687.66
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	160.13	186.81	213.50	240.19	293.57	346.94	400.32	480.38
Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority	58.45	68.20	77.94	87.68	107.16	126.65	146.13	175.36

- 4) that having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 1.2.2(h) and 1.2.3 above, that Redditch Borough Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the amounts shown below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22. for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings:

**Executive
Committee**

Monday, 22nd February, 2021

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Parish of Feckenham £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6/9	1,298.72	1,280.57
B	7/9	1,515.17	1,493.99
C	8/9	1,731.63	1,707.43
D	1	1,948.08	1,920.85
E	11/9	2,380.99	2,347.71
F	13/9	2,813.89	2,774.56
G	15/9	3,246.80	3,201.42
H	18/9	3,896.16	3,841.70

- 5) that the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make payments under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 from the Collection Fund by ten equal instalments between April 2021 to March 2022 as detailed below:

	Precept £	Deficit on Collection Fund £	Total to pay £
Worcestershire County Council	35,152,080.00	-335,887.00	34,816,193.00
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	6,282,921.24	-57,694.58	6,225,226.66
Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority	2,293,424.78	-22,030.90	2,271,393.88

- 6) that the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make transfers under Section 97 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 from the Collection Fund to the General Fund the sum of £6,464,599 being the Council's own demand on the Collection Fund (£6,517,246) and Parish Precept (£10,000) and the distribution of the Deficit on the Collection Fund (£62,647);
- 7) that the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make payments from the General Fund to Feckenham Parish Council the sums listed above (£10,000) by instalment after 1 April 2021 in respect of the precept levied on the Council;

Executive Committee	Monday, 22nd February, 2021
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- 8) that the above resolutions to be signed by the Chief Executive for use in legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court for the recovery of unpaid Council Taxes;
- 9) notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Chief Executive are given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992; and
- 10) that authority be delegated to the Head of Finance and Customer Services (Interim S151) following consultation with the finance portfolio holder to amend the resolution should the Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority Service not approve the estimated figure that is being used in this report. This is due to the Fire service having their approval meeting after this resolution report has been brought to Council.

87. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Officers confirmed that there were no recommendations arising from the latest meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on Thursday, 11th February 2021.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 11th February 2021 be noted.

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

There were no referrals from either the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Executive Advisory Panels for consideration on this occasion.

89. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

Members noted that there were no updates from the Executive Advisory Panels or other external bodies on this occasion.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 6.39 pm

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S

WORK PROGRAMME

1 April 2021 to 31 July 2021

(published as at 1st March 2021)



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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

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

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

The Executive Committee's meetings are normally held at 6.30pm 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, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnerships

Councillor Mike Rouse, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Leisure

Councillor Brandon Clayton, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

Councillor Anthony Lovell, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change

Councillor Nyear Nazir Community Services and Regulatory Services

Councillor David Thain, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling

Councillor Craig Warhurst, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Procurement

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) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report 2020/21 Key: No	Council 12 Apr 2021		Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Jess Bayley, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Redditch) Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3268 Councillor Joe Baker
Church Green Conservation Area Adoption Key: No	Executive Not before 15th Jun 2021 Council Not before 28th Jun 2021		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Tel: (01527) 881325
Dementia Task Group - Final Report Key: No	Executive 15 Jun 2021		Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Joanne Gresham, Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01527 64252 Ext: 3031 Councillor Michael Chalk
Future Plans for Auxerre House Key: No	Executive 15 Jun 2021 Council 28 Jun 2021		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Housing Policies Key: No	Executive 15 Jun 2021 Council 28 Jun 2021		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284
Asset Management Strategy and investment programme for council housing stock Key: No	Executive 13 Jul 2021 Council 26 Jul 2021		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252
New Cemetery Provision Key: No	Executive Not before 2nd Aug 2021 Council Not before 2nd Aug 2021		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Michael Birkinshaw, Bereavement Services Manager Tel: 01527 62174
Endorsement of Proposals for the Redevelopment of Matchborough and Winyates for the Purposes of Public Consultation Key: Yes	Executive Not before 7th Sep 2021		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development Tel: 01562 732192

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Local Development Scheme Key: No	Executive Not before 7th Sep 2021 Council Not before 20th Sep 2021		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Tel: (01527) 881325
Redditch Borough Council's Duty to Co-operate Statements with South Worcestershire Authorities Key: No	Executive Not before 7th Sep 2021 Council Not before 20th Sep 2021		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Tel: (01527) 881325
Redditch Town Centre Regeneration Business Cases Key: No	Executive Not before 7th Sep 2021 Council Not before 20th Sep 2021	The presentation of this report will be subject to confirmation of a successful Town Investment Plan bid.	Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development Tel: 01562 732192
Decarbonisation of the Council Fleet Key: No	Executive 26 Oct 2021 Council 15 Nov 2021		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Kevin Hirons, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01527 881705

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Ash Die Back Action Plan Key: No	Executive 7 Dec 2021		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Carl Walker, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3421
Flexible Homelessness Support Grant and Homelessness Reduction Grant 202/23 Key: No	Executive 11 Jan 2022		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284
Independent Remuneration Panel 2022/23 Key: No	Executive 11 Jan 2022 Council 31 Jan 2022		Report of the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	Darren Whitney, Electoral Services Manager Tel: 01527 882547
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22 Key: No	Council 11 Apr 2022		Report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Joanne Gresham, Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01527 64252 Ext: 3031

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Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

18th March 2021**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 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

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

18th March 2021

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
March 2021	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21	Councillor Joe Baker
March 2021	Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
June 2021	Dementia Task Group – Final Report	Councillor Michael Chalk
June 2021	Pre-Decision-Scrutiny - Homes England Asset Transfer	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
July 2021	Redditch Town Deal Investment Plan – 6 monthly update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
July 2021	Community Lottery – 6 monthly Update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
July 2021	E-Scooters Update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
August 2021	Houses of Multiple Occupation - Presentation	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
August 2021	Pre-scrutiny - New Cemetery	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

18th March 2021

August 2021	Endorsement of Proposals for the Redevelopment of Matchborough and Winyates for the Purposes of Public Consultation	Report of the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development
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