



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Mon 5 Sep
2022
6.30 pm

Council Chamber,
Redditch Town Hall
Walter Stranz Square
Redditch
B98 8AH

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

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GUIDANCE ON FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

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

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 the meeting if they have common cold symptoms or 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 Committee meetings will continue to be followed subject to some adjustments which allow written statements to be read out on behalf of residents and the virtual participation of residents at meetings of the Committee. Members of the public are encouraged to log in virtually, either to speak or observe meetings wherever possible.

Members of the public will be able to access the meeting in person if they wish to do so. Seating will be placed in such a way as to achieve as much space as possible for social distancing to help protect meeting participants. It should be noted that members of the public who choose to attend in person do so at their own risk.

Members of the public 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 the meeting if they have common cold symptoms 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.

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.



Overview and Scrutiny

Monday, 5th September, 2022

6.30 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Bill Hartnett (Chair)
Joanna Kane (Vice-Chair)
Salman Akbar
Imran Altaf
Michael Chalk

Brandon Clayton
Sid Khan
Timothy Pearman
Gareth Prosser

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 - 28)

The Minutes from the following Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meetings will be considered at this meeting:

- 23rd June 2022
- 7th July 2022
- 21st July 2022

4. Public Speaking

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

5. Nomination of the Community Centre at Easemore Road - Asset of Community Value - Pre-Scrutiny

This report will follow in an Additional Papers pack, once the report has been published for consideration of the Executive Committee.

6. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 29 - 58)

The Minutes from the Executive Committee meetings held on 12th July 2022 and 26th July 2022 are included in this agenda pack.

The latest version of the Executive Committee Work Programme will be published in an Additional Papers pack once it has been published on 1st September 2022.

7. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 59 - 62)

8. Task Group Reviews - Draft Scoping Documents (Pages 63 - 68)

9. 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

10. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports

- 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; and
- c) Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) – Council representative, Councillor Chalk.

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 23rd June, 2022

MINUTES

Present:

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

Also Present:

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

Officers:

Ruth Bamford, Peter Carpenter, Kevin Dicks, Clare Flanagan, Sue Hanley and Ostap Paparega

Democratic Services Officers:

Jo Gresham

14. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Joanna Kane with Councillor Baker as named substitute. Councillor Gareth Prosser also submitted his apologies for this meeting.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

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

Chair

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16. PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Chair welcomed Mr. P. Berry as a public speaker to the meeting, who was invited to speak to the Committee.

His speech was delivered as follows:

'I was hoping to come along tonight to explain my opposition to the demolition of the Town Centre Library, however, I see from the report that this has again been delayed but I would still hope that even at this late-stage reconsideration can be given to this destruction of a well-used public facility. I look forward to the promised public meeting to take account of the community's views rather than the fait accompli we are currently presented with.

On the Digital Manufacturing and Innovation Centre, I broadly welcome the investment in new technology. I hope that the Innovation Centre will benefit local people to encourage them to enhance their skills and provide well paid local jobs for Redditch people.

On the Public Realm project, I looked back at the original TIP and failed to identify the specifics of the plan. I note from the current report the increasing number of empty properties. I would be interested to know whether any thought had been given to acquisition of the properties with a view to separating the larger retail units into smaller units, while protecting the historical facades making them more affordable to local small traders or cooperatives and offering more variety and encouraging visitors. Plus, dare I say, to bring back the outdoor market that was taken away.

The space above the units could be transformed into Social Rented accommodation which would help the ever growing Housing list and be an instant rise in people using the High Street. I would suggest that £4.2million would be better spent on these enhancements rather than demolishing our Library.

On the Towns Fund, generally, I have a number of questions:

What will be in the format of the consultation in terms of exhibitions, road shows and public fora?

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The Towns Fund website shows that the last meeting of the board was in November 2021. Has the board met since and when will the minutes of all meetings be published?

What evaluation has been made of utilising local skills, labour and suppliers on the construction projects?

Levelling Up 2

This is the first local report that I have seen on this fund. I see that the deadline for the bid is July 6th which is, again, very short notice for wider public engagement.

I note that the bid will be centred on Winyates and Matchborough. I have the following questions:

The last report that I can find, dated 26th March 2019, suggested that the proposals for the redevelopment would be put out to identify a suitable development partner. What was the outcome of that exercise, and is there still a commitment to two centres?

What are the proposals for future consultation, not just with the tenants and businesses within the centres but with the wider community?

Could this plan be developed to include a bold social / council rented housing program rather than grabbing pieces of existing space for minimal provision.

Once again thank you for your time.

Finally, I see that Redditch has been allocated £2.5 million from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. What is proposed to spend this funding on. The prospectus sets out the creation of Local partnership groups. What form will this group take in Redditch and again can we widen the membership of this group to involve more community representatives?'

The Chair then welcomed Ms. R. Sidaway as a public speaker to the meeting, who was invited to speak to the Committee.

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Her speech was delivered as follows:

‘Good Evening Councillors and Officers

We, the Bonham family & Jon Bonham Memorial Friends, are concerned about the possible impact that the demolition of the library building would have on the John Bonham Memorial.

The bronze Memorial was installed on 31st May 2018 which would have been John’s 70th birthday. It was funded in part by worldwide fans’ donations with the Bonham family & ‘friends’ making up the shortfall. It was gifted to the people of Redditch under the care of Redditch Borough Council.

It has now been brought to our attention that consideration is being given to moving the Memorial as part of the creation of a new plaza area, once the library has been demolished. No attempt by RBC/Town Team to inform or discuss this with ourselves has been made. Therefore, we wish to place on formal record our strongest objection to this idea on 2 key counts:

1. Orientation of the Memorial

During the design & development phases, the sculptor undertook a number of visits to the Mercian Square site to assess the natural light falling on and around the location at different times of the day. He also calculated how this would change throughout the year. This is important to how people view the detail of the sculpture

2. Liability

We wish to stress that it is not possible to move the Memorial without a high risk of damage to the structure:

- A structural engineer, working with RBC Engineering Officer, was consulted to provide a suitable specification for the installation of the structure taking into consideration (a) the tree roots and ground beneath it, and (b) to make it ‘theft-proof’ and thereby difficult to remove

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- The structure was cast in 3 vertical sections and then expertly “fused” together by highly skilled technicians at the foundry. Any attempt to move the structure would likely cause it to break-up.

The Memorial is made of Bronze, weighs over 1000kg, and cost around £100,000 to design, manufacture and install. It cannot be moved.

Thank you.’

17. REDDITCH TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN BUSINESS CASES - PRE-SCRUTINY (REPORT TO FOLLOW)

The Head of Planning Regeneration and Leisure Services presented the report in respect of the Redditch Town Investment Plan Business Cases. Prior to the presentation of the report, Officers apologised for the late circulation of the reports contained within the Additional Papers pack.

During consideration of this item the following was highlighted for Members attention:

- Redditch Borough Council had submitted a bid to the Government in January 2021 and were awarded in excess of £15 million to spend on particular regeneration projects in the town centre. The three projects that had been approved were the Redditch Digital Manufacturing and Innovation Centre, Redditch Town Centre Public Realm and the Redevelopment of Redditch Library Site. Members were reminded that the deadline for the submission bid for the Redevelopment of Redditch Library had been extended and therefore consideration of this project was not appropriate at this meeting. Members were informed that there would be an opportunity to scrutinise this bid in a separate report to the Executive Committee in September 2022.
- The business cases included in the report provided more detailed information regarding the agreed projects and would inform the summary statements to the Government which were due to be submitted by 29th June 2022.

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- Information included in the appendices to the report was not complete, however the bid would continue to be worked on until submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities on 29th June 2022. It was acknowledged by Officers that this was not ideal, however it was clarified that the deadlines were set by Central Government and were extremely tight and challenging. It was confirmed that the risks of the projects had been examined by relevant Officers within the Council who were satisfied with the proposals due for submission. It was also clarified that the risks and project timelines would be carefully monitored by North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWEDR) along with the S151 Officer at the Council.
- In respect of the Redditch Digital Manufacturing and Innovation Centre, Officers informed the Committee that the business cases had identified that the project would need further funding of £2m due to contingency costs and consideration of the future cost of inflation. It was noted that there would be discussions undertaken with external funding sources including the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) in order to potentially provide additional support in any shortfall in costs.

During a robust debate, the Committee once again highlighted the lack of detail contained within the report and appendices and the difficulty in scrutinising a report which only provided limited detail. Members stated that it was positive that the Borough had received £15.5m to undertake these projects. However as this was such a significant amount of funding it would have been preferable to see a thorough breakdown of the allocation of funds in order to have a better understanding of the proposals. Officers understood Members' frustration regarding the limited information contained within the report however it was reiterated that updates needed to be continually made until the formal submission date of the bid on 29th June 2022.

Further detailed discussion followed regarding the positive impact the funding would have on the Town Centre and that it was important to get the business cases in by the deadline in order to ensure that all available monies would be able to be drawn down.

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Members were in agreement that this was an exciting and aspirational opportunity for Redditch Town Centre.

On being put the vote it was

RECOMMENDED that

the two business cases attached as Appendices 1 and 2 be endorsed and used to present summary information for submission to the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities on the 29 June 2022.

18. LEVELLING UP FUND 2 BID - PRE-SCRUTINY (REPORT TO FOLLOW)

The Head of Planning, Leisure and Regeneration presented the Levelling Up Fund 2 Bid report and highlighted the following for Members' consideration:

- The Levelling Up Fund was a national scheme and that Local Authorities were invited to undertake a competitive process to bid for up to £20 million funding under the second phase of the scheme. It was stated by Officers that the Council would need to demonstrate as part of its bid that match funding of 10 per cent was available if any bid was successful. Clarification was requested from Members regarding the potential amount of match funding that would be necessary. Officers explained that the amount of additional funding would be dependent on the amount of any funding awarded by the Government e.g., if the full allocation of £20m was awarded the match funding from alternative sources would need to be £2m. The Committee queried whether the allocation of £2m would be possible given the challenging budget of the Council. It was explained that it was a requirement of the Bid and that all potential revenue streams would be explored in identifying additional funding. Furthermore, the Interim Section 151 Officer reported that any additional funding would be a Capital Investment and would be spread over 40 years. The report set out that this funding was for the commercial and infrastructure works. The Housing works would require separate investment. Members

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were informed that the deadline for submission of the bid to the Government was 6th July 2022.

- The second round of Levelling Up funding focussed on the following three key themes:
 - Transport
 - Regeneration and Town Centre
 - Culture and Heritage

Of these three themes officers had identified that the Regeneration and Town Centre theme provided the greatest chance of successfully bidding for funding and that Matchborough and Winyates District Centres would be the focus of the proposal due to the significant amount of preparatory work that had already been undertaken. Much like the regeneration of Church Hill District Centre previously, it was hoped that the regeneration of Matchborough and Winyates District Centres would provide transformation and would result in a positive impact on the local centres and their communities.

Members commented that this was an exciting prospect for the Borough and thanked all of the Officers involved in the preparation of the bid for the second phase of Levelling Up funding.

On being put to the vote Members agreed that the following recommendations be endorsed.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Executive Committee endorse this report and give delegated authority to the Executive Director for Resources (S151 Officer) and the Head of NWEDR (Senior Responsible Owner) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnerships to submit a Levelling Up Fund bid, as detailed in the report.**

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- 2) the Executive Committee recommend to Council a match funding contribution of 10% of the total bid value up to £2 million.
- 3) should the submitted LUF Bid be successful, that Executive Committee recommend to Council the allocation of 10% of the total bid value in the Capital Programme.

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

The minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14th June 2022 were submitted for Members' consideration.

During consideration of the Executive Committee's Work Programme, it was noted that many of the items included had been picked up for pre-scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chair noted this and informed Members that this might result in longer meetings in the future.

RESOLVED that

the contents of the Executive Committee Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th June 2022 and the Executive Committee's Work Programme be noted.

20. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

During consideration of the Committee's Work Programme, Councillor Khan suggested that a future Task Group be established in respect of health inequalities within Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities within Redditch. The Senior Democratic Services Officer present undertook to contact Councillor Khan to provide a Topic Proposal Scoping document.

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RESOLVED that

The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.58 pm



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 7th July, 2022

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), Councillor Joanna Kane (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Salman Akbar, Imran Altaf, Michael Chalk, Brandon Clayton, Sid Khan, Timothy Pearman and Gareth Prosser

Observers: Councillor Joe Baker

Officers:

Peter Carpenter (on Microsoft Teams), Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton (on Microsoft Teams) and Chris Wells (on Microsoft Teams)

Democratic Services Officers:

Jess Bayley-Hill and Gavin Day

21. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

No apologies for absence were received.

Apologies were received from Councillor Altaf who was running 10 minutes late.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

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

23. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2022 were submitted for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that

.....
Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 7th July, 2022

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9th June 2022, be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

24. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public speakers registered on this occasion.

25. ASSET RATIONALISATION FOR EASEMORE ROAD - PRE-DECISION-SCRUTINY (REPORT TO FOLLOW)

The Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services presented the report in respect of declaration of land surplus to requirement at Community House, Easemore Road.

Officers reported that following a recent detailed condition survey and report, it was envisioned that over the following 5 years a minimum sum of £340,000 needed to be spent on planned preventative maintenance. Members were informed that the tenants, mainly from Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations, would be displaced and that alternative properties had been located for all the tenants.

Officers also informed members that Where Next, which occupied the site adjacent to the property, had been encroaching substantially on the site. Where Next were aware of this and understood the need to vacate this encroached area. To assist with this, Officers had agreed to work to improve accessibility to their entire site from their main entrance on Wellesbourne Close.

Following the presentation of the report Members queried the following areas.

- The financial details, which Members suggested could have been improved in the report and members asked for further information about the financial data.
 - Officers confirmed that income for the Community centre was £17,000 in total, which was well below the market rate. In some cases, this was because tenants had originally taken up a lease as a meanwhile use, or temporary arrangement, that had subsequently been extended over the years.
 - The sum of £350,000 would be for repair work and was not intended for modernising or improving the building.
 - Officers confirmed that the capital receipt from the sale of the land would be far greater than the income for the building.

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- The current tenants and if they had been found alternative accommodation. Officers replied that all tenants were VCS organisations and had all been found alternatives. The tenants included Talking Newspapers, Blue Whale Community Transport, Gemini Dance Studio and Home-start.
- The reasons why the building had been allowed to deteriorate to such a level with no intervention sooner. Officers replied that they had only recently undertaken a survey to assess the building. There was a planned assessment of the whole of the council's portfolio of buildings to identify which buildings to retain and which to dispose of. This would be to ensure there was a manageable portfolio for maintenance purposes.
- Reference was made to the climate change implications listed in the report and the energy performance certificate rating. Members enquired if that would be an A rating or a lower rating. Officers clarified that they would attempt to obtain the highest rating, however, until proposals had been made for the site it was unknown what would be possible and practical in terms of the energy rating.
- How many other properties had received a low level of income for their size. Officers informed members that they were reviewing other assets in the financial year to find other such properties.
- That there was very poor accessibility for disabled users to the community centre, especially access to the upper floors which was only possible via a staircase.
- The importance of the community centre to the local community.
- Members commented that commercially sensitive information, regarding the anticipated capital receipt for sale of the site, should have been included in the report as an exempt appendix, rather than be omitted from the report altogether.
- Some Members expressed the view that a better solution would be to sell part of the site and use that income to improve the existing building.

During consideration of this item, Councillor Michael Chalk moved the recommendation as printed in the report and he also proposed the following additional recommendation:

“The Executive Committee consider the financial and social implications of using the land for social housing”

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These recommendations were proposed by Councillor Chalk and seconded by Councillor Brandon Clayton.

In making this proposal, Members were asked to note that it would be helpful to explore the potential for the land to be used for social housing as part of the Council's Housing Growth Programme. There was general agreement amongst Members that there was a need in the Borough for more social housing, including more Council houses to meet the needs of Redditch residents.

However, Members were advised that the site did not fall under the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), and the funding arising from sale of the land could not be vired from the general fund to the HRA. In addition, Officers working in the Housing Department had been consulted about the potential for this land to be used and had advised that this was not considered suitable for social housing. Officers had therefore concluded that the land would be more suitable for commercial development.

Members subsequently commented that it would be ideal if the council performed a survey of all the authority's property assets and brought this forward as a whole rather than piecemeal. Members commented that it was difficult to make an informed decision when taking items one at a time. Instead, Members suggested that they needed to know where the properties and the communities they served were located.

In this context, Councillor Hartnett made the following proposal:

“that the Executive Committee defer making a decision on the disposal of the land at Community House, Easemore Road, until a full review of Council assets had been completed.”

The recommendation was proposed by Councillor Hartnett and seconded by Councillor Altaf.

Officers informed members that it was important to understand that stock condition surveys could be financially costly. The Community Centre received a very low rent and the £350,000 maintenance costs would just be for emergency repairs and not investment in improvement works. Officers also reminded members that the tenants themselves were reporting that the building was not fit for purpose. Sale of the property would result in a capital receipt for the Council.

Some Members raised concerns that it would not be wise to postpone whilst reviewing all other assets due to problems with the

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building. However, other Members raised concerns that it would be inappropriate to make a decision on the disposal of the building at this time until further information regarding the review of the Council's assets was available.

On being put to the vote, the recommendation proposed by Councillor Hartnett and seconded by Councillor Altaf was carried.

Following the vote, Councillor Chalk raised the potential for a minority report and a majority report to be put forward by the Committee in respect of this matter. Officers advised that, as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had not prepared a report but was, rather, making recommendations, this would not be possible on this occasion. However, it was agreed that a detailed minute should be drafted, to include reference to the proposals that were not taken forward.

RECOMMENDED that

the Executive Committee defer making a decision on the disposal of the land at Community House, Easemore Road, until a full review of Council assets had been completed.

26. FUTURE USE OF THE TOWN HALL AND CUSTOMER ACCESS - PRE-DECISION-SCRUTINY (REPORT TO FOLLOW)

The Interim Section 151 Officer presented the report in respect of the future use of the town hall and closure of the cashier service.

Members were informed that in person payments had fallen by 90% since the pandemic and with the introduction of Allpay for the majority of services. A test period of two weeks in March was conducted which resulted in only 202 visitors.

Officers highlighted the different ways to pay mentioned in the report, and highlighted there were 44 possible alternative pay locations for the public to access, including the post office less than 100m away.

Members were informed that there would be a dedicated manned customer service desk opened and the telephone and internet access would be retained. This would allow colleagues to assist the public to access alternative forms of payment after the 3 Month period had elapsed.

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Members were informed of the proposal to sublet the cashier area to public sector tenants, which would generate approximately £150,000 in revenue for the council.

Following the presentation of the report, Members queried the following areas.

- Why the two weeks were chosen in March which was a rent-free month and thus would be expected to generate lower numbers. Officers replied that although that was the case there were also a large number of late payments, so it was felt to still be a suitable time period to get an indication of how busy the cashier desk was.
- Whether there were any redundancies planned. Officers clarified that there would be no redundancies. Everybody who worked on the cash desk would be given employment in other roles within the town hall. The jobs initially intended to be filled were on the customer service desk and manning the telephones, which the cashiers did as part of their current role.
- The report mentioned a potential income of £150,000, and Members questioned how many square meters this represented. Officers replied that the proposed areas would be the current cash office area and part of the first floor which amounted to approximately 2000sq meters in total.
- Whether the prospective tenants were from the public or private sector. Officers clarified that all prospective tenants were public sector organisations. The council would be looking to combine District, County and Health services in one building.
- What the car parking provision would be for tenants. Officers clarified that tenants would be able to use the car park on Trescott Road. The car park on the town hall site would be retained for its current usage.
- How the council intended to improve IT literacy for those who currently used the service. Officers outlined the council's intent to use the following 3 months to educate the general public on payment via other methods, such as by phone, on site computer terminals and their own devices using WiFi or pay points such as the post office.
- The timing of the report. Officers explained that the discussions had progressed very quickly with prospective tenants, however, before Officers brought the proposal to Committee they had to ensure the cashier service would not be needed, This had only just been decided.

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The following comments and statements were also made in relation to the report:

- Members commented that even with access to digital technologies increasing there was still a need for face-to-face interactions. Officers clarified that there would still be a face-to-face provision via the customer service desk.
- Officers further commented that Redditch Borough Council was the last authority in the Midlands to still offer a cashier service to process payments.
- Members commented that they were happy that there would be no intention to lose any staff as employees were leaving the council and there was a need to retain the workforce. Officers commented that there were general recruitment challenges which were being reviewed, the council would be looking at the whole package of benefits for employees, including agile working.
- Members commented that the Council needed to learn from the one stop shop closures and ensure that the process was given enough time.
- Some Members expressed the view that two weeks was not enough time to come to a recommendation and queried why there were not several months of data for April, May and June, so that a decision could be made on the basis of more up to date information

The Chair explained to Members that this was a resolved matter so after recommendation the matter would go to Executive Committee to be decided and not full Council.

The recommendations contained within the report were proposed and seconded and it was

RECOMMENDED that the Executive Committee

- 1) Approve the Closure of the Cashiers Service on the 30th September 2022;**
- 2) Note the alternatives for Customers to make payments and the training and guidance that would take place up to the closure date.**
- 3) Approve the proposals to sublet parts of the Town Hall**
- 4) Delegate authority to the Head of Legal Democratic and Property Services and the Section 151 Officer following**

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consultation with the Leader to negotiate terms and enter into the lease arrangements necessary to enable 2.3.

27. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TRAINING EVENT JUNE 2022

Officers informed the Committee that the Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) Work Programme Planning Event was well attended and all Non-Executive Members were invited.

Officers reported that during the event a series of items were raised by Members to add to the O&S work programme, Officers then drew Members' attention to the suggestions, as detailed on page 17 of the main agenda pack.

The Chair highlighted to Members the current staffing challenges within the Democratic Services Team and proposed some of the suggestions be reviewed by the Performance Scrutiny Working Group.

Members expressed concern that any items not selected would be forgotten until the exercise was undertaken again, Therefore, Members agreed that the remainder of the items could be reconsidered later in the municipal year, so that Members could determine whether there were further items Members wished to add to the O&S Work Programme.

In relation to the items identified during the training, Members requested that a report be produced consolidating information on what benefits were available to help the general public with the current cost-of-living crisis. Members also commented that the report would be beneficial to assist the Council in sharpening their services and response. It was acknowledged that there were a range of organisations helping to address the cost of living crisis and that this was a wide topic to review. However, Members agreed that an update could be provided as an overview, at a meeting of the Committee, on the existing services provided by the Council to help customers manage the impact of the cost of living crisis. The Committee requested that the communications team also attended the same meeting of the Committee to highlight how they were distributing information about these services to eligible residents.

Finally, Members noted that before the Covid-19 pandemic there was a task group formed to review parking enforcement. As this subject had also been identified during the training, Members asked for the findings of this work group to be circulated for the consideration of the Committee.

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RESOLVED that

- a) housing repairs, landscaping and void housing be reviewed by the Performance Scrutiny Working Group;
- b) the services provided by the Council to assist residents with the cost of living crisis be considered at a forthcoming meeting of the Committee as an overview item;
- c) The items identified during the training to be reconsidered at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- d) the report on Parking Enforcement be circulated for the consideration of Members of the Committee for information.

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

The Chair highlighted the extra Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) meeting on 21st July 2022 to consider and pre-scrutinise the draft of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund report.

The Chair commented that the Executive Committee had arranged an extra Committee date for 27th September 2022 to consider the Redditch Town Investment Plan Business Case for the library, and proposed an extra meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22nd September 2022 to pre-scrutinise the report.

RESOLVED that

an extra Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting be booked to take place on 22nd September 2022.

29. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair noted that a report concerning the new cemetery had been due to be considered by the O&S Committee on 25th August 2022. However, this date was not suitable for Officers and a new date was yet to be decided.

RESOLVED that

The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be noted.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 7th July, 2022

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

Councillor Kane, in her role as Chair of the Budget Scrutiny and Performance Working Groups informed Members that the Budget Scrutiny Working Group would meet on 4th August 2022.

RESOLVED that

the updates be noted.

31. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

Councillor Chalk informed Members that there were no written reports due to there being no meetings since the last Committee meeting. However, the West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Worcestershire Heath Overview and Scrutiny Committee were due to meet in July 2022.

It was confirmed that Councillor Chalk would continue to provide written updates to the Committee.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 8.28 pm



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 21st July, 2022

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), Councillor Joanna Kane (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Salman Akbar, Imran Altaf, Michael Chalk, Brandon Clayton, Luke Court and Sid Khan

Also Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnerships)

Officers:

Ruth Bamford and Kevin Dicks

Principal Democratic Services Officer:

J Bayley-Hill

32. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Tim Pearman and Gareth Prosser and it was confirmed that Councillor Luke Court was attending as Councillor Pearman's substitute.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor of any party whip.

34. PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Chair confirmed that there were no registered public speakers on this occasion.

35. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (TO FOLLOW)

The Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services presented a report on the subject of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

.....
Chair

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The Committee was advised that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund formed part of the national Levelling Up scheme. Redditch had been allocated £2.5 million under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. In order to access this funding, the Council, as the accountable body, needed to submit an investment plan to the Government detailing how the funding would be spent at the local level.

The investment plan was a high level, strategic document. At this stage, specific projects would not be referred to in the plan. Instead, the Council needed to demonstrate how the proposed use of the funding in the Borough matched key interventions that had been identified by the Government. The funding also had to be allocated in accordance with three investment priorities for the Government; Community and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills. Projects had not yet been agreed for funding although some partner organisations had submitted ideas for projects that could be funded locally.

Officers were proposing that in Redditch the funding should be allocated on a ratio of 40 per cent devoted to Community and Place, 30 per cent allocated to Supporting Local Business and 30 per cent allocated to People and Skills. The Government's interventions had been assessed by Officers who had identified those considered to be most relevant to the Borough. The Council could choose from up to 41 interventions proposed by the Government, although some of the project in the Borough would potentially be cross cutting and relevant to a number of interventions. Recently the Government had advised the Council that the proportion of focus allocated to each of the three investment priorities as well as the links to the key interventions could be changed at a later date after the investment plan had been submitted.

After the report had been presented, Members discussed the following points in detail:

- The extent to which Redditch was guaranteed to receive the £2.5 million funding that had been allocated to the Borough. Members were informed that Redditch would receive that full allocation of funding.
- The consequences arising from submission of an investment plan by a Council that was not endorsed by the Government. The Committee was advised that the Council would update the plan and continue to resubmit the document, subject to necessary changes, until the Government approved the content.

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- The length of time in which the UK Shared Prosperity Fund would be available. Officers advised that funding would be available over a three-year period, starting in 2022/23.
- The division of funding between capital and revenue expenditure.
- The challenges for the Council in terms of ensuring the sustainability of projects that received funding after the end of the three-year period. Members were informed that this issue had been raised with the Government and local authorities had been advised that this would be addressed in the spending review.
- The consequences arising should the Council fail to demonstrate that the targets for expenditure of the funding were being met. Officers explained that submissions would need to be made to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and, as long as appropriate data was provided, the Council would be able to demonstrate that targets were being met. There would also be a need for an ongoing audit of the use of the funding.
- The use of colour in the report and the fact that this could not be viewed by Members in printed copies of the agenda pack as these were always printed in black and white.
- The 30 per cent increase in wages reported for the Borough in 2020/2021, which had been recorded as an anomaly, and the reasons for this increase. Members were informed that a significant number of residents worked in the food and beverage industry, for which there had been high demand for services during the pandemic. The suggestion was also made that the furlough scheme may have impacted on these figures.
- The reasons why the project submissions that had already been made by partner organisations had not yet been assessed. The Committee was informed that there was a need to assess submissions in relation to criteria and that one purpose of the report was to set the criteria for this. Officers also explained that there had been some consideration given to the project submissions and that this had helped to inform the proposals detailed in the report.
- The extent to which the report, without endorsing specific projects, appeared to be proactive. Officers were urged to review the wording of the document to ensure that it was positive and proactive.
- The potential for businesses and new enterprises to bid for funding under the scheme to support exports abroad. Members were advised that the Government had not stipulated a preference in terms of businesses operating in domestic markets only or abroad. Instead, the focus was

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more on encouraging economic development and skills growth.

- The timeframes by which the Council would be notified about whether the investment plan had been accepted by the Government. Officers clarified that they were anticipating that the Council would be informed about the Government's decision by autumn 2022.
- The extent to which it would be appropriate for the Council to indicate that the scheme locally would work to meet more interventions. The Committee was advised that Officers had identified those interventions considered most appropriate for the Borough and the number selected helped to demonstrate that there was some focus in the proposed approach.
- The role of the Town's Board in respect of decisions on use of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Officers advised that the Town's Board would be consulted, although the Council was the accountable body.
- The extent to which the Council could ensure that projects would be submitted and approved that would result in good quality outcomes for the Borough.
- The requirement for the funding to be spent in the three-year period of the scheme, including 2022/23 and the fact that this would be quite challenging to achieve, given the relatively tight timescales. Members commented that, under these circumstances, the Council needed to try to ensure that the Government approved the authority's first draft of the investment plan in order to avoid causing any delays.
- The potential for some of the funding to be spent on pre-existing projects, such as town centre public realm improvement works.
- The need for the Council to achieve value for money (VfM) in expenditure of the funding.
- The action that would be taken to mitigate against the risks arising from the increasing costs of resources due to inflation. Officers explained that the nature and scale of the projects would be taken into account when they were assessed and it was likely that a number of smaller projects would be approved which might be easier to deliver in the timescales available.
- The potential for Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations to work with the Council on projects supported by this funding. The Committee was informed that VCS organisations had been informed about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the opportunities available under this scheme.
- The extent to which there would be opportunities for projects to be jointly delivered by Councils and organisations in

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bordering local authority areas. Officers advised that there would be opportunities for the Council to work with other UK Shared Prosperity Fund bidders. The aim in all decisions made about use of the funding would be to achieve the best outcomes for Redditch.

- The value arising from creating a positive impression of Redditch in the Investment Plan.
- The reasons for gaps in some parts of the document. Officers clarified that this was a working document and further changes would be made prior to submission to the Government.
- The need for extra investment to be attracted to the Borough from the private sector, alongside funding from the Government, which would benefit the local economy.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Investment Plan is approved for submission to the UK Government;**
- 2) **authority to finalise the Investment plan be delegated to the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Regeneration and Strategic Partnerships and in light of advice from the Local Partnership Board;**
- 3) **authority to develop projects to deliver the outcomes contained in the investment plan be delegated to the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Regeneration and Strategic Partnerships and in light of advice from the Local Partnership Board; and**
- 4) **the Medium Term Financial Strategy is amended to include the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Allocation when next reviewed.**

36. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the content of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme and in doing so noted that the content had been updated to include the additional items agreed at the previous meeting, including additional meeting dates.

RESOLVED that

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

37. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

The Committee considered updates in respect of recent meetings of the following external scrutiny bodies:

- a) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Council Representative, Councillor Michael Chalk

Councillor Chalk presented a written update on the focus of the latest meeting of the WMCA's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which took place on 11th July 2022. Members were informed that the meeting had been live streamed and this could be viewed on the WMCA's website.

Members noted that during the meeting there had been discussions about the skills budget for the WMCA. Questions were raised about the potential for some of this funding to be shared with non-constituent authorities such as Redditch Borough Council. The Committee was advised that the Leader, who served on the WMCA Board, had a positive working relationship with the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority region, who was keen to provide support to non-constituent members. However, the skills budgets for combined authorities was intended for constituent member authorities only. In two-tier authority areas such as Worcestershire, skills funding was allocated to the county Council. Redditch Borough Council could potentially access some skills funding from the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and this had occurred in the past.

Reference was made to the level of qualifications that were supported using the skills funding provided through the WMCA. Members were informed that this was intended for Level 3 qualifications, although there had been discussions about the potential to provide funding available to also support level 2 qualifications. There were recognised providers that delivered training for level 3 qualifications, although the number of providers had recently reduced following a review.

The Committee discussed the educational attainment levels in the Borough and concerns were raised about the number of people who were not in education, employment or training (NEETs). In this context, there was general agreement that

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more action needed to be taken to access additional funding to support measures to improve the local skills base. Members commented that work in respect of the manufacturing and innovation centre, as part of the work on town centre regeneration, would potentially help to address this situation.

b) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Council Representative, Councillor Michael Chalk

Councillor Chalk confirmed that the latest meeting of the Worcestershire HOSC had taken place on 8th July 2022. During the meeting, representatives of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT) had been interviewed about the integrated care system.

Members discussed the update provided and in doing so questioned whether WAHT had provided any information at recent meetings of HOSC regarding the Trust's finances. The Committee was informed that this had not been discussed during recent meetings. However, Members were asked to note that in 2020, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government had written off NHS debts, including WAHT's £20 million debts, although the current financial position of the Trust remained to be clarified.

Reference was made to public transport links to Worcestershire Royal Hospital and concerns were raised about the impact that a reduction in services provided by Diamond Buses locally might have on Redditch residents attending appointments at the hospital. Members commented that people experiencing an emergency could dial 999 for an ambulance but residents attending other appointments or returning from the hospital could not travel in this manner. It was noted that the lowest car ownership levels in the county were in Redditch, so these changes to services would have a disproportionate impact on Redditch residents. The suggestion was made that this issue should be raised for the consideration of HOSC, although Members were informed that the subject might be more appropriate for the consideration of Worcestershire County Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Consideration was also given to the extent to which HOSC had recently debated drug and alcohol recovery programmes and the availability of such programmes in the Borough. Members were advised that there were three rehabilitation

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clinics in the county, one of which was situated in the Borough, and consideration was being given to extending coverage to other parts of the county.

Finally, ambulance waiting times in Worcestershire were briefly discussed. Members were advised that representatives of various NHS partner organisations had attended a recent meeting of HOSC to discuss ambulance waiting times. At the meeting HOSC members had had some concerns and would continue to monitor the situation.

RESOLVED that

the updates in respect of the latest meetings of the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Worcestershire HOSC be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.41 pm



Executive Committee

Tuesday, 12th July, 2022

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), Councillor Nyear Nazir (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Karen Ashley, Joanne Beecham, Peter Fleming, Lucy Harrison and Emma Marshall

Officers:

Peter Carpenter, Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton, Clare Flanagan and Chris Wells

Principal Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley-Hill

20. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Craig Warhurst.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

22. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader advised that, at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7th July 2022, Members had pre-scrutinised the Asset Rationalisation for Community Centre, Easemore Road and the Future Use of the Town Hall and Customer Access reports. The Committee had agreed recommendations on both of these reports which had been detailed in extracts from the minutes of the meeting, circulated for the consideration of Members of the Executive Committee in a supplementary pack for the meeting. The Executive Committee was encouraged to refer to these extracts from the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting when debating those items.

Chair

23. MINUTES**RESOLVED that**

the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 28th June 2022 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

24. ASSET RATIONALISATION FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES AND EASEMORE ROAD

The Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services presented a report in respect of asset rationalisation of the community centre located on Easemore Road, Redditch.

The Executive Committee was informed that the Property Services team had been undertaking stock condition surveys. A stock condition survey had been completed in respect of the community centre located on Easemore Road at an early stage of this process because the Council had received reports that the building was in a poor state of repair. The survey had concluded that a significant amount of work would be required to address these issues and to make the property suitable to let at a commercial rate moving forward.

There were a number of long-term tenants which used the community centre on Easemore Road as premises. Many of these tenants were Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations and they had approached the Council to ask about alternative accommodation due to concerns about the building's state of disrepair. Officers had been working closely with these tenants to try to help find them alternative premises. Gemini Dance Studio, which was one of the existing tenants that had benefitted from a meanwhile use letting arrangement at the community centre for many years, had not yet identified suitable alternative accommodation, although the Council continued to try to provide assistance in locating alternatives.

Following the presentation of the report, Members discussed the debate regarding this report that had occurred at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7th July 2022. It was noted that during this meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members had recommended that the Council should defer making a decision on disposal of the community centre until a full review of the Council's assets had been completed. Members considered this recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and in doing so commented on the following points:

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- The work that was already being undertaken by the Council in respect of the stock condition surveys that were being completed on Council assets and the fact that these surveys had not been undertaken in previous years.
- The work that had been undertaken by officers in terms of consultation with tenants of the community centre and the assistance that the authority had provided to these tenants when searching for alternative accommodation.
- The need for the Council's assets to be managed on a commercial basis as part of ensuring that Council services were sustainable moving forward.
- The condition of the community centre building and the fact that tenants had approached the Council about the property's state of disrepair.
- The meanwhile lease arrangements that, although supposed to be temporary, had been in place for many of the VCS organisations for a number of years.
- The potential risk that a deferral on this decision would result in further deterioration in the condition of the property.

On the basis of these points, the Executive Committee rejected the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on this subject.

Members subsequently discussed the report further and in doing so questioned whether the condition of the building might represent a health and safety risk for visitors. Officers explained that the building was safe for people to use in its current form. The intention of the proposal detailed in the report was to ensure that the asset was fit for purpose moving forward.

Reference was made to the availability of a significant number of meanwhile use lease arrangements for the community centre on Easemore Road and a number of other Council owned assets in the Borough. Officers confirmed that there were a number of historic arrangements in place which needed to be reviewed as the Council increasingly needed to operate in a more commercial manner in order to remain sustainable. There were alternative options available to VCS groups, including potentially accommodation in the REDI Centre and the Council was working closely with VCS groups to help them to explore these options.

Consideration was given to the ongoing work on stock condition surveys and the approach that had been adopted to this work by the Council. Members were advised that the Council was prioritising stock condition surveys for properties in a poor state of repair and / or assets that the authority could potentially utilise differently to maximise commercial opportunities. An Asset Strategy was in the process of being developed for the Council and

the external organisation, Savills, had identified assets that the Council might want to survey at an earlier stage as part of this process.

RESOLVED that

the existing Community House building and associated land in Easemore Road (rear of No. 103), be declared surplus to Council requirements and disposed of at market value.

25. FUTURE USE OF THE TOWN HALL AND CUSTOMER ACCESS

The Interim Section 151 Officer presented a report detailing proposals on future use of the Town Hall and customer access to services. The Executive Committee was informed that the report was proposing that the cashiers' desk at the Town Hall should be closed and was requesting authority for officers to hire out space in the Town Hall to external organisations.

In reviewing the cashiers' desk, consideration had been given to data in terms of demand for the services of the cashiers during two weeks in March 2022. In this period, there had been a total of 202 customers using the cashiers' services at the Town Hall. As requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Officers had subsequently reviewed the data for use of the cashiers' services between March and June 2022. The data during this period revealed a very slight increase in demand but the trend remained comparable to the data that had been included in the report.

The Executive Committee was advised that there were a number of alternative face-to-face payment options available to customers outside the Town Hall. In total, 46 such payment options had been identified in the Borough. Should there be agreement to close the cashiers' desk, Officers would work with customers to encourage them to use alternative payment methods. Lessons had been learned from the previous closure of the One Stop Shops in the District Centres as well as from access arrangements when the Town Hall had been closed during the Covid-19 lockdowns and this would inform arrangements moving forward. Customers would continue to be able to access self-service telephones and free wifi in the reception area at the Town Hall, which customers could use to obtain advice and make payments on their personal devices.

The option to hire out office space in the Town Hall had been identified as an opportunity for the Council. Customers would benefit from this approach as it would help to ensure that a number of key public services could be accessed by residents at the same central location. The Council would also benefit, as this would result in the authority receiving additional rental income.

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During consideration of this item, Members noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had pre-scrutinised the report at a meeting held on 7th July 2022. After a detailed debate of the subject, the Committee had endorsed the recommendations in the report. The Executive Committee noted the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's support for the proposals and thanked the Committee for debating the subject in detail.

The Executive Committee subsequently discussed the report in detail and in doing so questioned whether there would be any redundancies arising from the closure of the cashiers' desk. Members were advised that staff would be redeployed and there would be no redundancies. The Council was keen to retain staff at a challenging time in terms of recruitment to local government.

Reference was made to the services that would remain available for the public to access in reception at the Town Hall. Officers confirmed that residents would still be able to hand in paperwork at reception or to provide proof of ID where necessary for accessing certain Council services. During the three months prior to the closure of the cashiers' service, officers would monitor the types of issues raised by customers visiting the cashiers to ensure that the needs of residents continued to be met moving forward.

Consideration was also given to the proposals to hire out space in the Town Hall to external organisations. Members commented that, following the Covid-19 pandemic, there remained a significant amount of office space in the Town Hall that was not being used so this proposal represented a sensible suggestion on maximising use of the space moving forward. In addition, Members commented that this would have a beneficial impact on the Council's budget.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Closure of the Cashiers Service on the 30th September 2022 be approved;**
- 2) the alternatives for Customers to make payments and the training and guidance that will take place up to the closure date be noted;**
- 3) the proposals to sublet parts of the Town Hall be approved; and**
- 4) authority be delegated to the Head of Legal Democratic and Property Services and the Section 151 Officer following consultation with the Leader to negotiate terms**

and enter into the lease arrangements necessary to enable resolution 3 above.

26. QUARTERLY RISK UPDATE

The Interim Section 151 Officer presented the quarterly risk update for the Executive Committee's consideration.

Members were informed that there had been an audit of the Council's risk management arrangements in 2018/19 which had resulted in some recommendations being made. Some action had been taken in response to the audit findings but, when the Internal Audit team completed a follow up audit, it had been concluded that some actions had not yet been fully completed. In March 2022, the Corporate Management Team (CMT) had reviewed risk management arrangements further and, whilst some examples of good practice had been identified, it was felt that effective risk management needed to be led by senior officers and embedded in the authority. Officers had been appointed on behalf of each department as risk champions to help with this process moving forward.

Risk monitoring reports were due to be presented for the consideration of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee during the year. Due to the time that had elapsed since the previous update to Members concerning risks, Officers had concluded it would be appropriate to present a report on this subject to the Executive Committee prior to the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee on this occasion. In future, updates to the Executive Committee would follow after the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee had had a chance to consider the subject.

The Executive Committee was advised that, in order for a risk to be classified as a corporate risk rather than a departmental risk, it needed to have the potential to result in significant damage. When the report had originally been drafted there had been 119 departmental risks identified for the authority. By the date of the meeting, this had reduced to 96 departmental risks.

Following the presentation of the report, the Executive Committee discussed the need for elected Members to be kept informed of the Council's risk management arrangements on an ongoing basis. The role of the Risk Champion on the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee would also help to ensure that Members remained apprised of risk management arrangements moving forward.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the definition of a Corporate Risk be approved;**
- 2) **the present list of Corporate Risks be approved;**
- 3) **the use of the Risk Management Framework devised by Zurich be approved; and**
- 4) **the progress made on the Action Plan approved by CMT on the 16th March 2022 be noted.**

27. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

The Interim Section 151 Officer presented a report detailing the Council's planned approach to financial monitoring in the 2022/23 financial year.

The Executive Committee was informed that financial monitoring reports would be presented on a regular basis for the consideration of Members. The reports would incorporate information about a full suite of financial indicators. The reports would also contain red, amber and green (RAG) ratings for the indicators and would include comparative data in relation to the previous period.

The Council had a revenue budget of £10.5 million and a capital budget of £4.5 million. There was also capital funding which had been carried over from 2020-2021, when many capital projects had been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the Council, as the accountable body, was in receipt of over £15 million Town's Funding, which could only be used on specific projects for the redevelopment of Redditch town centre.

The Council had a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which detailed the authority's anticipated financial position over the following three year period. Should no action be taken, the Council's balances were projected to fall to just over £200,000, which was lower than the minimum levels considered acceptable for the Council. To ensure that the Council had a balanced budget moving forward, action would need to be taken to achieve £1.5 million savings over the full three-year period of the plan. The Government had indicated that Councils would be receiving a two-year settlement in December 2022, although it was unlikely that this would help to cover the full gap in the budget.

To address the anticipated issues within the MTFP, work had already commenced on organisational business plans and reviews of the base budget. The Interim Section 151 Officer had already held discussions with four Heads of Service about potential

opportunities to achieve savings or secure additional income in their departments. Heads of Service were giving consideration to changes that could be made to service delivery in light of lessons learned and opportunities created during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Following the presentation of the report, Members discussed the significant level of savings that would need to be achieved over the three years of the MTFP. Members were advised that some difficult decisions would need to be taken in order to achieve a balanced budget position moving forward. All the services that were delivered by the Council were important but if all services provided by the Council continued to be delivered in the same manner as at present the authority would not be financially sustainable moving forward. There would be a number of ideas explored by Officers before a draft budget was presented to the Executive Committee in the autumn, in which options would be presented for Members' consideration. Consideration would also be given to the contribution that District and Borough Councils made to health prevention work and the potential for alternative sources of funding to be provided to support the authority's delivery of these services. The draft budget position would then be subject to public consultation before a final set of budget proposals was presented in January/February 2023.

Reference was made to the Covid grant funding that the Council had received from the Government during the pandemic and the extent to which this had been utilised to date. Officers clarified that some, but not all, of this funding had already been allocated. Officers were also reviewing potential options available to the Council in respect of Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates (NDR) arrears.

RESOLVED

- 1) to note that future monitoring returns will be in the "on system" format;**
- 2) to approve the approach being taken by Officers to balance the 2022/23 budget and future years budget deficit positions; and**
- 3) to approve the addition to the monitoring report of the additional financial health indicators.**

28. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair confirmed that all of the recommendations detailed in the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on

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9th June 2022 had been considered by the Executive Committee at a previous meeting.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9th June 2022 be noted.

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

The Chair confirmed that there were no referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any of the Executive Advisory Panels on this occasion.

30. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

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

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

The Executive Committee was informed that there had been no meetings of the Climate Change Working Group since the previous meeting of the Executive Committee.

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

Councillor Dormer explained that the latest meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party had had to be rescheduled due to a clash with other Committee meetings in July. The meeting would be rescheduled to take place in September 2022.

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

The Executive Committee was advised that the latest meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board had taken place earlier that day. A comprehensive update about the meeting would be provided at the following meeting of the Executive Committee.

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

Members were informed that the latest meeting of the Member Support Steering Group had needed to be rescheduled due to

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a clash with additional Committee meetings being held in July. The meeting would be rescheduled to take place in September 2022.

e) Planning Advisory Panel – Chair, Councillor Matthew Dormer

Councillor Dormer confirmed that there had been no meetings of the Planning Advisory Panel since the previous meeting of the Executive Committee.

31. DISPOSAL OF LAND - ST GREGORY'S CHURCH

The Principal Solicitor presented a report on the subject of the disposal of land adjacent to the former St Gregory's Church at Winyates Way / Woodcote Close, Redditch.

The disposal of the land would enable the Council to help facilitate a development on adjacent land. Access would be provided to the development from the land that would be disposed of by the Council. The proposed development would be a mixture of social housing and housing available to rent. The housing would be developed by Redditch Co-operative Homes and GreenSquareAccord, which would be developing housing that included high levels of insulation and use of solar power and which was therefore considered an exemplar of low carbon housing.

Members welcomed the proposals detailed in the report and in so doing commented on the benefits that the development would have on the local community. Concerns were raised that the former St Gregory's Church had attracted a lot of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in recent years and the proposed development would help to discourage this moving forward.

RESOLVED that

- 1) authority be delegated to the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services to negotiate and finalise terms for the sale of Council owned land and in return for the capital sum; and**

RECOMMENDED that:-

- 2) the Council's budget be augmented by the capital receipt.**

Executive
Committee

Tuesday, 12th July, 2022

and closed at 7.17 pm

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Executive Committee

Tuesday, 26th July, 2022

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), Councillor Nyear Nazir (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Karen Ashley, Peter Fleming, Lucy Harrison, Anthony Lovell and Emma Marshall

Officers:

Peter Carpenter, Gavin Day, Kevin Dicks, Clare Flanagan, Sue Hanley and Georgina Harris

Principal Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley-Hill

32. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Joanne Beecham and Craig Warhurst.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

34. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader advised that at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 21st July, Members pre-scrutinised the UK Shared Prosperity Fund report. The Committee endorsed the recommendations detailed in the report and an extract from the minutes of that meeting had been included in a supplementary pack issued for the Executive Committee's consideration. The Leader urged Members to refer to the discussions at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting when debating this item.

35. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 12th July 2022 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

Chair

36. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The Chief Executive presented a report on the subject of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for Members' consideration.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund was part of the Government's Levelling Up programme and replaced the EU Structural Fund. There were three key pillars in the UK Shared Prosperity Fund:

- Communities and Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills

There were also up to 41 interventions that had been identified by the Government that Councils could address in spending the funds. Councils were not obliged to link all of the projects that received funding in the local area to all of the interventions available. Instead, Officers had selected those interventions considered most likely to meet the needs of local communities in the Borough.

Funding had been allocated over a three-year period, from 2022/23 to 2024/25, in the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The amount of funding available over the course of these three years increased from £303,647 in 2022/23 to £1.591 million in 2024/25. In total, £2.5 million had been allocated to Redditch over the three years.

The Council had consulted with local partner organisations, to review how the funding allocated to Redditch should be spent. The funding allocated to Redditch was guaranteed to be received. However, the Council needed to submit an Investment Plan to the Government detailing how this funding would be spent. As part of the proposals detailed in the plan, the Council needed to outline how the funding would be allocated to each of the three key pillars of the programme. In Redditch, it had been decided, based on the outcomes of consultation and local knowledge, that 40 per cent of the funds should be allocated to Communities and Place and 30 per cent each to Supporting Local Business and People and Skills respectively. The Government had subsequently indicated that Councils would be able to vary the allocation of funding to each of these pillars by up to 30 per cent to ensure that there was flexibility built into the scheme.

Local authorities could allocate a proportion of the funding to administering the scheme. In a context in which there were capacity issues within local government, officers were proposing that a small amount of the funding should be allocated to the administrative process.

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 26th July, 2022

Following the presentation of the report, Members discussed the interventions that had been highlighted in the report for the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme in Redditch. Questions were raised about the potential for perceptions of attractions to be added to the list of interventions selected locally, taking into account recent successful events in the town centre. Members were advised that events and attractions in the town centre would be supported by the work of the Redditch Business Improvement District (BID). Work on investing in attractions would include allocating support to cultural and artistic venues. Whilst this had not been included in the current round of interventions, there would be scope to review this at a later date if considered to be necessary.

Reference was made to the need for levelling up work to be undertaken in parts of the Borough, particularly in the district centres. Members commented that this funding would help to support communities living in these parts of the Borough.

Members welcomed the inclusion of green skills in the interventions that had been selected for Redditch. Given the significant number of trees in the Borough, Members suggested that there was the potential for skills to be developed in green industries and for knowledge to be embedded in the local economy.

During consideration of this item, the Chair commented that the report had been pre-scrutinised at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21st July 2022. There had been a detailed debate of the subject at the meeting and many questions had been raised about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as part of these discussions. At the end of their debate, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had endorsed the recommendations detailed in the report. The Committee was thanked for their hard work in scrutinising the proposals.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Investment Plan be approved for submission to the UK Government;**
- 2) authority to finalise the Investment plan be delegated to the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Regeneration and Strategic Partnerships and in light of advice from the Local Partnership Board;**
- 3) authority to develop projects to deliver the outcomes contained in the investment plan be delegated to the Head**

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 26th July, 2022

of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Regeneration and Strategic Partnerships and in light of advice from the Local Partnership Board; and

RECOMMENDED that

- 4) the Medium Term Financial Strategy is amended to include the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Allocation when next reviewed.**

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

Councillor Nyear Nazir, the Council's representative on the Corporate Parenting Board, provided a verbal update on the latest work of the Board.

At a meeting of the Board held on Tuesday 12th July 2022, Members had considered the content of the Independent Reviewing Officer's (IRO's) Annual Report for 2021/22. The Board had been advised that 98 per cent of looked after children in Worcestershire had had reviews. The remaining 2 per cent of children had not received reviews because they did not wish to have reviews, although agencies continued to engage with these children.

During this meeting, the Board had been advised that 294 looked after children from Worcestershire had been placed outside the county. Concerns had been raised about this, although the Board had been informed that this was a relatively low figure. In many cases, children had been placed outside the county so that they could live with relatives or close family friends.

Members were informed that at the Board meeting, Councillor Nazir had been appointed District Champion for employment in care leavers for Worcestershire. There would be a need for Members to work together to ensure that care leavers received appropriate support, including help securing employment, education and training opportunities.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 September 2022 to 31 December 2022

(published as at 1st August 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
Asset Management Strategy and investment programme for council housing stock Key: No	Executive 6 Sep 2022 Council 19 Sep 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252
Budget Framework and Finance and Performance Quarter 1 Monitoring Report Key: No	Executive 6 Sep 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Climate Change Strategy Key: No	Executive 6 Sep 2022 Council 19 Sep 2022		Head of Community and Housing Services and Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Guy Revans, Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services, Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3292, 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
Compulsory purchase of a long term empty property Key: No	Executive Not before 6th Sep 2022 Council Not before 19th Sep 2022	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
Draft Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24 Key: No	Executive 6 Sep 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Finance Improvement/Recovery Plan Key: No	Executive 6 Sep 2022		Report of the Interim Section 151 Officer	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Financial Outturn Report 2021/22 Key: No	Executive 6 Sep 2022 Council 19 Sep 2022		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
First Homes Key: No	Executive 6 Sep 2022		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Amanda Delahunty, Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer Tel: (01527) 881269

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
Nomination of the Community Centre at Easemore Road - Asset of Community Value Key: No	Executive 6 Sep 2022		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services Tel: 01527 64252
Recommissioning of the County Single Homeless and Childless Couples Service Key: No	Executive 6 Sep 2022		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Amanda Delahunty, Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer Tel: (01527) 881269
Worcestershire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Key: No	Executive 6 Sep 2022 Council 19 Sep 2022		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Amanda Delahunty, Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer Tel: (01527) 881269
Redditch TIP Library Redevelopment - Business Case Key: Yes	Executive 27 Sep 2022	This report may contain exempt information which would need to be considered in private session.	Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration Tel: 01562 732192

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
Asset Strategy Key: No	Executive 25 Oct 2022		Report of the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services Tel: 01527 881429
Environment Act - Changes to Waste Services - Implications Key: No	Executive Not before 25th Oct 2022 Council Not before 14th Nov 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Guy Revans, Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3292
Financial Monitoring Report Key: No	Executive 25 Oct 2022		Report of the Executive Director Finance & Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Fees and Charges 2023/24 Key: No	Executive 25 Oct 2022 Council 14 Nov 2022		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 25 Oct 2022		Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Pete Liddington, GIS/Design Officer Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3638

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Future Plans for Auxerre House Key: No	Executive 25 Oct 2022 Council 14 Nov 2022	This report may contain exempt information which would need to be discussed by the Executive Committee in private session.	Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252
Leisure Strategy Key: No	Executive 25 Oct 2022 Council 14 Nov 2022		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services Tel: 01527 64252
Local Lettings Plans Key: No	Executive 25 Oct 2022		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Amanda Delahunty, Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer Tel: (01527) 881269
Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2025/26 - Update Key: No	Executive 25 Oct 2022		Report of the Head 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 25 Oct 2022	This report may contain exempt information which would need to be discussed in private session.	Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Kevin Hirons, Environmental Services Manager Tel: 01527 881705
Quarterly Risk Update Key: No	Executive 25 Oct 2022		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 25th Oct 2022 Council Not before 14th Nov 2022		Report of the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services Tel: 01527 881429
Voluntary Bodies Scheme Key: No	Executive 25 Oct 2022		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Financial Monitoring Report Key: No	Executive 6 Dec 2022		Report of the Executive Director Finance & Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
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
HR and Organisational Development / People 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
Matchborough and Winyates Regeneration Proposals Key: Yes	Executive Not before 6th Dec 2022		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration Tel: 01562 732192

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
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
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
Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2040 Key: No	Executive 6 Dec 2022 Council 30 Jan 2023		Report of the Chief Executive	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284
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
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

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
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
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
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
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

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 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
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
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
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

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Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

5th September 2022**WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23**

(Report of the Chief Executive)

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

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

5th September 2022

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
5 th September 2022	Scrutiny Scoping Document Submission - Health Inequalities within the BME Community in Redditch	Councillor Sid Khan
5 th September 2022	Nomination of Asset of Community Value – Community House, Easemore Road – Pre-Scrutiny	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services
22 nd September 2022	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Redditch TIP – Library Business Case	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services
20 th October 2022	Climate Change/Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan– pre-scrutiny	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services and Guy Revans, Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services
20 th October 2022	Pre-Decision-Scrutiny - Future Plans for Auxerre House	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager
20 th October 2022	Asset Strategy – pre-scrutiny	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services and Pete Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer
20 th October 2022	Voluntary Bodies Scheme – pre-scrutiny	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services
20 th October 2022	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Leisure Strategy	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services
20 th October 2022	Environment Act - Changes to Waste Services – Implications – pre-scrutiny	Guy Revans, Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

5th September 2022

1st December 2022	Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2040 – pre-scrutiny	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services
1st December 2022	HR and Organisational Development / People Strategy – pre-scrutiny	Deb Poole, Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy
1st December 2022	Matchborough and Winyates Regeneration Proposals – pre-scrutiny	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development
1st December 2022	Revisiting Items Identified During the Overview and Scrutiny Training held on 6 th June 2022	Jess Bayley-Hill, Principal Democratic Services Officer
5th January 2023	Pre-Decision-Scrutiny - Asset Management Strategy and investment programme for council housing stock	Simon Parry, Housing Property Services Manager
2nd February 2023	Draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23	Councillor Bill Hartnett
Date to be confirmed	Support Provided by the Council to residents in respect of the cost of living – Overview item	Various Heads of Service
Date to be confirmed	New Cemetery Provision – Update – Overview item	Bereavement Services Manager
Date to be confirmed	Health Priorities in Redditch - Overview item	Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive Officer

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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2022

5th September

HEALTH INEQUALITIES WITHIN THE BME COMMUNITY IN REDDITCH – PROPOSED TASK GROUP

Member proposing the review	Councillor Sid Khan
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis - Head of Community and Housing Services
Jo Gresham	Job Title: Senior Democratic Services Officer Contact email: joanne.gresham@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Wards Affected	All wards
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living independent, active and healthy lives • Improving health and wellbeing
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** to approve one of the following options:

- 1) **Subject to any changes agreed during the meeting, the proposed Task Group in respect of Health Inequalities within the BME Community in Redditch be launched.**
- 2) **Members receive a presentation on the subject of Health Inequalities within the BME Community in Redditch at a forthcoming meeting (or meetings) of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- 3) **No further action be taken by Overview and Scrutiny Members in respect of this matter.**
- 4) **Alternative action, to be identified and clearly specified during the meeting, be taken in relation to this matter.**

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022

5th September

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Health inequalities has been highlighted as an ongoing area of concern previously, both at a Redditch Borough and Worcestershire County level and the subject of health inequalities has previously been scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 Councillor Sid Khan is proposing to establish a Task Group to investigate Health Inequalities within the BME Community in Redditch. A copy of the proposal form is attached at Appendix 1.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council contained within this report.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications for the Council contained within this report.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 This topic proposal contributes to the Council's Strategic Purposes of living independent, active and healthy lives and improving health and wellbeing.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 There are no direct climate change implications for the Council contained within this report.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The focus of the proposed review is on support available in respect of tackling health inequalities in the BME community.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022

5th September

- 6.2 Should the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree that a Task Group be established, a key stakeholder for the group to consult would be the Council's Policy team, which takes a lead in respect of equalities matters at the authority.

Operational Implications

- 6.3 At present there is one scrutiny Task Group which is due to commence in Redditch. There is therefore capacity amongst both Members and the Democratic Services team to support this review.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 No specific risks have been identified.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Health Inequalities within the BME Community in Redditch Task Group – Scoping Document.

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Scrutiny Proposal Form

(This form should be completed by sponsoring Member(s), Officers and / or members of the public when proposing an item for Scrutiny).

Note: The matters detailed below have not yet received any detailed consideration. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee reserves the right to reject suggestions for scrutiny that fall outside the Borough Council's remit.

Proposer's name and designation	Cllr Sid Khan	Date of referral	27 Jun 22
Proposed topic title	Health Inequalities within the BME Community in Redditch		
Link to local priorities including the strategic purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living independent, active and healthy lives • Improving health and wellbeing 		
Background to the issue	<p>Health inequalities has been highlighted as an ongoing area of concern previously, both at a Redditch Borough and Worcestershire County level. Although the duty to have a Sustainable Community Strategy was repealed back in 2015, it's noted that Redditch Borough Council, together with partner agencies, agreed 'Health Inequalities' be included as a local priority within the Single Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire 2011-2021 (pages 16-17).</p> <p>The subject of health inequalities has previously been scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However, this task group would focus on investigating and understanding the impact of health inequalities with a particular focus on the BME communities within Redditch. A particular focus on the largest BME groups in Redditch.</p> <p>The population of Redditch is the most ethnically diverse in Worcestershire. The Central and Batchley wards are the most diverse areas. Asian/Asian British 5%, Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group 2%, Black/Black British 1%, Other Ethnic Group 0.2%,</p>		
Key Objectives Please keep to SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the current health inequalities amongst Redditch BME Communities compared to the broader community? 2. Identify the top 5 prevalent illnesses and diseases among the top three BME communities in Redditch (Asian/Asian British, Multiple ethnic Groups and Black/Black British). 		

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Identify any additional health needs and healthcare disparities. 4. Identify the reason for poor health of BME Communities in Redditch. 5. Identify any differences in life expectancy of Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi, South Asian, Afro Caribbean and multiple ethnic group communities in Redditch. These groups should be compared with white British residents of Redditch. These groups have been chosen as the largest ethnic minority groups in Redditch. 6. To consider briefings from Public Health England and local health professionals on health needs of BME Communities in Redditch – (Clinical Commissioning Groups and/or NHS). 7. Identify the health engagement programmes that are currently in place to improve the health of BME Communities, particularly those where prevention is a focus. 8. Identify what other local authorities have done to improve health and wellbeing among BME communities with an aim to roll out similar initiatives. 9. Explore any areas of improvements that could be made in the health and wellbeing of Redditch BME communities including engagement of the BME community and the empowerment of elderly, women and young people for their health needs. These groups have been identified as those who have the least up take of physical activities nationally and are considered as hard to reach.
<p>How long do you think is needed to complete this exercise? (Where possible please estimate the number of weeks, months and meetings required)</p>	<p>A Minimum of 12 months will be required to complete this exercise.</p> <p>The task group should meet once a month to gather evidence from witnesses for a minimum of 12 months with a final report produced at the end of the investigation.</p>

Please return this form to: Jo Gresham, Democratic Services Officers, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Email: joanne.gresham@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk