



Executive Committee

Tue 22 Mar
2022
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
Jess Bayley-Hill**

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e.mail: jess.bayley-hill@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk**

GUIDANCE ON FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

At the current time, seating at the meeting will be placed in such a way as to achieve as much space as possible for social distancing to help protect meeting participants.

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 take a lateral flow test on the day of the meeting, which can be obtained from the NHS website. Should the Member test positive for Covid-19 on the day of the meeting or up to 5 full days before the meeting then the Member is expected not to attend the Committee meeting and should provide their apologies to the Democratic Services team.

Whilst the Council acknowledges that it is no longer a legal requirement to wear face masks, we would really appreciate if the Members who attend a meeting in person would consider wearing a face covering throughout the meeting unless they are exempt or speaking.

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 ATTENDANCE

Members of the public will be able to access the meeting if they wish to do so. However, due to social distancing arrangements to ensure the safety of participants there may be limited capacity and members of the public will be allowed access on a first come, first served basis. Whilst the Council acknowledges that it is no longer a legal requirement to wear face masks, we would really appreciate if members of the public who attend a meeting in person would consider wearing a face covering throughout the meeting unless they are exempt or speaking. It should be noted that members of the public who choose to attend in person do so at their own risk.

Members of the public are strongly encouraged not to attend a Committee meeting if they test positive for Covid on the day of a meeting or up to 5 full days before a meeting. Should the member of the public test positive for Covid-19 on the day of the meeting or up to 5 full days before the meeting then they are strongly encouraged not to attend the meeting.

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.



Executive

Tuesday, 22nd March, 2022

6.30 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Matthew Dormer (Chair)	Anthony Lovell
	Gemma Monaco (Vice-Chair)	Nyear Nazir
	Joanne Beecham	Mike Rouse
	Aled Evans	Craig Warhurst
	Peter Fleming	

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

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.

3. Leader's Announcements

4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 10)

5. Declaration of Land Surplus to Requirement at Lodge Road/Union Street, Smallwood and Available for Disposal (Pages 11 - 18)

This report is due to be pre-scrutinised at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny committee scheduled to take place on 17th March 2022. Any recommendations arising from this meeting will be reported in a supplementary pack for the Executive Committee's consideration.

6. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Pages 19 - 28)

7. Minutes / Referrals - Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Executive Panels etc.

To receive and consider any outstanding minutes or referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Executive Panels etc. since the last meeting of the Executive Committee, other than as detailed in the items above.

8. Advisory Panels - update report

Members are invited to provide verbal updates, if any, in respect of the following bodies:

- a) Climate Change Cross-Party Working Group – Chair, Councillor Anthony Lovell;
- b) Constitutional Review Working Panel – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer;
- c) Corporate Parenting Steering Group – Council Representative, Councillor Nyear Nazir;
- d) Member Support Steering Group – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer; and
- e) Planning Advisory Panel – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer.

9. To consider any urgent business, details of which have been notified to the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services prior to the commencement of the meeting and which the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting

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Executive Committee

Monday, 21st February,
2022

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), and Councillors Joanne Beecham, Aled Evans, Peter Fleming, Anthony Lovell, Nyear Nazir, Mike Rouse and Craig Warhurst

Also Present:

Councillors Michael Chalk, Debbie Chance, Luke Court, Andrew Fry, Julian Grubb, Emma Marshall, David Thain and Jennifer Wheeler

Officers:

Peter Carpenter, Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton, James Howse and Deb Poole

Principal Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley-Hill

77. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Gemma Monaco.

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

79. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader explained that there were two agenda packs for consideration at the meeting; the main agenda pack and a supplementary pack. The supplementary pack contained the report in respect of the Council Tax Resolutions. As the supplementary pack had been published close to the date of the meeting, the Leader had agreed that paper copies of the pack should be tabled at the meeting, although the report had been available for Members and the public to access electronically for a number of days.

80. MINUTES

Chair

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday 8th February 2022 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

81. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022/23

The Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy presented the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 for Members' consideration. The Executive Committee was advised that there was a requirement for the Council to publish the Pay Policy Statement every year. This document needed to detail the remuneration provided to both the lowest paid and the highest paid members of staff and outline the differences between the two. Information was also provided in the report about how the Council calculated the salaries that were paid to staff and the consistent approach that the authority applied to this process.

RECOMMENDED that

the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 be approved.

82. 2022/23 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23 TO 2024/25 (INCLUDING CAPITAL PROGRAMME)

The Executive Director of Resources presented the 2022/23 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2022/23 to 2024/25. The report detailed the proposals for the budget in the 2022/23 financial year together with the Council's plans for the full three-year period of the MTFP. The content of the report had been changed when compared to previous years, to help provide clarity regarding the figures provided and the factors influencing the content of the budget. The report had been scrutinised by the Budget Scrutiny Working Group, although no recommendations had been made.

The 2022/23 budget was robust and balanced. However, Members were asked to note that a balanced position had only been achieved by using funding from balances. This approach could not be applied in subsequent years and balances were expected to fall below minimum levels considered acceptable by the Section 151 Officer from 2023/24 onwards unless action was taken.

The budget was being set in a challenging financial context for local government. There was also unprecedented uncertainty in terms of future funding arrangements for local Councils.

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There were a number of factors that had influenced the content of the budget and MTFP. This included:

- Inflation, which was anticipated to remain at a higher level than in recent years.
- Pay inflation, which was anticipated at 2 per cent per annum for the full three-year period of the MTFP.
- Budget bids, which placed pressures on the budget.
- Proposed savings.
- Additional income opportunities.
- A release of funding from earmarked reserves.
- An increase in Council Tax for the Council, at £5 per annum.
- A contribution from the Government of £100,000 in the Lower Tier Settlement.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve

1) the overall net general fund revenue budgets of:

2022/23:	£10.520m
2023/24:	£10.289m
2024/25:	£10.428m

2) the unavoidable costs:

2022/23:	£0.427m
2023/24:	£0.140m
2024/25:	£0.134m

3) the Revenue Bids:

2022/23:	£0.191m
2023/24:	£0.150m
2024/25:	£0.128m

4) the Identified Savings:

2022/23:	£0.305m
2023/24:	£0.327m
2024/25:	£0.327m

5) an increase of the Council Tax per Band D equivalent of £5 for 2022/23;

6) the transfer from General Fund Balances of £0.282m for 2022/23;

7) the planned reallocation of £0.238m from Earmarked reserves to General Fund Balances;

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8) the General Fund capital programme of:

2022/23:	£4.257m
2023/24:	£2.407m
2024/25:	£1.930m

9) the Housing Revenue Account Budget of:

2022/23:	£25.390m
2023/24:	£25.074m
2024/25:	£25.545m

10) the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme of:

2022/23:	£14.180m
2023/24:	£12.580m
2024/25:	£12.580m

11) the 2020/21 Capital Outturn be noted; and

12) the Chief Financial Officer's (CFO) Opinion on Estimates and Reserve Levels be noted.

83. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS 2022/23 (TO FOLLOW)

The Executive Director of Resources presented the Council Tax Resolutions 2022/23 for the Executive Committee's consideration. Members were advised that this was a technical report which outlined the Council Tax contributions that would be made to all precepting authorities in the 2022/23 financial year. The various partner organisations that were precepting authorities had agreed their Council Tax requirements in recent weeks and had notified the Council, which had incorporated the figures into the report.

RESOLVED to NOTE that at a meeting on 11th January 2022, the Executive Committee calculated the Council Tax Base 2022-23 as:

- (a) for the whole Council area as 26,546.63 [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 374.52.

RECOMMENDED that

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- 1) the calculation for the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022-23 (excluding Parish precepts) be £6,746,772.92;
- 2) the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022-23 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £46,984,027 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) £40,222,255 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) £6,761,772 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) £254.71 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) £15,000 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Feckenham Parish precept) referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act;
 - (f) £254.15 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) £294.20 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;

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- (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, 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	196.13	169.43
B	7/9	228.82	197.67
C	8/9	261.51	225.91
D	1	294.20	254.15
E	11/9	359.58	310.63
F	13/9	424.96	367.11
G	15/9	490.33	423.58
H	18/9	588.40	508.30

- 3) it be noted that for the year 2022-23, 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	931.19	1,086.38	1,241.58	1,396.78	1,707.18	2,017.57	2,327.97	2,793.56
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	166.44	194.18	221.92	249.66	305.14	360.62	416.10	499.32
Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority	59.60	69.53	79.47	89.40	109.27	129.13	149.00	178.80

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- 4) 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 2022-23. for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings:

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Parish of Feckenham £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6/9	1,353.36	1,326.66
B	7/9	1,578.91	1,547.76
C	8/9	1,804.48	1,768.88
D	1	2,030.04	1,989.99
E	11/9	2,481.17	2,432.22
F	13/9	2,932.28	2,874.43
G	15/9	3,383.40	3,316.65
H	18/9	4,060.08	3,979.98

- 5) 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 2022 to March 2023 as detailed below:

	Precept £	Deficit on Collection Fund £	Total to pay £
Worcestershire County Council	37,079,802.00	970,233.00	38,050,035.00
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	6,627,631.65	173,751.00	6,801,382.65
Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority	2,373,271.31	66,447.00	2,439,718.31

- 6) 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 £6,941,602 being the Council's own demand on the Collection Fund (£6,746,773) and Parish Precept (£15,000) and the distribution of the surplus on the Collection Fund (£179,829);

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- 7) the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make payments from the General Fund to Feckenham Parish Council the sums listed above (£15,000) by instalment after 1 April 2022 in respect of the precept levied on the Council;
- 8) 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) 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.

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

The Leader advised that there were no referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Executive Advisory Panels on this occasion.

85. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

The following updates were provided with respect to the Executive Advisory Panels and other bodies.

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

Councillor Lovell confirmed that there had been no meetings of the Climate Change Cross Party Working Group since the previous meeting of the Executive Committee.

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

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Members were 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 explained that there were no updates to report.

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

Councillor Dormer advised that a meeting of the Member Support Steering Group had taken place on 15th February 2022. During the meeting, Members had discussed the draft induction pack for Councillors due to be elected in May 2022. The requirements for Members to attend training, including the circumstances under which training should be classified as mandatory, had also been considered.

Members had given consideration to the need for Members' safety training to be provided, following the death of Sir David Amess MP. It was anticipated that this training would be delivered before the end of the municipal year.

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

The Executive Committee was informed that there were no scheduled meetings of the Planning Advisory Panel due to take place.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 6.43 pm

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Executive Committee

22 March 2022

DECLARATION OF LAND SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENT AT LODGE ROAD/UNION STREET, SMALLWOOD

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Matthew Dormer
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton - Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Report Author	Job Title: Engineering Team Leader Contact email: pete.liddington@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 534108
Wards Affected	Central
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	Communities which are safe, well maintained and green
Non-Key Decision	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee RESOLVE that:-

the land adjacent to Nos. 140 - 144 Lodge Road, Smallwood, be declared surplus to Council requirements and disposed of at market value.

2. BACKGROUND

Appendix 1 (Drawing Nos. P2049/182 and P2049/185 refers). This site has been vacant for many years and was presumably converted to a small informal amenity area at some stage. However, it has now regrettably become, at times, a depository for unwanted scrap items and the like. Consequently, the proposed development consisting of 2 No. 3-bed houses will provide a much improved visual improvement to the locality.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The sale of this land will generate capital receipts to the General Fund, and all capital receipts from disposals are deemed to be a Corporate capital resource available for allocation in line with Corporate priorities.
- 3.2 The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government issued guidance in giving Local Authorities greater freedoms with how capital receipts can be used to finance expenditure. This Direction allows for

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the following expenditure to be treated as Capital, 'expenditure on any project that is designed to generate ongoing revenue savings in the delivery of public services, and/or transform service delivery to reduce costs, and/or transform service delivery in a way that reduces costs or demand for services in future years, for any of the public sector delivery partners.'

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Although the Council may dispose of its land or property in any manner it wishes, the Council is required to dispose of any interest in land at Best Value in accordance with Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972. To achieve this requirement, it is normal for the Council to market the sites for sale to achieve the highest capital receipts possible.

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

- 5.1 **Communities which are safe, well maintained and green** – As highlighted within the report, this former small amenity area is now regarded at times, as a depository for unwanted scrap items and the like. In addition, for an amenity area as such, it offers little in visual delights as it overlooks a popular super store.
- 5.2 The proposal will provide a development, which with careful design will integrate well with the existing dwellings, and provide a much improved visual appearance to the well-established residential area.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.3 As part of the land sale, Officers recommend that it will be stipulated, that the proposed housing development will not include any on-site fossil fuelled installations, and will also obtain the highest Energy Performance Certificate rating possible (to be agreed with Council).

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

- 6.1 There are no equality impacts arising from this report.

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Operational Implications

- 6.2 Currently, there exists a Residents' Parking Scheme within this locality, and this new proposal, particularly at the vehicular access location to the new parking spaces in Union Street, will result in the loss of 3 No. on-street car parking spaces. However, the County Council has raised no objection to this, except of course that an amendment will have to be made to the existing Traffic Regulation Order, the cost being £4,500, which will have to be borne by the land purchaser/developer.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Failure to achieve best value for the land is mitigated through the process for selling at market value.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 - Indicative Layout and Site Location Plan.

Pre-application advice received from Worcestershire County Council – Highways.

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Matthew Dormer	11 January 2022
Lead Director/Head of Service	Claire Felton - Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services	21 February 2022
Financial Services	Peter Carpenter Interim Deputy S151 Finance	22 February 2022
Legal Services	Clare Flanagan Principal Solicitor	21 February 2022
Policy Team	Emily Payne Engagement and Equalities Advisor	16 February 2022
Climate Change Officers	Kath Manning - Climate Change and Energy Support Officer Anna Wardell-Hill Environmental Policy and Awareness Officer	09 March 2022

Appendix 1



Notes:
Proposed Layout Schedule
 Site Area - 0.046 ha (0.113 acres)
 Dwelling Types
 2 No. 3 bed houses
 Density - 43.5 No.dwellings/ha
 4 No. car parking spaces
 [Red box] Site application area

Date	Rev	Details

Project:
Proposed Residential Development
Lodge Road/Union Street
Smallwood, Redditch

Drawing:
Indicative Layout

Drawn:	PTL	Scale:	1/500 @ A3
Surveyed:	OS	Date:	Nov 2021

Drawing No: **P2049/182**

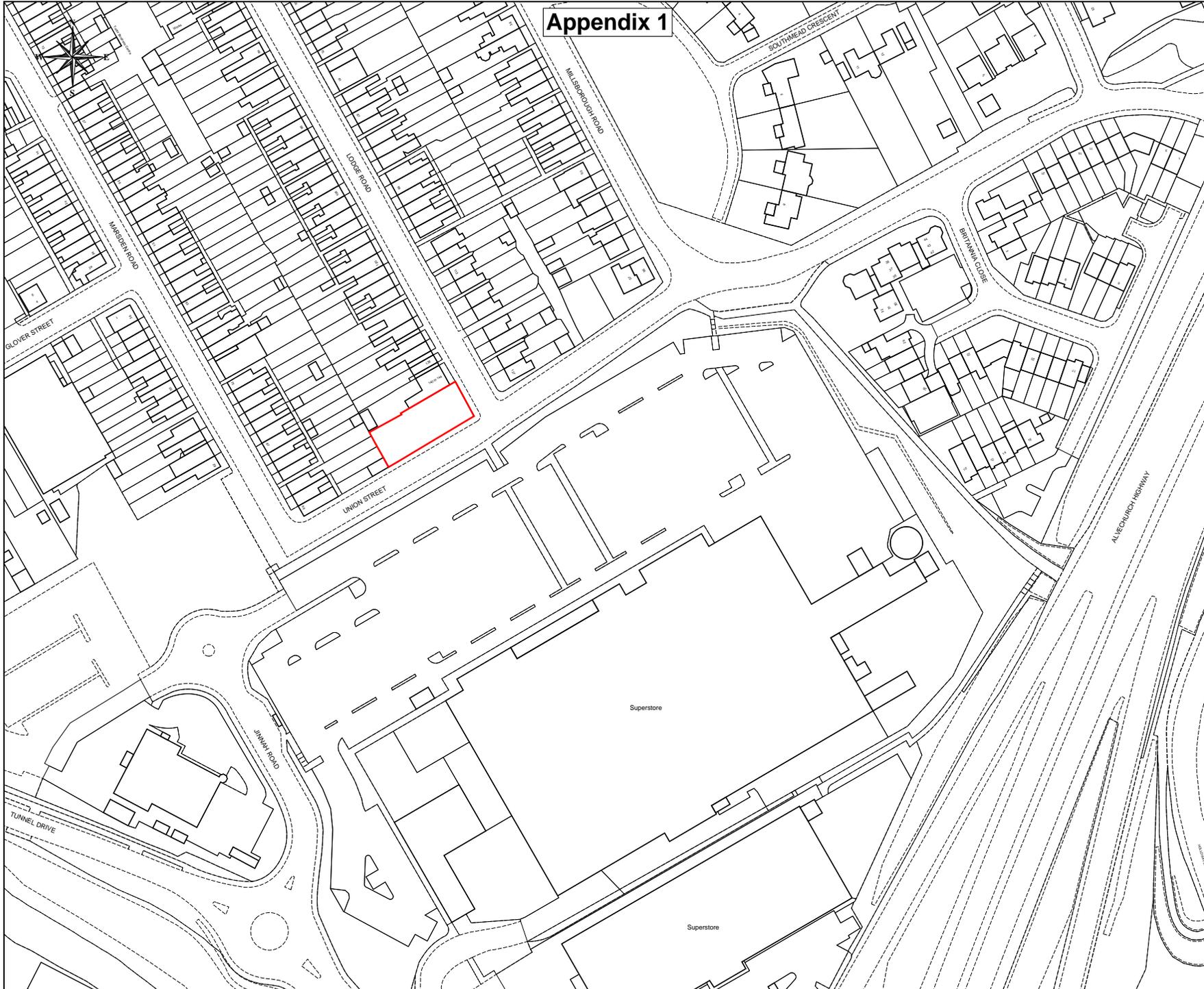
Engineering and Design Services
 Town Hall
 Walter Stranz Square
 Redditch
 Worcs B98 8AH



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Appendix 1



Notes:

Date	Rev	Details

Project:
**Proposed Residential Development
 Lodge Road/Union Street
 Smallwood, Redditch**

Drawing:
Location Plan

Drawn:	PTL	Scale:	1/1250 @ A3
Surveyed:	OS	Date:	Feb 2022

Drawing No: **P2049/185**

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 Worcs B98 8AH



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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 3rd February,
2022

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Debbie Chance (Chair), Councillor Jennifer Wheeler (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Salman Akbar, Karen Ashley, Michael Chalk, Brandon Clayton, Julian Grubb, Lucy Harrison, Luke Court and Anthony Lovell

Also Present:

Councillor Anthony Lovell – Portfolio Holder for Climate Change (via Microsoft Teams)

Officers:

Matthew Bough and Sue Hanley

Democratic Services Officers:

Jo Gresham

64. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received by Councillor Alex Fogg with Councillor Luke Court in attendance as named substitute.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

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

66. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 2nd December 2021, 13th December 2021 and 6th January 2022 were submitted for Member's consideration.

Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 3rd February, 2022

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd December 2021, 13th December 2021 and 6th January 2022 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

67. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public speakers registered on this occasion.

68. SUSTAINABLE WARMTH FUNDING - PRE-SCRUTINY

The Chair welcomed the Strategic Housing Manager, who was in attendance on Microsoft Teams, to the meeting. During the presentation of the Sustainable Warmth Funding report the following was highlighted for Members' attention:

- There were two components of the Sustainable Warmth funding. These were the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG1) and Local Authority Delivery (LAD3) phase 3. These components would run in parallel to the current LAD funding that was already in place to improve properties with the worst energy rating. The new allocation of funding would be utilised to improve those properties Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of E, F or G. It was noted that EPC D properties could also be included. The HUG1 funding would be specifically used for those properties who were not on the mains gas supply. The total amount of funding was noted as follows:

	Capital	Administrative Allocation (Admin and Ancillary)
Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) Phase 1	£65,000 (£6,500)	£6,500 (£650)
Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 3	£260,000 (£26,000)	£26,000 (£2600)

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Members were informed that the Administrative Allocation would be used to bring in additional resource to help with the project management and delivery of the programme.

- The criteria for recipients of the funding was outlined as part of the scheme. It was reported that households must be either privately owned or rented with an income of less than £30k per household. Other factors also formed part of the criteria, these included means tested benefits and food or fuel vouchers. In addition to this those who lived in Social Housing with poor energy efficiency ratings would also be eligible. It was noted that the Social Housing stock that could receive HUG1 funding was capped at 10% of the total number of homes and that LAD3 funding was capped at 10% of the total number of homes.
- The period of the grant was until March 2023 and all works must be delivered to Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 2035 using Trustmark accredited contractors.

During a detailed discussion Members queried how the funding would be publicised so that eligible households could apply. The Strategic Housing Manager reported that Act On Energy had been commissioned by the Midland Energy Hub (MEH) and would be the customer journey provider and would use their channels to promote the scheme. Alongside this, the Council would use their social media channels and other communication methods to further promote the scheme. It was also noted that officers had access to those properties with poor EPCs and would be able to utilise this information to identify eligible properties.

Members queried the allocation of £65k HUG1 funding. In the report it was stated that each eligible household could receive up to £15k per property which meant that, potentially, only 4 households could receive funding. Officers confirmed that this was due to the HUG1 funding is specifically for households that were not on the mains gas supply and noted that there was a smaller amount of these kinds of properties within the Borough.

Members were keen to understand what steps were to be taken to ensure that the funding would be allocated correctly, and the project managed efficiently. Officers reassured the Committee

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 3rd February, 2022

that Trustmark accredited suppliers would be used to deliver the works, monthly reporting would be provided to MEH and that inspections would be carried out in order to ensure that the works had been carried out correctly.

It was clarified that the allocation of funding would be on a first come first basis and would be done quickly as the time frames for the allocation needed to be completed by the end of the financial year 2021-2022. Further funding was expected to be received in the future and this would mean that those households that did not receive funding during this allocation could still potentially receive funding in the future.

Councillor Anthony Lovell who was in attendance on Microsoft Teams as Portfolio Holder for Climate Change was invited to address the Committee. In doing so, Councillor Lovell stated that he thought that this was an excellent initiative for Redditch particularly in light of the current fuel poverty concerns.

At the end of the debate the Committee

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) The Capital and Revenue Budgets (Housing and General Fund) are increased to receive Redditch Borough Council's Sustainable Warmth scheme allocation of £357,500.**
- 2) Delegated authority is granted to the Head of Community & Housing Services and Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services in consultation with Portfolio Holders for Housing and Climate Change to administer the funding received in line with the grant conditions.**

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

The Committee was presented with Executive Committee minutes from the meeting held on 11th January 2022 and the latest version of the Executive Work Programme, as published on 1st February

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2022. During consideration of this item, it was highlighted that two new items appeared on the Executive Work programme. These were as follows:

- Declaration of Land Surplus to Requirement at Lodge Road/Union Street, Smallwood and Available for Disposal
- Homelessness Prevention Grant 2023/24

Members requested that these items be added to the Committee's Work Programme for pre-scrutiny. During the discussion of the Declaration of Land Surplus to Requirement at Lodge Road/Union Street, Smallwood and Available for Disposal, Members felt that this could be part of a wider discussion regarding the Council assets and requested that an item be placed on the Committee's Work Programme. Officers present undertook to work with the relevant officers in order to bring this item forward for consideration by the Committee at a future meeting.

The Democratic Services Officer present undertook to update the Committee's Work Programme accordingly.

RESOLVED that

The Executive Committee Minutes and Work Programme be noted.

70. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme as part of the previous item.

RESOLVED that

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme be noted.

71. TASK GROUP REVIEWS - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENTS

Councillor Salman Akbar presented the Topic Proposal document in respect of Road Safety and Speeding. In doing so it was reported to Members that 1460 people had been killed on roads in the UK in

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2020 and 22,069 people had been left with life changing injuries during the same period as a result of collisions on Britain's roads.

It was reported that as elected Members a large proportion of the queries and requests from residents was concerning speeding on roads within the Borough. Therefore, were the task group approved Members would be able to investigate an issue that communities really cared about.

Members were in agreement that this was a very important area to investigate, and it was hoped that the task group could make some recommendations to implement important changes in Redditch in respect of speeding and road safety.

RESOLVED that

The Road Safety and Speeding Task Group be established.

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

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

Councillor Wheeler updated the Committee in respect of the Budget Scrutiny Working Group and in doing so informed Members that the last meeting was held on 12th January 2022. At this meeting the following items were considered:

- Fees and Charges
- Housing Rent Account Rent Setting
- Council Tax Base 2022/2023
- Financial Outturn 2020/2021

The next meeting of the Budget Scrutiny working Group was due to take place on the February 7th, 2022.

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

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the last meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Working Group took place on 18th January 2022 when Members considered a report regarding the Energy Advice Service and received a detailed presentation from Judith Chadwick from North Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and Worcestershire County Council in respect of Skills Development.

RESOLVED that

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

73. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

Councillor Chalk updated the Committee in respect of the External Scrutiny Bodies and in doing so informed Members that at the last meeting of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) there had been an update on Air Quality in the areas covered by the WMCA. It was questioned whether detailed data was available regarding Air Quality in the Borough was available. It was reported by the Deputy Chief Executive that this data would be collected by Worcestershire Regulatory Services who monitored the air Quality levels within Redditch.

Members were advised that the minutes of the meeting were available online if Members were interested in further details of the items discussed at the External Scrutiny Bodies meetings.

RESOLVED that

The External Scrutiny Bodies Update Reports be noted.

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

The Committee was presented with Executive Committee minutes from the meeting held on 11th January 2022 and the latest version of the Executive Work Programme, as published on 1st February 2022. During consideration of this item, it was highlighted that two

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The Democratic Services Officer present undertook to update the Committee's Work Programme accordingly.

RESOLVED that

The Executive Committee Minutes and Work Programme be noted.

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RESOLVED that

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme be noted.

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It was reported that as elected Members a large proportion of the queries and requests from resident was concerning speeding on roads within the Borough. Therefore, should the task group be approved this would allow Members to investigate an issue that communities cared about.

Members were in agreement that this was a very important area to investigate, and it was hoped that the task group could make some recommendation to implement important changes in Redditch in respect of speeding and road safety.

RESOLVED that

The Road Safety and Speeding Task Group be established.

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RESOLVED that

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Members were advised that the minutes of the meeting were available online if Members were interested in further details of the items discussed at the External Scrutiny Bodies meetings.

RESOLVED that

The External Scrutiny Bodies Update Reports be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.14 pm