



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thu 2 Dec
2021
6.30 pm

Council Chamber
Redditch Town Hall

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
Jo Gresham**

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Tel: (01527) 64252 (Ext. 3031)
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GUIDANCE ON FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic Redditch Borough Council will be applying social distancing arrangements for holding face-to-face meetings.

Please note that this is a public meeting and is open to the public to attend

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

GUIDANCE FOR ELECTED MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS IN PERSON

In advance of the Committee meeting, Members are strongly encouraged to consider taking a lateral flow test, which can be obtained from the NHS website. Should the test be positive for Covid-19 then the Member must not attend the Committee meeting, should provide their apologies to the Democratic Services team and should self-isolate in accordance with national rules.

Members and officers are strongly encouraged to wear face masks during the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, unless exempt. Face masks should only be removed temporarily if the Councillor or officer is speaking or if s/he requires a sip of water and should be reapplied as soon as possible. As Councillors may remove their masks from time to time during the meeting, seating will be placed two metres apart, in line with social distancing measures to protect meeting participants.

Hand sanitiser will be provided for Members to use throughout the meeting.

The meeting venue will be fully ventilated and Members and officers may need to consider wearing appropriate clothing in order to remain comfortable during proceedings.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The usual process for public speaking at Committee meetings will continue to be followed subject to some adjustments which allow written statements to be read out on behalf of residents and the virtual participation of residents at meetings of Council and Planning Committee. Members of the public are encouraged to log in virtually, either to speak or observe meetings wherever possible.

Members of the public will be able to access the meeting if they wish to do so. However, due to social distancing requirements to ensure the safety of participants during the Covid-19 pandemic, there will be limited capacity and members of the public will be allowed access on a first come, first served basis. Members of the public in attendance are strongly encouraged to wear face masks, to use the hand sanitiser that will be provided and will be required to sit in a socially distanced manner at the meetings. It should be noted that members of the public who choose to attend in person do so at their own risk.

In line with Government guidelines, any member of the public who has received a positive result in a Covid-19 test on the day of a meeting must not attend in person and must self-isolate in accordance with the national rules.

Notes:

Although this is a public meeting, there are circumstances when Council might have to move into closed session to consider exempt or confidential information. For agenda items that are exempt, the public are excluded.

Overview and Scrutiny

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2021

6.30 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Debbie Chance
(Chair)
Jennifer Wheeler
(Vice-Chair)
Salman Akbar
Karen Ashley
Michael Chalk

Brandon Clayton
Alex Fogg
Julian Grubb
Lucy Harrison

1. Apologies and named substitutes

2. Declarations of interest and of Party Whip

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

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 10)

4. Public Speaking

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

5. West Mercia Road Safety Team Presentation (Pages 11 - 20)

6. Redditch Town Deal Investment Plan - 6 monthly update (Pages 21 - 36)

7. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 37 - 54)

An updated version of the Executive Work Programme is due to be published on the Redditch Borough Council website on 1st December 2021. This version will be tabled at the meeting.

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8. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 55 - 58)

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

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

10. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports (Pages 59 - 62)

- 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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Thursday, 21st October,
2021

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Debbie Chance (Chair), Councillor Jennifer Wheeler (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Karen Ashley, Joanne Beecham, Alex Fogg, Julian Grubb and Lucy Harrison

Officers:

Sue Hanley, Mike Dunphy and Mary Worsfold

Democratic Services Officers:

Jo Gresham

28. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Councillor Chance informed the Committee that she may arrive late to the meeting. The Vice-Chair, Councillor J. Wheeler, chaired the meeting until 18:31 when Councillor Chance joined the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillors Akbar and Chalk.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no Declarations of Interest nor of any Party Whip.

30. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 2nd September 2021 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

Chair

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31. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public speakers registered on this occasion.

32. CHURCH GREEN CONSERVATION AREA

The Principal Conservation Officer presented Members with the Church Green Conservation area report including the Conservation Area Appraisal and Conservation Management Plan. During the presentation the following was highlighted for Members' attention:

- It was a statutory duty under s69(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and conservation Areas) Act 1990 for the Council to designate any areas which they considered to be of special architectural or historic interest as a Conservation Area.
- The Conservation Area Appraisal had been prepared in order to provide a strategy to protect and enhance its character and support the wider regeneration of the town centre. The Conservation Management Plan identified strategies to protect and enhance the Conservation Area by addressing any issues that had been identified in the Conservation Area Appraisal. These issues had been identified as the following:
 - Poor state of the public realm
 - Poor state of shop fronts
 - Parking around the church
 - Parking on the corner of Evesham Walk/ Unicorn Hill
 - Vacant Units
- A consultation was carried out in February and March 2021 where letters were hand-delivered to occupiers of the Conservation Area and other interested parties which included Historic England and The Victorian Society. Thirteen responses to the consultation had been received, most of them dealt with issues that had already been identified and officers had dealt with the concerns that were raised.

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Members were interested in particular areas of the Appraisal Plan and queried the outcome there would be for the church if they no longer received the income from parking around the church. Officers explained that the church would be approached, and a way forward would hopefully be identified that was suitable to both parties.

Also identified as an area of interest were the fountain and the Abbey stone located in Church Green. It was commented that both of these artefacts were in a state of disrepair and residents were keen to understand what the future plans were. Officers informed Members that the plans included the repair of the fountain, however they would undertake to provide further information to Members and circulate accordingly.

The Committee were pleased that the vacant shops would be included in the plans as they impacted on the look of the area. Members questioned whether it was likely that all of the Landlords would be happy to undertake improvements of their shop fronts. It was explained that the process would be a slow one. However, when plans like these had been undertaken before, once some of the Landlords had undertaken to make changes then other Landlords would be encouraged to make improvements, having seen that they were worthwhile.

The Strategic Planning Manager explained that some funding mechanisms had changed, and it was hoped that bids would be made in order to secure funding in the future. Members were advised that there were multiple parties included in this project and that it was not a one-person approach.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) The Council approves the Church Green Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, and endorses its contents as a material consideration for planning purposes; and**
- 2) Council approves the designation of the proposed extension to the Conservation Area to include 5 – 11 Alcester Street**

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33. CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATE

Councillor Wheeler introduced the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel update in her role as Chair of the panel. Members were informed that the panel meeting took place on 22nd September 2021 when they were presented with an articulate and highly informative presentation by Bev Houghton, the Community Safety Partnership Manager.

The Deputy Chief Executive was welcomed to the meeting to outline some of the background of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP). It was highlighted for Members' attention that the NWCSP covered three areas: Redditch, Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest and that the annual update had focussed on the workings of the Partnership as a whole, not individual organisations and agencies. It was also made up of subgroups and tasking groups which functioned as the operational arms of the Partnership.

The Chair of the Panel presented the key areas to the Committee, as follows:

- Although the work of the Partnership had been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic there had been a significant number of projects developed including work to prevent reoffending and the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol.
- Funding had been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner in order to improve CCTV including a digital upgrade.
- A large number of Youth Programmes had been undertaken both online and face-to-face. These projects included Empowering Young People Project, Young Citizens Challenge, Virtual Decisions Knife Crime Project and The Respect Programme. There were also projects carried out that ensured that some of the most vulnerable residents in the Borough were protected. These had included the Nominated Neighbour Scheme, the White Ribbon Scheme for victims of domestic abuse and security home improvement visits.

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- Woodrow had been chosen as the recipient of the Safer Streets project funding in Redditch. It was explained that some Members queried why Woodrow had specifically been chosen to receive the funding. It was noted that analysis of super output area data for safer street crime types in respect of Woodrow had reinforced its selection as the area of highest need. Members were informed that future funding would be available, and that residents should be encouraged to report incidents to the appropriate agencies.

In addition to the work of the NWCSP's work in Redditch, an update on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) was also provided to the Panel at their meeting. The Chair informed Members of the Committee of the various types of preventative action that could be undertaken in situations where ASB was identified. These were as follows:

- Introductory Tenancies
- Community Protection Warnings
- Community Triggers
- Restorative Justice

Councillor Wheeler thanked Bev Houghton and the team for their hard work over the past year and commented that more Members should be encouraged to attend the meeting when it occurred the following year. It was also noted that such was the value of the meeting that the scheduling of meetings should be increased.

Members were informed that the statutory requirement of the scrutiny of the Partnership was only once per year. However, it might be possible to have an additional scheduled meeting during the year on a specific topic that involved the Partnership. The Deputy Chief Executive undertook to speak to officers and establish what could be an appropriate level of meeting support and wider communications given the capacity of the team. It was also highlighted for Members' information that the Portfolio Holder attended the Partnership meetings and could potentially be a Member conduit for the future.

Some Members were keen to understand the process for reporting resident complaints in both Council homes and private properties. The Deputy Chief Executive explained that this was dependent on

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the circumstances. However, it was explained that Members were always welcome to contact the relevant Senior Officer in order to progress the query or complaint.

RESOLVED that

The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel Update be noted.

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

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

The Chair reported that the Budget Scrutiny Working Group had met on 6th September 2021, when the group had discussed the purpose of the Working Group, including the way it had worked in previous years and of the importance of regular scrutiny of the Council's Budget.

It was highlighted for the Committee the importance of working as a Critical Friend to the Executive. It was clarified that any recommendations made by the Budget Scrutiny Working Group would be considered by the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to them being considered by the Executive. Members were informed that all previous recommendations made to the Executive had been agreed.

Councillor Wheeler provided information on some of the items that would be considered by the Group over the next municipal year. These included:

- Towns Fund
- Fees and Charges
- Budget Framework
- Budget Outturn
- Covid-19 Grants Update
- Brexit and the impact on the Borough

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The Committee were informed that the next meeting of the Group was scheduled for 9th November 2021.

b) **Performance Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Jennifer Wheeler**

The Chair reported that the Performance Scrutiny Working Group had met on 14th September 2021. During that meeting, Members had been presented with an update from the Head of Housing Services. It was explained that an all-Member briefing had taken place in September regarding the Housing Service. It was stated that another session would be held again for any Members who had not been able to attend the initial session.

Several items had been included on the Work Programme for the next municipal year including understanding the Green Thread and its impact on Council's services and an introduction and training on the new Council dashboard which was due to be implemented by the end of 2021.

The next meeting was scheduled for 2nd November 2021.

d) **Parking on Unicorn Hill, Short, Sharp Review – Chair, Councillor Joanne Beecham**

Councillor Beecham informed Members that a meeting of the Parking on Unicorn Hill Short, Sharp Review had taken place on 21st September 2021.

At that meeting the Head of Planning and Regeneration and a representative from the Licensing Committee had provided an update regarding the licensing work that was currently underway in respect of the location of Taxi Ranks in the Borough. It was decided that since the Licensing Committee were undertaking work in this area, that the Short, Sharp Review would be paused until such time as this work had been completed.

RESOLVED that

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The Task Groups, Short Sharp Reviews and Working Groups Update Reports be noted.

35. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

The External Scrutiny Bodies Update reports were presented to the Committee for their consideration.

There were no questions regarding the updates from Members at the meeting. However, having noted that Councillor Chalk had submitted his apologies, it was agreed that should there be any questions they could be raised at the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED that

The External Scrutiny Bodies Update reports be noted.

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

The Executive Committee's Work Programme was presented for Members' consideration.

It was noted by the Committee that the Financial reports were to be considered at the Budget Scrutiny Working Group meetings, and that if there were any recommendations, these would be presented to the main Committee for their consideration.

It was requested that the Growth Options for the Garden Waste Service be placed on the Committee's Work Programme in order to be pre-scrutinised prior to its consideration by the Executive Committee.

RESOLVED that

Subject to the preamble above, the Executive Committee's Work Programme be noted.

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37. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED that

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

38. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED that

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 7th September 2021 be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.35 pm

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Protecting
people
from harm



West Mercia Police Road Safety Team

Yvonne Pepper
Road Safety Team Manager

Dave Perridge
Operations Manager

Bob Haynes
Traffic Management Advisor

Vicki Bristow
Engagement & Campaigns Manager

Redditch Borough Council
2nd December 2021

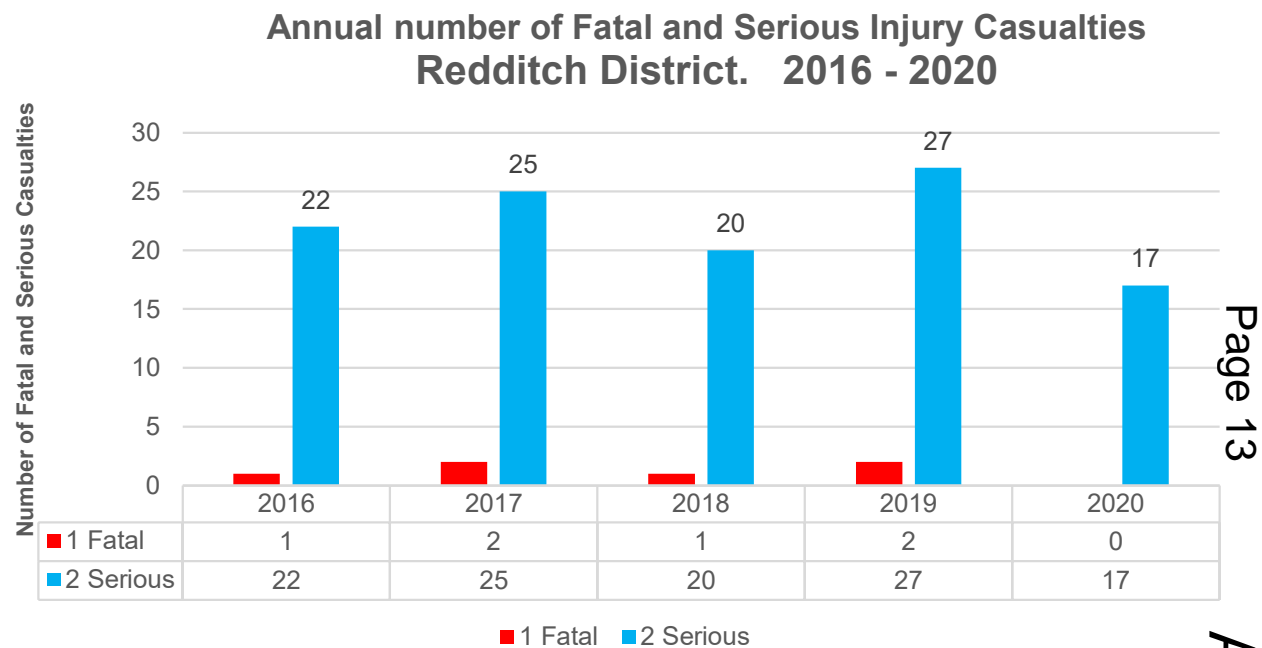
Who are we?

- A police road safety team sitting within the Operations department covering a wide range of disciplines
- Working in partnership with various agencies with the aim to reduce casualties and keep our roads safe
- Cover the whole West Mercia region



Using data

- Over the past three years 129 people have been killed on the roads in West Mercia and 1313 seriously injured
- 6 people have died on the roads in Redditch District in the past 5 years and 111 seriously injured
- Campaigns and enforcement are led by local collision data



Education

Engineering

Enforcement

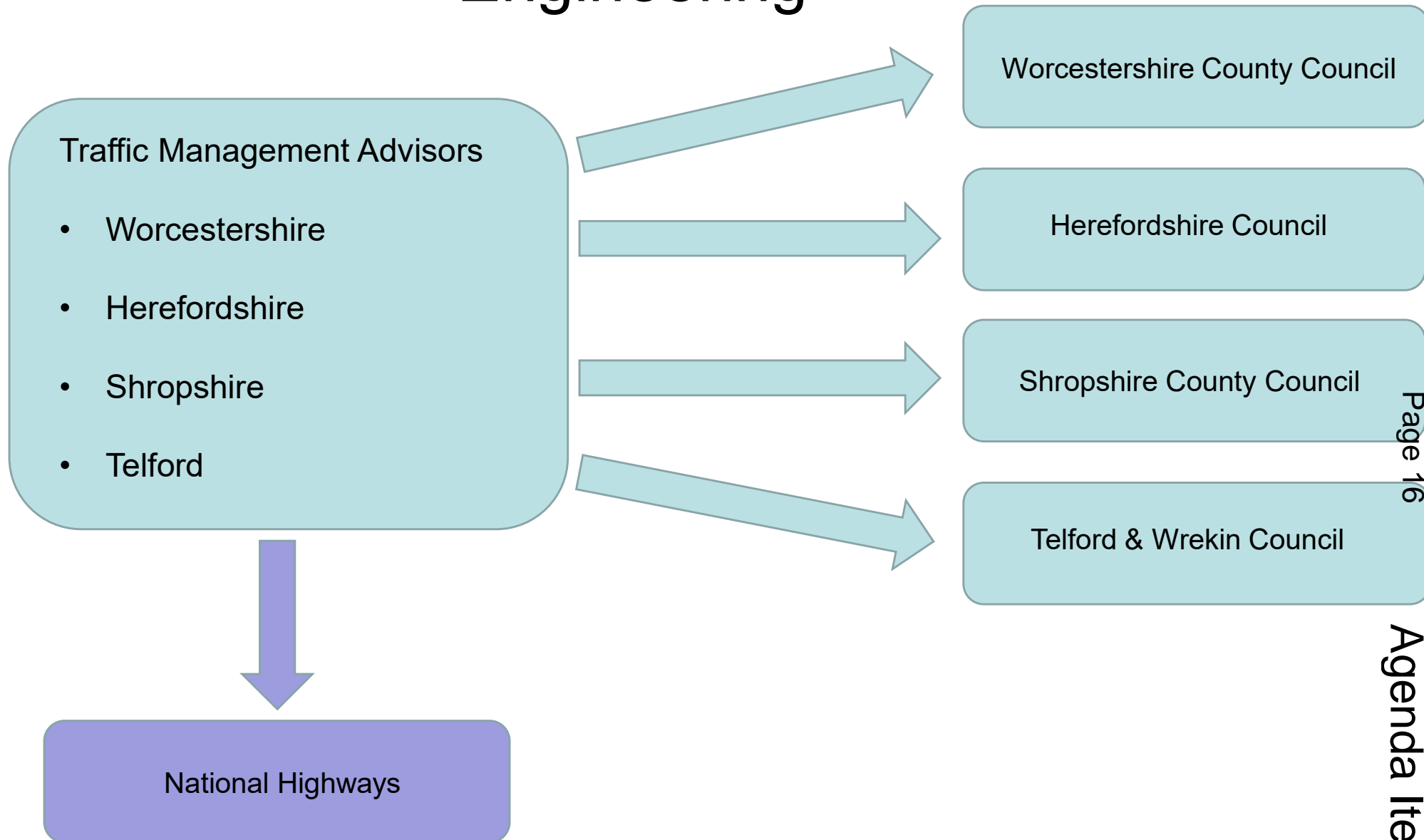
Education

Our target groups include:

- Motorcyclists
- Pedestrians
- Cyclists
- Drink / drug drivers
- Young drivers and passengers
- Older drivers
- Drivers of HGV and LGV vehicles
- Business drivers
- Rural road users



Engineering



Enforcement

- Enforcement is data led
- We operate a range of enforcement options;
 - Casualty reduction programme
 - Community Concern programme
 - Community Speed Watch
 - Managed motorway enforcement
 - Motorway roadwork sites

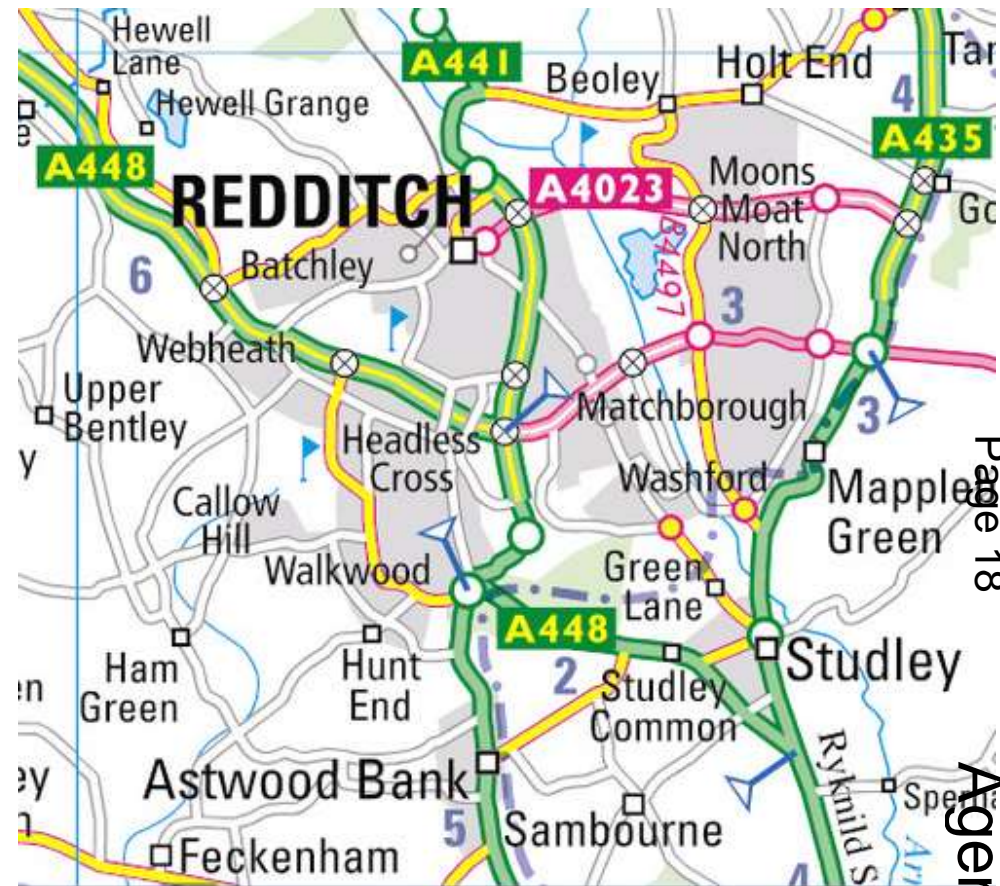
Using data

There are currently 11 Active Enforcement sites within Redditch District – 5 of these are casualty reduction sites, and 6 are Community Concern Sites.

Currently one Community Speed Watch group covering 6 areas (with more underway).

350 Traffic-related incidents were reported during the months of Aug/Sept/Oct 2021.

1838 viable speeding offences were detected within Redditch District during Aug/Sept/Oct 2021.



Help for local residents





Protecting
people
from harm



Questions?

To raise a concern email:

roadsafety1@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

**Overview & Scrutiny
2021****02 December****Redditch Town Deal – 6 Month Update**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Matthew Dormer - Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnerships
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWEDR)
Report Author	Lyndsey Berry Job Title: Regeneration & Implementation Manager Contact email: Lyndsey.berry@nwedr.org.uk Contact Tel: 01562 732515
Wards Affected	Abbey
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	n/a
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	n/a
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision n/a	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	
This report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS**The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:****1) subject to members' comments, the update report be noted.****2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Towns Fund is the government funding scheme intended for towns to improve their economy. In 2019, the government invited 101 towns to develop proposals for a Town Deal as part of the £3.6 billion Fund. Redditch was one of the towns across the country eligible to bid for up to £25m from the Towns Fund.
- 2.2 The bid process needed to identify the regeneration projects most appropriate for the funding, what funding would be required and how the identified projects fit with the wider, longer term plan for ongoing regeneration and economic growth. The bid had to also ensure all Redditch residents would directly benefit from the proposed investment.

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- 2.3 To take the bid process forward, Redditch Borough Council established a 'Town Deal Board' in accordance with the guidance detailed in the [Towns Fund prospectus](#). It includes local businesses, community representatives, council officers and other partners committed to improving the town. The [Town Deal Board](#) with the council as lead partner, developed a [Town Investment Plan \(TIP\)](#) which was submitted as part of the bid to Government on Friday 29 January 2021, this included 5 projects with an ask of £25 million.

Project	Description	Towns Fund Ask
Redditch Transport Interchange and Railway Quarter	<p>This project provides the opportunity to bring about a transformative change in Redditch, to create an integrated multi-modal transport interchange in Redditch Town Centre as part of the Railway Quarter redevelopment. Redditch is on the cross-city line as the destination running from Lichfield through Birmingham New Street Station. Redditch station will become a 'gateway' for the town supporting the overall regeneration of Redditch and the town centre. Towns Fund grant funding is being sought to bring forward a new two-storey station building and improved public realm providing attractive, modern facilities and supporting pedestrian access to the Town Centre.</p> <p>The project will deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new two-storey station building positioned to straddle the line, supporting passengers to access two platforms and both sides of Unicorn Hill. The building will also provide improved amenities for travellers, including digital infrastructure inherent to the construction and design (in line with Network Rails Digital Railway Strategy). • An interchange to include rail and bus services, parking for the station and services, taxi drop off/pick-up and support cycling and walking access to the quarter. • Creation of new open space in front of the station, providing improved connectivity between the station and the town centre, and joining up to the other public realm enhancements proposed in the Town Deal bid • Providing an enhanced, modern, and attractive sense of arrival and customer experience for commuters and visitors, with services that support the digital town proposals. • New car parking adjacent to the station. <p>The project will also support and enable the wider development of the railway quarter. Future work packages are expected to include: a second platform at Redditch to support increased train frequency; a second phase of station building on the east side of the track and connection over the line in support of the second platform; longer 210m platforms to support 9-car trains subject to future rail strategy; a bus interchange including a new terminus adjacent to the railway platforms, supporting movement between transport modes; redevelopment of adjacent land for potential residential,</p>	£8,500,000

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	office, retail and leisure uses; and highways interventions to bring the track and platforms under a road bridge (Unicorn Hill) and into a new centre for the station, aligned with bus services and providing pedestrian access into the shopping centre and Town Centre.	
Redditch Digital Manufacturing and Innovation Centre	The project will provide digital innovation support to increase the resilience, productivity, and competitiveness of businesses within the manufacturing industry. The projects objectives are to: provide open access and specialist support to local entrepreneurs and companies, particularly in the manufacturing sector, that want to test and develop 5G-enabled services and applications (provision of a 5G test bed); provide access to a range of high-quality business and innovation services and space to nurture, mentor and facilitate businesses development and growth; to provide new businesses, predominantly, but not exclusively, within the manufacturing sector with a range of flexible workshop and office accommodation to enable them to prosper and grow; develop a base of local workforce and young talent equipped with the skills needed in a 21st century digitalised economy; to create an investment destination / eco-system that facilitates adoption of digital technologies, particularly in the manufacturing sector.	£8,000,000
Redevelopment of Redditch Library Site	Demolition of the existing library building and the delivery of a new public square and associated commercial development. The proposed new square on the site of the library can provide this space in a location which helps to drive footfall to and from the Kingfisher Centre and improving connectivity to the historic town centre core. The proposed new square would stimulate the conversion of the blank surrounding facades, including part of the Kingfisher Centre and the former Royal Hotel, currently operating as a nightclub. In addition, a new café pavilion is proposed to book-end the new square and helps to define the historic street frontage,	£4,200,000
Redditch Town Centre Public Realm	Church Green Evesham Walk and Unicorn Hill together form the heart of Redditch's Town Centre Public Realm. Unfortunately, over the years these cherished streetscapes have become tatty, uninviting, and more worryingly, underused. This proposed major investment will see these three important thoroughfares transformed into a series of modern, attractive and multifunctional public spaces which will together act as Redditch's 'shop window', showcasing everything the town has to offer by supporting vibrant public events, a thriving street dining and trading scene as well as improving access to the wide range of services provided in the Town Centre for all. The investment will include high quality street furniture, waymarking and repurposing of underused space to ensure that this scheme unlocks its maximum economic and social potential. The completed scheme will provide a valuable focus for civic pride in Redditch, acting as an essential catalyst for the wider regeneration of Redditch Town Centre, stimulating private sector investment and helping the town to recover and thrive beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.	£3,000,000

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Sustainable Projects Programme	<p>This is a package of interventions which build on previous sustainable improvements within the Borough. The use of sustainable development principles to grow Redditch whilst at the same time enhancing economic, social, and environmental spheres is of fundamental importance. RBC are looking to deliver carbon reductions and reduction in energy consumption to improve the efficiency of its assets, for instance through further solar pv and battery storage at Abbey Stadium, Arrow Valley Countryside Centre, and Greenland's Business Centre.</p> <p>Low Carbon Travel & Transport</p> <p>Installation of EV Charging Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top-up Charging – both 50Kw & 7kW to suit in key locations where residents regularly travel to (car park, leisure facilities etc) • Residential Charging – where residents do not have driveways, in RBC owned car parks • Workplace Charging – at RBC owned workplaces • Fleet Charging (and Vehicle to Grid) – for electric fleet at RBC Depot <p>E-Bike charging and hire stations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrow Valley Countryside Centre • Abbey Stadium Leisure Centre 	£1,100,000
Revenue Ask		£200,000
Total Ask		£25,000,000

2.4 Progress Update

2.5 In June 2021 the council and Town Deal Board received confirmation from the Government that Redditch had been awarded £15.6 million through The Town Fund. Due to the shortfall in funding offered the board, with support from The Town Fund Delivery Partner undertook a session to reprioritise the projects using the Government re-prioritisation tool and an options paper (Appendix 1) drafted by Officers. The Towns Fund Delivery Partner is a consultancy support team, appointed by government to support Towns in successfully accessing the Towns Fund.

2.6 The Board agreed several parameters for reprioritisation prior to the assessment taking place, these were,

- approved projects should not lead to increased risk (financial; delivery and reputational) for the accountable body (Redditch BC).
- top slicing of projects should be avoided.

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- additional third-party contributions / other sources of funding should not be considered unless approved in writing prior to the Board meeting on 13 August 2021.
 - use of the Towns Fund Delivery Partner's project re-prioritisation tool to select the projects to be taken forward for delivery.
- 2.7 Following the assessment, the projects agreed to be taken forward as part of the Towns Deal are,
- Development of a new digital manufacturing and innovation centre – Project Lead NWedR
 - Redevelopment of Redditch Library – Project Lead NWedR
 - Town Centre public realm Improvements -Project Lead WCC
- 2.8 Officers submitted project confirmation documents to the government at the end of August 2021 and an offer letter was received in November 2021. This letter outlined the grant amount to be provided, and the requirements of the accountable body (which is Redditch Borough Council)
- 2.9 Next steps**
- 2.10 With Stage 1 complete, and a Town Deal offer agreed, the programme moves forward to Stage 2: Business Case Development. A period of 12 months is given from the signing of Heads of Terms to produce HM Treasury Green Book 5 Case Business Cases for all projects.

The five cases in the Green Book are:

I. strategic case – must show the rationale, background, policy context and strategic fit of the public expenditure or public intervention, this should include clear objectives with a robust logic of change from inputs to outcomes.

II. economic case – with evidence of why a privately provided solution would fall short of what is optimal (market failure) and a list of options to achieve a better outcome. “Do nothing” should always be an option. The case must build on robust verifiable evidence, consider additionality, and displacement of activity, and include a sensitivity analysis and a correction for optimism bias if risk is a factor for success. Value for money is ideally demonstrated in a credible Benefit-Cost Ratio, but where some of the costs and/or benefits cannot be monetised at the present time, the economic case should proportionally capture these impacts and specify a partial value for money measure. Wider benefits and costs should be considered and specified where these are sizeable, compared with the direct impacts. Towns should decide how to treat Covid-19 impacts.

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III. commercial case – demonstrate commercial viability or contractual structure for the project, including procurement where applicable.

IV. financial case – standard appraisal of financial implications of the project, where applicable this should include budgets, cash flow, and contingencies.

V. management case – of how the project is going to be delivered.

- 2.11 The business cases will need to be taken through the Accountable Body's (Redditch BC) own assurance framework before sign off from the Section 151 Officer & Town Deal Board Chair and submitting a summary document to Government by the end of June 2022. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) also reserves the right to call in any business case to be assured centrally. External consultants will be commissioned using the revenue funding grant already received to assist with writing the business cases in conjunction with the project leads. The Business Cases will also address any project specific conditions as set out in the Heads of Terms letter and detailed below.

Redevelopment of Redditch Library

Provide as part of the business case an assurance from the County Council that there is an acceptable, viable, deliverable plan to relocate the library to an appropriate community hub which will serve the residents of Redditch and how it will fit with the overall delivery programme for the project. Detail through the business case a range of outcomes which can be assessed and how the assessments will be completed.

2.12 Town Deal Board

Since the heads of Teams announcement Adam Freeth has stepped down from his role as chair of the Town Deal Board, however, Adam is committed and supportive of the Town Deal and will remain on the board. Leigh Walton, a Redditch resident, and member of the Business Improvement District will now take the role of Chair. The board have agreed to select a board member to act as an ambassador for each project and to work with the project teams through the next phase as the Business Cases are produced.

2.13 Communications & Engagement Plan

Both NWEDR and RBC communications are now enhancing the communication strategy originally submitted with the Town Investment Plan to effectively communicate the process and latest news on the

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Town Deal Fund as it progresses. This will include specific engagement with young people and Redditch Youth Council. The Town Deal Board chair will also oversee this work and act as “Communications ambassador”. This engagement will be in addition to any individual project consultation which will be carried out by project leads at the appropriate time.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Council was awarded a total of £213,029 through a revenue grant and capacity funding allocation to enable the production of the Town Investment Plan and subsequent Business Case. To date approx. £99,000 has been committed.
- 3.2 As the accountable body the Council will ensure that any draw down of funds agreed as part of the budget envelope are in accordance with the conditions of the final award. Funding received will need to be added to the Council's Capital programme.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As Accountable Body for the Redditch Town Deal the Council has a number of obligations, including to ensure that decisions made by the Town Deal Board are in accordance with good governance principles and to support transparent delivery arrangements for the Town Deal. These obligations include:
- Upholding the Seven Principles of Public Life (The Nolan Principles) in all the Board's activities.
 - Developing a delivery team, transparent delivery arrangements and agreements.
 - Ensuring that decision is made by the Board in accordance with good governance principles.
 - Ensuring transparency requirements are met through publication of information on the Council's website or on a Town Deal specific website.
 - Developing agreed projects in detail and undertaking any necessary feasibility studies.
 - Undertaking any required Environmental Impact Assessments and meeting all Public Sector Equalities Duties
 - Develop detailed, costed business cases.
 - Liaising with potential private investors in identified local projects and schemes.

**Overview & Scrutiny
2021**

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- Signing the Heads of Terms Agreement with Government.
- Monitoring and evaluating the delivery of individual Town Fund projects; • Submitting regular monitoring reports to the Towns Hub.
- Receiving and accounting for the Town's funding allocation.

- 4.2 Individual projects identified as interventions within the Investment Plan will be subject to individual legal advice.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 5.1 Run and grow a successful business
Aspiration, work & financial independence

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 The Climate Change Team are being consulted on the individual projects as they are progressed.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 n/a

Operational Implications

- 6.2 Officer input from a number of departments within the Council will be required to deliver the interventions in the Town Investment Plan within the timelines, these service areas include but are not limited to Finance, Legal, Property, Planning and Sustainability.
- 4.19 External project management support will be recruited to deliver the Town Deal. The cost of this will be covered by the Town Deal.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 See appendix 2

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Appendix 1 Project Options Paper
Appendix 2 Risk Register

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2021

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Matthew Dormer	24 Nov 2021
Lead Director / Head of Service	Jon Elmer	24 Nov 2021
Financial Services	James Howse Executive Director of Resources	23 Nov 2021
Legal Services	Clare Flanagan	23 Nov 2021
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	n/a	
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	Anna Wardell Hill Environmental Policy & Awareness Officer	20 Nov 2021

1. At the Board meeting on 16 July, the Board has approved the two-phased project re-prioritisation approach, as set out in the Parameters paper:

1.1 Phase 1: agreed parameters – approved projects should not lead to increased risk (financial; delivery and reputational) for the accountable body (Redditch BC); top slicing should be avoided; additional third party contributions / other sources of funding should not be taken into account unless approved in writing prior to the Board meeting on 13 August. The fourth ‘scale back’ parameter had been incorporated in the re-prioritisation tool already.

1.2 Phase 2: use of the Towns Fund Delivery Partner’s project re-prioritisation tool to select the projects to be taken forward for delivery.

2. Following the Board meeting on 16 July, all project promoters were asked to complete the re-prioritisation tool, which resulted in the following ranking (Table 1). The completed re-prioritisation tool has been attached as Appendix .

Table 1

Rank	Re-prioritised projects	Score
1	Digital manufacturing Centre - £8m	22
2	Public realm - £3m	20
3	Sustainable projects - £1.1m	19
4	Library site redevelopment - £4.2m	19
5	Transport Interchange and railway quarter - £8.5m	19
	Programme management - £200,000 (not ranked)	
	Total ask: £25m	

3. All projects have retained their original budgets, so in that respect, there is no change to the original grant ask. This poses further challenges in terms of selecting the projects that can be delivered within the £15.6m budget envelope.
4. Table 2 lists the projects by their original ranking, as selected by the Board to be included in the TIP. The Board chose these projects on the basis of their spatial focus on the town centre.

Table 2

Rank	TIP project prioritisation	Score
1	Sustainable projects - £1.1m	56%
2	Digital manufacturing Centre - £8m	52%
3	Public realm - £3m	51%
4	Transport Interchange and railway quarter - £8.5m	50%
5	Library site redevelopment - £4.2m	46%
	Programme management - £200,000 (not ranked)	
	Total ask: £25m	

RE-PRIORITISATION

5. For consistency sake, if the same selection method was adopted – spatial focus on the town centre – then the Board needs to decide which of the three projects that scored 19 points each (Table 1) would complement the first and second ranked projects to maximise the spatial impact on the town centre.

6. In making the final decision, the Board:

6.1 must demonstrate how the re-prioritisation process meets the needs of the town.
This is a condition of the approved Heads of Terms.

6.2 may wish to test its selection process against the Towns Fund strategic aims, objectives and priorities ((MHCLG, *Towns Fund Guidance*, June 2020):

- 6.2.1 the overarching aim of the Towns Fund is to drive the sustainable economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth
- 6.2.2 spatial targeting: strong preference will be given to interventions in town centres, gateway areas and key employment sites
- 6.2.3 Covid-19 recovery: 'paramount that Covid-19 is factored in the decision-making'
- 6.2.4 interventions should support clean growth where possible and, at a minimum, not conflict with the achievement of government's net zero target by 2050.

7. Table 3 lists the three projects that best meet the approach and criteria set out in paragraphs 5 and 6, should the Board choose that methodology to select the projects to be taken forward for delivery.

Table 3

OPTION 1	RATIONALE
Digital Manufacturing and Innovation Centre Library site redevelopment Public realm	Strong strategic spatial approach Town centre re-purposing focus Supports long-term economic and productivity growth (new employment and business generation, and innovation and business support)
Total ask: £15,200,000	Allows for £400,000 for project management & cost advice.

OTHER RE-PRIORITISATION OPTIONS

8. There are several other options that the Board could consider, as outlined in the tables below, should the Board decide not to use the re-prioritisation tool and adopt a different re-prioritisation methodology.

Table 4

OPTION 2	RATIONALE
Transport interchange and railway quarter Public realm Library site redevelopment	Spatial approach – public realm improvements linking the train station (key gateway to the town) with a redeveloped library site in the town centre.
Total ask: £15,700,000	£100,000 over approved grant. Would require a project budget reduction of one or more

	projects to allow for £200,000 project management costs i.e. a total budget reduction of at least £300,000
--	--

Table 5

OPTION 3	RATIONALE
Digital Manufacturing and Innovation Centre Transport interchange and railway quarter	Flagship projects, but no strategic spatial connection. New employment and business generation
Total ask: £16.5m	Requires a budget reduction of at least £900,000

Table 6

OPTION 4	RATIONALE
Transport interchange and railway quarter Sustainable projects Public realm	Focus on sustainable means of transport, but no strategic spatial connection.
Total ask: £12,600,000	£2,800,000 spare cash (after deducting £200,000 for project management costs). Could accommodate a reduced Library site redevelopment project i.e. just demolition costs.

9. Board members are asked to approve the projects they want to take forward for delivery.

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Town Deal Programme	Description	Risk Category	Current Score	Rationale for Current Score	Current Controls In Place	Mitigating Action	Mitigation Score	Owners
Resource Risk	Insufficient capacity / resource in NWEDR & RBC to manage and deliver the programme	Operational - Threat	16	Need confirmation from RBC for capacity and contacts in legal, finance and property services.Yet to appoint external consultants/project manager for Innovation Centre and Library redevelopment	NWedR Team in place and will be supplemented by further external resource in relation to Project and Cost management	Appoint external resources	6	NWEDR
Governance Risk	Inadequate Governance Structure in place to deliver the Programme.	Operational - Threat	3	Existing structure in place and agreed by Town Deal and Project Governance Board		Membership includes Chief Exec and leader of the Council. Internal Project Governance meetings will be held every 6 weeks where governance issues will be identified.	1	NWEDR
Funding	Reduction in allocation of funding	Strategic - Threat	1		Prioritisation session and Town Deal Board meetings to discuss.	Reduce no. of projects to be delivered.	1	NWEDR
Covid 19	The full impact of COVID-19 on the market place and supply chain is yet to be understood. Suppliers may cease trading, pushing up the cost of services.Social distancing may create challenges in undertaking surveys and site visits.	Operational - Threat	15	Feedback and evidence from colleagues and working with existing contractors		Work on the ground is not due to start untill 2024, aproprate risk assessment and method statement will be put in place.	12	NWEDR
Political Change	Polictial change in party/leadership no longer supports the project	Strategic - Threat	10			Ensure cross party support for initiatives	1	NWEDR
Communications	Failure to keep stakeholders updated and provide clarity on projects copuld lead to bad PR or miscommunication about what is happening	Operational - Threat	10		Stakeholder engagement plan in place.	Regular meetings with NWEDR comms officer and attandance from project offiecr at all project update meetings. Communications plan to be reviewed on a regular basis.	4	NWEDR

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MINUTES

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 26th October,
2021

Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), and Councillors Brandon Clayton, Anthony Lovell, Nyear Nazir, Mike Rouse, David Thain and Craig Warhurst

Officers:

Ruth Bamford, Kevin Dicks, Mike Dunphy, Clare Flanagan, Chris Forrester and Sue Hanley

Senior Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley-Hill

26. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Peter Fleming and Gemma Monaco.

Councillor David Thain arrived after the start of the meeting, during consideration of Minute Item No. 29.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

28. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader explained that a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had taken place on 21st October 2021. During the meeting, Members had pre-scrutinised the Church Green Conservation Area report and had concluded their discussions by endorsing the recommendations in the report. The Executive Committee was asked to note this point when debating the item.

29. CHURCH GREEN CONSERVATION AREA ADOPTION

The Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager presented a report in respect of the adoption of the Church Green Conservation Area.

A report on this subject had previously been considered by the Executive Committee in the 2020/21 municipal year, where draft proposals had been agreed. Officers had subsequently launched a

Chair

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 26th October, 2021

consultation exercise in February and March 2021. All local business owners in the conservation area had been directly contacted about this consultation process, which had also received coverage in the local press and had been promoted on the Council's website and social media accounts. The feedback provided in the 13 responses that had been received in this consultation process had been listed in the report alongside Officer responses to the points that had been raised.

The Council was working with partner organisations, including Worcestershire County Council and the North Worcestershire Economic Development Unit (NWEDR) in respect of the Church Green Conservation Area. A number of key issues had been identified that would require partnership working, including actions in respect of the public realm and parking on Unicorn Hill and the Church Green area.

Following the presentation of the report, Members discussed the consultation process that had been undertaken in relation to the Church Green Conservation Area. Members expressed some disappointment in the relatively low response rate to the consultation process. It was noted that those people and businesses that were not directly impacted by the proposals detailed in the report could still respond during the consultation process and this had been highlighted in the press coverage.

Reference was also made to the proposed amendments to the Church Green Conservation Area. Members agreed that it was important to protect the Borough's heritage and the Church Green Conservation Area would help in this process. In addition, Members welcomed the extension of the Church Green Conservation Area to include additional properties located on Alcester Street, as Members commented that many of these buildings had been constructed in the same period in which the buildings on Church Green East had been built.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) Council approves the Church Green Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, and endorses its contents as a material consideration for planning purposes; and**
- 2) Council approves the designation of the proposed extension to the Conservation Area to include 5 – 11 Alcester Street.**

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 26th October, 2021

30. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services presented a report on the subject of the Redditch Local Development Scheme.

The Executive Committee was informed that the Council's Local Plan review process, for the preparation of Local Plan no. 5, had commenced. As part of the process, the Council was required to prepare the Local Development Scheme no. 7, which detailed the process and timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan. The Local Development Scheme did not address the policies that would be included in the Local Plan No. 5, as this would be considered at a later date.

As part of the Council's work on the Local Development Scheme, consideration was being given to the requirement for other local authorities to seek the Council's views of their Local Plans, under a process known as the Duty to Co-operate. Officers prepared responses on behalf of the Council, though these could be amended by Members through the democratic process. In relation to the correspondence with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, the Council was agreeing a Statement of Common Ground, whereby a statement was agreed with Solihull regarding each Council's Local Plan.

Following the presentation of the report, Members discussed the consultation process that would be followed for the Local Plan no. 5. Officers explained that there was a statutory period of at least six weeks of consultation, though Officers usually advised that the consultation period should be extended to eight weeks. In previous years, a range of methods had been used for consultation purposes in respect of the Local Plan, including press releases, social media and consultation with Feckenham Parish Council. Consultation events had also been held in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre and other prominent locations in the Borough and, subject to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was possible that similar events could be held for the Local Plan no. 5, including potentially hybrid events.

Reference was made to the potential for local residents to submit their views during the consultation process. Members urged the public to participate in this consultation process, as this provided an opportunity for the public to influence the content of the Local Plan and this would ultimately have implications for future decisions on planning applications.

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 26th October, 2021

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the update on progress on the Redditch Local Plan Review be noted;**
- 2) the Local Development Scheme No.7 for the production of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.5 be approved;**
- 3) the consultation responses provided to neighbouring and nearby authorities be retrospectively approved; and**
- 4) the Statement of Common Ground with Solihull Borough Council be approved.**

31. BUDGET FRAMEWORK REPORT

The Head of Finance and Customer Services presented the Budget Framework report for Members' consideration.

The report detailed the approach that the Council would be adopting to the development of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2024/25. This work was being undertaken in a context in which the Section 24 Notice had been lifted from the Council but financial challenges remained in place for the authority. The Council's reserves and balances were only slightly above the minimum levels set for the authority. There was also a lot of uncertainty regarding local government finances as the Fair Funding Review had still not been completed by the Government. It appeared likely that the Council would only receive a one-year revenue grant settlement from the Government for 2022/23, which made it difficult to plan the Council's budget over a three-year period, though this would probably not be confirmed until late December 2021.

Officers intended to involve elected Members more in the budget setting process and this would take place at an earlier stage than in previous years. However, this would be challenging, particularly in relation to aspects of the budget setting process that would only be confirmed in late December to early February. A proposed timeline had been recorded in the report and as part of the process for Member engagement, Officers would be consulting with the Budget Scrutiny Working Group.

A new template would be introduced for financial reports, which would be presented in a manner that would reconcile the budget position to the previous budget. Officers were aiming to include information about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Council's finances in the report.

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 26th October, 2021

Members discussed the report and in so doing welcomed the proposed new template for reports about the Medium Term Financial Plan to Committee. The Committee also welcomed proposals to involve Members in the budget setting process at an earlier stage. The Financial Services team was praised for their hard work at a challenging time for the Council.

During consideration of this item, Members expressed concerns about the continued uncertainty in respect of Council budgets. Members called for the Government to provide greater certainty over a longer period of time than one year in respect of budget settlements to help Councils plan for the future.

Reference was made to the financial challenges that had been faced by Rubicon Leisure Limited during the Covid-19 pandemic and the implications of this for the Council's finances. Members commented that many leisure service providers had been similarly impacted by the requirement to close services during the pandemic. It was also noted that Rubicon Leisure Limited had made some difficult decisions designed to address the financial challenges.

RESOLVED that

the updated member engagement plan for the 2022/23 Budget and MTFP Report is noted and supported.

32. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair advised that all of the recommendations detailed in the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 2nd September 2021 had been considered at the previous meeting of the Executive Committee.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd September 2021 be noted.

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

There were no referrals through the Overview and Scrutiny process or from the Executive Advisory Panels on this occasion.

34. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

The following updates were provided in respect of the Executive Advisory Panels and other groups:

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 26th October, 2021

- a) Climate Change Cross Party Working Group – Chair, Councillor Anthony Lovell

Councillor Lovell explained that a meeting of the Climate Change Cross Party Working Group was scheduled to take place in early November 2021.

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

Councillor Dormer advised that a meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party was due to take place on 3rd March 2022.

- c) Corporate Parenting Board – Council Representative, Councillor Nyear Nazir

Councillor Nazir commented that a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board was scheduled to take place on 29th November 2021.

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

Members were informed that a meeting of the Member Support Steering Group had taken place on 5th October 2021. During this meeting, Members considered information provided in completed surveys by new Members about the Member Induction Programme. Councillor Dormer expressed some disappointment concerning the number of new Members who had completed the survey. The group had also held an initial discussion about arrangements for the Member Induction process in May 2022.

During consideration of this update, Members briefly discussed the potential for Committee meetings to be live streamed, particularly meetings of the Executive Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chair explained that the Council did live stream some meetings, where significant public interest was anticipated in items on the agenda. However, the matter could be explored further.

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

The Executive Committee was informed that a meeting of the Planning Advisory Panel had recently taken place. During this meeting, Members had considered proposals in respect of the Redditch Local Development Scheme.

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 26th October, 2021

35. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 7th September 2021 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.05 pm

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 December 2021 to 31 March 2022

(published as at 1st November 2021)



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 Gemma Monaco, Deputy Leader without portfolio
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 Mike Rouse, Portfolio Holder for Leisure
Councillor David Thain, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling
Councillor Craig Warhurst, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Procurement
Councillor Peter Fleming

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
Fees and Charges 2022/23 Key: No	Executive 7 Dec 2021 Council 31 Jan 2022		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673
Finance Monitoring Report 2021/22 Key: No	Executive 7 Dec 2021 Council 31 Jan 2022		Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services, James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881673, Tel: 01527 881205
Management and Development of a Cafe at Morton Stanley Park Key: Yes	Executive 7 Dec 2021 Council 31 Jan 2022		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ishrat Karimi-Fini, Parks and Events Service Manager Tel: 01527 881204

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
Matchborough and Winyates Regeneration Proposals Key: Yes	Executive Not before 7th Dec 2021		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration Tel: 01562 732192
Mobile Homes Act 2013 - Introduction of Licensing Fees Key: No	Executive 7 Dec 2021 Council 31 Jan 2022		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Steve Shammon, Private Sector Housing Team Leader Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3630
2022/23 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan - Update Presentation Key: No	Executive 7 Dec 2021		Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services, James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881673, Tel: 01527 881205

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
Stores Report and Service Review Key: No	Executive 7 Dec 2021 Council 31 Jan 2022	This report may contain exempt information which would need to be discussed in private session.	Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Kevin Hirons, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01527 881705
New Cemetery Provision Key: No	Executive Not before 15th Dec 2021 Council Not before 31st Jan 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Michael Birkinshaw, Bereavement Services Manager Tel: 01527 62174
Council Tax Base 2022/23 Key: No	Executive 11 Jan 2022 Council 31 Jan 2022		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673
Flexible Homelessness Support Grant and Homelessness Reduction Grant 2022/23 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

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
Growth Options for the Garden Waste Service Key: No	Executive 11 Jan 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Matthew Austin, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Initial Estimate 2022/23 Key: No	Executive 11 Jan 2022 Council 31 Jan 2022		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673
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
2022/23 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan - Update Key: No	Executive 11 Jan 2022		Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources	James Howse, Executive Director Finance, Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881205, Tel: 01527 881673

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
Appointment of External Auditors Key: No	Executive 8 Feb 2022 Council 21 Feb 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources	James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881205
Asset Management Strategy and investment programme for council housing stock Key: No	Executive 8 Feb 2022 Council 11 Apr 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252
Council Tax Resolutions 2022/23 Key: No	Executive 8 Feb 2022 Council 21 Feb 2022		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673
Decarbonisation of the Council Fleet Key: No	Executive 8 Feb 2022 Council 11 Apr 2022		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
Future Plans for Auxerre House Key: No	Executive Not before 8th Feb 2022 Council Not before 11th Apr 2022	This report may contain exempt information which would need to be discussed by the Executive Committee in private session.	Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252
Housing Policies Key: No	Executive 8 Feb 2022 Council 11 Apr 2022		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284
2022/23 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (including Capital Programme) Key: No	Executive 8 Feb 2022 Council 21 Feb 2022		Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services, James Howse, Executive Director Finance Tel: 01527 881673, Tel: 01527 881205

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
Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 Key: No	Executive 8 Feb 2022 Council 21 Feb 2022		Report of the Human Resources and Development Manager	Becky Talbot, Human Resources and Development Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3385
Redditch Town Investment Plan Business Cases Key: Yes	Executive Not before 8th Feb 2022 Council Not before 21st Feb 2022		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration Tel: 01562 732192
Sustainable Warmth Funding Key: No	Executive 8 Feb 2022 Council 21 Feb 2022		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284
Tree Services Review Including Ash Die Back Update Key: No	Executive Not before 8th Feb 2022 Council Not before 21st Feb 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Carl Walker, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3421

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
Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2021/22 Key: No	Executive 22 Mar 2022 Council 11 Apr 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources	Kate Goldey, Financial Services Manager Tel: 01527 881208
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

December 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	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
December 2021	Redditch Town Deal Investment Plan – 6 monthly update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
December 2021	West Mercia Safer Roads Team Presentation	Democratic Services
December 2021 (Extra Meeting)	New Cemetery Provision	Michael Birkinshaw, Bereavement services Manager
January 2022	Recommendation Tracker	Democratic Services
January 2022	Redditch Partnership Update	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
February 2022	Pre-Decision-Scrutiny - Asset Management Strategy and investment programme for council housing stock	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager
February 2022	Pre-Decision-Scrutiny - Future Plans for Auxerre House	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager
February 2022	Matchborough and Winyates Regeneration Proposals – pre-scrutiny	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development
March 2022	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22	Democratic Services Officer

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June 2022	Redditch Town Centre Regeneration Business Cases	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development
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West Midlands Combined Authority
14th October 2021

This was a question-and-answer session with the Mayor. As there were a few new members the Chair asked for a round table introduction.

The Mayor then thanked the committee for the valuable work we do and went on to highlight several crucial items for the future.

1. The bid for £1.7B toward devolved transport
2. £200M paid out from the brown field fund

There was a minor interruption while we discussed the devolution deal

3. Eco recovery suggested that employment levels were improving with an excellent “plan for growth”
4. The corporate strategy was to be presented to the November Board meeting, where decisions would be made as to do or not to do.

When asked about what powers he would like, the reply was that we did not have the best devolution deal so powers without money to act was not the best outcome. However, on skills we do not have total control, to achieve net zero emissions we need more devolution and on eco-development he had asked for more power.

On the economy, we have the best growth and recovery from Covid but even this was not as good as hoped. The plan for growth related to growth, the approach to net zero and people. There is an emphasis on clean manufacture, but this needs new skills. The plan was to build on our skills for medical development, electric vehicles and efficient energy. There is an imbalance between job vacancies and people on benefit, based on attitudes and what seems to be a non-functioning DWP. More work was needed on digital and construction skills. The Kick start programme has spent £7K of some £20K available, hence the comment on the DWP. It was hoped that the Giga factory in Coventry would soon be announced as the Government was ready and a private operator was soon to be appointed.

There was wide ranging questions and discussion on transport *The Mayor emphasised that he would await the conclusions of Transport for West Midlands’ report on this matter, although he would need to be persuaded that bus franchising provided the best model for the operation of bus services within the region.*

On the question of air quality, *The Mayor explained that he had limited concurrent powers with the local authorities and air quality issues had been addressed by local authorities not the WMCA.*

(Italics are direct quotes from the minutes)

Councillor Mike Chalk

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This was a question-and-answer meeting for both the Ambulance service and access to primary care with access to GPs being the primary concern.

The primary questions to the Ambulance service were about the closure of several Community Ambulance Stations. The resulting answers attempted to convince the members that the staff were happy with the closures and would save both time and money to be spent on the service.

It was not possible to supply the details of consultation with the staff as this was anecdotal and if the call was from a rural location, it would take time, as the only available vehicle may be at the far end of the area.

Many vehicles spent many hours waiting outside hospitals to transfer the patient. To emphasise the point, real time information was given that at 2:50pm there were 9 vehicles available and over 330 emergency calls. It would be difficult to say that all the members concerns were alleviated.

It was a commonly held belief that access to a GP was difficult if not impossible. In response it was emphasised that Covid had made a big difference and that primary care was changing with more stress being put on digital access. To facilitate this, surgeries were being helped to upgrade their phone systems, but this may take time to implement.

The government's announcement of £250M would, in the opinion of the CCG, only produce an extra 110 sessions in Worcestershire.

On the issue of receptionist asking medical questions members were assured that they were adequately trained in both confidentiality and data protection and were trying to direct the caller to the right destination. The situation of GPs was discussed covering areas such as stress levels, an aging population of GPs, recruitment and salaries and a lower number of partnerships that led to lower commitment to the surgery.

Overall, it was anticipated that the number of face-to-face appointments would increase over time as we return to some form of normal.

Councillor Mike Chalk

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