



Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

Thu 1 Dec
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
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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.

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

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Members and Officers who still have access to lateral flow tests (LFTs) are encouraged to take a test on the day of the meeting. Meeting attendees who do not have access to LFTs are encouraged not to attend a Committee if they have any of the following common symptoms of Covid-19 on the day of the meeting; a high temperature, a new and continuous cough or a loss of smell and / or taste.

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

PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

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Notes:

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

Overview and Scrutiny

Thursday, 1st December, 2022

6.30 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Bill Hartnett (Chair)
Joanna Kane (Vice-Chair)
Salman Akbar
Imran Altaf
Tom Baker-Price

Michael Chalk
Brandon Clayton
Sid Khan
Timothy Pearman

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 - 18)

The Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on Thursday 6th October 2022 will be considered at this meeting.

4. Public Speaking

*To invite members of the public who have registered in advance of the meeting to speak to the Committee. Please note that the deadline to register to speak at this meeting is **12 noon on Tuesday 29th November 2022.***

5. Support provided by the Council to Residents in respect of the cost of living (Pages 19 - 30)

6. HR and Organisational Development / People Strategy / Workforce Strategy - Pre-Decision Scrutiny

This report will be published in an Additional Papers pack once it has been published for the Executive Committee.

7. Revisiting Items Identified at the Overview and Scrutiny training held on 6 June 2022 (Pages 31 - 38)

8. Council Motion - Bulky Waste Collection (Pages 39 - 46)

To consider a motion in respect of Bulky Waste Collection that was referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration at a Council meeting held on 14th November 2022.

9. Road Safety Task Group

10. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 47 - 56)

11. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme (Pages 57 - 60)

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

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

13. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports (Pages 61 - 64)

- a) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Council representative, Councillor Chalk; and
- b) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Council representative, Councillor Chalk.

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 6th October,
2022

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), and Councillors Imran Altaf, Joe Baker (substituting Councillor Joanna Kane), Michael Chalk, Brandon Clayton, Luke Court (substituting for Councillor Salman Akbar), Sharon Harvey (substituting for Councillor Sid Khan) and Timothy Pearman

Also Present:

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

Officers:

Peter Carpenter, Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton, Ruth Bamford and Clayton Maponga

Democratic Services Officers:

Jo Gresham and Mat Sliwinski

48. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received by Councillors Akbar, Kane and Khan with Councillors Court, Baker and Harvey in attendance as named substitutes respectively. Councillor Prosser had also submitted his apology.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

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

Chair

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50. MINUTES

The minutes from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on Thursday 5th September 2022 were submitted for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that

the minutes from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on Thursday 5th September 2022 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

51. PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Chair introduced the Public Speaking item and explained to the Committee that there had been a number of public speakers who had registered for this meeting and that he had extended the length of time allocated for public speaking from 15 minutes to 30 minutes in order to accommodate the extra speakers.

The Chair welcomed Mr R. Rowberry to the meeting, who was invited to speak to the Committee.

His speech was delivered as follows:

"I am going to start by saying that this is not about party politics at all. My point is all about Redditch Library. I do not think that the Tory Councillors were elected to demolish the Library. According to the internet, Redditch has got a population of 86,00 people. If you cut that down to houses, I make that within reason about 30,000 houses. According to my calculations, before the Council has got actual permission to demolish the Library and replace it with restaurants, that probably will not work, you need full permission from at 15,001 houses. If you do not stick to that you are letting down the people of Redditch."

The Chair explained to Members that a written statement had been received from K. Stanton and would be read out by the Democratic Services Officer present. Her statement was delivered as follows:

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"I have followed the proposals for the demolition and relocation of Redditch Library closely - it's a subject very close to my heart both as a library customer and as an ex member of library staff who spent the majority of my 14 years with Worcestershire Libraries based at Redditch Library. My time there spanned two recent extensive (and expensive) refurbishments - the first a full building renovation and update in 2010 and more recently the works in 2017 to prepare for the co-location of the DWP into the building. Having seen these improvements first-hand, and also having worked at other libraries who have co-located services within the library building (for example, Droitwich Library) or library services that have moved into buildings housing multiple services (such as Bromsgrove and Stourport Libraries), I have seen how successful this model can be - when done in the right way and with the needs of the customer at the centre of decision making.

This is not the case with the proposals for Redditch Library. As mentioned above, the library building has twice been upgraded in recent years. It was originally purpose-built as a library; it is centrally located at the top of the hill right next to the Kingfisher Centre - it's already delivering as a library (consistently one of the best performing in the county). During my time working at Redditch Library, it was not an uncommon occurrence for members of the public to come in to the library to ask where the Town Hall was - located down the hill and tucked off to the side it's far from the landmark Redditch Library currently is. It was also not uncommon for people to say they didn't want to go all the way down the hill - for customers with mobility issues, this added distance could be a real barrier to them being able to access services and support.

The original reason given for demolition was the creation of a new public square that would also open up access to the Kingfisher Shopping Centre. I now see that the current suggestion is to spend £4.2 million to knock down the library building to replace it with another building - not considering that in excess of £5 million would also need to be spent on relocating the library to the Town Hall. This seems a colossal waste of public money at a time when so many are struggling financially.

On the subject of the budget - the figure of £4.2 million for demolition was quoted some time ago, and to the best of my

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knowledge has not been updated to reflect the current financial landscape. Costs are going up across the board, and I don't believe that this figure is still accurate.

For the reasons listed above, I object to the proposals. The existing library is not only ideally situated, but already delivering the high levels of service that Redditch residents deserve. As well as being a statutory service, for many the library is an essential service - especially for the most vulnerable members of our community. What guarantees are in place that the proposed move would build on this to ensure, as a bare minimum, that this will be maintained? When costs inevitably spiral, what cuts and downgrades to the service will be made? These are questions that need to be satisfactorily answered - without rhetoric or hyperbole - before any further action can be taken."

The Chair welcomed Councillor David Thain to the meeting, who was invited to speak to the Committee.

His speech was delivered as follows:

"I think the issue with this report is that it is not very thought through. I think that it is splattered with epithets like 'a digital town'. What's a digital town? Are we going to copy Bromsgrove? Has Bromsgrove been so successful? I also think that a project of this magnitude needs good financial management, we don't have that. I think that's where we have the problem, back in January about the Redditch accounts. The accounts for 20-21 were not then delivered, and Peter, you can tell us if they have subsequently been delivered which would mean that we are two years behind on our financial accounts so the financial planning for this is something that concerns me greatly. I see a risk of overrun and high risk of increased costs. I think that we do not have the financial resources to deal with this and the epithets that are sprinkled around like 'digital town' doesn't ring true with me. My final point, which you would expect me to make, is that the green aspect is one that has been totally ignored in the report. I think that there should be far more made of it, any development we would need a far more green component than is suggested in this report. So, I am broadly in favour of it but you are not doing enough to facilitate it in the proper way. Thank you, Chair."

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The Chair welcomed E. Tyrell to the meeting. Her speech was delivered as follows:

“On behalf of my six-year-old son, Ronnie, and myself, thank you for the opportunity to speak at this meeting which happens to fall during Libraries Week. I have good relationships with members of all parties, and people of varying political views; I have never criticised the Town Deal plans as a whole, but, like thousands of others, I believe these plans for the library are reckless and nonsensical.

The Leader of the Council is a businessman so surely it cannot be too difficult for him to see that spending £5.2m in order to facilitate spending £4.2m is a little like justifying buying a new kitchen by saying it doesn't match your new toaster! He once said to me that if the library stays where it is, the allotted demolition money would have to be returned to the government. Even I can work out that that would result in a saving of £5.2m pounds!

And the savings wouldn't stop there! The huge environmental impact of demolition is well-documented. Not only is the current, purpose-built library still perfectly suitable, it is smart from a recent £1m refurbishment. How can we call ourselves a 'green' town if these plans go ahead?!

An estimated 30-40% of current library users are 'incidental' - that is, passing trade from the Kingfisher Centre. That slope down to the Town Hall is a very slippery one then. As we all have seen countless times before, bad decision-making in library services can so easily spiral into fewer library users, triggering cuts to services and so on! Cllr Dormer complains about 'lack of aspiration' in Redditch, but what message is he sending out? Whilst our neighbouring cities of Worcester and Birmingham have recently built large, stand-alone libraries, Redditch Council is planning the opposite with our second-most-used library in Worcestershire. Does Redditch Council really want to be seen to be sweeping this invaluable education facility down the hill to make way for coffee shops?

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If there was a genuinely good reason to move the library, we'd have heard it by now. Instead, we have heard a string of baseless, often absurd, justifications, for example mentioning the small amount of asbestos in the roof which, ironically, would only be a problem under demolition! It is an insult to the intelligence of Redditch people to assume that they cannot see that Councillors are justifying these plans with problems that simply do not exist! And why, after being told the plans were for an empty space, do the plans now involve building more units? - We have plenty of empty units already!

Along with thousands of others, I wholeheartedly object to these plans. I dread to think how the Council intends to raise £5.2m, and how it can justify so much waste. I reiterate that I am not against change nor regeneration, but rather I am in favour of common sense and against backward steps. I therefore implore Redditch Council to leave the town centre's most important facility in the purpose-built, central, stand-alone, and prominent location it deserves."

The Chair welcomed R. Townsend to the meeting. Her speech was delivered as follows:

"Good evening,

My name is Rosie, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to tell you what the library means to me.

I have lived in Redditch since August 1976, which is the same year that the library was opened. I was the youngest of 4 children and after speaking to my mother, the library was a very important part of our first years in Redditch. It was the perfect place for her to bring us children and meet new people. My mother also created a playgroup by moons moat first school, bringing together people she met at the library.

I was a regular user of the library during my school years, where I found a quiet place to study and revise without distraction and with all the resources needed at my fingertips.

When I became a mother, I would take my children to the library in the same way as my mother did for us. It was here that I learnt of a

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group for young mothers – Positively Young Mums, which enabled me to find people in the same situation as myself and pushed us to create Y-me which was a group of young mums going into school to educate teenagers of what life was really like having a baby young. We created work packs that were purchased by schools far and wide. Our group managed to make its way nationally and we were invited to a conference in London to promote what we were doing.

I am now a very proud grandmother to a 2 year old, who has been a user of the library, albeit intermittent during the pandemic. My daughter takes her on a Thursday to bounce rhythm and rhyme, and takes my mother along too, this ensure that the values of the library from one generation to the next are a shared experience and gives my mom (elder generation) the ability to get out of her home to a place that is familiar and welcoming.

The reason I am sharing this - the library is where it all started! It was and still is a very vibrant and inclusive hub of Redditch, it caters for everybody, they are all made to feel welcome, helped, listened to, and assisted through may different avenues. It provides a safe secure environment, from a prominent position which is easily accessible by all. The resources it has and the groups that are held there to support the community are invaluable. I don't believe there is an alternative building for this that would be able to meet the criteria. The library was purpose built with the necessary equipment and a refurbishment in 2009 gave it the investment required to bring it up to date.

The Town Hall would not be suitable, the costs involved in ensuring that the archives of Redditch are preserved in the same manner as they are now do not really make for a viable option. For me the Town Hall is not a social venue, it is where people go with issues. It is not a central location, been on the outskirts of the town. The current location of the library is right in the centre of town, giving higher footfall to the kingfisher centre. Whereas the routes into the Town Hall, offer members of the public the opportunity to bypass the centre altogether.

I implore you to reconsider the demolition of such a fantastic resource, to add more food and beverage shops, when there is scope to add them elsewhere."

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The Chair explained to Members that a written statement had also been received from Mr. O. Hale and would be read out by the Democratic Services Officer present. His statement was delivered as follows:

“For a long time there have been two questions regarding the proposed relocation of the Library to the Town Hall. Firstly, how much will it cost to prepare the Town Hall and move the library collections? Secondly, where will the money come from? The publication of the Town Hall Hub proposals has answered these questions. The cost is £5.2m and the source of this funding is 'capital receipts', which as far as I can tell, means selling Council assets. The ultimate purpose of the Town Hall Hub proposal is not to correct any deficiency in the library, but, and I quote, 'facilitating the use of £4.2m of Towns Funding at the existing Library site'.

I would like to raise three objections to this plan.

1. I do not think spending £5.2m to move a popular and purpose built library a distance of 100 metres can be justified.
2. I do think the environmental impact of demolishing a serviceable building can be justified. It has been said that the easiest path to sustainability is longevity. Using a building for longer gives the best return on the greenhouse gases that were generated in its construction. The environmental cost of manufacturing building materials is huge; in fact, the manufacturing sector produces more greenhouse gases than all forms of transportation combined.
3. I think it is inappropriate to spend £5.2m of public money to enable commercial development of the Town Centre to occur. The aim of relocating the Library is to make space for cafes and restaurants. The Council will receive a negligible annual net revenue from rent, estimated at £94,042. I believe that if businesses wish to open new restaurants and cafes, it should be the businesses that pay for the construction. In addition, it should be businesses that shoulder the very real risk that the commercial units will never be fully tenanted, not the people of Redditch.

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In summary, I would like to voice my objections to the Town Hall Hub plan. I believe spending Council money to unlock a government grant of a smaller value is like putting the cart before the horse. Furthermore, I believe the financial and environmental cost of moving the library cannot be justified, and I think it inappropriate for the Council to fund commercial development.”

The Chair welcomed Councillor Andy Fry to the meeting. His speech was delivered as follows:

“I think we have made a really poor job of advertising this I think. And I speak as a newly elected County Councillor, it is my seventeenth year as a County Councillor, but 1st of September is a new year as County Councillor. So, all the way through that time I have supported the library service, the Woodrow Library service and I speak as a County Councillor for both Redditch Library and Woodrow Library, but we have made a mess of selling this to the people. We, as an Authority, have told so many untruths about the actual library building. The people of Redditch have been told that the roof is no good, the amount of asbestos is horrific, the archives had damp in them, and it needed newspaper articles to actually tell the people of Redditch that this was untrue. The archives are very important to Redditch because that is our history. It is still unclear as to where those archives will actually end up. I believe that the move from the current location to Redditch Town Hall or to the Community Hub is the wrong one. It is taking the library away from the people of Redditch. Many people do not come down this side of Redditch, which is unfortunate, but it is certainly what happens. We have made a poor job of this. The money has gradually gone up, and from £4.2m for demolition we now have got to find £5.2m for transforming this building into a Community Hub. That is £9.4m for a building that is perfectly good enough. It's a good well used building that I have spent a lot of money in over the years. I spoke to Simon Geraghty, who is the Leader of Worcestershire County Council, about what he knew about this, and he said that he hadn't seen the report yet, and that it is in the hands of the Cabinet Member with responsibility. As a Committee we are asked to make a decision here, and the Leader of the County Council which we remember, it will remain a County Council asset, he knows nothing about it yet, he obviously will in time, but this seems very

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premature. I believe that the move to Redditch Town Hall is the wrong move for the people of Redditch.”

The Chair explained to Members that a written statement had also been received from M. Clack and would be read out by the Democratic Services Officer present. Her statement was delivered as follows:

“I am extremely concerned about the proposals being examined by the scrutiny committee tonight.

My reasons are varied but my biggest concerns are financial.

1. What would be the financial implications for Redditch if the plan goes ahead and the council fails to rent out or sell the entertainment/hospitality units included in the new building on the site of the current library? Considering that the Wetherspoons chain are trying to sell the Rising Sun pub opposite the site, this seems to me to be a likely occurrence.
2. Why are we proposing to spend money that should be for Redditch to buy a site Worcestershire County Council is responsible for? The library service is the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council.
The money to buy the site from them could instead be used to update the town hall into a hub as proposed. Avoiding the potential liability of a white elephant site with unused entertainment/ hospitality units draining the town.”

At the end of this item the Chair thanked all those who had attended as public speakers for their submissions.

52. REDDITCH TIP LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT - BUSINESS CASE

The Programme Delivery Manager from North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration and the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services presented the report regarding the Redditch TIP Library Development.

In doing so the following was highlighted for Members’ attention:

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- The business case had been prepared by Mott McDonald and the summary documents were due to be submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 15th October 2022.
- The high level objectives of the Redditch Library Redevelopment were to improve connectivity between the Kingfisher Centre and the Conservation Area. The plans included the demolition of the current library building. However, it was clarified by Officers that the plan was to relocate the library to the Town Hall Hub therefore ensuring future library provision within the Town Centre. The plans also included a commercial mixed use building including Food and Beverage (F&B) unit and co-working space.

Members requested further clarification regarding the arrangements with Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and the Letter of Understanding (LoU) provided by WCC. The Interim Director of Finance explained that this letter had been received by the Authority and that provided the requirements contained within the letter were met, that WCC would be supportive of the Town's Bid to demolish the library. This was of considerable concern to some Members who felt that it was premature to agree to endorse a project without the agreement of WCC. However, it was reported that the Council had been working with WCC officers for some time and that this project had been taken very seriously at all points of the process. In addition to this, it was noted that if WCC did approve the relocation of the library as outlined in the business case a public consultation would still have to be undertaken as part of the statutory process. Members requested whether it would be possible to view a copy of the LoU with WCC and it was agreed that this LoU would be circulated to Members of the Committee following the meeting.

During a robust debate, Members also discussed the following:

- That library provision was a key criterion within the Towns Bid Funding and the Towns Board made the decisions and all minutes of their meetings were a matter of public record. In respect of consultation, Officers explained that before the original TIP was supported there was consultation in 2019.

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- Risk – The Interim Director of Finance explained that risks involved within the projects were being mitigated and that redesigning and reengineering had been undertaken in order to meet the new proposed budget. In addition to this, it was imperative the project be managed effectively and was key to the delivery of the project. Members suggested that the projects can sometimes go over budget and with the Council's current financial situation this was a cause for concern. In addition to this, Members highlighted that it would take some time to see a return on investment of the £4.2m required to demolish the library if the rent from F&B area, was only £29,070. It was queried whether this was good value for money. Officers explained that the hope was that these new F&B units and co-working spaces would encourage footfall within this area of the Town Centre.
- Archives of the current library – Officers explained that this was a matter for WCC and would be included in the consultation. However, it was confirmed by a Member that there were archive facilities in the Town Hall if necessary.
- Timeline of projects – It was reported that, depending on the timing of the consultation, the deadline for completion of construction was 31st March 2026.
- Lease – There was a query regarding who owned the lease to the library building and it was confirmed that it was a 125 year lease owned by the County Council.
- Procurement of contractors – Members queried what process would be undertaken in terms of procurement for this project and whether local contractors would be used and if contractors who were procured would have contracts with conditions that trade unions would find acceptable. The Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services confirmed that procurement would be undertaken through a framework and that in respect of trade union conditions the Council would not make those stipulations as it would be up to the companies to follow the guidelines. It was highlighted that Local Authorities already met basic criteria of procurement as part of the Government framework used.

The detailed debate continued, where the green agenda was raised and highlighted that it was important to look at the long term view. In addition to this, some Members commented that having other

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services, including the library, within a Town Hall Hub would generate income for the Council.

Current footfall of the library was discussed, and it was reported that currently there were 400 visitors per day to the library and it was queried whether this would be reciprocated in a F&B area. Officers explained that the early evening economy would be the main focus of the F&B area.

Some Members felt that public response to the proposals must be taken into account when considering this report, particularly in light of the petition that had been initiated by residents who were not in support of the project. It was also highlighted that it was important for residents to have the full facts and information available in the public domain.

Some Committee Members felt that this was a visionary project for Redditch and that the economic returns were good. However, in order to be able to move the project forward the submission of the business case must be made, which was the decision that the Executive Committee had to make at its next meeting due to be held on 11th October 2022.

Following conclusion of the debate, it was agreed by some Members that the Town Hall was currently not being used to its full capacity however the following amendment was proposed:

RECOMMENDED that

Overview and Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report advises the Executive Committee NOT to endorse the business case and not to proceed with this project for the following reasons:

1. The risks are too high, and the financial returns are too low and;
2. The Council does not have the Authority from Worcestershire County Council to proceed to demolish the library in the Town Centre.

A named vote was requested and recorded as follows:

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Members voting FOR the recommendation:

Councillors Baker, Harvey and Hartnett (3)

Members voting AGAINST the recommendation:

Councillors Altaf, Chalk, Clayton, Court and Pearman (5)

Members voting to ABSTAIN on the recommendation:

No Councillors (0)

The recommendation was therefore lost.

Following consideration of this item a brief adjournment was taken from 20:06 to 20:11.

53. TOWN HALL HUB

The Interim Director of Finance presented the report in respect of the Town Hall Hub. During consideration of this item the proposals for the Redditch Town Hall were outlined for Members information. As had been discussed earlier in the meeting, the Town Hall was not currently being used to capacity and the proposals presented within the report included the potential for external organisations to rent space within the proposed Community Hub. These external organisations could potentially include representatives from the NHS and WCC. Also included in the proposals was a new Members' Suite, which could be used for any meeting.

Officers reported that the cost of the refurbishment project would be £5.2m and would be funded by capital receipts and the sale of Council assets which had been valued by Savills as between £3.45m and £5.65m. Any timing differences could be funded through short term borrowing. It was further explained that revenue costs to run the Town Hall were currently £878k per year, however this amount would be significantly reduced, by approximately £400k as the other organisations would be responsible for some of the revenue costs in the future. Members raised that there was no mention of inflation rates included in the proposed costs.

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Some Members felt that this was an excellent opportunity to half revenue costs for the Council by £400k going forward which would significantly help the Council's present budget deficit and provide better value for money for Redditch and its residents. In addition to this, it was highlighted that Community Hubs were being established all over the country and that it was a great opportunity to create a vibrant workplace alongside wider financial and social benefits.

In respect of the relocation of the Library it was discussed that, as indicated earlier in the meeting that this was still to be agreed by WCC and would still be subject to consultation.

Although Members agreed that a Community Hub would be a good asset for the community, concerns were raised by some Members regarding the costs of the demolition of the current library combined with the costs of the Town Hall Hub and whether this was good value for money for residents. It was with this in mind that the following recommendation was proposed:

RECOMMENDED that:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report advises the Executive Committee not to proceed with this project as currently described in this report, which includes the provision of a Library, instead it advises to submit a further report for the re-purposing of the Town Hall update/ Town Hall Hub for community uses as described in the report but without a library.

On being put to the vote this recommendation was lost.

A further vote was then carried out in respect of the recommendations contained within the report and it was

RECOMMENDED to the Executive Committee that:

- 1) subject to the agreement of the Town's Fund Library Business case, which itself is subject to the required public consultation, the Town Hall be repurposed as a Community Hub;**

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- 2) subject to approval of recommendation 3 below, authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer and the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services to finalise and implement the community hub business case and to procure and appoint contractors to undertake and deliver the works;

The Executive Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that

- 3) building works on the Town Hall of up to £5.2m, (or reduced amount in the event that for any reason the Town's Fund Library Business Case does not proceed to fruition) to be funded from Capital Receipts, for the purpose of remodelling the Town Hall in accordance with the Town's Fund Library business case, be approved; and
- 3) the capital programme is increased by £5.2m to deliver these works.

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

The minutes for the Executive Committee meeting the Executive Committee's Work Programme were submitted for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that

the contents of the Executive Committee Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 6th September 2022 and the Executive Committee's Work Programme be noted.

55. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme was submitted for Members' consideration.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 6th October, 2022

RESOLVED that

**the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work
Programme be noted.**

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 8.55 pm

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1st December 2022

Cost of Living Support – Briefing Paper

Purpose of the Report

At the request of the Committee, the report outlines all the initiatives that the Council is providing to residents in relation to the cost of living situation. Specifically Members asked what financial support is made available by the Council for residents impacted by the cost of living crisis and how the support provided by the Council is communicated to eligible residents.

It is worth noting that the Council has steered away from using the phrase cost of living 'crisis' in its promotion of services available. This is due to the negative impact of using 'crisis' in terms of resident's well-being. The Council's 'strap line' has been 'Cost of Living: Let's Work Together'.

Support Available

The Council has worked with its Partners to form a cost-of-living group to work together to best effectively support residents, promote each other's services and avoid duplication. The group has representation from Citizens Advice, Act on Energy, Age Concern, DWP, Foodbanks, Library services, and Newstarts.

The group recognised that there is a lot of support available both nationally and locally and this in itself can be quite confusing for residents to navigate. Consequently a Cost of Living flyer was created (reproduced below). The aim being that it signposts residents to key agencies and support.

The leaflet is being distributed by Council Officers, Councillors and Partners to ensure it is available in as many venues and settings as possible. We are particularly keen to reach those who may be digitally excluded and the leaflet has therefore included phone numbers alongside web links.

All of the available support has been collated and put together in one Cost of Living Support website page.

This can be found here [Cost of Living Support - redditchbc.gov.uk](https://redditchbc.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support)

The Website provides advice as follows and a demonstration will be provided at the meeting of the types of information available. Extracts from the front facing pages of the website have been reproduced below.

Cost of Living: Let's Work Together



Everybody will be facing a change in their circumstances this Winter as the cost of living is set to increase.

Through this leaflet we wanted to provide the contact details of organisations & agencies across Bromsgrove & Redditch, who can offer expert advice & support & signpost you to the correct help which you may need. Whether you receive benefits or not, there is support & advice from trusted services available to you.

Take action ASAP

- If you're experiencing financial difficulties, it's always better to deal with them straight away. Acting quickly could make a big difference to you.
- Let your relevant agency or creditors know you are struggling. You may be able to agree with them a temporary reduction on your payments. It is always better to pay something than nothing.
- Help is available, it's best to face things head on & get in touch with the relevant agency as soon as possible.
- Prioritise essential household bills like rent, mortgage, Council Tax, gas & electricity above credit cards & loans - let creditors know you are struggling.
- If you can't keep on top of gas & electricity payments, please continue to pay what you can & talk to your supplier.
- Make sure the advice you are given is from a trusted & official source.

Work Together
Please share
information with
neighbours, friends
& colleagues.
Let's Work
Together.



Bromsgrove and
Redditch Network



Bromsgrove
& Redditch

HERE 2 HELP
WORCESTERSHIRE

worcestershire
county council



Bromsgrove
District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk



We're here when you need us

Act On Energy

Energy advice - including energy efficiency tips; billing issues; grants & funding for energy efficiency measures & grants for broken heating systems & help with fuel bills & energy debt.

Freephone 0800 988 2881

www.actonenergy.org.uk

Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest

Free & confidential advice for people over 50.

01527 570490

enquiries@ageukbrwf.org.uk

www.ageuk.org.uk/brwf

bdht

bdht can support its residents with budgeting, employment & generic support. Contact us if you are struggling financially or worried about paying your rent.

0800 0850 160

contactus@bdht.co.uk

Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN)

Signposts to a variety of voluntary sector services & helps find the right service if you need help to access food, furniture, school uniform, money advice, support when facing homelessness, disability advice & more.

01527 60282

office@barn.org.uk

Libraries

Free PC access, WiFi & activities.

01905 822722

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries

Citizens Advice Bromsgrove & Redditch

General information & advice & specialist debt support.

0808 278 7890

www.cabr.org.uk

Bromsgrove District Council

We are here to support you so please keep in touch.

01527 881213

benefits@bromsgrove.gov.uk

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/benefits

Redditch Borough Council

We are here to support you so please keep in touch.

01527 534050

hbenefits@redditchbc.gov.uk

www.redditchbc.gov.uk/benefits

It is very important that you continue to pay your rent, so please get in touch.

01527 587000 Option 1

housingrevenue

@redditchbc.gov.uk

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/costofliving

www.redditchbc.gov.uk/costofliving

Here2Help Worcestershire

01905 768053

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help

Need this information in another language/format? Call **01527 548284** or email **equalities@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk**

Extract cut and paste from the Council's Cost of Living webpage (note this is an extract so the links do not work):

Cost of living support

We know times are hard right now. On this page you will find links to support and advice that is new, that is already available from us, and that is available from a range of other agencies too, to support you with the cost of living.

Even if you don't claim any benefits you may be entitled to support you weren't aware of, and not just monetary support, but good advice from legitimate sources you can trust.

You can also get more help from the Government's Help for Households campaign website.

 [Here you can find our leaflet to print and use as a handy guide](#)

Contents

- [Check the special support the Government has made available](#)
- [Don't miss out on benefits you may be entitled to](#)
- [If you have children](#)
- [For utility bills and energy costs](#)
- [For other household costs like food and furniture](#)
- [For medical costs](#)
- [If you have debt concerns](#)
- [Help for people aged 50 plus](#)
- [Help for people under aged 25](#)
- [General Help and Wellbeing](#)

Check the special support the Government has made available

- Find out more about [Cost of Living Payments from the Government](#). These are extra payments from and by the Government, to help with the cost of living if you're entitled to certain benefits or tax credits

[↶ Back to top of page](#)

Don't miss out on benefits you may be entitled to

- If you're of working age, check you're not missing out on any [state benefits](#)
- If you're of pension age, check if you can get [pension credit](#)
- Check if you can get help to pay your Council Tax, through [Council Tax Support](#) and [Council Tax discounts](#)
- For help with your rent, check if you can get [housing benefit](#) and a [discretionary housing payment](#)
- If you are sick or disabled, check if you can get any [disability or sickness benefits](#)
- If you are a carer, check if you can get [Carer's Allowance](#)
- Browse the other services in the [Money, education & skills section](#) of our website, which are regularly updated.

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If you have children

- Check if you can get help with [childcare costs](#), [free school meals including holiday provision](#), and much more.

For utility bills and energy costs

- See if you are eligible for the [Energy Bills Rebate Discretionary Scheme](#)
- Get real, free advice on managing your utility bills like gas and electricity from the [Redditch Energy Advice Service](#) (delivered by Act on Energy)
- Look at [social tariff broadband and mobile phone offers](#)
- Check if you can get [Severn Trent's support to pay your water bill](#).
- [Worcestershire Household Support Fund scheme](#). You may be eligible for help towards your energy bills, energy debt, boiler repairs and more through the scheme being delivered via Act on Energy (Please note: Phase 2 of the scheme is now closed but further details on Phase 3 are expected to be available very soon)
- [Warmer Worcestershire](#) - Information available, includes reliable hints and tips on how to reduce your energy bills.

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For other household costs like food and furniture

- Cut your food costs with advice from [Love Food Hate Waste](#)
- See our [Essential Living Fund](#) for emergency help in a financial crisis
- [Help with food, furniture, foodbanks and household supplies](#)
- Apply to the [Household Support Fund](#)

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For medical costs

- Check if you can get [free prescriptions](#).

If you have debt concerns

- If you rent your home from us and you are struggling to pay your rent, [please speak to us early](#). As your landlord we can help you to prevent a problem from growing into a crisis.
- Here is a range of [debt advice and financial support services](#).

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Help for people aged 50 plus

- [Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest](#)

[↩ Back to top of page](#)

Help for people under the age of 25

- [Information and advice can be found here](#)

[↩ Back to top of page](#)

General Help and Wellbeing

- [Help if you have a disability](#)
- [Worcestershire Libraries](#) - Your local library can provide signposting and referral along with internet/wifi access.
- [StreetLink](#) - help end rough sleeping by enabling members of the public to connect people sleeping rough with local services that can support them
- [Help with mental health and wellbeing](#)
- [Onside advocacy](#) offers help to people facing disadvantage to ensure they are

The Starting Well service has also created a leaflet providing details of financial support and contains more detailed information about help that is available locally. This is attached as an Appendix.

Financial Support via the Council

In terms of specific financial support offered by the Council. I would highlight the following:

- Essential Living Fund
- Household Support Fund
- Universal Credit
- Council Tax Support
- Housing Benefit
- Discretionary Housing Payments
- Money advice via financial services and housing

Communications

Cost of Living Partnership – #Letsworktogether Communications Plan

Aim: With concerns around the cost of living the partnership was formed to engage with residents to:

- share what support is out there and where to access it
- Offer top tips from 'experts'
- Bust the myths!

The partnership will do this by

- Sharing channels to get this information out to as many people as possible – newsletters, social media, opportunities e.g messages on prescriptions, identifying distribution channels
- Working with businesses to reach out to staff
- Money-saving expert(s)
 - Hosting podcasts
 - Live Q and A – local newspaper
 - Digital campaign – local newspaper coupled with newspaper space
 - Guest slots – radio
 - Visiting where people already meet – coffee mornings, WIs,
- Non-digital leaflet – which signposts to where help is available, distributed by:
 - Officers/Staff visiting homes/groups
 - Premises e.g doctors surgeries
 - Direct mail to rural pensioners

Key audiences:

- Vulnerable residents: Pensioners, Families.
- Businesses
- All residents – worried / challenged by changing circumstances
- Members

- Community representatives
- Family and Friends – share this info with people who need it

Key Messages (based on the booklet)

- Help with bills: fuel/food (#Lovefoodhatewaste) Council support
- Don't get into debt (debt advice/manage your money)
- Change of circumstance (job loss/mortgage increase)

First Steps:

1. Comms audit with partners to fill in this form

Partner	Channel/Opportunity/audience	When	Cost
BDC/RBC	Council Tax Leaflet delivered to all homes. 16 page	March/ April 23	£250 per page – or inserts

2. Sharing of 'sharing' details to create an email distribution group to alert when something is going to be shared e.g Church opens up for free cuppa for pensioners – all partners can share this information.

Action Plan

Message	Channel	When	Who	Progress
What Help is out there?	Leaflet – signposting to help and offering top tips/info around cost of living increases	Sept 2022+	Officers visiting houses/groups/wardens/GP surgeries	Sent out paper and digitally
	Helpful numbers and organisations	Sept ongoing	A definitive list shared digitally – and each organisation sharing how they can help – shared by other organisations	Ongoing
	Key experts holding podcasts/radio interview slots/live Q and A on Facebook	Sept ongoing		Act on Energy / CABR / Eviction-rent areas/
Cost of Living website	Website – being pushed out via social media / press releases / email footers	ongoing	Continually being updated by partners – inc war, banks	Launched and ongoing
Christmas: Support	Digital advent calendar	Dec 1 2022	all	With partners to add

available, how to help				into / amend
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Risks

Risk	Mitigating Action
'Help' can be seen as 'benefits' which some people are reluctant to take	Everyone is interested in 'money-saving' tips so this is not the issue as seen with HSF. We need to be clear it is SUPPORT not benefits.

Evaluation:

- Monitoring of feedback on social media
- Anecdotes from partners
- Media / social media coverage

All of this will determine next stages of our comms plan which needs to reflect arising issues.

Working with the Voluntary Sector

The Council recognises the valued and vital work that the local voluntary sector provide in supporting residents. Some of the links on the council's cost of living website pages will take users to their pages eg Citizens Advice.

To support this sector the Redditch Partnership has a monthly bulletin covering Redditch and Bromsgrove and since October, has a dedicated cost of living bulletin too. These are circulated to numerous Voluntary and Community Groups, other public sector organisations working in locally, as well as all Councillors.

An example extract from the first cost of living partnership bulletin is set out below. At the time of compiling this report, a November edition was being pulled together.

Cost of Living Update**Leaflet and Digital Campaign – Please help spread the word!****Bromsgrove & Redditch Cost of living Leaflet - Key contacts at a glance**

For those who missed it in our main bulletin, please find attached a copy of the joint Bromsgrove and Redditch cost of living leaflet. It's an 'at a glance' leaflet containing key contacts who can provide expert help and signpost to relevant local support. Please help promote - both a printable and a website version of the leaflet are attached. There are also supplies of **printed copies available** at Customer Services at both Redditch Town Hall and Parkside in Bromsgrove which you can **collect and distribute to your service users**. We are particularly keen to reach those who may be digitally excluded.

Looking for more information?

Cost of Living Webpages

There are also, cost of living webpages on both Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District Councils' websites which offers more detailed information in one place and will be updated. Again, **please help promote**. They are available to view at: www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/costofliving and www.redditchbc.gov.uk/costofliving. **See something missing on the webpages?** Please let us know if you have any additions / amendments and we will pass them on. You can email the partnership in the first instance at: partnership@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

***In addition* New financial support leaflets** - one for Redditch and one for Bromsgrove

These leaflets were created by the Starting Well team, and are different to the cost of living leaflets as they contain more detailed information about help that is available locally. A printable and a website version can be found attached.

Warm Spaces

Local Warm Spaces – Do you know of any others?

Below are the ones we know are confirmed and wanted to share with you. But if you know of any others in Redditch or Bromsgrove, or any agency is thinking of similar, please let us know so that we can help link you with other agencies (if that helps) and also share your information more widely so all are aware of what's available locally. We could even include on the cost of living webpages mentioned above.

- **Catshill – Warm Welcome Warm Space**

Partners have worked together to offer Catshill residents' access to a warm space each day of the week. In addition to a warm welcome, some buildings are offering Wi-Fi and charging points. Full details can be found on the attached leaflet.

- **Weekly Community Meal at Bromsgrove Baptist Church**

Local residents are being offered a warm welcome and free meal in a friendly environment. The meals are available every Thursday (during term time) at 7:30pm at the Bromsgrove Baptist Church. There is no need to book, you can just turn up, but if it's a larger group, it would be helpful to let them know in advance. Further information can be found on the attached leaflet.

The church is also running "**The Coffee Pot**" on the **third Thursday in the month from 10.30am-12.00 noon**, serving tea, coffee, cakes, and light refreshments which might be suitable for people who don't or can't go out in the evening.

- **St Godwald's Community Spirit**

Please find attached a leaflet with details of the warm space offering from St Godwald's Church in Bromsgrove that will run between November to March. Tea, coffee, and cake will be available on alternate Friday's starting on 28th October, 10am-12.30pm. On alternate Wednesdays, the Warm Welcome Café will be open starting on 2nd November, 12-3pm offering soup and a roll, tea and coffee.

- **Local libraries across Worcestershire**

The libraries are continuing to offer warm, welcoming spaces for residents to access free services, find information and support, take part in events and activities, and connect with other people. Full details can be found attached. Local libraries are in the process of registering with the 'Warm Welcome Network' (see below).

Warm Welcome Network

The [Warm Welcome Network](#) was set up to support and champion the community response to the cost-of-living crisis. Any organisation that has opened or are opening free, warm, welcoming spaces for the public over this winter can register and provide details of their offer so that users can search for local warm spaces in their area.

Thinking of setting up a Warm Space?

Martin Lewis, Money Saving Expert has created a guide: [A Warm Welcome, setting up a warm space in your community](#). This comprehensive guide provides a wealth of information needed if you are considering setting up a warm space in the community.

Looking for Funding?

National Grid Electricity Distribution has teamed up with Localgiving and are offering grants of up to £10,000 to organisations tackling fuel poverty. They are accepting applications until midnight on **Monday 31st October 2022**. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by Tuesday 15th November 2022. All projects must be completed and the funding must be spent by 31st March 2023. Further information can be found at: [Community Matters Fund - Fuel Poverty Plus | Localgiving](#)

There is also information on different funding available at: [Cost of living Crisis charity trust foundation grant funding \(charityexcellence.co.uk\)](#)

Don't forget! - If you do set a warm space up in Redditch and / or Bromsgrove, or have any other plans in relation to supporting local residents during this time, please do let us know so we can raise awareness of the work you're doing to both other agencies who can signpost to you and local residents as we can include on the cost of living webpages mentioned above. Our email is: partnership@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk.

Other support

Building Bridges Redditch CIC -

Community hub in Woodrow open to all, offering support to local people with food, essentials, & trips for the whole family to enjoy. They have free food daily for people to take outside of the hub. (See their Facebook for info)

Batchley Support Group Redditch

Communities - Community pantry based at Salters Lane, where you can join & buy food at a discounted price. They also offer food parcels & free produce outside regularly for people to help themselves. Pensioner Day Tues 11 - 12 for those of pension age to use the community pantry at a reduced rate. **Tel: 01527 457291**

Too Good to Go App - Mobile app that connects customers to restaurants & stores locally that have unsold food surplus which customers can buy at discounted prices.

St Basils - Work together with young people aged 16 - 25yrs who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. **Redditch Tel: 01527 592404**

StreetLink - Website, mobile app & phone service for England & Wales, enabling people to send an alert when they see someone sleeping rough. **www.streetlink.org.uk**
Tel: 0300 500 0914

Childcare Funding - You may be entitled to support with your childcare costs. To find out more visit: **www.worcestershire.gov.uk/freechildcare** If you are having difficulty applying, please contact Holly Trees Family Hub in Redditch.
Tel: 01527 61360

Healthy Start Scheme - If you are more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food & milk if you are receiving a qualifying benefit. Apply online for a NHS Healthy Start card. **www.healthystart.nhs.uk**
Tel: 0300 330 7010

Free School Meals - You may be eligible for free school meals if your child attends a state school & you are receiving a qualifying benefit. **Search for 'free school meals' on www.worcestershire.gov.uk**
Tel: 01905 845280

Stop Loan Sharks - Investigate & prosecute illegal money lenders & provides support for borrowers. **www.stoploansharks.co.uk**
reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.co.uk
Tel: 0300 555 2222

Citizens Advice - Info & support on scams. If you think someone might be trying to scam you, it is important to act straight away. Contact the Citizens Advice consumer service. Search for 'scams' on **www.citizensadvice.org.uk**
Tel: 0808 223 1133

Age UK BRWF - Free information, advice & support (including help with benefits) for the over fifties. **www.ageuk.org.uk/brwf**
Tel: 01527 570490

Here2help - Offers support to residents of all ages allowing them to access information, tools, guides & local support. **www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help**

Libraries - Your local library can provide signposting & referral along with internet/ wifi access. **www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries** **Tel: 01905 822722**

Financial Support in Redditch

How can we help you?



Starting Well Redditch
EVERY CONTACT SHAPES A LIFE



Provided by:

NHS
Herefordshire and Worcestershire
Health and Care
NHS Trust

In partnership with:



Sure Start
Children's Centres
Worcestershire

Delivered on behalf of
worcestershire
county council

Step 1: What is the problem?

Follow corresponding numbers for further information.

I suddenly have no money!

- Lost job or reduced hours (1) (2)
- Money stopped (1) (2)
- Facing Homelessness (1) (2) (4)
- Unexpected expense (1) (4)
- Disaster (e.g. flood or fire) (4)
- Relationship breakdown (2) (4)
- Sanctioned (4)

My money does not stretch far enough!

- Deciding between food, fuel, & mobile credit (4)
- Low income (2) (4)
- Zero hours contract (1)
- Statutory Sick Pay too low (1)
- Facing redundancy (1) (2)
- Not sure if eligible for support (1)
- Change of circumstance (1) (2) (3) (4)

I have debt!

- Rent or Council Tax (1)
- Gas & electricity (1)
- Payday loans (3)
- Owe friends or family (3)
- Benefit repayments (1)

I am waiting on a benefit payment or advance!

- New claim for benefit (1)
- Payment delayed (1)
- Waiting for decision (1)

Step 2 - What are your options?

1) Council support schemes

It's often difficult to know what benefits you're entitled to. You could be entitled to Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support & Discretionary Housing Payment from the council. This will depend on your current circumstances. You may also be eligible for a Council Tax Discretionary Hardship Payment, Crisis Grant, or Community Support Grant Payment.

www.redditchbc.gov.uk/costofliving

www.redditchbc.gov.uk/benefits Tel: 01527 534050

2) Charities/foodbanks

There are several charities in Worcestershire that support people with food, clothing & white goods. There are also charities to help with mental health & wellbeing. Foodbanks are non-profit-making organisations that provide food to people in crisis that do not have money to buy food.

3) Debt advice

It is easy to feel overwhelmed if you know you are struggling financially. There are lots of borrowing websites available, but you must be careful & make sure short-term loans do not cause you more money problems in the long run.

4) Household advice

Each council in Worcestershire offers a housing options service which provides specialist housing advice. The service is accessible to anyone requiring housing advice, experiencing homelessness, or threatened with homelessness. This includes private rented tenants, housing association tenants, first time buyers, council tenants & owner occupiers.

www.redditchbc.gov.uk/my-home

Step 3 - Where can you find help?

Citizens Advice Bromsgrove & Redditch - Offers a free, confidential, independent & impartial service that provides information & support for all advice areas. High level debt advice & support accredited by F.C.A. Can provide free specialist advice for all types of debt & is accredited to find the most appropriate solutions. www.cabr.org.uk Tel: 0808 278 7890

Redditch Borough Council - Struggling to pay your rent?
Tel: 01527 587000 option 1 or email housingrevenue@redditchbc.gov.uk
For Council support schemes please See the top of this page.

Benefits Advice Service - Find out what benefits you are entitled to, how to claim them, when you qualify, & what to do if things go wrong.
Search for 'benefits' on www.moneyhelper.org.uk Tel: 0800 011 3797

Redditch Foodbank - Provide food parcels for people in financial crisis via referral from their agency network. Please see the website below for details on support & a list of referral agencies who may refer you as part of their ongoing support. Help Through Hardship offer free advice on 0808 2082138.

Please see 'how to get help' on <https://redditch.foodbank.org.uk>

NewStarts - This is an amazing organisation that can provide support with debt & budgeting advice, school uniforms, furniture, & essentials. You can get connected by contacting CAB, Health Visiting Team or Redditch Borough Council.

<https://newstarts.org.uk> Tel: 01527 882410

Third parties, including their websites, privacy policies, & everything else they do, are not under the council's/Starting Well's control. While every attempt to ensure all information held here is accurate, we cannot accept any responsibility for third party services. Their inclusion here is for your information only & does not represent endorsement or recommendation by the council/Starting Well. Details in this booklet were correct at the time of going to print.

CABR Specialist Advisors - Provide advice, free of charge, to people who live & work in the Bromsgrove & Redditch areas. This advice covers a wide variety of issues including, benefits, debt, housing, employment, family, discrimination, consumer issues & many more.

www.cabr.org.uk Tel: 0808 278 7890

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) - Provides free debt advice & other personal support for people in Redditch & the surrounding area.

Tel: freephone 0800 328 0006

Step Change Debt Charity - Offers free debt advice that is based on a comprehensive assessment of your situation. Help & support is given for however long it is needed. www.stepchange.org Tel: 0800 138 1111

Act on Energy - Do you need help with energy bills, boiler repairs/replacements or related advice? (Criteria does apply) To check if you are eligible or get in touch with them, please visit

<https://actonenergy.org.uk> Tel: 0800 988 2881

Batchley Support Group - Help with Housing, debt advice, budgeting, negotiation with creditors, Universal Credit claims. Free impartial advice & guidance from Reddi Money Advice Surgery.

Tel: 01527 457291 or 07979 314083

Facing Homeslessness? - Redditch Night Stop, Based at The Old Needle Works, Britten Street, B97 6HD. Tel: 01527 66036

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2022

1st December

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – UPDATE ON WORK PROGRAMMING PLANNING EVENT ITEMS

Lead Councillor	Councillor Bill Hartnett, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Portfolio Holder Consulted	N/A
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton – Head of Legal Democratic, Democratic and Property Services
Report Author Jo Gresham	Job Title: Senior Democratic Services Officer Contact email: joanne.gresham@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3031
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	An Effective and Sustainable Council
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to:-

- 1) note the updates to the issues raised at the Overview and Scrutiny Training Event held in June 2022 as detailed in Appendix 1 in the report and;
- 2) agree whether to include the four outstanding issues detailed in Appendix 1 in the Committee's Work Programme and, if so, to identify dates when these items will be considered.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Training and Work Programming event was held on 6th June 2022.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2022

1st December

- 2.2 During the event, introductory training was provided in respect of the role of Overview and Scrutiny in the democratic process and the different types of scrutiny activity that can be undertaken.
- 2.3 Members were also invited to consider the different ways in which Overview and Scrutiny Members could investigate matters. This included:
- Receiving an overview of a subject at a meeting of the Committee. This could involve the presentation of a report to a single meeting of the Committee for information.
 - Undertaking Task Group investigations or Short Sharp Reviews of a subject. This policy review work involves Members working in small groups to investigate a subject in detail over a period of months.
 - Pre-decision scrutiny, whereby Overview and Scrutiny Members investigate a matter in detail before the Executive Committee makes a decision on the subject. Where sufficient notice is provided in the work programme this may involve undertaking a Short Sharp Review.
 - Members carrying out independent research on behalf of the Committee and reporting back in respect of their findings.
- 2.4 A report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a meeting held on 7th July 2022. At this meeting it was agreed that one of the issues identified should be considered at a main Committee meeting (Cost of Living) and some at Working Group meetings (the local environment including landscaping and tree services and housing issues.)
- 2.5 The Road Safety Task Group, which was delayed due to the May Elections and staff shortages within the Democratic Services Team, is due to begin meeting in December 2022. The Road Safety item that had been identified at the training evening will be considered as part of the task group investigation.
- 2.6 At a Full Council meeting held on 14th November 2022, Members agreed that an amendment to a Motion proposed by Councillor Sid

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2022

1st December

Khan in respect of Bulky Waste be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration at its meeting on 1st December 2022. The amended Motion was agreed as follows:

RESOLVED that

Council is concerned about the cost-of-living crisis having a new impact on fly tipping, with the cost of bulky waste collection becoming a disincentive for many residents. Council asks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to set up a Task and Finish review, to consider the costs, consequences and benefits of a pre-booked, free household bulky waste collection service for those Redditch residents who are low paid, elderly, disabled or in receipt of benefits, which will enable Members to consider options and determine what action, if any, to take.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All scrutiny activities can have some financial implications, for example in respect of the costs of issuing paperwork for Committee meetings. It is therefore important to ensure that Members select subjects to scrutinise that will achieve best value for money for local residents.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific legal implications.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 Overview and Scrutiny activities should focus on strategic issues that matter to local residents. The event was designed to enable Members to identify issues that best match this aspiration.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 There are no specific climate change implications. However, issuing paperwork for Committee meetings has negative implications in terms

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2022

1st December

of potential carbon emissions. As an alternative, Members can view agendas and minutes in electronic format wherever possible.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 There are no specific equality and diversity implications.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 Overview and Scrutiny is a Member-led process. Members determine which items are added to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme, what evidence is gathered during an investigation and which recommendations to make to the Executive Committee and / or Council. The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Planning event provided Members with an opportunity to propose items to add to the Committee's work programme.
- 6.3 There are currently two Task Groups that have been agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Road Safety and Speeding Task Group which, as outlined earlier in this report, was delayed as result of the Local Elections that took place in May 2022. However, meetings of this Task Group are due to commence in December 2022. A further review, Health Inequalities within the BME Community Task Group, was agreed at a meeting of the Committee on 5th September 2022. There are also two permanent sub-groups of the Committee, the Budget Scrutiny Working Group and the Performance Scrutiny Working Group.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There is a risk that, if Members choose to scrutinise all of the issues identified during the Work Programme Planning Event and to pre-scrutinise significant numbers of items on the Executive Committee's Work Programme, that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could be overwhelmed with work. Members therefore need to be selective when identifying items to add to the Committee's work programme.

**Overview and Scrutiny
Committee
2022**

1st December

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Update on Issues – items identified as suitable for further scrutiny in 2022-23.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2022

1st December

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Chair of O&S Committee	Councillor Bill Hartnett	22 nd November 2022
Lead Director / Head of Service	Kevin Dicks – Chief Executive Officer	21st November 2022

APPENDIX 1:

Update on Issues Identified at the Overview and Scrutiny Training on Monday 6th June 2022

During the Overview and Scrutiny training delivered on Monday 6th June 2022 Members identified a number of issues they wished to include on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme in 2022-2023. The issues were ones that most frequently been raised with them over the last 12 months and their suitability for further scrutiny. Each of the issues raised by Members was considered alongside the Council's strategic purposes to enable Members to focus on matters in accordance with the Council's strategic vision.

Table 1 below outlines the Overview items that were identified at the training event and the dates these were scrutinised and whether this was by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Working Group or Task Group. There are currently 4 outstanding issues to be considered.

Table 1

Communities which are safe, well-maintained and green			
	Issue (O) – Overview (S) - Scrutiny	Consideration	Date of Consideration
1.	Fly-tipping (O)		TBC
2.	Speeding (O)	Item will be considered by the Road Safety Task Group	December 2022
3.	Anti-social behaviour (ASB) (O)	Item was considered by the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel	2 nd November 2022
4.	Thefts (O)	Item was considered by the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel	2 nd November 2022
5.	Crime and the fear of crime (O)	Item was considered by the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel	2 nd November 2022
6.	Parking and permits (O)	Parking Enforcement Task Group report circulated to Members	7 th July 2022
7.	Local environment (including landscaping and tree services) (O)	Item due to be considered by the Performance Scrutiny Working Group	24 th November 2022
Living independent, active and healthy lifestyles			
8.	Cost of Living (S)*	Item due to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	1 st December 2022
9.	Access to amenities in the Borough (O)		TBC
Finding somewhere to live			
10.	Housing repairs and response times (O)	Item was considered by the Performance Scrutiny Working Group	29 th September 2022
11.	Abandoned homes (O)	Item was considered by the Performance Scrutiny Working Group	29 th September 2022
12.	Condition of the urban environment where Council properties are situated (O)		TBC
Run and grow a successful business			
13.	Business redevelopment (O)		TBC
Aspiration, work and financial independence			
14.	Town centre improvement works (S)	Executive Committee reports were pre-scrutinised at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings	9 th June 2022, 23 rd June 2022, 21 st July 2022 and 6 th October 2022
15.	Educational attainment and young people's aspirations (O)	Skills Development item due to be considered by the Performance Scrutiny Working Group.	24 th November 2022
Additional Overview Item – This item was referred by Full Council for consideration by the O&S Committee			
16.	Bulky Waste Motion	Item due to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and decision to be made on whether to launch a Task and Finish Group	1 st December 2022

* It was suggested that the Cost of Living item be considered by the main Committee with the potential to establish a Task Group if agreed by Members.

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Council

Monday, 14th November,
2022

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Ann Isherwood (Mayor), Councillor Tom Baker-Price (Deputy Mayor), and Councillors Imran Altaf, Karen Ashley, Joe Baker, J Barker Smith, Joanne Beecham, Juliet Brunner, Michael Chalk, Brandon Clayton, Luke Court, Matthew Dormer, Peter Fleming, Andrew Fry, Lucy Harrison, Bill Hartnett, Sharon Harvey, Joanna Kane, Sid Khan, Anthony Lovell, Emma Marshall, Timothy Pearman, David Thain and Craig Warhurst

Also Present:

Dr Anita Sharma-James

Officers:

Peter Carpenter, Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton and Sue Hanley

Principal Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley-Hill

56. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (PROCEDURE RULE 11)

The Mayor advised that two Motions on Notice had been received prior to the Council meeting.

Bulky Waste Collection

Councillor Sid Khan submitted the following Motion on Notice for Members' consideration:

“Council is concerned about the cost-of-living crisis having a new impact on fly tipping, with the cost of bulky waste collection becoming a disincentive for many residents. Council calls upon the Head of Environmental Services to bring a report to the Executive, to consider the costs, consequences and benefits of a pre-booked,

Chair

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free household bulky waste collection service for those Redditch residents who are low paid, elderly, disabled or in receipt of benefits, which will enable Members to consider options and determine what action, if any, to take.”

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sid Khan and seconded by Councillor Sharon Harvey.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Khan commented that by approving the Motion, Members would help to reduce the levels of fly tipping in the Borough. The Motion would also support efforts to address the green thread, which was one of the key priorities for the authority in the Council Plan. A similar Motion had recently been considered at a Council meeting at Worcestershire County Council, although that had requested a free Bulky Waste Collection service. By contrast, the Motion that Councillor Khan had submitted was requesting that the matter be investigated further by Officers, who could subsequently present a report on the subject at a meeting of the Executive Committee. There were a number of other Councils in the country, including Reading Borough Council, which had already made allowances for the provision of free bulky waste collection services, which demonstrated that this was possible to implement.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Harvey commented that the Motion was being proposed at a time of a cost of living crisis. Many residents, particularly those who were vulnerable or on low incomes, would struggle to pay for a bulky waste collection service, even when they had items that needed to be collected. A free service for residents in this position would help them to dispose of domestic goods. The Motion called for the potential provision of a free bulky waste collection service to be investigated further and reported back to the Executive Committee.

Members subsequently discussed the Motion and in so doing noted that the Council had a duty to provide a bulky waste collection service. Some Members questioned whether a free bulky waste collection service would deter certain residents and unscrupulous businesses from fly tipping.

Reference was made to the businesses that offered to collect bulky waste items, both from households and from companies. Members commented that many of these companies were reputable and

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disposed of goods in an appropriate manner. However, there were also disreputable companies that charged to collect items and then resorted to fly tipping to dispose of those items. It was suggested that the activities of these businesses should be investigated further.

Consideration was also given to the costs involved in facilitating a bulky waste collection service. Members noted that the Council was already subsidising the service and a free service would cost the Council more to support. Fly tipping could not be eradicated altogether but action was already being taken to address fly tipping; Members were asked to note that reports of fly tipping had declined in 2022 compared to 2021. However, concerns were also raised that many residents might struggle to pay for a bulky waste collection service at a time of rising inflation and therefore might conclude that they had no alternative but to take part in fly tipping domestic goods. The suggestion was made that, if there were concerns about the potential financial costs to the Council involved in providing a free bulky waste collection service, this could be trialled for a short period and the costs could subsequently be assessed.

During consideration of this item, the Leader proposed an amendment to the Motion. The amended Motion was worded in the following way:

“Council is concerned about the cost-of-living crisis having a new impact on fly tipping, with the cost of bulky waste collection becoming a disincentive for many residents. Council *asks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to set up a Task and Finish review*, to consider the costs, consequences and benefits of a pre-booked, free household bulky waste collection service for those Redditch residents who are low paid, elderly, disabled or in receipt of benefits, which will enable Members to consider options and determine what action, if any, to take.”

The amendment was proposed by Councillor Matthew Dormer and seconded by Councillor Karen Ashley.

In proposing the amendment, Councillor Dormer commented that a Task Group could investigate various arrangements that could be put in place for the delivery of bulky waste collection services and could bring forward recommendations on this subject that had an

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evidence basis. Members were also asked to note that a Task Group could investigate the enforcement powers available to the Council to address fly tipping.

Consideration was subsequently given to the proposal to launch a Task Group investigation into the subject of fly tipping. On the one hand, Members commented that a Task Group investigation would involve elected Members, rather than Officers, reviewing the subject in detail. On the other hand, concerns were raised that there was already one Task Group due to launch and another waiting to start and it was suggested that a review of this subject was too urgent to wait. Indeed, Members commented that, should the amendment be agreed, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be asked to consider the proposal to launch a Task Group exercise at the following scheduled meeting of the Committee on 1st December 2022.

At the end of these discussions, Councillor Khan, as the proposer of the original Motion, confirmed that he would be happy to accept the amendment to the wording of the Motion.

RESOLVED that

Council is concerned about the cost-of-living crisis having a new impact on fly tipping, with the cost of bulky waste collection becoming a disincentive for many residents.

Council asks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to set up a Task and Finish review, to consider the costs, consequences and benefits of a pre-booked, free household bulky waste collection service for those Redditch residents who are low paid, elderly, disabled or in receipt of benefits, which will enable Members to consider options and determine what action, if any, to take.

Motor Neurone Disease Charter

Councillor Joanna Kane submitted the following Motion on Notice for Members' consideration:

"That this Council adopts the Motor Neurone Disease Charter in support of local people living with this terminal disease and their carers.

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The aim of adopting the Charter is to promote awareness and understanding of Motor Neurone Disease among elected members and staff. This will help to provide people with MND, their carers and families with appropriate support or signpost them to relevant services."

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Kane and seconded by Councillor Juliet Barker Smith.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Kane commented that she had brought the Motion forward following a discussion with a local resident who had informed her that adopting the charter would make a big difference to people living with Motor Neurone Disease and their carers. Councillor Khan thanked Dr Anita Sharma-James, Chairman of the Worcestershire branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, who had provided valuable information and advice.

Council was informed that Motor Neurone Disease was a rapidly progressing disease, which had no cure and was unfortunately always fatal. The disease attacked a person's nerve endings and made it impossible for the brain to send signals to the muscles. People with Motor Neurone Disease ended up living in a shell of a body, unable to move, communicate or look after themselves and eventually became unable to breathe.

Motor Neurone Disease was difficult to diagnose, and this could typically take between nine months to a year. As a result, life expectancy after diagnosis could be very short, with one third of people dying within 12 months of a diagnosis. This short life expectancy was one of the reasons why it was so important that elected Members and frontline staff had a clear understanding of how to improve the quality of life of people living with the disease as well as their carers. In addition, because the disease progressed so rapidly, it was essential that people living with Motor Neurone Disease received adaptations to their homes as quickly and as easily as possible. The Council had an important role here, particularly in terms of supporting Council tenants with the disease.

The Motor Neurone Disease charter called for five simple rights:

- Early diagnosis and information.
- Access to quality care and treatment.

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- To be treated as individuals with dignity and respect.
- The right to maximise their quality of life.
- The right for carers to be valued, respected, listened to and well supported.

Adopting the charter would send a clear message to the public that Redditch Borough Council was supportive of these five rights. If the Council agreed to adopt the charter, Redditch Borough Council would be joining 96 other local authorities, including Bromsgrove District Council, Wyre Forest District Council and Worcestershire County Council. Adopting the charter would also enable the Council to work more closely with the Motor Neurone Disease Association, which could provide support to complement the work of the authority. For example, the charity could provide information for Members and Officers about what it was like to live with Motor Neurone Disease and could also arrange both training and speakers for events.

Members were asked to note that, in Worcestershire it was estimated that there were 100 people living with Motor Neurone Disease. One in 300 people were likely to develop Motor Neurone Disease during their lifetimes. In total, six people died every day from the disease.

Councillor Kane concluded by commenting that it was vitally important that people living with the disease were able to access rapid support when they needed it, due to the quick progression of the illness. People living with the condition could quickly reach a point, post diagnosis, where they could not speak, swallow or move. In this context, the Council's support for the charter would be invaluable.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Barker Smith commented that she had been keen to second the Motion as Motor Neurone Disease was an illness that was of particular interest and concern to her. Members were reminded that Professor Stephen Hawking, the late Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge, had been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease early in his career and had relied on advances in technology to communicate with people as the illness progressed. The husband of a friend of Councillor Barker Smith had also been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease but, whilst her friend had recorded his speech, he had not been able to access the same advanced

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technology and he had struggled to communicate before he sadly died from the disease.

In responding to the Motion, the Leader commented that by adopting the Motion and supporting the charter, the Council could help to raise awareness of the disease and its impact on those in the local community who were affected by it. The Council would, in line with the aim of the charter, endeavour to raise awareness and understanding of Motor Neurone Disease through the development of a dedicated page on the Council's website. Action would also be taken to create a Motor Neurone Disease Charter page on the website, which would explain what the charter was and provide links to the Association's website. That website was a comprehensive resource that provided easy access to further advice and support, which was available through the Association and its local branches.

Members subsequently discussed the Motion in detail and in doing so commented that, as with any diagnosis of a terminal illness, people with Motor Neurone Disease could experience fear and isolation. Reference was made to the relatively recent diagnosis of the former England Rugby International player, Mr Rob Burrows MBE, as well as the coverage of his diagnosis and the progression of his illness by the BBC Breakfast News service, which had helped to raise awareness nationally of the disease.

Reference was made by Members to their personal experiences of Motor Neurone Disease, including family members who had been diagnosed with the illness as well as Members who had cared for people with the disease during their careers. Members thanked Councillor Kane for submitting the Motion and for raising awareness of the charter at the Council meeting in a sensitive manner.

During consideration of this item, Dr Anita Sharma-James, from the Motor Neurone Disease Association, who was in attendance at the meeting, was invited to address Council. In speaking on the matter, Dr Anita Sharma-James thanked Members for their kind words and explained that she too had had personal experience of a close member of her family receiving a diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease. The Motor Neurone Disease Association raised funding and provided support to people living with Motor Neurone Disease, their carers, social services departments and to Councils. Members were advised that carers were particularly important to people with

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Motor Neurone Disease and they had often been the only people to maintain contact with those who had been diagnosed with the disease throughout the Covid-19 lockdowns.

RESOLVED that

this Council adopts the Motor Neurone Disease Charter in support of local people living with this terminal disease and their carers.

The aim of adopting the Charter is to promote awareness and understanding of Motor Neurone Disease among elected members and staff. This will help to provide people with MND, their carers and families with appropriate support or signpost them to relevant services.

(At the end of the debate in respect of this item there was a brief adjournment from 20.14 – 20.20.)

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 10.13 pm

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 December 2022 to 31 March 2023

(Published as at 1st November 2022)



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, Democratic Services and Property 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: 3072 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 6.30pm.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Matthew Dormer, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnerships
Councillor Nyear Nazir, Deputy Leader
Councillor Joanne Beecham, Portfolio Holder for Leisure
Councillor Peter Fleming, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services
Councillor Anthony Lovell, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change
Councillor Nyear Nazir, Community Services and Regulatory Services
Councillor Karen Ashley, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling
Councillor Craig Warhurst, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Procurement
Councillor Lucy Harrison
Councillor Emma Marshall

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Financial and Performance Monitoring Quarter 2 Report Key: No	Executive 6 Dec 2022		Report of the Executive Director Finance & Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Financial Outturn Report 2021/22 Key: No	Executive 6 Dec 2022 Council 30 Jan 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Future Maintenance of Former Railway Bridge - Green Lane, Studley Key: Yes	Executive 6 Dec 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Pete Liddington, GIS/Design Officer Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3638
Homelessness Prevention Grant 2023/24 Key: Yes	Executive 6 Dec 2022		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Amanda Delahunty, Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer Tel: (01527) 881269
Housing Policies Key: No	Executive 6 Dec 2022 Council 30 Jan 2023		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
HR and Organisational Development / People Strategy / Workforce Strategy Key: No	Executive 6 Dec 2022		Report of the Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy	Deb Poole, Head of Business Transformation and Organisational Development Tel: 01527 881256
Improvements to Vehicular Entry and Exit Arrangements, Arrow Valley Car Park, Battens Drive Key: No	Executive 6 Dec 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Pete Liddington, GIS/Design Officer Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3638
Introduction of Virtual parking Permits for Redditch and off street parking order for staff car parks Key: Yes	Executive 6 Dec 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Matthew Mead, Engineer Tel: 01527 64252
Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2025/26 - Update Key: No	Executive 6 Dec 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Treasury Management Report - Six Month Update Key: No	Executive 6 Dec 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Appropriation of Land off Ipsley Church Lane for Planning Purposes Key: No	Executive 13 Dec 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Michael Birkinshaw, Bereavement Services Manager Tel: 01527 62174
Asset Management Strategy and investment programme for council housing stock Key: No	Executive 10 Jan 2023 Council 30 Jan 2023		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252
Council response to the Birmingham Local Plan issues and options consultation Key: No	Executive 10 Jan 2023 Council 30 Jan 2023		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Tel: (01527) 881325
Council Tax Base 2023/24 Key: No	Executive 10 Jan 2023 Council 30 Jan 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Financial Monitoring Report Key: No	Executive 10 Jan 2023		Report of the Executive Director, Finance & Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Final Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24 Key: No	Executive 10 Jan 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Housing Revenue Account Rent Setting 2023/24 Key: No	Executive 10 Jan 2023		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	Michelle Howell, Head of Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252
Matchborough and Winyates Regeneration Proposals Key: Yes	Executive Not before 10th Jan 2023		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration Tel: 01562 732192
Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2025/25 - Update Key: No	Executive 10 Jan 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Parking Enforcement Service Level Agreement Key: Yes	Executive 10 Jan 2023	This report may contain exempt information which would need to be discussed in private session.	Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Kevin Hirons, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01527 881705
Quarterly Risk Update Key: No	Executive 10 Jan 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Review of Governance Arrangements for Rubicon Leisure Limited Key: No	Executive Not before 10th Jan 2023 Council Not before 30th Jan 2023		Report of the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services Tel: 01527 881429
Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2040 Key: No	Executive 10 Jan 2023 Council 30 Jan 2023		Report of the Chief Executive	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
2023/24 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2025/26 (Including Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Programme) Key: No	Executive 7 Feb 2023 Council 27 Feb 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Decarbonisation of the Council Fleet Key: No	Executive 7 Feb 2023 Council 3 Apr 2023		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Kevin Hirons, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01527 881705
Financial and Performance Monitoring Quarter 3 Report Key: No	Executive 7 Feb 2023		Report of the Executive Director, Finance and Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 Key: No	Executive 7 Feb 2023 Council 27 Feb 2023		Report of the Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy	Becky Talbot, Human Resources and Development Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3385

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
Council Tax Resolutions 2023/24 Key: No	Executive 27 Feb 2023 Council 27 Feb 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Compulsory purchase of a long term empty property Key: No	Executive Not before 21st Mar 2023 Council Not before 1st Jun 2023	This report will contain exempt information which will need to be considered in private session.	Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Matthew Bough, Housing Policy and Performance Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3120
Financial Monitoring Report Key: No	Executive 21 Mar 2023		Report of the Executive Director Finance & Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Future Plans for Auxerre House Key: No	Executive 21 Mar 2023 Council 3 Apr 2023	This report may contain exempt information which would need to be discussed by the Executive Committee in private session.	Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252

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
Quarterly Risk Update Key: No	Executive 21 Mar 2023		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Environment Act - Changes to Waste Services - Implications Key: No	Executive Not before 13th Jun 2023 Council Not before 26th Jun 2023		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Guy Revans, Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3292

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Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

1st December 2022**WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23**

Date of Meeting	Subject Matter	Officer(s) / Member(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

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

1st December 2022

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
1 st December 2022	Support Provided by the Council to residents in respect of the cost of living – Overview item	Various Heads of Service
1 st December 2022	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - HR and Organisational Development / People Strategy– pre-scrutiny	Deb Poole, Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy
1 st December 2022	Revisiting Items Identified During the Overview and Scrutiny Training held on 6 th June 2022	Jess Bayley-Hill, Principal Democratic Services Officer
1 st December 2022	Bulky Waste Collection – Council Motion	Councillor Sid Khan as proposer
1 st December 2022	Road Safety Task Group	Councillor Bill Hartnett
8 th December 2022	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Appropriation of Land off Ipsley Church Lane for Planning Purposes	Bereavement Services Manager
5 th January 2023	Pre-Decision-Scrutiny - Asset Management Strategy and investment programme for council housing stock	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager
5 th January 2023	Pre-Decision-Scrutiny - Review of Governance Arrangements for Rubicon Leisure Limited	Claire Felton – Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services
5 th January 2023	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2040	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

1st December 2022

5th January 2023	Update on the work of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel	Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel
Not before 5th January 2023	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Matchborough and Winyates Regeneration Proposals	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development
2nd February 2023	Draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23	Councillor Bill Hartnett
16th March 2023	Pre-Decision-Scrutiny - Future Plans for Auxerre House	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager
Not before 26th June 2023	Environment Act - Changes to Waste Services – Implications – pre-scrutiny	Guy Revans, Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services
Date to be confirmed	Health Priorities in Redditch - Overview item	Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive Officer
Date to be confirmed	Parking Enforcement Update - Pre-Decision Scrutiny	Kevin Hiron, Environmental Services Manager

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Agenda Item 13

West Midlands Combined Authority
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
17 October 2022

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) needs to submit the UK Shared Prosperity Fund investment plan to the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to secure the £88.4 million for the next 3 years.

The first year's fund needs to be spent carefully but quickly. Following the presentation numerous questions were asked and a discussion followed. One area discussed was the switch from European Structural Funds to UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF); officers did not see this as a problem.

A key question was raised: was there a business support officer who could propose/suggest areas to invest in our share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund?

On the trailblazing/devolution deal the WMCA was still in discussion with His Majesty's Government. The WMCA has several good schemes that did not require new money, just more control over how to spend the available and existing funding.

There was concern over a shortage of energy, and the need was highlighted for more cells on roofs and for retro fitting of older building.

There followed a report from the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee. Areas reported were the development of the Midland Metro, the walking and cycling index report, automated transport and travel demand management.

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This meeting was taken up with both patient flow and the winter plan and followed a pre-meeting to allocate and coordinate the questions that were to be asked.

There are challenges and areas of concern. The covid spike was expected and accepted by all. There was a shortfall of 45 beds which was smaller than expected.

Worcestershire Royal Hospital has more capacity and questions had been asked about the pharmacy. There is a move to increase the provision of more care at the home of the patient including virtual wards.

The corporate risk is still at 25% covering several areas. A major one being staff shortages and retention. On this issue there is a desire to make the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust a more attractive place to work

The maternity department was one area where the increased improvement in staff health and welfare concerns were having an impact. There is still a need for a consultant midwife, but it is hoped that a new position will be created. Even so there is a need for more midwives to ease the pressure as most staff work extra hours.

The stroke service was discussed; the ageing population was one reason for the increases in strokes as was the large population covered. There is a supply problem with Consultants. A range of options are being considered but no decisions have been made at this time.

This meeting, as usual, went over time, even so I have tried to condense it and report on the salient points.

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