



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thu 11 Feb
2021
6.30 pm

Microsoft Teams

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If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
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GUIDANCE ON VIRTUAL MEETINGS

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Notes:

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Overview and Scrutiny

Thursday, 11th February, 2021

6.30 pm

During the Covid-19 outbreak
Committee meetings are
taking place on Microsoft
Teams

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Joe Baker (Chair)
Jennifer Wheeler
(Vice-Chair)
Salman Akbar
Michael Chalk
Peter Fleming

Andrew Fry
Ann Isherwood
Mark Shurmer
Yvonne Smith

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 - 14)

4. Public Speaking

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

5. Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25 (including the Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account) - Pre-scrutiny

(Report to Follow).

6. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 15 - 26)

7. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 27 - 28)

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

a) Budget Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Wheeler

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

9. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports (Pages 29 - 32)

- a) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Council representative, Councillor Chalk; and
- b) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Council representative, Councillor Chalk.
- c) Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) – Council representative, Councillor Chalk



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 18th January, 2021

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Joe Baker (Chair), Councillor Jennifer Wheeler (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Joanne Beecham, Michael Chalk, Peter Fleming, Andrew Fry, Julian Grubb and Mark Shurmer

Also Present:

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

Officers:

Lyndsey Berry, Helen Broughton, Kevin Dicks and Ostap Paparega

Democratic Services Officers:

Jo Gresham and Kerry Somers

58. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

At the opening of the meeting the Chair requested that all Members took a moment to pay tribute to Councillor Pattie Hill who sadly had passed away over the Christmas period.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Akbar and Isherwood with Councillors Beecham and Grubb as named substitutes.

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

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

60. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

Chair

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the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 3rd December 2020 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

61. PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Chair welcomed Ms. S. Harvey as a public speaker to the meeting, who was invited to address the Committee.

Ms. Harvey's speech was delivered as follows:

"Thank you for the opportunity to share some concerns I have over the current Town Deal project.

The prospect of a large investment was announced in September 2019, and it was made clear from the start that community engagement and participation was key.

The prospectus asks the Town Deal board to "Encourage local people to get involved and to generate ideas."

As a member of the community, I have tried my best to be engaged in the Town Deal process, because I can see that Redditch desperately needs investment and regeneration, not just in the town centre but also in the district areas.

"Communities should have a meaningful role in decision-making" is what we were told in the prospectus.

I was keen to follow progress and looked for as much information as possible. A promised dedicated website never materialised, although in the past few weeks "Redditch Town Deal" has its own web address. This takes you to the page on the Council website. There is still no direct link from the Council homepage.

The information when found is uninspiring and sparse. I was forced to trawl through minutes to find any nugget of progress. There are no published minutes for meetings in December or scheduled for January. The terms of reference demand a page which is "prominent, accessible and easy to navigate" and "updated regularly to ensure that information remains current."

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I feel that the Town Deal Board has largely failed in this obligation. I point members towards the St Ives town deal website as an excellent example with an exciting layout, thorough minutes and links to social media sites.

The main opportunity for engaging was 13 months after launch when an online survey was opened, and according to the council report “over 650 local residents took part in this and in online group discussions.”

Can these few responses be truly representative of the whole community? I understand that the coronavirus pandemic has created additional hurdles, but it is for the town deal board to overcome these in order to promote inclusivity.

What measures have been taken to engage those residents who do not access information online? This may include elderly residents or families living in our more deprived areas. Were physical copies of the survey available, and how many were returned? What support was given to enable the hard of hearing or those with sight issues to access the survey?

I want to know which voluntary and community groups have been involved in the project so far? Do they include those supporting young people, disabled people or disadvantaged residents? Which faith organisations have been approached? Have we ensured that voices from the BAME community have been heard? Or those residents who speak English as an additional language?

Which community forums have been involved? Do they represent a diversity of interests and backgrounds?

I guarantee that if you asked a hundred people in Redditch about the Town Deal fund ideas that the vast majority would have no clue what was on the table. I only know what the proposals are because I have taken the time to read a council report published only last week. Appendices to this report were unpublished at time of writing.

To sum up - my grievances are this: I have tried hard to be engaged, to find out information and to play a part in this process. I

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have been frustrated when I should have been inspired. I have felt ignored when I should have been empowered.”

62. REDDITCH TOWN DEAL INVESTMENT PLAN - PRE-SCRUTINY

The Head of Economic Development & Regeneration from North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWEDR) presented a report in respect of the Redditch Town Deal Investment Plan. During the presentation, the following matters were highlighted for Member's consideration:

- There were three key themes included in the scope of the Town's Fund including urban regeneration, enterprise and connectivity (including digital and transport).
- Any proposals put forward as part of the Town Deal Investment Plan needed to be evidence based and have economic impact in the location.
- Governance arrangements were outlined in the Government guidelines including establishment of the Town Deal Board. The Board was responsible for creating a long-term vision and interventions in order to support that vision. External consultants were engaged to aid the development of the Town Deal Investment Plan and to carry out an independent assessment of any projects that were proposed to ensure that they aligned with the Board's vision.
- That unlocking Redditch was the vision in order to move Redditch from a traditional New Town to a New Town that was fit for the 21st Century.
- There were expectations included in the Government guidance regarding public consultation and the Board fully supported the engagement with the local communities and that external consultants undertook comprehensive and targeted market research.
- The report that had been provided to the Committee was in draft form and the final version of the plan would be available in time for Members' consideration at the meeting of Council on Monday 25th January 2021.

The Chair invited Councillor Dormer, as Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnerships to comment on the report and in doing so he thanked

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the Head of NWEDR, the Regeneration and Implementation Manager and the Board for all of their hard work and time in preparing the Redditch Town Deal Investment Plan. He informed Members that it had been more difficult to engage with members of the public during Covid-19 but that the number of responses and engagement during the public consultation had been very encouraging.

The Chief Executive updated the Committee in respect of the Town Board meeting that had taken place during the previous week and confirmed that it had been agreed that the Town's Investment Plan was proposing a budget of £25 million. It was further clarified to Members that this decision had been made as Government required Town Boards to demonstrate that projects bidding for more than £25 million would have needed to clearly show that the projects would impact at a regional or national level.

Members raised some concerns in respect of the Redditch Town Deal Investment Plan website and transparency for residents. The low numbers of responses to the public consultation were also queried given the number of people who lived in Redditch. Officers were requested to provide data regarding the demographic of those residents who had provided responses and the types of public consultation that was carried out. Officers undertook to provide information to the Committee outside of the meeting.

Further queries that were raised included the following:

- The situation of the Police Station including what were the plans and what funding had been received.
- The future of Library provision and location in the Town Centre.

The Head of NWEDR and the Regeneration and Implementation Manager responded to the queries and informed Members that the Police Station was a key site for the development and the funding that had been provided had been given to enable site development and that discussions were taking place with relevant colleagues in order to progress the project. In terms of the public consultation, it was clarified to Members that there had been engagement through the Government's 'My Town' campaign which had yielded a decent

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response. A survey was undertaken by an external provider who ensured that there had been a broad range of demographics who had responded to the survey. In addition to this, groups were established, and interviews carried out through a variety of methods for example via telephone and online meeting, which ensured social inclusivity. It was confirmed to Members that there had also been wider distribution of the survey which had included members of the Redditch Partnership, Heart of Worcestershire College (HoW), Redditch Churches and Redditch Community Forum. Members were advised that consultation would usually include road shows however Covid-19 had meant that such events could not take place. Officers confirmed that the website would be live within the next few days and was part of an ongoing project up to 2026.

Members enquired regarding the engagement of education providers in the Borough and noted that they felt it would be beneficial in the future if there were greater engagement in this area. It was confirmed to Members that HoW College had been invited to meetings and included in the process along with all key strategic partners.

Some Members discussed that the plan outlined an ambitious project which hopefully would lead to a positive future for Redditch and once again officers were thanked for their hard work on the project.

In respect of delegated authority being granted to the Head of NWEDR and Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services, the Chair requested that in order for the Committee be kept informed of decisions made that regular updates were presented to the Committee.

After further detailed discussion Members were informed that a Programme Manager would be involved in the delivery of the project and Members requested that a robust process be undertaken when recruiting the person to the position to ensure that they held the relevant experience for a project of this scale.

The Chair concluded the debate and noted that this project was a very important stage in Redditch's development and that it was

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important to work together to ensure the best for residents in the Borough.

RESOLVED that

the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive regular, six-monthly updates in respect of the Redditch Town Deal Investment Plan.

63. REDDITCH PARTNERSHIP REPORT 2021

The Redditch Partnership Manager presented the Redditch Partnership Annual Report 2021. The following was highlighted for Member's attention:

- The Redditch Partnership worked to a set of priorities which included the following:
 - Health Inequalities
 - Education Attainment school readiness and raising aspirations of young people.
 - The economy of Redditch with a focus on providing a larger and more diverse job offers.
 - Lead on transformation change of services for citizens in Redditch.
- That the Redditch Partnership was overseen by a number of strategic partners including the Redditch Partnership Executive Group, Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust, and the Redditch Business Leaders Group. It was clarified to Members that the Redditch Business Leaders Group had emerged over the previous year and that various businesses were represented on the group.
- Changes had inevitably occurred over the previous year as a result of Covid-19. Members were informed that it had proved more difficult to meet in lockdown however it was confirmed that some meetings had taken place virtually. The Business Leaders Group had continued to meet regularly and had undertaken a mentoring project, mentoring young people in schools. This initiative was involved in raising the aspirations of young people in the Borough and in the introduction of the industries that existed in Redditch.

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- The Redditch Partnership structure had been really effective during the response to the pandemic. It was reported that Voluntary Sector Groups had provided support to vulnerable people during lockdown and that food, medicines and support for those who were isolated was provided. The Partnership was able to consolidate that support and create links between the Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups. The Department for Work and Pensions had provided funding in order for further work to be carried out and that this funding would be allocated to VCS groups as soon as possible. Members were informed that it was hoped that this kind of work would continue in the future and that links would continue to flourish after the lockdown.
- There were projects that had been planned prior to the pandemic and it was hoped that these would continue to move forward, and Members would be updated on these projects in the future.

The Chief Executive reiterated that the VCS groups had been invaluable during lockdown and he expressed his thanks to the Redditch Partnership Manager for her hard work in respect of the Partnership and for facilitating the arrangements so successfully during a difficult time.

The Chair invited Councillor Dormer, as Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnership to comment on the report. He echoed the Chief Executive's thanks to the Redditch Partnership Manager and that their work alongside the VCS groups had been vital.

The Chair highlighted the importance of the VCS groups in local communities during the pandemic and that the cross-party activity that had taken place was encouraging and had been of great benefit to the Borough.

RESOLVED that

the Redditch Partnership Report 2021 be noted.

64. REDDITCH COMMUNITY LOTTERY UPDATE

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The Redditch Partnership Manager presented the report in respect of the Redditch Community Lottery Update and informed Members that it was the one-year anniversary since the launch of the Community Lottery.

Members were advised that this report outlined updates regarding the figures and statistics of 'Good Causes', players and ticket sales for the Community Lottery.

Members attention was drawn to following during the presentation:

- The predicted target number of 682 players during the year had not been met and had only reached 342. A total of approximately £17,600k of tickets had been sold and that the Council had received 10% of the sales. The rest of the costs were used for license fees to the Gambling Commission and membership to the Lottery Council. In addition to this the Council received approximately £3k from players who selected the Council as their beneficiary when purchasing tickets. These monies were then redistributed as part of the grant funding process. Members were informed that £5,730 was allocated to 'Good Causes' and the remainder was used to pay for costs from Gatherwell Ltd, the organisation who administrated the lottery on behalf of the Council. In addition to cash prizes there was the opportunity to win free tickets, and 'bolt-on' prizes provided by Gatherwell Ltd.
- Community groups had not been able to promote the lottery through their usual fundraising events during the pandemic as much as they might have in normal circumstances.
- The demographic of people purchasing the tickets was spread evenly across the Town and Members were informed that it was mainly women between the age of 36 and 40 that had purchased tickets throughout the year.

The Chair invited Councillor Dormer, as Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnerships to comment on the presentation. He explained that unfortunately the pandemic had impacted on the promotion of the Lottery and that hopefully next year would provide a clearer picture of its performance.

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The Chair asked for clarification on the methods of sale for the tickets and was disappointed that the targets had not been met but accepted that the promotion of the Lottery had not been as effective as expected due to Covid-19. He questioned officers whether there was anything more that Members could do in order to promote the Lottery in order to engage with the groups.

There was discussion regarding the change in people's financial position during the pandemic and noted that this also might have had an impact on the number of ticket sales.

Officers undertook to provide a further update to the Committee in six months' time.

RESOLVED that

the Redditch Community Lottery Update be noted.

65. TASK GROUP REVIEWS - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENTS

The Chair invited Councillor Dormer to present the draft scoping document in respect of Parking on Unicorn Hill. It was clarified to Members that Councillor Dormer was in attendance as the proposer of the Short, Sharp Review.

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

Some Members agreed that the proposal was a good opportunity to establish the parking needs in that area and could have a positive impact on local businesses and the Town Centre. However, there was detailed discussion regarding potential community safety concerns if changes were made to the current taxi rank location and that data collected in respect of parking and taxi usage on Unicorn Hill might be distorted due to the pandemic. Some Members felt

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that this should be an area of investigation should the Short, Sharp Review be established.

RESOLVED that

- a) **subject to any changes agreed during the meeting, the proposed Short, Sharp Review of Parking on Unicorn Hill be launched: and**
- b) **Councillor Fleming be appointed to Chair of the Short, Sharp Review.**

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

Members considered the latest edition of the Executive Committee's Work Programme, which covered the period 1st February 2021 to 30th May 2021. It was highlighted to Members that the following item had been moved to August 2021:

- New Cemetery Provision

The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that the following items would be considered by the Budget Scrutiny Working Group and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25 - Update Report (including the capital programme)

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday 8th December 2020 and 12th January 2021 be noted; and**
- 2) **the content of the Executive Committee's work programme for the period 1st February 2021 to 31st May 2021 be noted.**

67. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that, other than those detailed in the previous item, there were no changes to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.

RESOLVED that

the content of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme be noted.

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

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

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

Councillor Wheeler introduced the verbal update in respect of this item and advised Members that the group had met once since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5th January 2021.

The items considered at the meeting had included:

- Homelessness Prevention Grant Allocation for 2021/22
- Housing Revenue Account - Rent Setting 2021/2
- Update on the impact of Covid-19, Brexit and Section 24.

Councillor Wheeler informed the Committee that there had been a slight change to the Work Programme for the group and that Professor Peter Latchford would now attend a meeting of the group in March 2021.

The next meeting was due to take place on 3rd February 2021 where the Medium-Term Financial Plan would be considered.

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b) Dementia Task Group – Councillor Michael Chalk

Councillor Chalk reported that there had been no meetings of the group since the last Committee meeting. However, there was a draft recommendation that had been proposed and would be included in the final report.

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

Councillor Fry advised Members that there had been no meetings of the working group since the last Committee meeting, however, a meeting was scheduled for 19th January 2021.

RESOLVED that

the update reports be noted.

69. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

Councillor Michael Chalk introduced the item regarding External Scrutiny Bodies for Members' consideration and reported, in addition to the written update he had provided, that there had been a meeting of the West Midlands Combined Authority, Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th December 2020, which had been an opportunity to ask the Mayor, Andy Street questions regarding a number of areas of interest.

RESOLVED that

the update be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 8.33 pm

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Executive Committee

Tuesday, 19 January 2021

MINUTES

Present:

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

Officers:

Lyndsey Berry, Kevin Dicks, Chris Forrester, Clare Flanagan, Sue Hanley and Ostap Paparega

Senior Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley

66. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

68. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had pre-scrutinised the Redditch Town's Deal Investment Plan at a meeting held on Monday, 18th January 2021. The Committee had concluded their discussions by requesting a biannual update on progress with respect to the plan. However, the Committee had not made any recommendations on the subject for the Executive Committee's consideration.

Members were asked to note that three agenda packs had been issued for consideration at the Executive Committee meeting. Due to the date of the publication of the Additional Papers 2 pack, it had not been possible to provide paper copies of this supplementary pack for Members' consideration. However, the pack was available to view on the Council's website and using the modern.gov app.

69. MINUTES

.....
Chair

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday, 12th January 2021 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

70. REDDITCH TOWN DEAL INVESTMENT PLAN

The Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development (NWEDR) presented the Redditch Town Deal – Town Investment Plan. During the presentation of this report the following points were highlighted for Members' consideration:

- The Town's Investment Plan had been circulated in draft form for Members' consideration. The final version of the plan would be available in time for Members to consider at the meeting of Council on Monday, 25th January 2021.
- The main challenge in drafting the final version of the Town's Investment Plan was in respect of condensing the length from 20,000 to 10,000 words.
- The Government had issued guidance in respect of expenditure of the Towns' Fund when the project had first been announced. This had provided useful information, including in respect of eligibility criteria.
- The purpose of the Towns' Fund was to provide financial support to facilitate a long-term vision for a town that would contribute to economic growth.
- There were three key areas of focus including urban development, enterprise and the digital economy.
- The proposals put forward in a Town Investment Plan needed to be based on local data, to have an evidence basis and to demonstrate that they would have a noticeable impact on economic development in that location.
- The Government had provided specific guidance on the governance requirements in respect of Town Boards. This included guidance in respect of membership as well as the requirement for the Chair of the Town Board to be a representative of the private sector.
- The Town's Investment Plan had to be submitted to the lead local authority, as the accountable body, as well as the Government for approval.
- In developing the Redditch Town's Investment Plan, the Redditch Town Board had utilised a number of consultants to help with the development of the plan, assessment of the spatial strategy and public consultation.
- The objective of the proposals for Redditch was to unlock Redditch and to enable the town's transformation from a

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traditional new town to a town suitable for the twenty first century.

- The consultants that had undertaken public consultation as part of the project were experienced in market research. This organisation had attempted to engage with a cross-section of the local community.
- Consultation would continue to take place following approval of the Town's Investment Plan.
- Moving forward, there would be two key consultation documents forming the future engagement strategy, both at a programme level and detailed consultation plans for each of the proposed projects included in the plan.
- Approximately 700 responses had been received during the consultation process. This compared favourably with consultation feedback in other parts of the country where towns were eligible to apply for the Government's Town's Funding.
- The Town's Board had taken into account information provided by the public in response to previous consultation exercises, such as the State of the Area debates, and every attempt had been made to reflect the feedback from the public in the proposals within the plan. The exception to this had been the request from the public to make improvements to the Alexandra Hospital, as this was outside the remit of the Town's Deal Fund.
- The Town's Investment Plan was proposing a budget of £25 million, including £200,000 which would be allocated to a revenue budget to fund a Programme Manager who could deliver the project.
- The Government required Town Boards to demonstrate that projects would impact at a regional or national level if more than £25 million funding was to be provided. Only one location, Blackpool, out of 101 eligible towns, had been able to demonstrate this to date.
- In those towns where the Town Investment Plan had already been submitted, the Government had not always agreed to provide the full amount of funding that had been requested. There was the possibility that this could occur for Redditch.
- It was possible that in future there would be further opportunities to apply for funding, in addition to the £25 million that had been requested to fund the projects in Redditch in accordance with the Town's Investment Plan.
- A Check and Challenge session had been held with representatives of the Government on Wednesday, 6th January 2021 when the town's proposals had been discussed.
- Should the Town's Investment Plan for Redditch be approved, there would be two months available in which negotiations would be held with representatives of the Government on heads of terms.

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- Following this stage, there would be twelve months available in which to develop detailed business cases for each of the projects included within the plan.
- The final stage of the process would be dependent on the strength of the business cases that were submitted.

Following the presentation of the report, Members thanked the Head of NWEDR and the Regeneration and Implementation Manager for their hard work in preparing the Town's Investment Plan. Thanks were also extended to the members of the Redditch Town's Board, particularly the Chair and Vice Chair, for their work.

Members subsequently discussed the following matters in detail:

- The opportunity provided for the regeneration of Redditch town centre by the availability of up to £25 million funding.
- The diversity of the membership of the Redditch Town's Board, which included representatives of the private, public and third sectors.
- The positive impact that the proposals, if approved, could have on the local economic and employment opportunities in the town.
- The consultation that had been held with elected Members in late 2020 and the feedback that had been provided at these sessions. Members noted that the consultants had done an excellent job in this area.
- The number of projects that had been identified by partners during the process and the difficult decisions that had had to be taken by the Board in order to prioritise certain projects for inclusion in the Town's Investment Plan.
- The positive impact that the proposals for the Railway Quarter could have on economic development and regeneration of the town centre.
- The potential for further work to be undertaken with regard to the skills and aspirations of local residents. Members commented on the potential for the Council to work with businesses and HoW College in respect of this matter.
- The need to provide training to young people and to enable connectivity so that young people from deprived backgrounds could access the training they needed.
- The number of residents who had participated in the consultation exercises and how this demonstrated that there was a lot of interest within the community in the regeneration of Redditch town centre.
- The extent to which local residents who did not have access to the internet had been disenfranchised in the consultation process.
- The possibility that, following expenditure on the projects supported by the Town's Fund, Redditch might attract

additional private sector investment that could be used to support other regeneration projects in the town.

- The opportunities that would be available to Redditch businesses following the introduction of 5G in the Borough.
- The potential for projects that had not been included in the Town's Investment Plan to be delivered. Officers explained that there would be a phased approach to the spatial strategy, and this would enable the Board and Council to address the projects that had not been included in the plan moving forward. This approach would also place the town in a strong position to apply for additional funding to support these projects if and when further funding became available.
- The governance arrangements that had been in place in Redditch. Members were advised that the Government representatives who had met with Officers on 6th January 2021 had recognised that this was a strength of the programme in Redditch.
- The potential contribution that the proposed Digital and Manufacturing Centre would make towards enhancing the skills and training opportunities available to local residents.
- The strengths in respect of the IT industry in Redditch, which had been highlighted during work on the Town's Investment Plan.
- The involvement of the Executive Committee and Council in determining the next steps in the process, following the Government's approval of the Town's Investment Plan.
- The need for work to be undertaken to minimise the risks arising from the project to the Council, as the accountable body. Officers advised that the Council would be responsible for what was spent and how the funding was spent.
- The work in respect of the regeneration of the library. Members were informed that this work would be carried out in consultation with Worcestershire County Council.
- The possibility that Redditch would be able to access additional support from the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), due to the Council's role as a non-constituent member of the combined authority.
- The availability of support from the West Midlands Growth Company, to enable access to further assistance from the private sector moving forward.

During consideration of this item, reference was made to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the Redditch Town Deal – Town Investment Plan at a meeting held on Monday, 18th January 2021. Members noted that there had been a detailed debate regarding the content of the plan and a number of valuable points had been raised. Reference had been made during the meeting to concerns regarding the speed with which information about the Board's work had been published on the internet. At first,

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This information had been provided on Redditch Borough Council's website. Members had suggested that a bespoke website would have been helpful and could have enhanced public transparency. These points were acknowledged at the Executive Committee meeting and it was noted that lessons could be learned. However, Members commented that website design companies had been affected by Covid-19, like other companies and this had impacted on web design work.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the Executive Committee endorses this report and gives delegated authority to the Council's Section 151 Officer, following consultation with the Head of NWEDR and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnerships, to submit the Redditch Town Investment Plan to MHCLG;**
- 2) **the Executive Committee agrees that Redditch Borough Council shall be the accountable body for funding secured from MHCLG as part of the Town Deal;**
- 3) **delegated authority be granted to the Head of NWEDR and Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services to negotiate the Heads of Terms with MHCLG for Redditch's Town Deal; and**

RECOMMENDED that

- 4) **the Executive Committee approve the addition of £1 million Accelerated Funding to the Capital programme and delegated authority is granted to the Council's Section 151 Officer, following consultation with the Head of NWEDR and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnerships, to implement enabling proposals that support the delivery of the Town Deal.**

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

The Committee was informed that there were no referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on any other Committee for consideration on this occasion.

72. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

Members confirmed that there were no updates in respect of any of the Executive Advisory Panels on this occasion.

Executive
Committee

Tuesday, 19 January 2021

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.26 pm

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 March 2021 to 30 June 2021

(published as at 1st February 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 Mike Rouse, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Leisure
Councillor Brandon Clayton, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services
Councillor Anthony Lovell, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change
Councillor Nyear Nazir Community Services and Regulatory Services
Councillor David Thain, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling
Councillor Craig Warhurst, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Procurement
Councillor Greg Chance
Councillor Bill Hartnett

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Dementia Task Group - Final Report Key: No	Executive 23 Mar 2021		Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Joanne Gresham, Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01527 64252 Ext: 3031 Councillor Michael Chalk
Green Homes Funding Key: No	Executive Not before 23rd Mar 2021 Council 12 Apr 2021		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Kath Manning, Climate Change and Energy Support Manager Tel: 01527 587094
Homes England Asset Transfer Key: Yes	Executive Not before 23rd Mar 2021	Consideration of this item is the subject to agreement of certain matters with Homes England. This report will contain commercially sensitive information and therefore parts of the report may need to be considered in private session.	Report of the Chief Executive	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services Tel: 01527 881429

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
Finance Monitoring Quarter 3 2020/21 Key: No	Executive 23 Mar 2021 Council 12 Apr 2021		Report of the Head of Financial and Customer Services	Chris Forrester, Head of Financial and Customer Services Tel: 01527 881673
St David's House Extra Care Scheme - Business Case Key: No	Executive 23 Mar 2021 Council 12 Apr 2021		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284
Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report 2020/21 Key: No	Council 12 Apr 2021		Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Jess Bayley, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Redditch) Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3268 Councillor Joe Baker
Matchborough and Winyates District Centres - Regeneration Key: Yes	Executive Not before 1st Jun 2021 Council Not before 1st Jun 2021		Report of the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development	Lyndsey Berry, Regeneration and Implementation Manager Tel: 01527 587002

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Housing Policies Key: No	Executive 15 Jun 2021 Council 28 Jun 2021		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284
New Cemetery Provision Key: No	Executive Not before 2nd Aug 2021 Council Not before 2nd Aug 2021		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Michael Birkinshaw, Bereavement Services Manager Tel: 01527 62174

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

22nd October 2020**WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21**

(Report of the Chief Executive)

Date of Meeting	Subject Matter	Officer(s) Responsible for report
ALL MEETINGS	REGULAR ITEMS	(CHIEF EXECUTIVE)
	Minutes of previous meeting	Chief Executive
	Consideration of the Executive Committee Work Programme	Chief Executive
	Call-ins (if any)	Chief Executive
	Pre-scrutiny (if any)	Chief Executive
	Task Groups / Short, Sharp Review Groups – feedback	Chair of Task Group / Short, Sharp Review
	Working Groups - feedback	Chair of Working Group
	Committee Work Programme	Chief Executive
	REGULAR ITEMS	
	Update on the work of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel	Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel
	Tracker Report	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
	Updates on the work of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Redditch Borough Council representative on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
	Annual Monitoring Report – Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

22nd October 2020

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
February 2021	Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25 – Consideration of the Executive Committee’s Proposals	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
March 2021	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21	Councillor Joe Baker
March 2021	Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
March 2021	Dementia Task Group – Final Report	Councillor Michael Chalk
March 2021	Pre-Decision-Scrutiny - Homes England Asset Transfer	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
June 2021	Matchborough and Winyates District Centres - Regeneration	Report of the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development
August 2021	Houses of Multiple Occupation - Presentation	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service.
August 2021	Pre-scrutiny - New Cemetery	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

Worcestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

27th January 2021

As is now usual, this was a virtual meeting held by Zoom from County Hall and was streamed on YouTube.

The majority of the meeting focussed on Covid-19. Most of which seemed positive, However, it was reported that there were long waits for surgery. Members were informed that the second wave was having a bigger impact but was now levelling out. It was reported that there was still pressure on the staff, many of whom were being redeployed as they were being managed on a day-to-day basis.

It was stated that the full restoration was more challenging than was initially expected and so working with the independent sector was still going ahead and it was anticipated that there would be help from the military.

A new initiative had been implemented and virtual Covid wards were being set up under a consultant to allow patients to be sent home a few days earlier.

There then followed questions that acknowledged the hard work of the NHS but highlighted problems when something did not go as expected.

When questioned it was stated that 75% of cases in Worcestershire was from the Kent variant of Covid-19.

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**Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP)
Joint Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting – 29th January 2021**

The last update from the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnerships was from a meeting held on 25th September 2021. This virtual meeting was a continuation of a meeting in December 2020 that was curtailed due to technical problems.

The first report was on the Skills and Apprenticeship Hub that hoped to increase the number of Level 3 qualifications through the 10,000 Plus process and was being supported by the Kick Start scheme. It was clarified to Members that independent training operators were being used to generate these numbers. It was emphasised that this scheme was open to everyone with a midlife MOT being available.

The second report was on the Low Carbon and Environmental Technologies (LCET) Action Plan produced in 2020. It was difficult to extract the background information, but it was explained that the scheme was coordinating the small number of low carbon businesses and administering the Low Carbon Fund. It was commented that there was a low level of people with STEM qualifications and that GBSLEP was supporting all low carbon schemes a cross the whole area. When asked for details of who was being helped it was made clear that this related to the funding programme and until this was made public it was not appropriate to discuss at this stage.

Finally, the Route to Recovery was explained by the Deputy Director. It was reported that both Covid-19 and the exit from Europe had been major influences on the economy of the West Midlands, however the Euro Trade deal and the Covid-19 vaccine were having an impact. There was some concern about youth employment that was standing at 9.1% in December. It was hoped that there would be a significant amount of money available from the Government in future.

The next meeting was due to be held on 26th March 2021 and members were invited to provide items for the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.

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