



# Council

Mon 26 Jul  
2021  
7.00 pm

The Sports Hall,  
The Abbey Stadium  
Birmingham Road  
Redditch  
B97 6EJ

**REDDITCH** BOROUGH COUNCIL

*making  
a  
difference*

[www.redditchbc.gov.uk](http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk)

**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact  
Jess Bayley**

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## **GUIDANCE ON FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS**

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**During the current Covid-19 pandemic Redditch Borough Council will be applying social distancing arrangements at 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 must self-isolate in accordance with national rules.

Members and officers are strongly encouraged to wear face masks during the Council 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 ATTENDANCE**

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 distance 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.**



# Council

Monday, 26th July, 2021

7.00 pm

The Sports Hall, The Abbey  
Stadium, Birmingham Road,  
Redditch B97 6EJ

## Agenda

### Membership:

|        |                                 |                  |
|--------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Cllrs: | Gareth Prosser<br>(Mayor)       | Alex Fogg        |
|        | Ann Isherwood<br>(Deputy Mayor) | Andrew Fry       |
|        | Salman Akbar                    | Julian Grubb     |
|        | Imran Altaf                     | Lucy Harrison    |
|        | Karen Ashley                    | Wanda King       |
|        | Tom Baker-Price                 | Anthony Lovell   |
|        | Joanne Beecham                  | Emma Marshall    |
|        | Juliet Brunner                  | Gemma Monaco     |
|        | Michael Chalk                   | Nyear Nazir      |
|        | Debbie Chance                   | T Pearman        |
|        | Brandon Clayton                 | Mike Rouse       |
|        | Luke Court                      | David Thain      |
|        | Matthew Dormer                  | Craig Warhurst   |
|        | Aled Evans                      | Jennifer Wheeler |
|        | Peter Fleming                   |                  |

### 1. Welcome

### 2. Apologies for Absence

### 3. Declarations of Interest

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

### 4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

### 5. Announcements

To consider Announcements under Procedure Rule 10:

- a) Mayor's Announcements
- b) The Leader's Announcements
- c) Chief Executive's Announcements.

### 6. Questions on Notice (Procedure Rule 9)

## **7. Motions on Notice** (Procedure Rule 11) (Pages 5 - 6)

## **8. Executive Committee**

### **Minutes of Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 13th July 2021**

**8.1** Bomford Hill Pathway (Pages 15 - 22)

**8.2** Covid-19 Grant Funding - Delegations (Pages 23 - 26)

## **9. Urgent Business - Record of Decisions**

To note any decisions taken in accordance with the Council's Urgency Procedure Rules (Part 9, Paragraph 5 and/or Part 10, Paragraph 15 of the Constitution), as specified.

## **10. Urgent Business - general (if any)**

To consider any additional items exceptionally agreed by the Mayor as Urgent Business in accordance with the powers vested in him by virtue of Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

(This power should be exercised only in cases where there are genuinely special circumstances which require consideration of an item which has not previously been published on the Order of Business for the meeting.)

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## Council

Monday, 24 May 2021

## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillor Gareth Prosser (Mayor), Councillor Ann Isherwood (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Julian Grubb, Imran Altaf, Karen Ashley, Tom Baker-Price, Joanne Beecham, Juliet Brunner, Michael Chalk, Debbie Chance, Brandon Clayton, Luke Court, Matthew Dormer, Aled Evans, Peter Fleming, Alex Fogg, Andrew Fry, Lucy Harrison, Wanda King, Anthony Lovell, Emma Marshall, Gemma Monaco, Nyear Nazir, Timothy Pearman, Mike Rouse, David Thain, Craig Warhurst and Jennifer Wheeler

### Officers:

Kevin Dicks and Claire Felton

### Committee Services Officer:

Sarah Sellers

### 1. WELCOME

The Mayor, Councillor Gareth Prosser, welcomed all those present to the meeting which was the first Council meeting to take place in person for over 12 months and was being held at the Abbey Stadium as an alternative venue. Members were reminded that the meeting was open to the public to attend. However, as space was limited due to restrictions on social distancing, the meeting was being live streamed for the public on the Council's website.

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Salman Akbar.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 4. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR FOR 2021/22

.....  
Chair

# Council

Monday, 24 May 2021

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Councillor Gareth Prosser was elected Mayor of the Borough for a second term of office for the municipal year 21/22. He signed the statutory declaration of office and thanked Members for re-electing him.

**RESOLVED that**

**Councillor Gareth Prosser be elected Mayor of the Borough of Redditch to serve until the next Annual General Meeting of the Council.**

**5. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2021/22**

Councillor Ann Isherwood was elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Redditch for the forthcoming year. She signed the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and received the Deputy Mayor's Badge of Office.

**RESOLVED that**

**Councillor Ann Isherwood be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Redditch to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.**

**6. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED that**

**The Minutes of the meeting of Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Mayor.**

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor explained that he would not be making any announcements to the meeting but would instead arrange for his announcements to be circulated separately in writing.

b) The Leader's Announcements

The Leader welcomed all the Members to the meeting, and in particular welcomed the newly elected Members who were attending their first Council meeting.

The Leader also paid tribute to the contribution to the Council made by Joe Baker, Bill Hartnett and Greg Chance who had not been re-elected, and thanked them for their service to the Borough as Councillors.



c) The Chief Executive Announcements

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had not announcements to make on this occasion.

**8. RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT**

The report was noted.

**9. LEADER'S APPOINTMENTS**

The Leader announced that he had appointed nine members of the Executive and the remit of each portfolio holder was outlined in the papers that had been provided in the Supplementary Papers Pack. The Leader welcomed two new members to the Executive. Councillor Gemma Monaco was joining as Deputy Leader (without Portfolio) and Councillor Peter Fleming (also without Portfolio).

**RESOLVED that**

**The appointment by the Leader of the Deputy Leader and of Members of the Executive Committee and to the individual portfolios be noted.**

**10. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, PANELS ETC. AND THEIR CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS**

The Council considered the report setting out the proposed political balance of the Council's Committees and lists of nominations to Committees, Sub-Committee and other bodies, which were circulated in a supplementary pack prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) the Political balance of the Committees of the Council be agreed as set out in paragraph 4.5;**
- 2) appointments by political group leaders to the places on each Committee etc. be noted;**
- 3) the Council appoints Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Committees and other bodies as set out in Appendix 1;**
- 4) appointments to Working Groups and other bodies listed in the appendix be agreed;**
- 5) the terms of reference for the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee be amended, as detailed at Appendix 2; and**

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Monday, 24 May 2021

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- 9) the terms of reference for the Committees as set out at Appendix 3 be confirmed.

**11. OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members considered a report setting out proposed appointments to various outside bodies.

**RESOLVED that**

**The Council makes appointments to the bodies listed in the appendix to the report.**

**12. OFFICER SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS**

Members considered a report setting out the current version of the Scheme of Officer Delegations which included any updating or alterations added during the preceding year.

**RESOLVED that**

**The current version of the Officer Scheme of Delegations is agreed as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.**

**13. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS**

Members noted the details of the two urgent decisions that had been taken since the previous meeting of the Council regarding “Licensing Delegations – Taxis” as set out at pages 151 to 152 of the main agenda, and “Public participation at formal meetings where there are public speaking rights” as set out at pages 19 to 40 of the supplementary papers pack.

**14. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)**

There was no general urgent business for consideration on this occasion.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm  
and closed at 7.23 pm

**Redditch Borough Council**

**26th July 2021**

**Motions on Notice**

**1. Arrow Valley Country Park – Tovey’s Corner**

Proposed by Councillor Mike Rouse, seconded by Councillor Gemma Monaco.

“That this council hereby recognises and declares the area within the Arrow Valley Country Park that has hitherto been informally dedicated to the memory of Lizzie Tovey to be officially named and shall henceforth be known as ‘Tovey’s Corner’ in perpetuity.”

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# Executive Committee

Tuesday, 13 July 2021

## MINUTES

### Present:

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

### Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton, Mark Hanwell, James Howse and Ishrat Karimi-Fini

### Senior Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley-Hill

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Gemma Monaco and Nyear Nazir.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 3. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had pre-scrutinised the Upper Norgrove House Report during a meeting held on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021. However, as no recommendations had been made on this subject the minutes of that meeting had not been presented for Members' consideration.

#### 4. MINUTES

##### RESOLVED that

**the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.**

.....  
Chair

# Executive Committee

Tuesday, 13 July 2021

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## 5. BOMFORD HILL PATHWAY

A report in respect of the introduction of a pathway to a peace memorial at Bomford Hill was presented by the Portfolio Holder for Leisure.

The Committee was informed that Bomford Hill had recently been redeveloped and a new peace memorial had been installed. The Church Hill Big Local community group had raised funding to support the installation of a pathway to the memorial. The Council would utilise this funding to pay for the works to be completed and, consequently, there were no financial implications for the local authority. Consultation had been held in the community and this had established that there was local demand for a pathway to the memorial.

Following the presentation of the report, Members discussed the proposals in detail. Questions were raised about the location of the footpath. The Committee was advised that the footpath would be situated in a new location and the closest residential street would be Redstone Close.

Reference was made to the role of Church Hill Big Local in progressing this project in partnership with the Council. The Committee thanked Church Hill Big Local for the work undertaken by the group in respect of this matter. Members also raised the potential value of further work involving community groups working in partnership with the Council in future.

### **RECOMMENDED that**

- 1) **the capital programme be amended to incorporate the budget for the works detailed in recommendation 2, and that works be undertaken to re-introduce a gravel pathway at Bomford Hill to improve access to the recently installed piece of memorial; and**
- 1) **the receipt of the total value of (£31,727.37) for the project plus a maintenance figure (£3,127) is received from Church Hill Big Local.**

## 6. MEMBERS' ICT POLICY

The ICT Transformation Manager presented the updated Members' ICT Policy.

The Committee was informed that the policy had been reviewed following changes to IT support for Members during 2020. At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic the IT team had realised that

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Members' ipads were no longer fit for purpose. In particular, the ipads did not elicit good video or audio quality for Members participating in virtual meetings. Therefore, this equipment had been replaced during 2020.

The updated Members' ICT Policy provided Members with two options; Members could obtain a Council device, primarily a laptop or Surface Pro device; alternatively, Members could use their own device under the Council's Bring Your Own Device policy. The policy no longer referred to Blackberry software, which had ceased to be used by the Council in 2020. The Council had also introduced a policy of deleting emails after two years had elapsed.

There was the potential that the policy could make a positive contribution in respect of climate change. The Councillors' new equipment would enable them to participate in informal meetings virtually.

The Committee subsequently discussed the policy and in so doing noted that Members could choose to select both options, in terms of accessing their emails, as this would help to ensure that Members were able to respond to residents in a timely manner. Members welcomed news that the Council would no longer be using the blackberry software, noting that this had not been used in most work environments for many years.

Members thanked the ICT team for their hard work during the Covid-19 pandemic. It was noted that the Council's IT provision had progressed during the lockdown in response to circumstances. However, concerns were raised that some Members were still experiencing problems when using their Council IT equipment. Officers advised that the Council had employed a Members' ICT Support Officer and he would be available to provide support to Members moving forward.

## **RESOLVED that**

**the proposed Member ICT Policy be agreed and implemented for all Members and that the options within it be made available to Members.**

## **7. COVID-19 BUSINESS GRANT FUNDING**

The Executive Director of Resources presented a report updating Members on the distribution of Covid-19 Business Grant funding in Redditch. The report had been prepared for noting in order to provide the Executive Committee with assurance that the funding was being distributed to local businesses.

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The distribution of grant funding was occurring in a complex funding environment. Strict criteria applied to the distribution of these grants to local businesses and the Council had had to comply with this. There had been a significant amount of money provided to local businesses through a range of grants, valued at a total of £22.9 million. Wherever possible, the Council would seek to allocate all of the grant funding provided by the Government for the use of businesses. However, the level of the grant provided by the Government to the Council was based on an estimate of the level of need in the area and sometimes the level was overestimated, meaning that some funding would be left over. Where funding was not spent, this had to be returned to the Government. Members were informed that unlike other Councils, there had not been a significant issue with fraud when distributing the grant funding to local businesses.

The Committee subsequently discussed the report and in so doing thanked Officers for their hard work in respect of distributing grant funding to local businesses. Members noted that this work had had to be addressed in addition to existing work responsibilities and had benefitted many local businesses that had struggled during the Covid-19 pandemic. Officers were also thanked for bringing forward a report in respect of this matter as it helped to ensure that there was transparency about the arrangements in place locally to distribute the business grant funding.

Members noted that two of the grants, the Restart grant and ARG grant, remained available to businesses and Officers were urged to promote the availability of this funding to local companies. Officers confirmed that the Council remained on track to distribute the ARG grant funding that had already been received by the end of July and this would result in the Council receiving a further tranche of ARG funding.

During consideration of this item, Members questioned whether any tangible information had been provided about the impact that the grant funding had had on businesses, including the number of jobs that had been saved as a consequence. Officers explained that this data was not yet available and would need to be monitored through ongoing work in respect of economic regeneration.

## **RESOLVED that**

**the report be noted.**

### **8. COVID-19 GRANT FUNDING - DELEGATIONS**

The Executive Director of Resources presented a report detailing proposals for Officers to receive delegated authority to manage



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funding allocated to the Council by the Government to help manage local recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee was advised that this did not relate to the business grant funding, which had been discussed earlier in the meeting. Instead, the delegation would enable Officers to utilise funding provided by the Government for recovery purposes in a timely manner, rather than having to wait until use of the funds was approved at a Council meeting. There was a risk that, if the Council could not act quickly in respect of this additional funding, the authority would lose out on an opportunity to secure further funding for recovery purposes. Should authority be delegated to Officers, it would only be used following consultation with the Leader and Officers would need to comply with the relevant conditions applying to the grant funding.

Members subsequently discussed the proposed delegation and noted that this related specifically to funding intended to aid local recovery following the pandemic, not to all areas of local government finance. There were tight timescales in which the Council could act and the delegation would ensure that Officers could secure and use available funding in a timely manner to benefit the local community.

## **RECOMMENDED that**

**authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Resources to accept, administer and distribute any Government Funding, or Funding from bodies acting on behalf of Government, relating to or in response to the Covid 19 emergency and to make the necessary and corresponding adjustments to the MTFP following consultation with the Leader and subject to meeting the conditions of grant funding.**

## **9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Leader advised that there were no recommendations arising from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## **RESOLVED that**

**the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 be noted.**

## **10. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS ETC.**

The Leader confirmed that there were no referrals from any Committees for consideration on this occasion.

# Executive Committee

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## 11. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

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

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

Councillor Lovell advised that a meeting of the group was due to take place the following week. Officers were investigating the subject of electric charging points for vehicles and it was anticipated that a contract would be put out to tender in respect of this matter shortly. The climate change implications of long grass were also being considered.

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

Councillor Dormer advised that a meeting of the group was scheduled to take place on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

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

In the absence of Councillor Nazir, the Chair proposed that an update should be provided in respect of this matter at the following meeting of the Committee.

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

The Committee was informed that a meeting of the Member Support Steering Group took place on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. During this meeting, Members had agreed that a survey should be circulated among new Members to gauge their views on the induction process. This survey would be circulated in due course.

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

Councillor Dormer confirmed that there were no scheduled meetings of the Planning Advisory Panel.

## 12. FINANCIAL UPDATE REGARDING LEISURE SERVICES

The Executive Director of Resources presented a report detailing the financial implications of the position of Rubicon Leisure Limited for the Council. The report had been drafted following the

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Executive Committee's identification of Rubicon Leisure Limited as a potential financial risk for the Council.

The Committee was informed that it was a difficult time for the hospitality industry. Rubicon Leisure Limited had been impacted by the pandemic like other leisure companies. Significant progress had been made by the company in terms of identifying action that could be taken to improve the financial position of Rubicon Leisure Limited moving forward. However, further action would be needed and the Managing Director was working hard to address this.

Members discussed the report and noted that reference was made to the business plan 2021/22 for Rubicon Leisure Limited. Questions were raised about how this business plan would be approved and Officers clarified that this role had been delegated to the Shareholders Committee.

During consideration of this item, Councillor David Thain, as Chair of the Shareholders Committee, explained that at a recent meeting of the Committee Members had approved the business plan 2021/22 for Rubicon Leisure Limited. Whilst progress had been made he commented that further action was required and the Committee had clarified that there a business plan covering a three-year period would need to be developed.

## **RESOLVED that**

- 2) the financial context and risks set out in section 3 are noted;**
- 3) the decision taken by members of the Shareholders Committee (in line with the Council's Constitution) to approve a revised one-year Rubicon Business Plan is noted; and**
- 4) the requirement to support the mitigating actions as set out in Section 7 is noted as is the work undertaken by officers to determine a longer term business plan focusing on financial sustainability and relevant and appropriate service delivery.**

## **13. LAND AT UPPER NORGROVE, WEBHEATH**

The Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services presented a report updating Members on the position of the former Upper Norgrove House site in Webheath. This site had been the subject of a number of previous reports, most recently in 2019. Unfortunately, the Council had not been able to achieve a desirable outcome through discussions with a number of local landowners,

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due to a range of complex reasons. Therefore, the Council was proposing to take alternative action with the adjacent landowner. There was the potential for the adjacent landowner to apply for planning permission for access to their land which would need to be considered through the Council's planning process.

The Committee discussed the report and in so doing noted that a significant amount of work had been invested in trying to address the issues identified at previous Committee meetings when discussing the former Upper Norgrove House site. Members expressed the hope that, should a resolution be found, action could be taken at the site that would benefit the local community.

## **RESOLVED that**

- 5) the advice document at appendix 1 to this report be noted;**
- 6) approval be given to a joint marketing exercise of the site known as Upper Norgrove Webheath with the adjacent landowner; and**
- 7) authority be delegated to the Head of Legal Democratic and Property Services and the Executive Director of Resources following consultation with the Leader of the Council to market and dispose of the site.**

The Meeting commenced at 6.33 pm  
and closed at 7.21 pm

**Executive Committee**  
2021

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**Report title: Bomford Hill Pathway**

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder  |   | Councillor Michael Rouse   |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted   |   | <b>Yes / No</b>  |
| Relevant Head of Service   |   |  |
| Report Author  | Job Title: Ishrat Karimi Fini<br>Contact<br>email: Ishrat.karimifini@bromsgroverredditch.gov.uk<br>Contact Tel: |  |
| Wards Affected   |   | Church Hill  |
| Ward Councillor(s) consulted   |   | Yes  |
| Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)  |   | Living independent and healthy lives” and<br>“Communities which are safe, well<br>maintained and green”<br>Community Purpose - “Improving Health<br>and Wellbeing” |
| Non-Key Decision   |   |  |
| If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting. |   |  |

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS****The Executive Committee RECOMMEND that:-**

- 1) the capital programme be amended to incorporate the budget for the works detailed in recommendation 2, and that works be undertaken to re-introduce a gravel pathway at Bomford Hill to improve access to the recently installed piece of memorial; and**
- 2) the receipt of the total value of (£31,727.37) for the project plus a maintenance figure ( £3,127) is received from Church Hill Big Local.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Bomford Hill Park is in the heart of the community of Church Hill and has recently undergone a development to provide a Memorial Monument at the top of the hill, funded and installed by a third party, (Church Hill Big Local Partnership).
- 2.2 The Memorial Monument (known as the Peace Memorial) has created a place for remembrance within this natural environment enabling the local community to pay respects and reflect throughout the year about those who lost their lives during WW1 and WW2.

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- 2.3 Church Hill Big Local (CHBL) has consulted with the local community within Church Hill to ascertain the need for a more accessible route to this new feature to ensure this provides inclusive access to all visitors. Local surveys have been carried out to review the need and increased demand following the installation of the Memorial.
- 2.4 The Council's Engineering Design team has produced the planned route along with a quotation for the full works using the council's Approved Framework Civils Contractors to complete the works.
- 2.5 CHBL has secured funds through their Big Lottery Community Project granted to the council to provide this essential pedestrian route. This will also include a maintenance payment to RBC of 10% one off payment to manage the pathway within its open space.
- 2.6 CHBL has approached the Council with a proposal for the Council to undertake the works on Council land for which they will provide the funding.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Project costs of £31,272.37 will be funded through the grant fund received from the CHBL (Big Lottery Funding) which will include an additional £3,127.00 maintenance payment to support the ongoing maintenance of this informal permeable route.
- 3.2 The order for the pathway will be raised by the Council and CHBL will be invoiced for full value. A letter of commitment/intent has been received from CHBL to confirm funding availability from a local trust.
- 3.3 CHBL has undertaken to cover any additional or unforeseen costs arising from the installation of the pathway, with no limitations.

**4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 It is appropriate for the Council to undertake these works on Council land. Therefore, the asset will be managed and maintained by Redditch Borough Council.

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

- 5.1 The pathway will support RBC Strategic and Community Purposes and priorities:

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“Living independent and healthy lives” and “Communities which are safe, well maintained and green” as well as supporting the community Purpose of “Improving Health and Wellbeing”

- Enabling communities to access the Bomford Hill and the new Peace Memorial by providing a safe and enabling route for those with mobility issues and with pushchairs. The route will also encourage the local community to visit this green space throughout the year to improve both physical and mental health.

**Climate Change Implications**

- 5.2 The proposed pedestrian route will use permeable materials (Breedon Gravel) to limit the needs for alternative landscape materials such as blacktop. Wooden kerb edging will also be used to blend into the natural landscape and soften the scheme. The line of the pathway will ensure water runoff is managed within the site’s woodland and longer grassed areas.

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

- 6.1 The provision of the pathway will be a grant funded from the CHBL to the Council to ensure accessibility for all abilities to the new Memorial site.

The overall offer would contribute to the improvement of local green spaces and encourage local community and those with mobility issues to be able to visit this Memorial Site and the ability to access the vistas from the top of the hill.

This would also provide the opportunity to encourage more people to use the Bomford Hill park during Autumn and Winter months when ground conditions are poor with prams/buggies/wheelchairs.

**Operational Implications**

- 6.2 There are no operational implications – the project will be delivered by contractors within the Council’s Approved Civils Framework and therefore all the necessary due diligence has been carried out. The contractors will be overseen and managed by the Leisure Parks Projects team with support from the design and engineering team.

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**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 Reputational risk has been mitigated through consultation carried out by the Church Hill Big Local Partnership with the local community.
- 7.2 Risk Assessment and Method Statement will be subject to standard Framework civils contract and overseen by the Leisure Parks Project Officer.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Engineering Design Team design of new pathway



**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

| <b>Department</b>               | <b>Name and Job Title</b>           | <b>Date</b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Portfolio Holder                | Councillor Michael Rouse            |             |
| Lead Director / Head of Service | Ruth Bamford                        |             |
| Financial Services              | Chris Forester                      |             |
| Legal Services                  | Clare Flanagan, Principal Solicitor | June 2021   |

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**Key**

-  Woodland Area
-  Proposed Footpath Route

| Date | Rev | Details |
|------|-----|---------|
|      |     |         |

Project:

**Bomford Hill Park  
Proposed footpath Route**

Drawing:

**General Layout**

|           |    |        |          |
|-----------|----|--------|----------|
| Drawn:    | MW | Scale: | 1/1500   |
| Surveyed: | OS | Date:  | Jan 2016 |

Drawing No: **P2174/Jan16**

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

  
  
[www.redditchbc.gov.uk](http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk)

  
**Bromsgrove  
District Council**  
[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)

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 Ordnance Survey 100024252

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**Executive Committee**  
202113<sup>th</sup> July**Report Title: Covid-19 Grant Funding - Delegation of Authority**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder  | Councillor David Thain, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling Services   |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted   |  |
| Relevant Head of Service   | Chris Forrester Head of Finance and Customer Services  |
| Report Author  | Name: Chris Forrester<br>Job Title: Head of Finance and Customer Services<br>Contact<br>chris.forrester@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk<br>email: |
| Wards Affected   | All  |
| Ward Councillor(s) consulted   | n/a  |
| Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)  | All  |
| Non-Key Decision   |  |
| If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting. |  |

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS****Executive Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that**

**authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Resources to accept, administer and distribute any Government Funding, or Funding from bodies acting on behalf of Government, relating to or in response to the Covid 19 emergency and to make the necessary and corresponding adjustments to the MTFP following consultation with the Leader and subject to meeting the conditions of grant funding.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Since the start of the Covid pandemic there have been a high number of grants awarded by central government to local authorities to distribute. These grants are often given with short notice periods and a requirement to start spending immediately based on the specific conditions of the grant. This is made more challenging as at the point in time the authority is made aware of them the government announces them to the public which leads to a high level of contact from the public, pressuring council officers whilst they are trying to set schemes up to spend the monies.

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- 2.2 The above Government response to the Covid Pandemic is likely to continue, with grants being announced with short timescales. These funding initiatives, distributed to local Councils, aimed at stimulating local communities and economies being put in place need to be paid out and spent as quickly as possible. The most recent is the Welcome Back Fund (WBF), a new £56 million national fund to support a safe and successful reopening of high streets and seaside resorts (Redditch Borough Council's allocation being circa £75,088).
- 2.3 This funding is provided to Councils with specific conditions of grant applied and is repayable if it is not defrayed within a timetable set by Government.
- 2.4 There are likely to be a number of other such Covid related (non business specific) grants (over and above business related grants such as the Local Restrictions Support Grant which are administered by the Council on behalf of central government in accordance with specific grant entitlement policies).
- 2.5 Due to the nature of the Council approval cycle, it is often not possible to get reports through the reporting mechanisms in a timescale which allows compliance with grant conditions and can delay the speed at which monies are paid out in line with the grant conditions. This was made apparent by the number of urgent decisions required for the business grants schemes. With businesses and individuals seeing severe challenges arising from the impact of Covid any delay in funding can have severe repercussions and as such this delegated authority would allow the authority to respond in an agile and transparent manner for the benefit of Redditch.
- 2.6 Where the funding is area specific or for the benefit of area based activity members are advised that officers will consult with the relevant ward councillors

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The proposal that authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Resources will be in line with good financial practice.
- 3.2 The delegation to accept administer and distribute any Government Funding or Funding from bodies acting on behalf of Government relating to or in response to the Covid 19 emergency and to make the necessary and corresponding adjustments to the MTFP will be done following consultation with the Leader.

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- 3.3 Any additional funding or expenditure will be spent in accordance with the conditions of grant and be reported retrospectively to the Executive Committee and Council either in a standalone report should it be a particularly large, or complex grant scheme or in the quarterly finance monitoring report.

**4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Review and revision of the Constitution is governed by Article 15 of the Constitution.
- 4.2 Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) gives a general power to local authorities to discharge functions through officers. Local Authorities are required by the same Act to maintain a list of these, which is referred to as the Scheme of Delegation. This sets out those powers of the Council which can be carried out by officers of the Council.

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

- 5.1 The Strategic purposes are included in the Council's corporate plan and guides the Council's approach to expenditure ensuring we focus on the issues and what are most important for the Borough and our communities. Grants will be paid out in line with grant conditions whilst ensuring that they align with the Council's strategic purposes as far as is possible.

**Climate Change Implications**

- 5.2 The green thread runs through the Council plan. Any grants which have implications on climate change will be addressed and reviewed when relevant by climate change officers to ensure the correct procedures have been followed to ensure any impacts on climate change are fully understood.

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

- 6.1 No direct implications as a result of this report.

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6.2 Appropriate grant monitoring will be in place in line with the financial procedure rules and will be accounted for appropriately.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 Grants are monitored in line with the financial procedure rules and grant conditions.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A

**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

| <b>Department</b>               | <b>Name and Job Title</b>                                      | <b>Date</b> |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Portfolio Holder                | Councillor David Thain   |             |
| Lead Director / Head of Service | James Howse, Executive Director of Resources                   |             |
| Financial Services              | James Howse, Executive Director of Resources                   |             |
| Legal Services                  | Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services |             |