



Council

Mon 10 Oct
2022
7.00 pm

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

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL



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www.redditchbc.gov.uk

**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
Jess Bayley-Hill or 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.

Please note that this is a public meeting.

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

GUIDANCE FOR ELECTED MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS IN PERSON

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 Council 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 Council. Members of the public are encouraged to log in virtually, either to speak or observe meetings wherever possible.

Members of the public can 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 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.

Notes:

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



Council

Monday, 10th October, 2022

7.00 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Ann Isherwood
(Mayor)
Tom Baker-Price
(Deputy Mayor)
Salman Akbar
Imran Altaf
Karen Ashley
Joe Baker
Joanne Beecham
Juma Begum
Juliet Brunner
Michael Chalk
Brandon Clayton
Luke Court
Matthew Dormer
Peter Fleming

Alex Fogg
Andrew Fry
Lucy Harrison
Bill Hartnett
Sharon Harvey
Joanna Kane
Sid Khan
Anthony Lovell
Emma Marshall
Nyear Nazir
Timothy Pearman
Gareth Prosser
David Thain
Craig Warhurst

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Tributes to Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, including observing a period of silence in her memory**
- 3. Apologies for Absence**
- 4. Declarations of Interest**

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

- 5. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)**

- 6. Announcements**

To consider Announcements under Procedure Rule 10:

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

7. Questions on Notice (Procedure Rule 9)

Any Questions on Notice for consideration at this meeting will follow in a supplementary pack.

8. Motions on Notice (Procedure Rule 11) (Pages 7 - 8)

9. Executive Committee

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 26th July 2022 (Pages 9 – 12)

9.1 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Pages 13 - 52)

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 6th September 2022 (Pages 53 – 64)

9.2 Budget Framework and Finance and Performance Quarter 1 Monitoring Report (Pages 65 - 112)

10. Political Balance Report (Pages 113 - 124)

11. Outside Body Appointments

Members are invited to put forward nominations for appointments to the following outside body positions:

- a) Armed Forces Champion
- b) Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Partnership Assembly (ICPA)
- c) Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board (nominations are required for both a lead Member and a named substitute)

12. Urgent Business - Record of Decisions (Pages 125 - 130)

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

An urgent decision has been taken on the following subject since the previous Council meeting:

- Plot 5, Middlehouse Lane, Redditch (copy of urgent decision attached)
- Levelling Up Parks Fund (copy of urgent decision and supporting documentation attached)

Any further urgent decisions taken prior to the Council meeting will be published in a supplementary pack for the meeting.

13. Urgent Business - general (if any)

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

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



Council

Monday, 25th July, 2022

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Tom Baker-Price, Salman Akbar, Imran Altaf, Karen Ashley, Juma Begum, Michael Chalk, Brandon Clayton, Luke Court, Matthew Dormer, Peter Fleming, Andrew Fry, Lucy Harrison, Bill Hartnett, Sharon Harvey, Joanna Kane, Sid Khan, Anthony Lovell, Emma Marshall, Nyear Nazir, Timothy Pearman, David Thain and Craig Warhurst

Officers:

Peter Carpenter, Kevin Dicks, Clare Flanagan and Sue Hanley

Democratic Services Officers:

Jess Bayley-Hill

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Joanne Beecham, Juliet Brunner, Alex Fogg, Ann Isherwood and Gareth Prosser.

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Tom Baker-Price, chaired the meeting.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Tom Baker-Price, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett and Emma Marshall declared other disclosable interests in Minute Item No 35 – Executive Committee – in respect of the recommendation that had been made by the Executive Committee on 12th July 2022 on the disposal of land at St Gregory's Church. This declaration was made due to their appointment to Redditch Co-operative Homes by the Council as Redditch Co-operative Homes was due to develop land for social housing at the site. They left the meeting during consideration of the item and took no part in the debate nor vote thereon.

Chair

Council

Monday, 25th July, 2022

31. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of Council held on Monday 27th June 2022 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Mayor.

32. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made at the meeting:

a) The Mayor's Announcements

In the absence of the Mayor, a list of civic engagements that the Mayor had attended since the previous meeting of Council was tabled at the meeting (Appendix 1).

The Deputy Mayor explained that the Mayor was due to host an event on 19th August 2022 to mark the 75th anniversary of the independence of Pakistan. This event, involving a dinner for guests, was scheduled to take place at the Redditch Cricket, Hockey and Rugby Club. All Members were invited to attend.

During consideration of this item, Members were advised that since the previous meeting of Council, Mr Aled Evans had resigned as a Borough and County Councillor. On behalf of Redditch Borough Council, the Deputy Mayor thanked Mr Evans for his time serving as a Councillor, Portfolio Holder and as the authority's Armed Forces Champion. The Leader of the Council and the deputy leader of the Labour Group joined the Deputy Mayor in paying tribute to former Councillor Evans on behalf of their groups and wished him all the best for the future.

b) The Leader's Announcements

The Leader explained that Councillor Gareth Prosser had recently experienced a period of ill health. Members expressed their hopes for Councillor Prosser to experience a speedy recovery. A request was also made for a letter to be sent to Councillor Prosser's wife on behalf of the Council outlining this position.

c) The Chief Executive's Announcements

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had no announcements to make on this occasion.

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33. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE (PROCEDURE RULE 9)

The Deputy Mayor confirmed that there were no Questions on Notice for consideration on this occasion.

34. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (PROCEDURE RULE 11)

Members were advised that there were no Motions on Notice for debate at the meeting.

35. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Levelling Up Fund

Members considered recommendations that had been made at the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 28th June 2022 on the subject of the Levelling Up Fund. It was noted that the content of the report had been debated in detail at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, where Members had endorsed the recommendations. In discussing the recommendations, Members welcomed the proposed investment in redevelopment of Matchborough and Winyates District Centres.

Disposal of Land – St Gregory’s Church

Members discussed the proposed disposal of land at St Gregory’s Church and in doing so welcomed the opportunity for social housing to be developed at the site. Concerns were raised that the St Gregory’s Church site had attracted a significant amount of anti-social behaviour in recent years and Members expressed the view that the development would help to address this problem moving forward.

(Prior to the debate in respect of this item, Councillors Tom Baker-Price, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett and Emma Marshall declared other disclosable interests. This declaration was made due to their appointment to Redditch Co-operative Homes by the Council, as Redditch Co-operative Homes was due to develop land for social housing at the site. They left the meeting and took no part in the debate nor vote thereon.

Questions were raised prior to their departure as to whether Councillor Emma Marshall had made a similar declaration of interest at the Executive Committee meeting held on 12th July 2022. Members were informed that Officers would clarify this further outside the meeting.

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In the absence of both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Luke Court was nominated to Chair the meeting during the debate and vote in respect of the report on the subject of the Disposal of Land at St Gregory's Church.)

Executive Committee Minutes – 12th July 2022

Council considered the content of the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 12th July 2022. Consideration was given to the decision that had been taken at this meeting in respect of the asset rationalisation of the community house located at Easemore Road. Reference was made to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7th July 2022 at which the proposals detailed in this report had been scrutinised. The Committee had proposed that a decision on this subject should be deferred until a full review of assets had been completed by the Council but this recommendation had been rejected by the Executive Committee. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had subsequently been contacted by representatives of some of the tenants of the community centre as well as some residents about the decision that had been taken by the Executive Committee. Concerns had been raised regarding the matters that had been recorded as having been discussed at the Executive Committee meeting and therefore questions had been raised about the accuracy of the minutes.

The Chief Executive explained that similar correspondence had been received by senior officers the week prior to the Council meeting. Officers were aiming to provide a detailed response in relation to the action that had been taken by the Council in accordance with a specific timeline. However, the relevant lead officers for the report were on leave and therefore the final response would not be available until after the Council meeting.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 28th June and 12th July 2022 be received and all recommendations adopted.

(During consideration of this item there were two brief adjournments, from 19.18 to 19.20 and from 19.22 to 19.33.)

36. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

Members were informed that there had been one urgent decision taken since the previous Council meeting on the subject of funding for Rubicon Leisure Limited.

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37. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

The Deputy Mayor confirmed that there was no urgent business for consideration on this occasion.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.35 pm

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Redditch Borough Council**19th September 2022****Motions on Notice****1. Armed Forces Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.**

Proposed by Councillor Sid Khan, seconded by Councillor Juma Begum.

“This Council has proudly signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant and it is proposed that this Council moves to be aligned to the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS). This will solidify Councils commitment to the Armed Forces, their families and Veterans. The aim of joining the Employer Recognition Scheme will be to work towards the Gold Award for this Council.

The ERS is designed primarily to recognise private sector support although public sector organisations such as the emergency services, local authorities, NHS trusts and executive agencies are also eligible to be recognised and many have been awarded the Gold award eg. Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce, Redditch based Ubi-Tech (3R) Ltd, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, West Midlands Combined Authority and Birmingham City Council (Silver).”

2. Vote of thanks to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Proposed by Councillor Peter Fleming and seconded by Councillor Karen Ashley

“As the curtain falls on the Elizabethan Age, and we now embark on the Carolean reign of Charles III, I feel it is right to propose a vote of thanks to Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Over the decades we in Redditch have marked many happy moments in our country's proud history, in which the Queen has been at the centre. From Her Majesty's visit to Redditch in 1983 to this year's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, Redditch has witnessed the very best moments of Her Late Majesty's reign. For over 70 years, Her Late Majesty made good her vow of service to the peoples of the Commonwealth and United Kingdom. It has been this unswerving commitment to duty that I hope will continue to inspire us all as we continue to serve the people of this Borough.

God Save the King.”



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.

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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**

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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
2022****26 July****UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Matthew Dormer Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Development, Commercialism and Partnerships
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ostap Paparega Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development & Regeneration
Report Author	Job Title: Georgina Harris Contact email: Georgina.harris@nwedr.org.uk Contact Tel: 01562 732174
Wards Affected	No specific ward relevance
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	Run and Grow a Successful Business Aspiration, Work and Financial Independence Communities which are Safe, Well Maintained and Green
Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS**The Executive Committee is asked to RESOLVE that**

- 1) The Investment Plan (Appendix 1) 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 & 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 & Regeneration following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic**

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Development, Regeneration and Strategic Partnerships and in light of advice from the Local Partnership Board
The Executive Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that

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

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In April 2022, the Government published the prospectus for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The fund is a central pillar in the Government's Levelling Up agenda and replaces EU Structural Funds.
- 2.2 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund has the overarching objective of building pride in place and increasing life chances. It focusses on the 3 investment priorities of Community and Place, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills.
- 2.3 Each area has been given a conditional allocation from the fund. To access their allocation, lead local authorities are required to produce an investment plan setting out how they intend to use the funding and expected outcomes of the investments.
- 2.4 The investment plan should detail the high level ambitions for the area and identify the outcomes to be targeted based on local challenges and opportunities. It is not required to be an exhaustive document containing detailed project or intervention planning.
- 2.5 The Government has provided a list of 41 potential interventions. These are broad areas of investment such as "funding for improvements to town centres and high streets" and "strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development". Places are required to prioritise those interventions that will deliver the outcomes they wish to target. Appendix 2 is a list of the 41 potential interventions, including details of those that have been selected.
- 2.6 Interventions in Year 1 (2022/23) are limited to the investment priorities of Community and Place; and Supporting Local Business. Interventions in Year 2 (2023/24) may include the People and Skills priority but only where continuing a programme that is currently funded by the European Social Fund and delivered by the Voluntary and Community Sector. Interventions in Year 3 (2024/25) can cover all three investment priorities.

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- 2.7 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund can fund both capital and revenue projects. However, the Lead Local Authority is required to identify a minimum percentage of capital projects each year. In Year 1 this is a minimum of 10% of the funding, 13% in Year 2 and 20% in Year 3.
- 2.8 To support the process of selecting the most appropriate interventions, stakeholders have been consulted and were invited to submit projects that could deliver at least one of the 41 interventions. Their proposals were required to provide evidence of a local challenge or opportunity that the project would address.
- 2.9 The proposed investment plan (Appendix 1) includes those interventions that will produce measurable outcomes that reflect the needs and opportunities of the area.
- 2.10 The Government requires the investment plan to be endorsed by a Local Partnership Group. This group should include stakeholders such as representatives of the local authority, businesses, LEPs, and the voluntary sector.
- 2.11 The role of the Local Partnership Group is to provide local insight and expertise in identifying challenges and opportunities and the right solutions for inclusion in the Investment Plan. Once the plan is approved, the group should advise the Lead Local Authority on strategic fit and deliverability. The Town Deal board has agreed to extend its terms of reference to include the Local Partnership Group role.
- 2.12 Endorsement of the proposed investment plan will be sought from the local MP and Local Partnership Group prior to submission to the UK Government.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The allocation for the Borough of Redditch is £2,502,050 for the 3 years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 3.2 The funding is broken down as follows:

2022/23	£303,647
2023/24	£607,294
2024/25	£1,591,109

- 3.3 The indicative allocations over the 3 Investment Priorities are:

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Investment Priority	Expenditure
Communities & Place	£960,000
Supporting Local Business	£720,000
People & Skills	£720,000
Total	£2,400,000

- 3.4 The proposed split between capital expenditure and revenue expenditure, over the 3 years of the fund, is:

Year	Capital	Revenue	Total
2022/23	£107,000	£184,500	£291,500
2023/24	£328,000	£255,000	£583,000
2024/25	£723,000	£802,500	£1,525,500
Total	£1,158,000	£1,242,000	£2,400,000

- 3.5 The Lead Local Authority is expected to establish effective programme management methods and achieve spend to profile. If there is an underspend at the end of the year, it can be carried over into the following year. However, the Government will require a credible plan setting out how the underspend will be utilised the following year. Payment of the next year's allocation may be withheld until this plan is agreed.
- 3.6 The delivery of the Investment Plan should be cost neutral to the Council. A maximum of 4% of the allocation can be used by the Council to administer the fund. This equates to £100,082. Setting up the Fund may need a larger administration budget in the first year than in later years. This is acceptable so long as the percentage is not exceeded overall.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Once the investment plan has been approved by Government, the Council will be required to enter into an agreement with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to deliver the interventions included in the plan. Appropriate legal advice will be sought prior to entering any legal agreement.
- 4.2 Delivery of the investment plan may require the Council to enter into contracts or other agreements with external organisations. The awarding of contracts or other agreements will be subject to the Council's procurement rules and subject to appropriate due diligence.

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- 4.3 Failure to submit the Investment Plan to Government by the deadline of 1 August 2022 will delay approval of the plan and receipt of the funding.

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

- 5.1 The Investment Plan proposes a range of business support programmes which will help entrepreneurs to start-up and grow existing businesses. Support will be available to help businesses to innovate and implement low carbon strategies. The interventions will contribute to the Council's strategic purpose "Run and Grow a Successful Business".
- 5.2 The Investment Plan proposes programmes of support to assist those furthest from employment and to help individuals to upskill. The interventions will contribute to the Council's strategic purpose "Aspiration, Work and Financial Independence".
- 5.3 The Investment Plan proposes investment in improvements to public spaces and reduce crime. The interventions will contribute to the Council's strategic purpose "Communities which are Safe, Well Maintained and Green"

Climate Change Implications

- 5.4 The investment plan includes interventions that will improve green spaces, reduce energy use by both residents and businesses and support businesses to develop carbon reducing technologies.

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

- 6.1 Equality and diversity implications will be considered throughout the delivery of the plan.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 One FTE role is required to support the administration and delivery of the investment plan. This post will be funded from the 4% of the Council's UK Share Prosperity Fund allocation that can be set aside for administration of the fund.

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7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Failure to submit an Investment Plan by the deadline will delay approval of the investment plan and the receipt of the funding. Any delay in receipt of the funding in may impact deliverability in this financial year which, in turn, may impact receipt of funding the following year.
- 7.2 The Council will need to implement appropriate programme and project management arrangements for the UKSPF allocation for Redditch, in order to manage risks relating to the funding programme and to any projects for which it is directly responsible.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

Appendix 2 List of Interventions

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/94444/uk-sp-fund-prospectus)

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Interventions, Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: interventions, outputs and indicators - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/94444/uk-sp-fund-interventions-objectives-outcomes-and-outputs)



UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Investment Plan Questions

Offline version – for information only

Version 1
April 2022

Please note – the questions below are form information only. All investment plans must be submitted by lead local authorities via the online platform

Your location

The Borough of Redditch

Your details

Name: Ostep Paparega

Email address: ostep.paparega@nwedr.org.uk

Phone number: 01562 732192

Organisation name

Redditch Borough Council

Local challenges and opportunities

In this section, we will ask you:

- If you've identified any challenges or opportunities, you intend to support
- Which of the UKSPF investment priorities these fall under

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

In late 2021, the Redditch Borough Community Survey was undertaken. In the survey, 74.1% of respondents stated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their neighbourhood; 61.7% were satisfied or very satisfied with their ward and 48.3% were satisfied or very satisfied with the borough.

When asked about perceptions of safety, 82.5% of respondents said that they felt safe outside in the daylight and 38.5% felt safe after dark. This is lower than when surveyed in 2020, when the figures were 91.7% and 55.3% respectively. 55% of respondents agreed that having CCTV helped them feel safe when out in public.

The impact of the pandemic has been significant on residents. The survey revealed that, as a result of Covid 19

- 46% felt concerned about the financial situation for their family
- 75% felt concerned about loneliness in the community
- 72% felt concerned about education
- 53% felt concerned about mental health
- 52% felt concerned about physical health.

The top 3 things that respondents said were the most important areas to protect the environment were:

- Having homes that are energy efficient and affordable to run
- Reducing the amount of waste they create
- Increasing the use of renewable energy

The top 5 priorities identified by residents are:

- Community safety
- Provide well maintained community parks and open spaces

- Healthy lifestyles and well-being including mental health
- Ensuring housing in the Borough is of good quality and affordable
- Maintenance of the landscape and environment

The following challenges have been identified under the communities and place investment priority:

- Pockets of deprivation
- Low resident earnings
- Low rates of participation in the arts and culture

Pockets of deprivation

Redditch has a relatively high employment rate of 75.5%. This is higher than both the West Midlands (73.6%) and England (75.1%).

Gross Disposable Household Income per head is £21,187 which is significantly higher than the West Midlands figure of £18,350 but lower than the figure for England of £21,978. (Source: ONS 2019)

Residents expressed an Average Life Satisfaction rating (scored out of 10) of 7.0. This is slightly lower than the rating for England which was 7.38 (Source: ONS)

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019) shows that Redditch experiences areas of significant deprivation:

- 21 areas are in the 30% most deprived areas of England, of which
- 14 areas are in the 20% most deprived areas of England
- 5 areas are in the 10% most deprived areas of England

Low resident earnings

In 2021, the average earnings by place of residence in Redditch were £507.70 (gross weekly pay full-time workers). This is significantly lower than the West Midlands and UK average:

Place of Residence	Gross Weekly Pay
Redditch	£507.70
West Midlands	£581.80
UK	£613.10

NOMIS 2021

Participation in arts and culture

Redditch is an area of the country where involvement in arts and culture is significantly lower than the national average as evidenced by the Active Lives Survey. The progress made by the cultural sector to address this challenge is significant, however, this progress is at risk because of the cost of living crisis and the unusually acute effect of covid upon the sector.

The Arts Council has identified Redditch as a priority place for Levelling up for Culture. It is considered high in opportunity but has had low investment or engagement.

Redditch is 113 of 319 locations in the Royal Society of Arts' Heritage Index 2020, an improvement of 18 places since 2016. The area scores particularly high for parks and open spaces, being in the top 10%.

Extensive investigation into community need has identified barriers to engagement in culture across the population. This led to a successful application to enter Arts Council England's Creative People and Places National Portfolio. The various action research now available to us has identified the demand and need to better connect the unusually high volume and quality of heritage and cultural assets inherent in the area. This has resulted in the formation of the Cultural Compact for North East Worcestershire and the development of a plan to bring forward a Heritage Corridor for North Worcestershire.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

The following opportunities have been identified under the Communities and Place investment priority

- Unleash the economic potential of Redditch Town Centre
- Exploit the biodiversity net gain and carbon capture potential of green spaces

Unleash the economic potential of Redditch Town Centre

In September 2019, Redditch was invited to submit an application to the Towns Fund to secure funding for projects to foster economic regeneration, stimulate investment and deliver vital infrastructure. The bid was successful in securing £15.6 million to deliver an ambitious programme including redevelopment of key sites in the town centre, improvements to public realm and the development of a digital manufacturing and innovation centre.

Opportunities exist to increase the benefits of the Town Deal through the delivery of complimentary interventions and enhanced investment in key projects. This could include:

- Enhanced public realm improvements
- Shop frontage improvements to increase the visual appeal of the town centre
- Empty property grants to encourage uptake of vacant properties and support new businesses
- Activities to encourage businesses to invest in digital adoption and innovation, stimulating demand for the Digital Manufacturing and Innovation Centre

Exploit the biodiversity net gain and carbon capture potential of green spaces

The borough of Redditch has a distinctive environment comprising diverse landscape character areas including through urban areas. There are many green corridors within the borough which are currently fragmented but have the potential to provide a more comprehensive network of high quality green infrastructure (GI). Green Infrastructure (GI) is defined as 'a network of multifunctional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities'. The borough's watercourses, in particular, offer the opportunity to link the urban areas with the open countryside beyond.

The green infrastructure network for the borough is set out within the Green Infrastructure Strategy Baseline for Redditch Borough. This shows how the borough's existing green infrastructure assets can be better linked in order to provide greater connectivity for both people and nature.

Worcestershire's GI Strategy and supporting evidence base seeks to enhance opportunities to link biodiversity with drainage, historic landscape character and improved accessibility. Tackling

fragmentation & restoring the ecological network are aims of the Redditch Local Plan and will help to deliver Worcestershire's Green Infrastructure Strategy & Biodiversity Action plan.

Opportunities exist to support landowners to influence & change the way that green infrastructure across the area is managed to benefit the environment & deliver multifunctional benefits:

- support for pollinators & beneficial insects
- flood resilience
- water quality improvements
- enhanced recreation & amenity opportunities, which brings both physical & mental health benefit to local residents & economic benefit through the visitor economy.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

Mission 1 of the Levelling Up White Paper is that by 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK. These are areas of challenge for Redditch, particularly in terms of productivity and pay. It lags behind the West Midlands and England in key areas:

- Productivity
- Workplace earnings
- New business start-up rate
- Lower levels of innovation compared to the national average

Productivity

The most recent data shows that productivity per hour worked in Redditch is £32.10 compared to an England average of £35.70 – nearly 9% lower. (Source: ONS 2019)

Workplace earnings

In 2021 the average workplace earnings in Redditch was £661.60. This was a significant increase on previous years and higher than both the West Midlands average (£585.00) and England average (£613.30). However this appears to be an anomaly as in the previous 5 years the average workplace earnings in the district have been consistently below that of the West Midlands and England.

Area	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Redditch	£469.2	£454.00	£483.60	£524.90	£490.40	£661.60
West Midlands	£509.80	£514.80	£536.60	£552.50	£554.10	£585.00
England	£544.20	£555.80	£574.80	£592.20	£590.00	£613.30

Source: NOMIS (FTE Average Gross Weekly Wage)

New business start-up rate

In 2020 there were 3,500 active businesses in Redditch. The rate of new business start-ups (as a proportion of all businesses) has declined in recent years from 13.8% in 2015 to 10.1% in 2020. In 2019 the rate was 23% but this appears to be an anomaly as data for other years shows a steady fall. In 2020 there were 355 new starts in the district.

Innovation

The value of grants awarded to Worcestershire companies from Innovate UK varies significantly from year to year. Over the last 5 years 0.3% of funding has been awarded to Worcestershire companies, less than the 1.1% share of the business base. In this period over £95 million of grants have been awarded by Innovate UK. Of this, 11 grants totaling £2,942,379 have been awarded to businesses in Redditch.

Over the last 5 years the highest number of grants have been awarded to Responsive projects followed by projects in the Manufacturing, Materials and Mobility sector. Relative to comparator areas, Worcestershire has a high number of claims made for R&D tax credits, but a low amount of qualifying expenditure meaning that the average amount of R&D claimed is relatively low. Despite an increase in 2021, the proportion of those in employment who are science, research, engineering and technology professionals remains lower in Worcestershire than all other comparator areas. However, there are other positive indications of innovation in Worcestershire which had a higher proportion of firms undertaking product or process innovation or performing internal R&D than all other comparator areas.

Business Demographics

In 2020, Redditch's count of active businesses was 3,500. This figure has grown steadily from 2,940 in 2015. In 2019 there was a significant rise to 3,820 but this has now dropped back to 3,500. (Source: Business Demography 2020)

Manufacturing and Wholesale & Retail are the largest sectors in Redditch, each representing 20.5% of jobs in the district. The proportion of employment in manufacturing is particularly notable, being almost double the West Midlands proportion and two and half times the proportion in Great Britain. This presents both a challenge and an opportunity. There are a significant number of manufacturing jobs in the district allied to the automotive sector, which has a strong history locally. This leaves the district vulnerable to economic shocks such as the automotive industry crisis of 2008-2010.

Largest Sectors (by employment)

Sector	Redditch	West Midlands	Great Britain
Manufacturing	20.5%	10.9%	7.9%
Wholesale & Retail	20.5%	16.1%	14.9%
Human Health & Social Work	11.5%	13.8%	13.6%

(NOMIS 2020)

Commercial Property

The Worcestershire Commercial Property Report 2022, compiled by GJS Dillon, quotes the vacancy rate for industrial premises in the town as 3.7%. Whilst this is relatively high compared to the rest of Worcestershire, the rate is falling. This is attributed to the letting of properties on a number of large developments. Demand for premises is high and the report states that there is a "need to keep a pipeline of quality warehouse accommodation in the district. As the availability of land decreases, the refurbishment of existing stock could provide the key to keeping the stream of quality space flowing."

Demand for office accommodation has remained consistent with 2019 and 2020 and vacancy rates have tracked in line with the whole of Worcestershire. However, a shortage of modern office accommodation has resulted in the difference between headline rate and average rentals to become almost nothing.

The report states that "if Redditch is to build on the momentum of attracting businesses from Birmingham and the M42 corridor, it needs to address the availability of good quality space. Demand is there from larger occupiers, making new developments in Redditch more viable than other submarkets."

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

The following opportunities have been identified under this priority:

- High demand for business support
- Strong business base with high manufacturing capabilities

Demand for Business Support:

Building on the success of ERDF funded programmes and the work of the Worcestershire Growth Hub, there is a strong demand for support from businesses. Recent surveys with Worcestershire businesses have revealed that:

- 40% of respondents (322 businesses) defined their business' current situation as "growing"; this positive view of the future was a significant change from 13% in March 2021 survey.
- Of the above businesses, 73% said that they had plans for investment and growth over the next 12 months. The largest proportion of these business were in the 2-50 employee size band.
- Over half of all survey respondents (56%) said that they have plans for investment and growth over the next 12 months.

The top areas of support that businesses said they would like to see offered over the next 12 months were consistent with previous surveys in 2020 and 2021 and were:

- Digital Marketing
- Business Planning for Raising Finance
- Sales & Business Development
- Bespoke one to one business advice/consultancy
- Advice and support on the introduction of new technology to the business

The current challenges that businesses are facing include:

- Rising energy costs
- Customer demand/competitiveness
- Supply chain problems
- New technology - upfront costs barrier for many SMEs
- Impartial advice - best options in relation to net zero

(Source: Worcestershire Business Survey (801 businesses) - November 2021 to January 2022)

The Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce Economic Report (Q4 2021) highlights a strong desire by companies to reduce environmental impact. The top 3 areas of assistance identified by businesses to help them take further action to reduce environmental impact or cut carbon emissions were funding; impartial, technical advice; and networking with like-minded businesses.

In 2021/22 the local Growth Hub engaged and delivered to over 2000 businesses. The top areas of advice and support sought during that engagement were:

- Finance/loans/grants
- Business growth advice and support
- General advice
- Skills and training
- Innovation and R&D processes
- Energy and resource efficiency
- International trade and exporting

There is clearly a demand amongst local business to access support to enable them to grow, particularly in areas that are key drivers for economic growth such as innovation and digitisation. Current business engagement through Worcestershire's EU funded programmes managed by the County Council and part funded by district councils will end shortly yet continues to experience a high demand across all areas - Growth, Innovation, Technology, Net Zero. Over the past 4 years over 180 businesses have received direct bespoke support, 181 businesses have received grants totaling over £1.8m, creating over 75 jobs (with more to come) and saving almost 600 tonnes of carbon.

Supporting businesses to innovate and grow will help to address Redditch's low wage economy and drive up productivity.

Strong business base with high manufacturing capabilities

Much like the economy as a whole, Redditch's business base is predominantly made up of micro businesses. However, its proportion of small and medium businesses is higher than that of the West Midlands and the proportion of large companies is equal to that of the West Midlands.

Business Size by employee numbers	Redditch (%)	West Midlands (%)
Micro (0-9)	80.9	84.3
Small (10 – 49)	14.8	12.5
Medium (50-249)	3.7	2.8
Large (250+)	0.4	0.4

2021 UK Business Counts (local units), Source: Inter Departmental Business Register

Redditch has a higher proportion of businesses that are defined as high growth. Whilst the number is relatively low – 20 – this represents 0.57% of the business population. This is a higher proportion than both the West Midlands (0.35%) and England (0.4%).

Whilst the district's start-up rate may be declining, its business survival rate at the crucial 3 year stage is better than for the the West Midlands and England.

Business Survival (3 years)

Date of Business Birth	Redditch	West Midlands	England
2015	56.8%	55.9%	55.2%
2016	50.6%	47.6%	51.5%
2017	55.6%	46.5%	53%

(Business Demography 2020)

As previously highlighted, the proportion of jobs in manufacturing in Redditch is two and a half times that of Great Britain. This manufacturing capability means that many businesses in the district, with appropriate support, have the potential to develop innovative products and processes and exploit commercial opportunities due to the drive to net zero carbon.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

The key challenges that Redditch faces regarding People & Skills are:

- Educational Attainment
- Youth Unemployment
- Economic Inactivity
- Disparity between place of residence earnings and workplace earnings
- Mismatch of skills
- Loss of ESF funded programmes

Educational Attainment

The proportion of Redditch residents with qualifications is lower than the West Midlands and Great Britain at all levels.

Qualification	Redditch	West Midlands	Great Britain
NVQ4 and above	31.1%	38.8%	43.5%
NVQ3 and above	45.8%	57.2%	61.5%
NVQ2 and above	65.2%	75.2%	78.2%
NVQ1 and above	84%	84.9%	87.6%

Source: NOMIS (Jan 2021 – Dec 2021)

In most recent data, the proportion of people achieving GCSE in English and Maths by age 19 is 68% compared to a national average of 73%.

(Source: Department for Education 2020-21)

Youth Unemployment

In May 2022 the unemployment rate for Redditch was 3.9%. This is comparable to the rate for Great Britain but is lower than the West Midlands. Youth unemployment (18 to 24 year olds) is significantly higher at 5.7%, much higher than for Great Britain and more in line with the rate for the West Midlands.

The district sees particular challenges in the wards of Church Hill , Winyates and Abbey.

Claimant Count

	Redditch	West Midlands	Great Britain
Claimant Count	3.9%	5.0%	3.9%
Claimant Count (18-24 year olds)	5.7%	5.8%	4.5%

NOMIS May 2022

Economic Inactivity

In 2021, 22.6% of the working age population (aged 16 to 64 years old) were economically inactive. This equates to 11,700 people. This is similar to the rate for the West Midlands (22.4%) and slightly higher than the rate for Great Britain (21.6%). Economic inactivity is usually due to study, caring responsibilities, ill health, disability or being discouraged. Whilst no figures are available for the various causes of inactivity, nearly 91% of this group describe themselves as not wanting a job. (Source: NOMIS 2021)

In Redditch, as of May 2022, 114 young people are NEET and unknown within years 12 and 13, representing 3.6 % of the school year population. Nationally, the issues that affect young people who become NEET cost over £65,000 each in direct lifetime costs to public finances and £120,000 in wider lifetime costs to the economy and wider community. Current NEET figures would estimate this to cost £13.68 M for the current year 12/13 population to Worcestershire.

Disparity between residence earnings and workplace earnings

In 2021 the average gross weekly wage (FTE) of residents in Redditch was £507.70. This is less than the average for the West Midlands and significantly less than the average for Great Britain.

The average gross weekly wage (FTE) of workers in Redditch for 2021 was £661.60. This is significantly higher than for both the West Midlands and Great Britain.

Earnings

Earnings	Redditch	West Midlands	Great Britain
Earnings by Place of Residence	£507.70	£581.80	£613.40

Earnings by Place of Work	£661.60	£585.00	£612.80
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NOMIS (FTE Gross Weekly Wage 2021)

As can be seen, there is a considerable disparity between earnings by place of residence and earnings by place of work. Whilst the gap between the two measures varies year on year, earnings by residence have been lower than workplace in 7 of the past 10 years. This difference in 2021 is the highest for 10 years.

This suggests that whilst there are high paid jobs available in the district, these roles are not being filled by residents.

Commuting figures support this assertion, with 13,747 people commuting into the district and 17,623 commuting out of the district; a net outflow of 3,876. The most frequent destinations for out commuters are Bromsgrove and Birmingham, both of which have lower workplace earnings than Redditch (£553.10 and £618.70 respectively).

Mismatched Skills

The Worcestershire LEP Local Skills Report 2022 has identified the following issues:

- Businesses have identified a shortage of skilled staff as a barrier to innovation and growth and is one of the major worries for local employers. Recent analysis of the online vacancies shows a 92% increase in demand for new recruits since December 2020.
- Ongoing Surveys show a growing number of employers reporting challenges in recruiting, with the last quarter of 2021, showing that 74% of employers experienced difficulty recruiting
- The most frequently cited skills deficits are at higher levels in IT, job-specific, and technical skills.
- We have a higher proportion than England of hard-to-fill vacancies: these are highest amongst middle-skill roles, particularly Skilled Trades.
- Worcestershire's employers report a need for understanding of their sectors in education and embedding a greater level of careers support to move successfully into industry post school, further or higher education. Many Employers understand the need to have a role in supporting the long term supply of talent into Worcestershire's employers.
- The impact of automation will be significant, with 10% of low-skilled jobs likely to be affected. Redditch has a higher proportion of employees in process plant, machine operative and elementary occupations (21.3%) than both the West Midlands (18.3%) and Great Britain (15.1%) and so faces significant risk. However, it should also be noted that some higher skilled roles (such as those within Finance and Business Services) are also susceptible to automation.

Loss of ESF Funded Support Programmes

There are currently a number of ESF funded programmes delivering skills and employment support to residents of Redditch. These include:

- Skills Support for the Unemployed – supported 105 Redditch residents from July 2019 to date.
- Skills Support for the Workforce – supported 280 employees since April 2019.
- Community Grants – 124 grants awarded to community organisations to help Redditch residents furthest from the labour market.
- NEET support – supported 113 young people not in employment, education or training or at risk of become so.

Collectively, these programmes have supported over 700 people in Redditch.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

The following opportunities have been identified for support under this priority:

- Tailored support for the economically inactive and those furthest away from the labour market including enrichment activities and volunteering
- Increasing the basic skills levels of residents and upskilling the workforce including interventions to increase levels of digital skills

Programmes of support will be developed to address youth unemployment at a district level. Experience of previous and current programmes show that interventions can:

- Increase the levels of social mobility of young people
- Increase the basic skills levels of residents
- Upskills residents in training and education

Specialist interventions will be developed to move young people through a co-ordinated journey, covering the key stages designed to inspire them, explore opportunities, prepare for the move into education or employment, support to apply for apprenticeship or FE/HE courses and follow ups to ensure that momentum is sustained. Programmes will be designed to meet individual needs and provide bespoke journeys that ensure improved outcomes for the individual.

Programmes of support for the economically inactive and those furthest from the labour market provide tailored support to help people into employment, particularly those who are not supported by mainstream provision. Enrichment activities and volunteering also helps to reduce the barrier to economic activity. Addressing issue of digital exclusion will support individuals into employment.

The Worcestershire LEP Skills Report 2022 identifies the local sector strengths as construction, healthcare, and business administration. It anticipates that the greatest employment growth will be within advance manufacturing, cyber security, IT & defence, and agri-tech.

The current acceleration of demand around sustainable business practice and the drive to net zero will be a significant driver for growth. The sector is predicted to grow at a rapid rate, increasing staff levels by around 200%.

Worcestershire has a lower level of employment in the digital sector than the England average; however digital skills remain in the highest demand from employers. This applies equally to those new to the job market, replacement labour or when reskilling existing staff. Digital marketing and cloud-based computing have the greatest current and predicted use locally and salaries within digital skilled roles have increase by 35% over the last year.

Worcestershire has a high proportion of vacancies where management and leadership skills have been identified as essential. Manufacturing continues to have the highest number of vacancies in the county.

With significant growth predicted in areas where there is already a skills deficit, access to high quality, relevant training is essential if residents are to benefit from the growth in business. Focusing on those sectors where high growth is predicted and where more skilled, higher paid roles will be created, will ensure that local residents will be able to access the best opportunities. Support to upskill the existing workforce and new employees will ensure that businesses are able to realise their growth ambitions and local residents will benefit from increased opportunities.

Interventions

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Interventions you've chosen for each year of funding
- Outcomes you want to deliver
- Any interventions that are not listed here
- How these interventions fall under the UKSPF investment priorities, and your rationale for them
- Interventions not included in our list will be assessed before being approved, where you will need to show a clear rationale, how the intervention is value for money, what outcomes it will deliver and how you will monitor and evaluate the intervention. This may include a theory of change or logic chain.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	
Jobs safeguarded	
Increased footfall	✓
Increased visitor numbers	✓
Reduced vacancy rates	✓
Greenhouse gas reductions	✓
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility	✓
Improved perception of facilities/amenities	✓
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
Increased users of facilities / amenities	✓
Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project	✓
Increased use of cycleways or paths	✓
Increase in Biodiversity	
Increased affordability of events/entry	
Improved perception of safety	✓
Reduction in neighbourhood crime	✓
Improved engagement numbers	✓
Improved perception of events	✓
Increased number of web searches for a place	
Volunteering numbers as a result of support	
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	
Increased take up of energy efficiency measures	✓
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	✓
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>
E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets
E2: Funding for new, or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects
E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments
E5: Built & landscaped environment to 'design out crime'
E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities
E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area
E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects
E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups
E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

N/A

Explain how each intervention meets the Communities and Place investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

N/A

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?
All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

N/A

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Communities and Place investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

We have received a number of proposals for projects to be delivered under the Communities & Place investment priority. These will be assessed by the local partnership group for strategic fit and deliverability once the investment plan has been approved.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

All projects will be assessed to ensure that they comply with subsidy control legislation.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	✓
Jobs safeguarded	✓
Increased footfall	
Increased visitor numbers	
Reduced vacancy rates	
Greenhouse gas reductions	✓
Number of new businesses created	✓
Improved perception of markets	
Increased business sustainability	✓
Increased number of businesses supported	✓
Increased amount of investment	✓
Improved perception of attractions	
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm	✓
Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity	
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	
Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	✓
Number of new to market products	✓
Number of R&D active businesses	
Increased number of innovation active SMEs	
Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services	
Increased number of innovation plans developed	
Number of early stage firms which increase their revenue following support	
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	
Number of businesses increasing their export capability	
Increased amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed	
Number of businesses with improved productivity	✓
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	✓
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

E16: Open markets & town centre retail & service sector

E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy

E20: R&D grants supporting innovative product & service development

E21: Development of innovation infrastructure at the local level

E22: Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects.

E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems

E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators

E29: Supporting decarbonisation whilst growing the local economy

E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

N/A	
Explain how each intervention meets the Supporting Local Business investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.	
N/A	
Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	
N/A	

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority and the location of the proposed project

We have received a number of proposals for projects that fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority. These will be assessed by the local partnership board for strategic fit and deliverability once the investment plan has been approved.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

All projects will be assessed to ensure that they comply with subsidy control legislation.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support	

Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups [and/or] increased employability through development of interpersonal skills	✓
Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	
Number of people in supported employment [and] number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services	
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services	✓
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support	✓
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	✓
Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months	✓
Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance	
Number of people in education/training	✓
Increased number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	
Increased number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace	✓
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	✓
Number of people gaining qualifications, licences, and skills	
Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education, and training.	
Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions	
Number of people with proficiency in pre-employment and interpersonal skills (relationship, organisational and anger-management, interviewing, CV and job application writing)	
Multiply only - Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.	
Multiply only - Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2.	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

E33: Employment support for economically inactive people

E34: Courses including basic, life & career skills

E35: Enrichment & volunteering activities

E36: Intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion

E39: Green Skills courses

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these	
N/A	
Explain how each intervention meets the People and Skills investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.	
N/A	
Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	
N/A	

ENGLAND ONLY: People and Skills interventions can only be used in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 if you have identified a local voluntary and community provision, previously supported by the European Social Fund, at risk of closure. If you have not identified a suitable provision, you will not be able to select interventions for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and your investment plan will not be approved.
HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS for 2024-2025 WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?
No
Describe the projects for 2024-25, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.
N/A
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

N/A		
HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED A LOCAL VOLUNTARY PROVISION AT RISK AS PART OF YOUR PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITIES?		
Yes		No
(If Yes) Describe the local voluntary provision at risk and your rationale for supporting it.		
Provide the European Social Fund Project Names and Project References for this voluntary and community provision at risk.		
What year do you intend to fund these projects? Select all that apply.		
2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Describe the projects for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.		
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.		
Yes		No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.		
N/A		

SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY		
HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?		
Yes		No
Describe the projects, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.		

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	

Approach to delivery and governance

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Structures you have in place to support delivery
- Support you have from stakeholders and the local community
- How you've engaged with MPs as part of your investment plan
- Opportunities you have identified to work with other places

Places need to show how MPs that cover the lead local authority have been engaged on the investment plan and whether they support it. More detail on the role of MPs can be found here.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT		
Have you engaged with any of the following as part of your investment plan? Select all that apply.		
Public sector organisations ✓	Private sector organisations ✓	Civil society organisations ✓
Describe how you have engaged with any of these organisations. Give examples where possible.		
<p>Consultation has taken place with private business, parish councils, Worcestershire LEP, Greater Birmingham & Solihull Growth Hub, Worcestershire Growth Hub, Further Education Providers, Worcestershire County Council, the VCS.</p> <p>Presentations regarding the UK SPF have been given to stakeholders and partners who were consulted on challenges and opportunities that they have identified. Organisations were invited to submit proposals for projects.</p>		
Summarise the governance structures you have in place, including how any advisory panels or associated partnership groups are made up		
The awarding of contracts and delivery of the Investment Plan will be overseen by the Local Partnership Group.		
Confirm all MPs covering your lead local authority have been invited to join the local partnership group.		
Yes	No	
Are there MPs who are not supportive of your investment plan?		
Yes	No	
(If Yes) Who are the MPs that are not supportive and outline their reasons why.		

PROJECT SELECTION	
Are you intending to select projects in any way other than by competition for funding?	
Yes	No
(If Yes) Describe your approach to selecting projects, and why you intend to do it this way.	

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.	
Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	
Describe any interventions not included in this list?	
N/A	
Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?	
N/A	

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.	
Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	
E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy	✓
E20: R&D grants supporting innovative product & service development	✓
E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	✓
E29: Supporting decarbonisation whilst growing the local economy	✓
E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth	✓
Describe any interventions not included in this list?	
N/A	
Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?	
Bromsgrove District, Malvern Hills District, Worcester City, Wychavon District, Wyre Forest District Birmingham City, Solihull Metropolitan Borough, Wider West Midlands Combined Authority area	

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.	
Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	
E33: Employment support for economically inactive people	✓
E34: Courses including basic, life & career skills	✓
E35: Enrichment & volunteering activities	✓
E36: Interventions to increase levels of digital inclusion	✓
E39: Green skills courses	✓

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

Bromsgrove District, Malvern Hills District, Worcester City, Wychavon District, Wyre Forest District

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY**How have you considered your public sector equality duty in the design of your investment plan?**

Policy officers covering equalities and diversity have been consulted on this investment plan.

How will you consider your public sector equality duty when implementing your investment plan, including in the selection of projects?

An equalities impact assessment will be carried out before awarding any contracts and will be monitored during the delivery of the investment plan.

RISKS**Have you identified any key risks that could affect delivery, for example lack of staff or expertise?**

Yes

No

(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.

Risk – capacity. A new UKSPF Project Officer role will be created to support the delivery of the fund.

Have you identified any key fraud risks that could affect UKSPF delivery?

Yes

No

(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.

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Capacity and capability

In this section, we will ask you about:

- The capacity and capability of your team to manage funding
- The resources you have in place for work related to UKSPF

Your answers here will help us know how to support you with delivery. They will not affect the amount of funding you will get.

Answer as honestly as possible.

TEAM RESOURCE
How many people (FTE) will be put in place to work with UKSPF funding?
<p>Core team (programme management): Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWedR) – 0.2FTE NWedR Business Growth Manager – 0.5FTE NWedR Communications and Engagement Officer – 0.2FTE UKSPF Project Officer – 1FTE</p> <p>Project teams (delivery): Worcestershire Growth Hub Worcestershire County Council</p>
Describe what role these people will have, including any seniority and experience.
Head of NWedR – Senior Responsible Owner NWedR Business Growth Manager – Project Manager NWedR Communications and Engagement Officer – comms, promotion and stakeholder engagement, UKSPF Project Officer – day to day programme administration

- Strong capability: Has extensive experience and/or a proven track record of delivery in this area.
- Strong capacity: High degree of confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Some capability: Has previous experience of delivery in this area.
- Some capacity: Confident that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Limited capability: Does not have previous experience and/or no track record of delivery in this area.
- Limited capacity: Limited confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area. Additional resource may be needed to support delivery.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
How would you describe your team's current experience of delivering funding and managing growth funds?		
Very experienced	Some experience	No previous experience
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability

How would you describe your team’s current capacity to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity
How would you describe your team’s current capability to manage funding for subsidies?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team’s current capacity to manage funding for subsidies?		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Communities and Place interventions you have select?

Yes No

How would you describe your team’s current capability to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?

Strong capability Some capability Limited capability

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

N/A

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

N/A

How would you describe your team’s current capacity to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?

Strong capability Some capability Limited capability

Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

N/A

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

N/A

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Supporting Local Business interventions you have select?

Yes	No	
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
<p>Although the Council has limited capability for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions it has a well-established relationship with the Worcestershire Growth Hub and Worcestershire County Council for the delivery of business support programmes.</p> <p>The interventions selected in this Plan will be delivered through the established business support teams at Worcestershire Growth Hub and Worcestershire County Council. Both organisations have an existing team of project managers and project support officers. There will be a dedicated point of contact for the project. Project managers have many years experience of managing large scale externally funded programmes, and a detailed knowledge of procurement, contract management, subsidy control and reporting requirements and publicity rules.</p>		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
<p>Although the Council has limited capacity for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions it has a well-established relationship with the Worcestershire Growth Hub and Worcestershire County Council for the delivery of business support programmes.</p> <p>The interventions selected in this Plan will be delivered through the established business support teams at Worcestershire Growth Hub and Worcestershire County Council. Both organisations have an existing team of project managers and project support officers. There will be a dedicated point of contact for the project. Project managers have many years experience of managing large scale externally funded programmes, and a detailed knowledge of procurement, contract management, subsidy control and reporting requirements and publicity rules.</p>		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		

PEOPLE AND SKILLS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the People and Skills interventions you have select?		
Yes	No	
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

Although the Council has limited capability in direct delivery of People and Skills type of interventions, it has a strong track record of collaboration with key deliverers of such interventions, including Worcestershire County Council.

The interventions selected in this Plan will be delivered by a consortium led by the Skills4Partnerships, a well established multi-disciplinary team led by the Worcestershire County Council (WCC). WCC has an existing team of project managers and project support officers. There will be a dedicated point of contact for the project. Project managers have many years experience of managing large scale externally funded programmes, and a detailed knowledge of procurement, contract management, subsidy control and reporting requirements and publicity rules.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.			
How would you describe your team’s current capacity to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?			
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Strong capability</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Some capability</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Limited capability</td> </tr> </table>	Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability	
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.			
<p>Although the Council has limited capacity to deliver People and Skills interventions, it has a strong track record of collaboration with key deliverers of such interventions.</p> <p>The interventions selected in this Plan will be delivered by a consortium led by the Skills4Partnerships, a well-established multi-disciplinary team led by the Worcestershire County Council (WCC). WCC has an existing team of project managers and project support officers. There will be a dedicated point of contact for the project. Project managers have many years’ experience of managing large scale externally funded programmes, and a detailed knowledge of procurement, contract management, subsidy control and reporting requirements and publicity rules.</p>			
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.			

SUPPORT TO DELIVERY UKSPF	
<p>All lead authorities can use up to 4% of their UKSPF allocation to support the delivery of their chosen interventions but by exception, lead authorities will be able to use more than 4%. Are you planning to use more than 4%?</p>	
Yes	No
(If Yes) Explain why you wish to use more than 4%.	

Approvals

Before submitting your investment plan, you should have approval from your:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Section 151 Officer

- Leader of your lead authority

Do you have approval from your Chief Executive Officer for this investment plan?

- Yes
- No

Do you have approval from your Section 151 Officer for this investment plan?

- Yes
- No

Do you have approval from the leader of your lead authority for this investment plan?

- Yes
- No

If you do not have approval from any of these people, please explain why this is:

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Additional documents

You will have received an email giving you access to a folder where you will need to upload supporting evidence to your investment plan. All applicants must complete and upload the following spreadsheet to the folder prior to submitting their investment plan:

- UKSPF Expenditure Profile spreadsheet
- UKSPF Indicative Deliverables spreadsheet

Your investment plan submission will be considered incomplete without the required documents.

Have you completed and uploaded the two spreadsheets to the SharePoint folder as requested?

- Yes
- No

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APPENDIX 2: UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND INTERVENTIONS INCLUDING THOSE SELECTED FOR THE INVESTMENT PLAN

Investment Priority	Intervention	Selected
Communities & Place	E1: Funding for improvements to town centre and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people	✓
	E2: Funding for new, or improvements to existing, communities' and neighbourhood infrastructure projects including those that increase communities' resilience to natural hazards such as flooding	✓
	E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporation natural features into wider public spaces	✓
	E4: Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer	
	E5: Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to "design out crime"	✓
	E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities	✓
	E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area	✓
	E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area	
	E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places	✓
	E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together	
	E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups	✓
	E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration	
	E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living including through measures to improve energy efficiency and combat fuel poverty and climate change	✓
	E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies	
	E15: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities	
Supporting Local Business	E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses	✓
	E17: Funding for the development and promotion of the visitor economy such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally	✓
	E18: Supporting Made Smarter Adoption: Providing tailored expert advice, matched grant and leadership training to enable manufacturing SMEs to adopt industrial digital technology solutions including AI, robotics and autonomous systems; additive manufacturing; industrial internet of things; virtual reality; data analytics.	

Investment Priority	Intervention	Selected
Supporting Local Business	E19: Increasing investment in research and development at the local level. Investment to support the diffusion of innovation knowledge and activities. Support the commercialisation of ideas, encouraging collaboration and accelerating the path to market	✓
	E20: Research and development grants supporting the development of innovative products and services	✓
	E21: Funding for the development and support of appropriate innovation infrastructure at the local level	
	E22: Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation projects. This can help to unlock site development projects which will support growth in places	✓
	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks	✓
	E24: Funding for new and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, “incubators” and “accelerators” for local enterprise (including social enterprise) which can support entrepreneurs and start-ups through the early stages of development and growth	✓
	E25 Grants to help places bid for and host international business events and conferences that support wider local growth sectors	
	E26: Support for growth the local social economy including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises	
	E27: Funding to develop angel investor networks nationwide	
	E28: Export grants to support businesses to grow their overseas trading, supporting local employment	
People & Skills	E29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy. Taking a whole systems approach to invest in infrastructure to deliver effective decarbonisation across energy, buildings and transport and beyond in line with our legally binding climate target. Maximising existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon technologies, goods and services to take advantage of the growing global opportunity	✓
	E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth particularly in areas of higher employment	✓
	E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies	
	E32: Investment in resilience infrastructure and nature based solutions to protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding	
	E33: Employment support for economically inactive people; intensive wrap-around one to one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills support where there are local provision gaps	✓
	E34: Courses including basic skills (digital, English and ESOL) and life skills and career skills provision for people who are unable to access training through the adult education budget or wrap around support	✓
	E35: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing	✓

Investment Priority	Intervention	Selected
People & Skills	E36: Intervention to increase levels of digital including with a focus on essential digital skills, communicating the benefits of getting (safely) online and in-community support to provide users with the confidence and trust to stay online	✓
	E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses	
	E38: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. This includes technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level 2 and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high-value qualifications where there is a need for additional skills capacity that cannot be met through mainstream funding	
	E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions	✓
	E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors	
	E41: Funding to support local digital skills	

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Executive Committee

Tuesday, 6th September,
2022

MINUTES

Present:

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

Also Present:

Councillors Joe Baker and Sharon Harvey

Officers:

Peter Carpenter, Amanda Delahunty, Kevin Dicks, Clare Flanagan, Sue Hanley, Michelle Howell and Michael Rowan

Principal Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley-Hill

38. APOLOGIES

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

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

During consideration of Minute Item No. 44 – Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England & Wales) Regulations 2015 - Councillors Matthew Dormer, Emma Marshall and Nyear Nazir declared pecuniary interests in their capacity as private sector landlords.

40. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader advised that at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 5th September 2022, Members had pre-scrutinised the Nomination of the Community House at Easmore Road – Asset of Community Value report. The Committee had endorsed Option (b) in the report, proposing that the Council should not support listing the community house at Easmore Road as an asset of community value. Copies of the Committee's recommendation were tabled at the Executive Committee meeting (Appendix 1).

Chair

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 6th September, 2022

The Budget Scrutiny Working Group had been due to pre-scrutinise the Finance Improvement / Recovery Plan and the Budget Framework and Finance and Performance Quarter 1 Monitoring Reports on 1st September 2022. However, that meeting had not gone ahead as it was not quorate and the group was therefore reconvening to consider the reports on 7th September 2022. Therefore, there were no recommendations from the Budget Scrutiny Working Group for consideration at the Executive Committee meeting.

41. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday 26th July 2022 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

42. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Members were advised that no Questions on Notice had been submitted for consideration at the meeting.

43. NOMINATION OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT EASEMORE ROAD - ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

The Principal Solicitor presented a report concerning a proposal for the community house at Easemore Road to be listed as an asset of community value. Members were asked to note that the Executive Committee was receiving the report on a consultative basis, although officers had delegated authority to determine whether a property should be listed as an asset of community value.

Members were advised that under the Localism Act 2011 there was a requirement for the Council to maintain a list of local assets of community value. The community could, as on this occasion, request that particular assets were added to the local list of assets of community value. On this occasion, as the community house at Easemore Road was owned by the Council, an independent barrister had been appointed to review the proposal. The Executive Committee had agreed at a meeting held on 12th July 2022 to dispose of the community house at Easemore Road. A request had subsequently been received for the property to be listed as an asset of community value. There was a statutory test for registering a property as an asset of community value, which had been taken into account by the independent barrister. The conclusions reached by the independent barrister had been recorded in his words at paragraph 4.4 in the report.

Executive Committee

Tuesday, 6th September, 2022

During consideration of this item, Members noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had pre-scrutinised the report at a meeting held on 5th September 2022. At the end of the Committee's debate, Members had recommended that the Council should endorse option (b) in the report, which was to not support listing the community house at Easemore Road as an asset of community value.

The Executive Committee subsequently discussed the report in detail and in doing so commented on the following:

- The value of the services provided by the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups that currently rented space in the community house at Easemore Road. Members commented that it was these services, rather than the building itself, which were assets in the Borough.
- The potential for VCS organisations to rent space in other buildings located in the Borough.
- The opportunities available for VCS groups to continue to deliver services in the Borough should the community house at Easemore Road be sold.
- The extent to which the community house at Easemore Road had any historic features. Officers advised that they had not been made aware of any historical significance in respect of the community house at Easemore Road.
- The extent to which the community house at Easemore Road was accessible. Members suggested that more residents with physical disabilities would be able to access the services provided by the VCS groups currently renting space in the community house at Easemore Road should those groups relocate to alternative bases that were more accessible.
- The work that had been undertaken by the independent barrister with expertise in relevant legislation, who had concluded that the community house at Easemore Road should not be listed as an asset of community value.
- The timeframes in which the regime had existed under which properties could be listed as assets of community value and whether any requests had previously been received for the property to be listed as an asset of community value. Officers advised that the regime for listing assets of community value had been in place since 2012 and this was the first time that a request had been made to list the community house at Easemore Road as an asset of community value.
- The stakeholders who could submit a request to list a property as an asset of community value. Officers confirmed that the Council could not choose to list properties as assets of community value. Instead, representatives of the local

community needed to submit requests to list assets under this regime.

RESOLVED

not to support listing the community house at Easemore Road as an Asset of Community Value.

44. ENERGY EFFICIENCY (PRIVATE RENTED PROPERTY) (ENGLAND & WALES) REGULATIONS 2015

The Head of Community and Housing Services presented a report on the subject of the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England & Wales) Regulations 2015.

During consideration of this item, Councillors Matthew Dormer, Emma Marshall and Nyear Nazir declared pecuniary interests in their capacity as private sector landlords. As their departure meant that there were only three councillors remaining in the room, there was no quorum present for consideration of this item. For this reason, the report was postponed for consideration at the following meeting of the Committee.

45. FIRST HOMES

The Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager presented a report on the subject of First Homes.

The Executive Committee was informed that the Government had introduced the First Homes Scheme in 2021. This required housing developments agreed from March 2022 onwards to include First Homes. The First Homes were subject to a discount on the price and only first time buyers were eligible to purchase homes under the scheme. The aim of the scheme was to increase the proportion of affordable homes available to prospective purchasers.

Local authorities could opt to include local connection criteria in the application of the First Homes scheme locally. This was a discretionary part of the scheme which Officers were suggesting should apply in Redditch due to the level of demand for affordable housing in the Borough. There were a few exemptions on the local connection criteria, including in respect of veterans leaving the armed forces.

There would be a fee of £150 applicable to First Homes. This fee would be included in the Fees and Charges report, due for Members' consideration later in the municipal year.

Following the presentation of the report, Members requested clarification about the extent to which there would be flexibility applied in the local connection criteria in relation to family members. In raising this issue, Members commented that modern families could comprise a range of connections, including those involving stepparents, grandparents and half siblings. The Committee was assured that Officers would have discretion when applying the policy in relation to the local connection criteria.

RESOLVED that

the Council adopt the First Homes Policy and delegate authority to the Head of Community Services, following consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder, to make an amendments to the Policy to reflect any future Government Guidance.

46. WORCESTERSHIRE HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY

The Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager also presented the Worcestershire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for the Executive Committee's consideration.

Members were advised that there was a legal requirement for all Councils to have a homelessness strategy. The Council's existing homelessness strategy was due to expire on 31st December 2022. The new Worcestershire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy had been developed by Worcestershire Councils working together and had involved consultation with partner organisations.

There could be a number of causes of homelessness. This included a breakdown in relationships, domestic violence and family and friends deciding that they could no longer provide accommodation to somebody. The statistics provided in the report for homelessness and rough sleeping were based on figures recorded during the Covid-19 pandemic. Members were asked to note that the numbers were likely to change due to a range of factors, including the impact of the cost of living crisis. Officers would be reviewing the content of the strategy on a regular basis to ensure that it remained fit for purpose.

Following the presentation of the report, Members discussed the strategy in detail and in doing so commented that it was important to have a robust policy in place to help ensure that the Council could support people experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping. Members commented that there were some homeless people who might not be willing to engage with the Council initially who might subsequently wish to do so. Reference was also made

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to particularly vulnerable groups, such as victims of domestic abuse, and Members praised officers and partner organisations that had continued to support victims of domestic abuse throughout the pandemic.

During consideration of this item, Members commented that in the report it had been noted that the strategy would be subject to continuing review. As part of this process, Members suggested that consideration should be given to the contribution that experiencing a bereavement could make to a person's risk of becoming homeless.

Consideration was also given to rules in respect of Council house tenancies. Officers explained that the Council had to follow a statutory regime in relation to Council house tenancies and the Council did not have discretion in relation to the succession of tenancies to family members.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the draft Worcestershire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-25 and action plan be approved for public consultation; and**
- 2) delegated authority be given to the Head of Community and Housing Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Procurement, to agree any changes that may be required following the consultation process.**

47. FINANCE IMPROVEMENT/RECOVERY PLAN

The Interim Section 151 Officer presented a report on the subject of financial improvements and a recovery plan for the Council.

The Executive Committee was informed that some financial issues for the Council had been identified by the external auditors and highlighted with the authority earlier in the year. This included:

- Significant staff turnover within the Financial Services department, resulting in concerns about capacity within the team and the impact on services.
- Limited financial and performance monitoring in the 2021/22 financial year.
- Problems with the Council's new financial system, which had delayed submission of the Council's accounts for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years.

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The report detailed the action that had already been taken, and continued to occur, in respect of the Council's improvement plan to address these concerns. This included recruiting a significant number of new staff to the Financial Services team, including a new Head of Finance and Customer Services. Financial monitoring reports had been reintroduced, including a report covering the first 11 months of the 2021/22 financial year. The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee had approved a new Risk Management Strategy for the Council and quarterly risk monitoring reports were scheduled for consideration, with the latest such report having been considered in summer 2022. The first combined finance and performance monitoring report was due for consideration during the Executive Committee meeting.

There remained some problems with the Council's new finance system, principally the cash receipting part of the system. However, it was anticipated that these problems would be resolved in the following few weeks. Fixes to other parts of the system had resulted in the Council being able to make a number of returns to the Government as part of the account setting process and it was anticipated that the accounts for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years would be finalised shortly for submission.

The Executive Committee subsequently discussed the report in detail and in doing so welcomed the progress that had been made with resolving issues with the Council's new finance system. Questions were raised about the number of vacancies remaining in the Financial Services team and the impact that this was having on service delivery. Members were informed that there remained four vacancies within the department, three of which were being filled by agency staff until permanent replacements could be recruited.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **progress made on the following eight key tasks for financial recovery be noted:**
 - **Financial Strategies**
 - **Revenue and Capital Monitoring**
 - **Closure**
 - **Returns**
 - **Projects**
 - **Systems**
 - **Documentation and Training**
 - **Resources**

- 2) **the work still required to move back to a best practice operation and the associated timetable for completion of this work be noted.**

48. DRAFT COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2023/24

The Interim Section 151 Officer presented the draft Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24 for the Executive Committee's consideration.

Members were advised that there was a requirement for the Council to review and consult with the public on proposed changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme on an annual basis. In undertaking the review on this occasion, Officers had identified three potential options available to the Council:

- Option A – This option would involve increasing the income bands in the existing scheme in line with inflation and would introduce a disregard for childcare costs.
- Option B – The second option would increase the support available at bands 2 to 4 of the scheme and would provide additional support to low income households. There would also be the introduction of a disregard for childcare costs.
- Option C – The third option mirrored the changes proposed in Option B but would involve increasing the support available at bands 2 to 4 by a greater amount than for Option B.

Officers were suggesting that Option B was the most appropriate option for the Council to adopt moving forward. This would result in an increase in the number of residents eligible to receive support as well as the amount of support available. However, the financial impact on the Council and partner organisations would be less severe than for Option C.

In reviewing the options, Members were asked to note that, whilst Redditch Borough Council was the authority responsible for collecting Council Tax, Worcestershire County Council received the majority of income from Council Tax contributions. Redditch Borough Council only received 13 per cent of the income from Council Tax.

Members discussed the report and in doing so agreed that it would be appropriate to propose Option B for consultation with the public. In proposing Option B, Members commented that this option would help to provide support to more eligible residents than the current scheme and would increase the support available. However, this option would have less of a detrimental impact on the Council's finances than Option C, which was important to take into account at a challenging time for local government finances.

During consideration of this item, Officers highlighted that the report had stated that Members were being asked to recommend a preferred option to Council. However, as the decision that was

being taken was to identify an option for consultation with the public, rather than to determine a change to the Council Tax Support Scheme, this decision could be resolved by the Executive Committee.

RESOLVED that

Option B for the draft Council Tax Support Scheme is put out for Consultation.

**49. BUDGET FRAMEWORK AND FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE
QUARTER 1 MONITORING REPORT**

The Head of Finance and Customer Services presented the Budget Framework and Finance and Performance Quarter 1 Monitoring Report for Members' consideration.

The Committee was informed that the finance and performance monitoring reports would be presented for the Executive Committee's consideration on a quarterly basis. Based on performance to date, by the end of the first quarter an underspend of £21,000 was anticipated in the revenue budget by the end of the 2022/23 financial year. Actual spend in the first quarter of the 2022/23 financial year on the capital programme was valued at £3.1 million out of a total capital budget of £10.8 million.

Officers were proposing that the Council should consider increasing the Operational Bank Account limit to £2 million. The Council had the discretion to set this figure and the change would reflect current operating practices. Members were also being asked to consider adopting a new Asset Strategy.

Information had been included in the report in respect of the performance of Council services. This included data for performance in relation to the Council's strategic purposes as well as operational indicators.

Following the presentation of the report, Member discussed the content in detail. Reference was made to the figures that had been recorded in the report for revenue expenditure in the Chief Executive's department, which had been recorded as both an overspend and an underspend of £1,000. Officers confirmed that there was a typographical error in the report and this should have been recorded as an underspend of £1,000 but noted that this was correctly reflected in the table on the previous page.

Consideration was given to the discussions that had been held between representatives of the Financial Services department and Heads of Service and questions were raised about when the

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outcomes of these discussions would be reported to Members. Officers explained that further information would be reported to Members on this subject in October 2022.

Reference was made to the data that had been recorded for the take up of nursery places in the Borough. Members commented that this had been recorded as 59 per cent, however, at recent meetings at Worcestershire County Council County Councillors had been informed that the rate was 81 per cent. The Committee was informed that the figures provided in the report had been based on the latest data provided to Redditch Borough Council by Worcestershire County Council and related to performance in 2021.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the current financial position in relation to Revenue and Capital Budgets for the period April to June 2022 be noted;**
- 2) **the Quarter 1 Performance data for the Period April to June 2022 be noted;**

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Operational Bank Account limit is raised to £2 million; and**
- 2) **the Asset Disposal Strategy is approved for implementation.**

50. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair confirmed that there were no outstanding recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 23rd June, 7th July and 21st July 2022 be noted.

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

There were no referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Executive Advisory Panels on this occasion.

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52. 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

In Councillor Lovell's absence, the Chair advised that there had been no meetings of the Climate Change Cross Party Working Group since the previous meeting of the Committee.

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

The Committee was informed that a meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party was scheduled to take place in October 2022.

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

Councillor Nazir advised that there had been no further meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board since the previous meeting of the Committee.

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

Councillor Dormer explained that a meeting of the Member Support Steering Group was due to take place in October 2022.

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

Members were informed that there had been no meetings of the Planning Advisory Panel since the previous meeting of the Executive Committee and there were no further meetings scheduled to take place by the date of the Executive Committee meeting.

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53. **TO CONSIDER ANY URGENT BUSINESS, DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED TO THE HEAD OF LEGAL, DEMOCRATIC AND PROPERTY SERVICES PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING AND WHICH THE CHAIR, BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, CONSIDERS TO BE OF SO URGENT A NATURE THAT IT CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING**

The Chair confirmed that there was no urgent business for consideration on this occasion.

However, prior to the closure of the meeting, the Chair thanked the Principal Solicitor, Ms Clare Flanagan, for her hard work and support over many years working for the Council. On behalf of all Members, the Chair expressed hopes that she would have a long and happy retirement.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.25 pm

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Quarter 1 2022-23 – Financial and Performance Report

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Ashley – Portfolio Holder for
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Michelle Howell Deborah Poole
Report Authors	Head of Finance and Customer Services michelle.howell@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Head of Business Transformation, Organisational Development and Digital Strategy d.poole@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel:
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	All
Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS**The Executive Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:**

- 1) **The current financial position in relation to Revenue and Capital Budgets for the period April to June 2022 be noted; and**
- 2) **The Q1 Performance data for the Period April to June 2022 be noted.**

The Executive Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that:

- 3) **The Operational Bank Account limit is raised to £2m; and**
- 4) **The Asset Disposal Strategy is approved for implementation.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report presents at Quarter 1 (April – June) 2022/23
 - the Council's forecast outturn revenue monitoring position for 2022/23 based on data to Quarter 1
 - An update on progress on the 2023/24 budget process – which was first reported to committee as part of the Period 1 Monitoring Report.

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- The organisations performance against the strategic priorities outlined in the Council Plan Addendum, including operational measures to demonstrate how the council is delivering its services to customers.

3. DETAILED PERFORMANCE**Financial Performance**

- 3.1 As part of the monitoring process a detailed review has been undertaken to ensure that issues are considered, and significant savings and cost pressures are addressed. This report sets out, based on the position at period 3/quarter 1, the projected revenue outturn position for the 2022/23 financial year and explains key variances against budget
- 3.2 The £10.520m original revenue budget included in the table below is the budget that was approved by Council in March 2022.

Department	2022/23 Full Year Budget	2022/23 Q1 Actuals	2022/23 Adjusted Forecast Outturn	Adjusted Forecast Outturn Variance (Under) / Over spend
Regulatory Client	391,190	83,398	333,594	(57,597)
Business Transformation & Organisational Development Chief Executive	1,794,085 (1,934,525)	202,436 216,740	1,711,170 (1,935,698)	(82,915) (1,173)
Community & Housing GF Services	1,578,076	141,605	1,423,223	(154,853)
Environmental Services	2,779,319	(318,262)	2,975,382	196,064
Financial & Customer Services	1,905,007	3,959,822	1,660,064	(244,943)
Legal, Democratic & Property Services	2,238,105	107,421	2,053,648	(184,457)
Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services	1,293,153	25,188	1,207,079	(86,073)
RBC Rubicon Client	1,070,604	381,393	1,070,604	0
Cross cutting savings and efficiency targets	(595,012)	0	0	595,012
Net Expenditure before Corporate Financing	10,520,000	4,418,348	10,499,064	(20,936)

3.3 Budget Variances

The following paragraphs explain the forecast variances for each area against the 2022/23 revenue budgets (a more detailed analysis of

which can be found at Appendix A). It is important to note that, at this stage in the financial year there are a number of instances where annual expenditure or accruals may distort the profiling as reflected in the Q1 actual; this has been reflected in the forecast outturn for each service area.

Business Transformation & Organisational Development – £82k underspend

Within Business Transformation & Organisational Development, the forecast underspend is predominantly due to vacancies within Human Resources which is forecast at £76k underspend for the year. Following the installation of a new HR software package, recruitment is underway to recruit to vacant posts within the service. There is also a small forecast underspend against the ICT budget.

Chief Executive - £1k overspend

There is a small underspend forecast within the Chief Executive area.

Community and Housing General Fund Services - £155k underspend

Within Community and Housing General Fund Services there are two services in particular that have a significant forecast outturn variance against budget:

- Housing Options (£102k underspend) – This is mainly as a result of vacancies within the team.
- Community Safety/CCTV (£62k underspend) – This is mainly as a result of vacancies within the team.

Environmental Services - £196k overspend

Within Environmental Services there are two service areas with significant forecast overspends against budget:

- Engineering & Design (£135k overspend) – the forecast overspend is mainly as a result of expenditure on non adopted highways due to health and safety works.
- Tree Management (£74k overspend) – The forecast overspend in this service is as a result of insurance claims.

Finance & Customer Services - £245k underspend

Within Finance & Customer Services the forecast underspend is as a result of vacancies across the service. This will continue to be reviewed

in light of pressures within the service, with further updates provided during 2022/23.

Legal, Democratic and Property Services - £184k underspend

Within Legal, Democratic and Property Services there are three service areas with significant forecast outturn variances against budget, Business Development (£42k underspend) and Facilities Management (£194k underspend) are both currently forecasting an underspend as a result of vacancies within the team. However, this is an area that will be kept under review throughout the financial year particularly with regards to resources for key regeneration projects. The underspend is offset in part by the forecast cost of Elections totalling £63k.

Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services - £86k underspend

There is a forecast underspend totalling £86k within this service which comprises of:

- An underspend totalling £51k within Development Services as a result of anticipated budget efficiencies. This will be kept under review throughout the financial year.
- An underspend totalling £32k within Parks, Open Spaces and Events mainly as a result of a vacancy, however this will be reviewed throughout the financial year.

Cross cutting savings and efficiency targets - £596k to be delivered

There is a forecast overspend due to organisational efficiency targets that have not been allocated to service areas and cross council savings and efficiency initiatives. It is important to note however that forecast underspends within other service areas, as detailed in this report, will help to achieve this target. This will be kept under review as we progress through the financial year.

Regulatory Client - £58k underspend

A £58k underspend on the Licencing Client is forecast due to increased General Licencing and Taxi licencing income.

- 3.4 Overall, the Council is currently forecasting a revenue underspend in the region of £21k for the 2022/23 financial year. This position will continue to be reviewed particularly given the impact of the increasing costs linked to inflation and further updates will be provided to Members throughout 2022/23.

Cash Management

- 3.5 The Council's 2022/23 Treasury Investment Strategy and associated MRP policy, presented to Audit, Governance and Standards Committee on the 14th April 2022 and was approved by full Council on the 27th June 2022.
- 3.6 Part of those policies approved included the following limit on Operational Bank Accounts.
- 3.7 Operational bank accounts: The Authority may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater than £25 billion. These are not classed as investments but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be kept below £500,000 per bank. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Authority maintaining operational continuity.
- 3.8 Although the Treasury Investment Strategy was reviewed earlier this year and some limits changed, it has become apparent that this limit has been continually breached since the inception of C-19. This is due to a number of factors including significant receipt of grant funding support for C-19 and the passing of this through to the Business Community.
- 3.9 The Council will Continue to keep this limit under review, but in the short term it is prudent to increase the limit to £2m for the remainder of this financial year, to be reviewed as part of the 2023/24 Treasury Investment Strategy.
- 3.10 As this is a Treasury Indicator, its breach, and associated change, must be reported through to full Council for approval.

Capital Monitoring

- 3.11 A capital programme of £10.8m was approved in the Budget for 2022/23 in March 2022.

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3.12 However, in addition to this funding the Council also have the following Grant Funded Schemes which are being delivered in 2022/23:

- Towns Fund – Executive in June approved business cases for
 - The Digital Manufacturing and Innovation Centre of £10.5m. £8m of this funding will come from the Towns Fund with the remainder being applied for from the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP.
 - Improvements to the Town Centre Public Realm of £3.4m. £3m of this funding will come from the Towns Fund.
 - The business Case for the Library site will be reviewed in September. There is £4.2m of Town Funding for this project if approved.
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund - £294k of grant spend (although a significant amount will be revenue based).

3.13 The spend at quarter 1 is £3.1m of the overall 2022/23 capital budget totalling £10.8m as detailed in Appendix B.

3.14 Capital monitoring for 2021/22 was undertaken towards the end of the financial year (at period 11), and spending was only £1.3m which is substantially below the £9.9m programme. The main reason for this variance is no spending against the £4.3m Regeneration Fund although parts of it will be required for Council's obligations with Towns Fund delivery. Therefore circa £8m of spending will need to be assessed for reallocation into 2022/23. This will be addressed in the outturn reports to Executive.

3.15 Both Existing Capital Programmes (21/22 and 22/23) are set out in the Appendix B.

Earmarked Reserves

3.16 The position as reported to Council in February 2022 as per the 2022/23 – 2024/25 Medium Term Financial Plan is shown in Appendix C.

HRA Position

3.17 The HRA budget totalling £25.4m was approved in March 2022 and funded from Rents and tenants' contributions. The approved capital programme for 2022/23 totals £14.2m.

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- 3.18 As at Quarter 1 of 2022/23, it is currently forecast that the HRA will outturn with a surplus in the region of £105,000 which will be transferred to HRA Balances.
- 3.19 The main variances that have contributed to this surplus are:
- Repairs & Maintenance - Anticipated efficiency savings arising from improved work planning and timely delivery of works.
 - Supervision & Management - the variance is predominantly due to vacant posts pending the ongoing review of the Housing function and reduced professional and consultancy fees.
- 3.20 As at Quarter 1 of 2022/23, it is currently forecast that the HRA capital programme budget will outturn with a spend of £10.7m against a £14.8m budget. The £3.5m underspend is primarily as a result of delays in project start dates and changes in assumptions regarding Housing 1 for 1 purchases.

Asset Disposal Strategy

- 3.21 The Council holds substantial non HRA Land, Property and Equipment. The 2019/20 Statement of Accounts value these assets at £47m. The attached policy (Appendix D) sets out that for all assets there is a requirement that they remain compliant for use against present legislation. In addition, there is a requirement that Council buildings are raised to the top three Energy Efficient levels by 2026.
- 3.22 Overall, these requirements have cost implications. Over the next 2 years a series of Condition Surveys will need to be undertaken on all assets which will lead to:
- A revised Overall Property Holding Strategy.
- And for Individual Properties and Land their:
- Operational necessity.
 - Cost of ensuring the buildings remain to compliant to legislation.
 - Cost of ensuring buildings move to the top 3 Energy Effective ratings by 2026.
 - Rent levels (and net costs for each building).
 - Alternative service delivery options.

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This will lead to a list of buildings/Land that are:

- Surplus to requirements
- Not cost effective to be run (requiring alternative delivery options)

Groups of assets will be brought to Executive on a Quarterly basis for approval for disposal.

4. Update on Progress with the 2023/24 Budget

- 4.1 We reported the process that Officers are following to balance the 2022/23 (note the unallocated savings figure in the previous section) and future budgets. The main steps were:
- o Reviewing base budgets, historic places where over/underspend occur, and views of potential savings options.
 - o Linkage to the 2021/22 Outturn position.
 - o Engaging with our Treasury Consultants Arlingclose to review our Minimum Revenue Provision, use of debt and investment policies.
 - o Assessing with Heads of Service present levels of service and associated requirements in the new post C-19 environment to identify where different delivery models will lead to further savings
- 4.2 We have met with Arlingclose who have requested data to complete their review of MRP, debt and investment policies.
- 4.3 We initially met with Heads of Service in July and have jointly compiled a long list of possible savings and efficiency to close the budget deficit position. Two more meetings have taken place during August with Heads of Service to further refine these options.
- 4.4 In parallel to this, work is also taking place on possible pressures, of which inflation, pay and contracts, will be a key input.
- 4.5 More officer led work will take place in September leading to a set of budget proposals coming to Executive in October.
- 4.6 Officers have engaged with the Budget Working Group and a series of meetings have been set up to scrutinise the budget.
- 5. Performance Report**
- 5.1 The performance report sets out to provide data and information that links all activity back to the Council's strategic priorities as set out in the

Council Plan and Council Plan Addendum. Whilst the report focuses primarily on corporate, strategic measures there is a section that provides some operational measures data to provide a general overview of service delivery.

5.2 Whilst the Council has an approved Council Plan in place it was completed before the Covid-19 outbreak. Recently the Council reviewed this plan to ensure it remains fit for purpose. As a result of this review, the Council developed the Council Plan Addendum to take any change in focus brought about by the pandemic, into consideration. The addendum document will sit alongside the current Council Plan for the next twelve months. It is designed to provide an intermediary position ahead of a full review of the Councils long term priorities in 2023. Currently the Council's key strategic priorities are:

- Economic Development and Regeneration
- Housing Growth
- Work and Financial Independence
- Improved Health and Wellbeing
- Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Green Thread
- Financial Stability
- Organisational Sustainability
- High Quality Services

5.3 The Q1 report is an introduction to the performance data used by the council, as such there is a large amount of data in this first report. It is recognised that effective performance management will enable the Council to use its limited resources in a more targeted manner, maximising the value of Council services and allowing the Council to be even more responsive to customers' needs. It is proposed that future reports will be more structured around particular strategic priorities in order to provide a more focused data set, consequently different priorities will be reported in each quarter.

5.4 Appendix E sets out the Strategic Priorities and Performance Measures in detail. For the 9 priorities there is data contained in the Appendix on:

- The Performance Measure being used.
- An update on how it is being used.
- Where relevant, contextual information.

The Strategic Performance Measures and their respective outputs are set out below. Full context is given in Appendix E:

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- Economic Development and Regeneration
 - Supporting businesses to start to Grow
 - Measure – Take up of Grants – **Table in Appendix E shows by year**
 - Regenerating our Infrastructure
 - Measure - % of empty shops - **tbc**
 - Measure – Level of funding secured - **£15m**
- Housing Growth
 - Measure – Number of new Homes – total and affordable (Annual) - **185 and 65**
 - Measure – Number of new council houses (HRA) projected to be built during 2022/23 - **19**
 - Measure – Number of homeless approached - **Chart in Appendix A sets out by quarter and year**
 - Measure – number of threatened with homelessness preventions - **tbc**
 - Measure – Number of homeless applicants housed - **tbc**
 - Measure – Local housing affordability rate – **7.57**
- Work and Financial Independence
 - Measure – Number of Financial Independence Team client contacts - **Chart in Appendix A sets out by month and year**
 - Measure – Number of clients assessing Starting Well Service - **TBC**
 - Measure – Number of young people with positive outcomes because of Enhanced Youth Support Intervention - **TBC**
 - Measure – Number of eligible children accessing nursery funding across the borough – **59%**
 - Measure – Number of households provided with energy advice – **New contract June 2022**
 - Measure – Number of energy rebate payments – **26,440**
- Improved Health and Wellbeing
 - Measure – Number of Community Builders in post - **3**
 - Measure – Completion and implementation of the actions in the Leisure Strategy – **Strategy to be approved Oct 2022**
- Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Measure – Number of young people engaged through Detached/Outreach youth work - **11.**
 - Measure – Levels of crime – **chart sets out by type and year**
 - Measure – Number of crime risk surveys carried out - **2**
 - Measure - Number of positive outcomes because of Safer Streets Woodrow project – **data in Q2**
- Green Thread

-
- Measure – Have an agreed and funded plan and capital replacement programme for the Council's fleet subject to any budget constraints – **EST reports to assist**
 - Measure – Have an agreed plan in place to deliver new requirements of national Resources and Waste Strategy and Environment Act – **WRAP funding for cross County feasibility study**
 - Measure - Introduce vegetable derived diesel into the Council's vehicles to reduce carbon emissions subject to any budget constraints – **Signed up to framework in order to purchase HVO**
 - Measure - Households supported by the Council's energy advice service – **New contract June 2022**
 - Financial Stability
 - Measure - Financial Performance – actuals consistent with budget – **via Finance Report**
 - Measure – Increased levels of General Fund Balances over the medium term – **via Finance Report**
 - Towns Fund Project delivered within budget – **via Finance Report**
 - Organisational Sustainability
 - Measure – Number of corporate measures accessible through the dashboard - **39**
 - Measure - % of staff able to work in an agile way - **New**
 - High Quality Services
 - Measure - % of Personal Development Reviews undertaken each year - **tbc**
 - Measure - % of employees who undertake management training - **tbc**
 - Measure – Customer satisfaction with service delivery, measured through the Community Survey – **40.9%**

5.5 In addition, Appendix F sets out Operational Service Measures. As with Appendix E, more context is given in the Appendix, these include:

- Sickness Absence Rates – **6.6 days**
- IT Satisfaction Rates – **98%**
- Average Telephone queue time – **14 minutes and 23 seconds**
- Average number of people waiting in Telephone queue – **1**
- Percentage of Household Waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting – Table by Month and year – **June 22 – 28.16%**
- NI 191 – Residual Waste per household (Kg) **June 22 - 48.18kg**
- Fly Tips – **June 22 – 137**
- Third Party Gas Audit Compliance (target 85%) - **June 22 98.31%**

- Average time to complete repairs to standard voids (target 20 calendar days) - **June 22 – 21.4**
- Council Tax Collection Rate – **June 22 - 1% below target**
- Business Rates Collection Rate – **June 22 – 2.8% below target**
- Benefits Change of Circumstances turnround – **9 Days**
- Benefits New Claims Turnround – **20 days**
- Customer Services calls by type – **Charts set out by department**

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The financial implications are detailed in the body of the report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising as a result of this report.

8. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 8.1 The Strategic purposes are included in the Council's corporate plan and guides the Council's approach to budget making ensuring we focus on the issues and what are most important for the borough and our communities. Our Financial monitoring and strategies are integrated within all of our Strategic Purposes

Climate Change Implications

- 8.2 The green thread runs through the Council plan. The Financial monitoring report has implications on climate change and these will be addressed and reviewed when relevant by climate change officers to ensure the correct procedures have been followed to ensure any impacts on climate change are fully understood.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 9.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising as a result of this report.

Operational Implications

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9.2 Managers meet with finance officers to consider the current financial position and to ensure actions are in place to mitigate any overspends.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT

10.1 The financial monitoring is included in the corporate risk register for the authority.

11. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A – Revenue Monitoring
 Appendix B – Capital Monitoring
 Appendix C – Earmarked Reserves
 Appendix D – Asset Disposal Strategy
 Appendix E – Strategic Performance Measures
 Appendix F – Operational Performance Measures

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder		
Lead Director / Head of Service		
Financial Services		
Legal Services		
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)		
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)		

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APPENDIX A – 2022/23 Revenue Monitoring

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Service area	2022/23 Working Budget	2022/23 Q1 Actuals	Adjusted Forecast Outturn	Adjusted Forecast Outturn Variance (Under) / Over spend
Environmental Health / Protection / Enforcement	(253)	(4,865)	(19,458)	(19,205)
Licenses (all)	(212,640)	(64,913)	(259,653)	(47,013)
Pest & Dog control	(2,000)	0	0	2,000
Regulatory Services client	606,083	153,176	612,705	6,622
Regulatory Client Total	391,190	83,398	333,594	(57,597)
Corporate	0	0	0	0
Equalities & Diversity	14,977	224	14,977	0
Human Resources	523,682	108,820	447,627	(76,055)
ICT	1,069,518	93,392	1,062,658	(6,860)
Policy	57,494	0	57,494	0
Training & Organisational Development	0	0	0	0
Transformation, Business process re-engineering & Lean Syst	70,560	0	70,560	0
CMT - Business Transformation & Organisational Development	57,855	0	57,855	0
Business Transformation & Organisational Development Total	1,794,085	202,436	1,711,170	(82,915)
Corporate	(2,600,420)	130,160	(2,600,420)	0
SMT	220,496	24,050	220,496	0
Central Post	81,022	31,410	103,332	22,309
P A & Directorate Support	136,373	30,232	132,863	(3,510)
Communications & Printing	170,190	(1,159)	150,217	(19,973)
Partnerships	57,814	(117,485)	57,814	0
Covid grants	0	119,532	0	0
Chief Executive Total	(1,934,525)	216,740	(1,935,698)	(1,173)
Climate Change / Energy Efficiency	7,300	675	7,300	0
CMT - Community	40,988	32,044	38,042	(2,945)
Community Safety	394,465	144,157	332,047	(62,417)
Community Transport	176,351	55,401	188,139	11,788
Facilities Management	(1)	623	(1)	0
Grants to voluntary bodies	198,115	57,858	198,115	0
Housing Options	639,517	159,037	537,000	(102,517)
Housing Strategy & Enabling	241,713	6,624	242,434	722
Lifeline	(88,371)	(301,398)	(87,854)	517
Starting Well	(32,000)	(13,417)	(32,000)	0
Community & Housing GF Services Total	1,578,076	141,605	1,423,223	(154,853)
Bereavement Services	(1,188,964)	(297,409)	(1,188,964)	0
Car Parks / Civil Parking Enforcement	29,009	(25,289)	29,009	0
Core Environmental Operations	252,338	(39,157)	252,338	0
Engineering & Design	333,744	36,397	468,885	135,141
Env Services Mgmt & Support	443,306	10,591	443,306	0
Place Teams	1,357,408	(108,069)	1,347,164	(10,243)
Stores & Depots	0	10,324	(0)	(0)
Tree Management inc TPO's	277,421	108,165	350,891	73,470
Waste Management	1,289,802	(31,987)	1,289,802	0
CMT - Environment	(14,745)	18,172	(17,049)	(2,303)
Environmental Services Total	2,779,319	(318,262)	2,975,382	196,064

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Service area	2022/23 Working Budget	2022/23 Q1 Actuals	Adjusted Forecast Outturn	Adjusted Forecast Outturn Variance (Under) / Over spend
Accounts & Financial Management	624,596	173,147	663,673	39,077
Benefits	677,541	73,872	635,108	(42,433)
Benefits Subsidy	(333,912)	3,519,230	(333,912)	0
Customer Services	485,368	39,849	339,707	(145,661)
Revenues	428,822	164,571	323,141	(105,681)
CMT - Finance	22,592	(10,847)	32,347	9,755
Financial & Customer Services Total	1,905,007	3,959,822	1,660,064	(244,943)
Business Development	188,264	32,071	146,264	(41,999)
Democratic Services & Member Support	403,209	59,067	392,196	(11,013)
Election & Electoral Services, Periodic Electoral review	258,938	54,079	321,324	62,386
Facilities Management	1,052,802	(409,752)	858,971	(193,831)
CMT - Legal	57,937	0	57,937	0
Legal Advice & Services	276,955	(9,436)	276,955	(0)
Legal, Democratic & Property Services Total	2,238,105	(273,972)	2,053,647	(184,457)
Development Services	157,509	(65,603)	106,731	(50,778)
Building Control	(2,766)	(38,762)	(2,766)	0
Development Control	135,340	(28,914)	135,340	0
Economic Development	102,024	(45,224)	102,024	0
Emergency Planning / Business Continuity	13,535	0	13,535	0
Non-Operational	0	0	0	0
Parks, Open Spaces and Events	418,237	46,235	385,909	(32,328)
Planning Policy	399,384	960	399,384	0
Town Centre Development	10,000	142,524	10,000	0
CMT - Planning, Regeneration and Leisure	59,890	13,974	56,922	(2,967)
Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services Total	1,293,153	25,188	1,207,079	(86,073)
Business Development	982,266	326,663	982,266	0
Cultural Services	0	23,223	0	0
Parks and Events	10,838	5,672	10,838	0
Sports Services	77,500	25,835	77,500	0
RBC Rubicon Client Total	1,070,604	381,393	1,070,604	0
Cross cutting savings and efficiency targets	(595,012)	0	0	595,012
Cross cutting savings and efficiency targets	(595,012)	0	0	595,012
Net Expenditure before Corporate Financing	10,520,000	4,418,348	10,499,064	(20,936)

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APPENDIX B – Capital Programme 2021/22 and 2022/23

2021/22 monitoring (as at period 11)

Cap Proj	Description	Approved budget date	Original approved Budget	Duration (years)	Department	Budget 21/22 £	Reprofiled incl of fund £	Budget increase incl review	2021/22 Total £	Spent to Date	Slippage to be Agreed
02000	Home Repair Assistance	21/22	40,000	4	Community & Housing GF Services	40,000			40,000	0	40,000
02001	Disability Facilities Grant	21/22	339,000	4	Community & Housing GF Services		1,156,047	839,000	1,995,047	765,269	1,229,777
02201	HMO Grants	21/22	25,000	4	Community & Housing GF Services		29,515	25,000	54,515	0	54,515
02302	Energy & Efficiency Install.	21/22	110,000	1	Community & Housing GF Services		50,045		50,045	17,952	32,113
02351	New Digital Service	2020/21	36,450		Community & Housing GF Services	50,502	26,450		76,952	16,634	60,318
NEW	7kw electric vehicle charge point	21/22	160,000	1	Community & Housing GF Services			160,000	160,000	0	160,000
NEW	Greener Homes	20/21	150,000	2	Community & Housing GF Services			255,000	255,000	-60,710	335,710
01302	Improved Parking Scheme - Copspur Cottage - Tackham				Environmental Services		20,000		20,000	0	20,000
01302	Improved Parking Scheme (includes locality)				Environmental Services	400,000			400,000	-4,950	404,950
01305	Locality Capital Project - Green Lane, Studley				Environmental Services		200,000		200,000	0	200,000
02100	New Rolling Road Brake Tester	21/22	40,000	1	Environmental Services			40,000	40,000	0	40,000
02100	Vehicle replacement	21/22	698,000	ongoing	Environmental Services	1,927,000	-1,611,500		315,500	275,210	40,292
02316	Wheello Bin purchase				Environmental Services	70,000	15,000		85,000	88,093	-3,093
02328	Replacing 2 fuel pumps and upgrading tank monitoring equipment				Environmental Services		25,000		25,000	0	25,000
02330	Car Park Maintenance				Environmental Services	25,000			25,000	0	25,000
02352	Fleet Management Computer System	2020/21	16,600	1	Environmental Services		16,600		16,600	0	16,600
02353	Environmental Services Computer System	2020/21	38,200	1	Environmental Services		157,200		157,200	84,535	72,665
02558	Locality Capital Project - Capital Landscaping Improvement				Environmental Services		1,825		1,825	8,230	-6,405
01110	Public Building	2019/20	250,000	4	Finance & Customer Services	250,000			250,000	264,240	-16,240
02245	GF Arboretum	2020/21	40,000	3	Finance & Customer Services	40,000	10,000		50,000	83,272	-33,272
02349	Regeneration Fund				Finance & Customer Services	2,000,000	2,354,670		4,354,670	0	4,354,670
02322	Arrou Valley Country Park - Play, Open Space and Sports Improvements				Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services		6,000		6,000	-1,297	7,297
02323	Tennis Field - Sports Contribution to support cycling access & funding				Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services		9,000		9,000	19,503	-10,503
02333	Improvements at Business Centre				Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services		73,614		73,614	88,957	-15,343
02335	Improvement to Marton Stanley - Play Area for toddler and junior play				Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services		79,686		79,686	35,823	43,863
02336	Improvement to Marton Stanley Open Space				Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services		25,633		25,633	0	25,633
02337	Improvement to Sports Pitcher infrastructure in Marton Stanley Park				Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services		98,535		98,535	0	98,535
02339	Improvement to original Pump Track at AVCP				Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services		60,606		60,606	0	60,606
02341	Highway Mitigation measures by restoration and hedgelaying with associated fencing and gates at AVE SH1 and AVE North				Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services		21,500		21,500	0	21,500
02342	Grassland Mitigation measures - recreating and maintaining grassland habitat in MS and AVCP				Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services		146,590		146,590	0	146,590
02346	Removal of 5 weirs through Arrou Valley Park				Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services		437,000		437,000	0	437,000
02347	Marton Stanley Play, Sport and Open Space Improvements (General)				Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services		298,403		298,403	204,091	94,312
02348	Open space improvements - North Manor mast				Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services		3,000		3,000	0	3,000
02354	Café and Infrastructure Marton Stanley Park	2020/21	100,000	1	Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services		100,000		100,000	0	100,000
NEW	Paving bay at main access AVCP	2020/21	6,000	1	Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services			24,700	24,700	12,000	12,700
Total current Capital programme						4,402,502	2,311,229	1,240,700	9,957,441	1,878,882	8,078,559

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2022/23 monitoring (as at period 3)

Capital Project Name	Approved Budget	Q1 Actuals	Budget Remaining
AVCP - Open Space and Sports Improvement	356,000	21,021	334,979
Camera Replacement Project	44,000	0	44,000
Car Park Maintenance	30,000	29,192	808
Disabled Facilities Grant	718,000	(63,010)	781,010
Energy & Efficiency Installation	90,000	1,690	88,310
GF Asbestos Programme	40,000	11,005	28,995
HMO Grants	18,000	0	18,000
Home Repairs Assistance	88,000	0	88,000
Improved Parking Scheme	81,000	988	80,012
Improvement of Parking Arrow Valley South	17,000	0	17,000
Improvement of Morton Stanley Open Space	80,000	0	80,000
Improvement of Morton Stanley Play Area	26,000	0	26,000
Improvement to Pump Track at Arrow Valley	61,000	0	61,000
Improvement to Cricket Club	3,000	0	3,000
Improvement to Morton Stanley Sports Infrastructure	99,000	0	99,000
Improvement to Business Centres	74,000	(6,386)	80,386
Health and Fitness Facilities Investment	29,000	0	29,000
Locality Capital Projects	94,000	(3,644)	97,644
Morton Stanley Park Sport and Open Spaces Improvements	333,000	0	333,000
New Finance Enterprise System	218,000	99,076	118,924
North Moons Moat Open Space Improvement	3,000	0	3,000
POS/Play Improvements to Forge Mill and Visitor Centre	51,000	0	51,000
Public Building	426,308	56,830	369,478
Vehicle Replacement Programme	866,000	30,733	835,267
Regeneration Fund	5,225,000	2,851,606	2,373,394
Arrow Valley Weir Works	437,000	0	437,000
Small Area Improvements	40,000	0	40,000
Terry Field Outdoor Facilities Improvements	38,000	0	38,000
Lifeline Hardwire System upgrades	13,000	16,431	(3,431)
Wheelie Bin Purchase	124,000	21,077	102,923
New Digital Service	86,000	0	86,000
Fuel pump upgrade and tank monitoring equipment	25,000	0	25,000
Fleet Management Computer System	17,000	0	17,000
Environmental Services Computer System	38,000	0	38,000

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Café and Infrastructure Morton Stanley Park	100,000	0	100,000
Catch up Repairs	0	4,383	(4,383)
Stock Condition Survey	0	21,200	021,200
Green Lane Studley	200,000	2,070	197,930
Locality - Landscape Improvement	25,000	0	25,000
Salix Project	250,000	0	250,000
Bathroom Renewals	105,000	0	105,000
Fencing Renewals	90,000	0	90,000
Vehicle lift within workshop	25,000	0	25,000
Locality Project - Garage Condition survey	100,000	0	100,000

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APPENDIX C – Earmarked Reserves

Description	Balance b/fwd 1/4/2020	C/fwd 31/3/2021	Planned use for 2021/22 Budget	Estimated closing balance 2021/22	Proposed release of reserves from RPP exercise	Planned use for 2022/23 Budget	Comment
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
GF Earmarked Reserves							
Community Development	(66)	(74)	2	(72)	18	0	To support the costs associated with community projects
Community Safety	(302)	(232)	0	(232)	0	0	External grant funding to be released over a number of years on Community Safety Projects ongoing
Corporate Services	(150)	(159)	0	(159)	0	0	Funding to support potential costs of future service reviews.
Customer Services	0	(93)	0	(93)	0	0	Funding to support potential costs of future service reviews.
Economic Growth Development	(330)	(330)	200	(130)	0	0	To fund the Economic Development opportunities across the Borough
Electoral Services	(44)	(49)	0	(49)	25	0	To support the delivery of individual electoral registration and to set aside a reserve for potential refunds to government
Environmental Services	0	(29)	0	(29)	0	0	To support the costs of the Environmental Services Vehicles
Equipment Replacement	(48)	(26)	0	(26)	26	0	ICT equipment reserve
Financial Services	(132)	(1,285)	150	(1,135)	0	100	Brexit reserve along with a transformational growth reserve and also funds to support the new enterprise system. The balance of the general Covid reserve received in 20-21 also within this figure.
Corporate Financing	(1,997)	(2,833)	350	(2,483)	0	0	The reserve has been created to offset the loss on Business rates collection and appeals in 2019/20.
Housing Benefits Implementation	(269)	(269)	0	(269)	140	0	Specific welfare reform grant received
Housing Support	(746)	(978)	0	(978)	0	0	Government Specific Grant - annual funding
Land charges	(9)	(9)	0	(9)	9	0	To fund potential litigation in relation to Land Charges
Land Drainage	(129)	(129)	0	(129)	0	0	To support costs associated with health and safety issues within the environment
Parks and Open spaces	(8)	(58)	0	(58)	8	0	To fund a review of the local allotments.
Planning	(669)	(520)	0	(520)	0	0	Custom build grant to provide support to the council towards expenditure lawfully incurred in relation to the provision and maintenance of a self-build register. Along with grants for One Public estates, Business Improvemnets district grant and Town deals grant.
Property	0	(221)	0	(221)	0	0	To fund the costs of repairs and maintenance costs for future years due to closure of sites due to the pandemic
Sports Development	(68)	(51)	0	(51)	0	0	Ringfenced grants for a number of sports development activities to improve Health and Wellbeing in the Borough
Town Centre	(2)	(7)	0	(7)	0	0	To support improvements in the Town Centre High Street
Warmer Homes	(12)	(16)	0	(16)	12	0	To support the costs associated with community projects (repair)
Totals	(4,981)	(7,368)	702	(6,666)	238	100	
HRA Capital Reserve							
Capital Reserve-HRA	(15,259)	(15,259)	0	0	0		Reserve to enable the debt repayment on HRA, and future repairs and maintenance along with support for the Housing Growth Programme.
Totals	(15,259)	(15,259)	0	0	0	0	

APPENDIX D – ASSET DISPOSAL STRATEGY

The Council has a duty to ensure that its fixed assets are continually reviewed to ensure they are fit for their strategic purpose, comply to legislative and regulatory requirements, and do not lose value. A comprehensive affordable repairs and maintenance programme is required to fulfil this.

In the latest Statement of Accounts (2019/20), there were £350m of Fixed Assets. These were stratified as:

- £297m of Council Dwellings
- £10m of Land
- £31m of Buildings
- £4m of Vehicles, Plant and Equipment
- £4m of Infrastructure Assets
- £1m of Community Assets
- £0.5m of Assets under Construction
- £2m of Assets declared as Surplus

This stratification and associated valuation levels is being reviewed and updated for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 Statement of Accounts.

Council dwellings will link to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and as such will be Governed by HRA disposal regulations such as Right to Buy. Infrastructure assets generally relate to Highways.

All other Classes have a requirement to be continually reviewed as set out in the report to Executive on the 12th July on Community Centres and Easemore Road. However, this should not be done in isolation.

New legislation will mean that by 2026 that all Council building assets (non HRA) will have to comply with Energy Efficiency legislation and be within the top three Energy Efficient levels. This has the potential of significant additional expenditure for the Council to ensure compliance as its stock, as with other Councils, is aging.

Therefore, the Council has commenced condition surveys on all its buildings to assess:

- The present state of those buildings and repairs required to remain compliant to present legislation.

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- Repairs and maintenance required to extend the life of those buildings.
 - Requirements to move those buildings to the top three Energy Efficiency levels by 2026.
 - Assessments of rent levels compared to market rents.

This will lead to the Council reviewing over the next 2 years its asset portfolio in terms of:

- The Overall Property Holding Strategy.

And Individual Properties and Land in terms of:

- Operational necessity.
- Cost of ensuring the buildings remain to compliant to legislation.
- Cost of ensuring buildings move to the top 3 Energy Effective ratings by 2026.
- Rent levels (and net costs for each building).
- Alternative service delivery options.

This will lead to a list of buildings/Land that are

- Surplus to requirements
- Not cost effective to be run (requiring alternative delivery options)

These lists will be brought to Executive on a Quarterly (or do we say half yearly) basis for approval for disposal. Any disposal, as per the present MRP policy goes into an overall "pot" which can then be used to fund capital programme requirements, including possible acquisitions.

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Appendix E Strategic Priorities and Performance Measures**1 Economic Development and Regeneration**

During 2022/23 we will set up a catalyst for local economic growth and strengthen two critical elements of our infrastructure and Redditch Town Centre.

Supporting businesses to start and grow**Performance measures:**

- Take-up of grants

Start-up grants

Period	Number of Grants	Value of Grants
2020/21	8	£7,330.50
2021/22	9	£9,804.96

Grants to Established Businesses

Period	Number of Grants	Value of Grants
2020/21	12	£231,490.66
2021/22	12	£273,583.14
2022/23 Q1	2	£20,545.68

Regenerating our Infrastructure

The past two years have emphasised the economic and wellbeing importance of local (a sense of place) and connection (information networks). To support this we have secured Town Investment Plan (TIP) funding for Redditch Town Centre.

Performance measure

- % Of empty shops.

Update

In terms of the percentage of empty shops, changes in data capture are being made so that officers will soon be able to present information to compare the percentage of empty shops in Redditch town centre year on year. This will

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show how TIP funding and other initiatives impact on the vitality and viability of Redditch Town Centre.

Performance measure

- Level of funding secured

Update

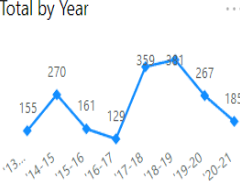
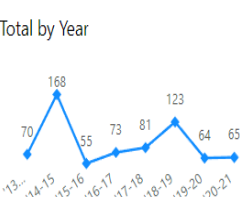
Approximately fifteen million pounds.

2. Housing Growth

During 2022/23 we will accelerate the pace of affordable housing development. We will deliver on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Housing Growth programme as a priority and, where possible, enable the building of market housing on our own land and the creation of additional income for the Council.

Performance measure

- Number of new homes - total and affordable (annual)

<p>New Homes Completed</p> <p>Latest Period: 2020-21</p> <p>Interval: Financial Year</p> <p>Contact: Mike Dunphy</p>	<p>Latest Period</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">185</p>	<p>Total by Year</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Total New Homes Completed by Year</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>'13-14</td><td>155</td></tr> <tr><td>'14-15</td><td>270</td></tr> <tr><td>'15-16</td><td>161</td></tr> <tr><td>'16-17</td><td>129</td></tr> <tr><td>'17-18</td><td>359</td></tr> <tr><td>'18-19</td><td>301</td></tr> <tr><td>'19-20</td><td>267</td></tr> <tr><td>'20-21</td><td>185</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Total	'13-14	155	'14-15	270	'15-16	161	'16-17	129	'17-18	359	'18-19	301	'19-20	267	'20-21	185	<p>Analysis</p> <p>Latest Fin. Year: 185</p> <p>Prior Fin. Year: 267</p> <p>Change: -82</p> <p>% Change: ↓ -30.7%</p>
Year	Total																				
'13-14	155																				
'14-15	270																				
'15-16	161																				
'16-17	129																				
'17-18	359																				
'18-19	301																				
'19-20	267																				
'20-21	185																				
<p>Affordable Homes Completed</p> <p>Latest Period: 2020-21</p> <p>Interval: Financial Year</p> <p>Contact: Mike Dunphy</p>	<p>Latest Period</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">65</p>	<p>Total by Year</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Total Affordable Homes Completed by Year</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>'13-14</td><td>70</td></tr> <tr><td>'14-15</td><td>168</td></tr> <tr><td>'15-16</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>'16-17</td><td>73</td></tr> <tr><td>'17-18</td><td>81</td></tr> <tr><td>'18-19</td><td>123</td></tr> <tr><td>'19-20</td><td>64</td></tr> <tr><td>'20-21</td><td>65</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Total	'13-14	70	'14-15	168	'15-16	55	'16-17	73	'17-18	81	'18-19	123	'19-20	64	'20-21	65	<p>Analysis</p> <p>Latest Fin. Year: 65</p> <p>Prior Fin. Year: 64</p> <p>Change: 1</p> <p>% Change: ↑ 1.6%</p>
Year	Total																				
'13-14	70																				
'14-15	168																				
'15-16	55																				
'16-17	73																				
'17-18	81																				
'18-19	123																				
'19-20	64																				
'20-21	65																				

Update

Housing completions which contribute towards meeting the Borough's housing requirement come from several sources including newly built properties, change of use to a dwelling from another use such as an office, conversions (for example from a barn to a dwelling) or sub-division (for example from a house to flats). In addition, dwellings are also either private for the open market or affordable for rent through Registered Providers, which meet the needs of those on the Council's housing waiting list. This supporting measure records all new build dwellings by size (number of bedrooms) but makes no distinction between tenure.

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Performance measure

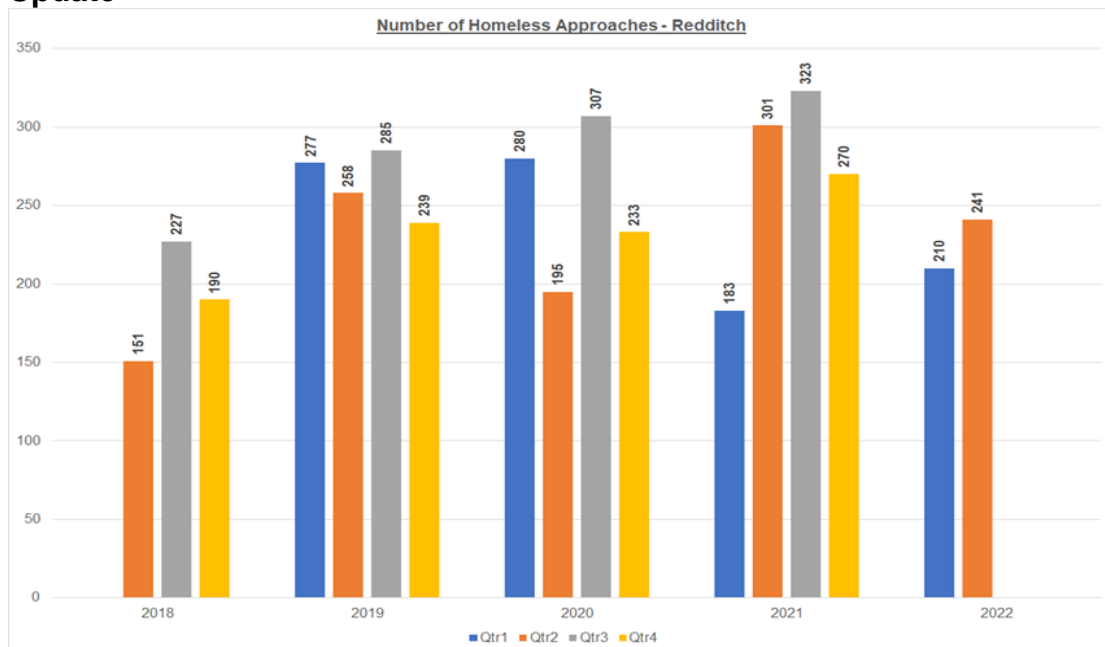
- Number of new council houses (HRA) projected to be built during 22/23.

Update

There are nineteen units projected to be built.

Performance measure

- Number of homeless approaches.

Update

2018: The Homelessness Reduction Act came into force in October 2018. This would explain the sharp rise generally in 2019.

2019: From experience quarter 4 is traditionally the highest demand on homelessness services, after Christmas, however the trend is showing highest demand in quarter 3 and this could be due to the colder winter months setting in, Christmas, rough sleeping initiatives and increases in family / marital disputes and domestic abuse over this seasonal period. Quarter 4 was the last period before the pandemic really hit and the government began to implement the Coronavirus Act 2020, so you would expect to see some lag here into the next year, 2020

2020: Quarter 1 remained consistent with the same period in the previous year, presumably due to the lag in implementation of the Coronavirus Act. This is shown by a marked drop in approaches during quarter 2 as the government severely restricted mobility / movement in the housing market

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and mandated that notice periods for any possession action were six months rather than 2 for S21 notices in the PRS. In quarter 3 restrictions were lifted and we started letting properties again, there are also the economic and domestic abuse impacts to consider in the spike of quarter 3, before the country went into another lockdown and landlords were still struggling to take possession action unless in the most extreme cases of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) or rent arrears and then there was a significant backlog through the judicial system created.

2021: Quarter 1 is low because of all the legislation of 2020 still being in place, until quarter 2 when things started to ease, and we experienced a rise in households approaching who had been served 2-month S21 notices by their landlords for no fault and at fault evictions after the restrictions and eviction bans were lifted. There was also a rise in reported domestic abuse cases as victims hidden by the legislation started to come to the fore after being locked down with abusive partners for over a year. Quarter 3 saw the publication of the Domestic Abuse Act on October, which has caused a significant spike in approaches and demand on services, and this endured into quarter 4 despite having a staffing crisis to contend with.

2022: Resource shortages in the homelessness team explain relatively low numbers of approaches being recorded as the team supported those most in need i.e. homeless and in priority need. The resource issues are now improving.

Performance measure

- Number of threatened with homelessness preventions

Update

Not currently available until the new housing IT system is implemented.

Performance measure

Number of homeless applicants housed

Update

Not currently available until the new housing IT system is implemented.

Performance measure

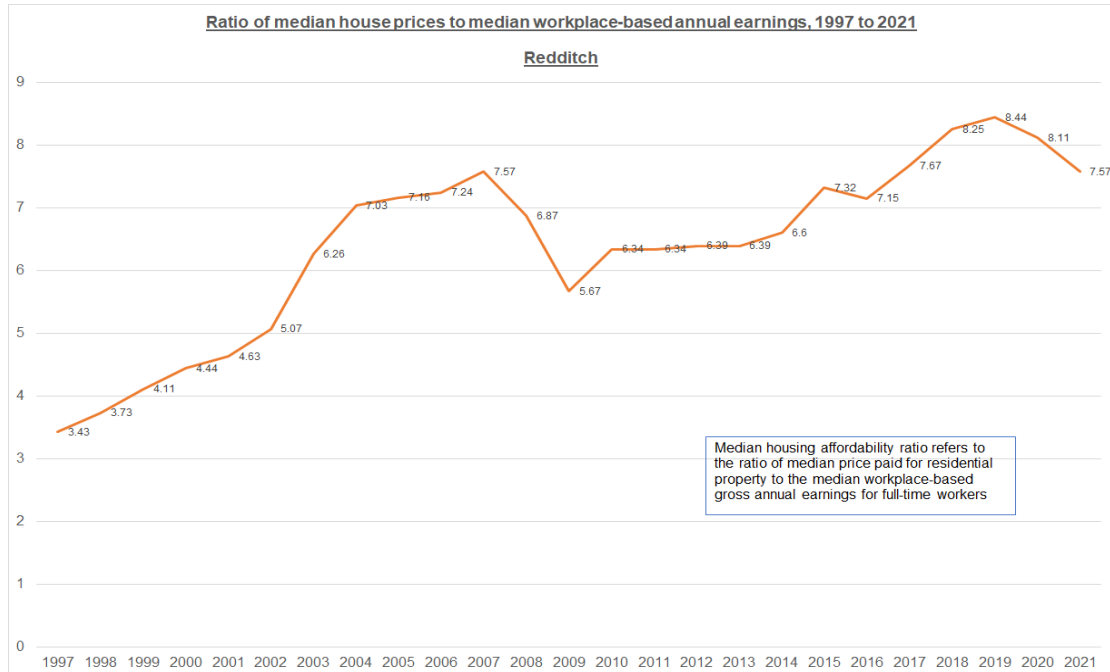
Local housing affordability rate.

Update

Data extracted from Officer for National Statistics (ONS) – House Price Statistics for Small Areas, Annual Survey of Hours, and Earnings.

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The affordability ratio in England is currently 9.05.

There are a number of affordability ratios and the above relates to workplace based income so looking at the median earnings of those employed in Redditch. When looking at the data Redditch has a work based median at £31,693. The median income in Redditch rose significantly (£4,709) between 2020 to 2021. The median house price in Redditch is at £240,000. House prices over the last year have also risen well above the normal expected rate.

As the rate continues to rise this will push more households into needing affordable housing. We are working with developers to secure the maximum provision of affordable housing on developments and RP's to bring forward affordable housing. A Housing First policy with a local connection criteria is being presented to Council to ensure these discounted homes are provided for local applicants in the first instance.

3 Work and Financial Independence

In 2022/23, we will find ways to further support, engage, and empower our residents to maintain / achieve financial independence.

Our Financial Independence Team will continue to help residents to gain financial independence both through short and long-term solutions. This includes advising our residents on how to manage fuel and utility costs, maximise their income, manage their personal finances, and access other specialist agency support.

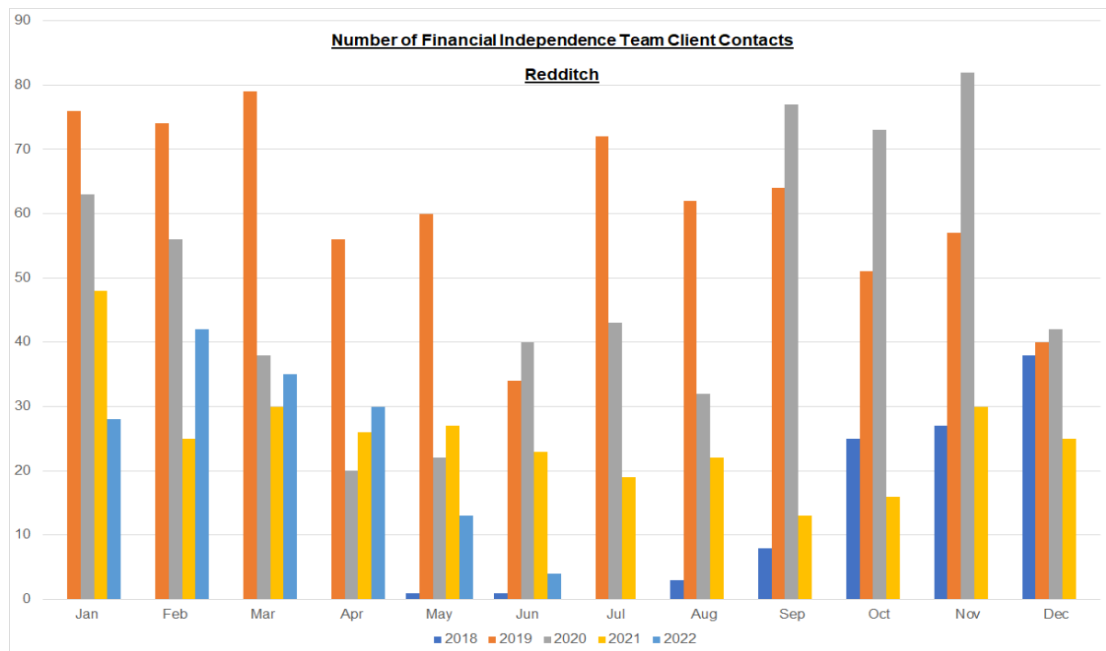
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We will provide quality services that help to empower residents through good financial advice, the effective coordination and signposting of services, and partnership working.

Performance measure

- Number of Financial Independence Team client contacts.

**Performance measure**

- No. of clients accessing Starting Well service

Update

It is recommended that this measure is removed as it does not add value to this priority and data is not collected to the level to identify work or financial support.

Performance measure

- Number of young people with positive outcomes because of Enhanced Youth Support intervention

Update

It is recommended that this measure is removed as it does not add value to this priority as the data is not collected to the level required.

Performance measure

- Number of eligible children accessing nursery funding across the borough.

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Update

Data is reported termly, although only summer term data is available at present. The take up of nursery places supports parents in being able to work.



The County average was 65% and the national average for 2021 was 62%. The impact of COVID is still likely to be a cause; as well as there not being enough suitable childcare providers. Work has been undertaken within the Starting Well Partnership with nursery providers and Worcesters Childrens First (WCF) to look at this.

We used to receive a DWP list and would proactively contact all families with eligible children to encourage take up of the funding and support in signposting to suitable childcare providers – over the past year we have not received this list as there was a change made within the DfE and an issue around information sharing/data protection and WCF were unable to share the lists with us – during this time our Community Team held some Back to Work events in collaboration with our Job Centre colleagues; we have promoted the funding on social media and all events/health clinics. In the last few weeks, we have received the lists so once again we will be able to proactively contact families who are eligible. It has to be noted some nurseries across the County have closed in the past 6 months due to staffing numbers and not being able to recruit – this may impact once again on the number of appropriate childcare places available.

Performance measure

- Number of households provided with energy advice – see below

Performance measure

- Number of energy rebate payments.

Update

Between 26th April and 18th July 2022, a total of 26,440 payments of £150.00 have been processed

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4 Improved Health and Wellbeing

In 2022/23 we will work with communities to help them identify and develop their strengths. We will look at ways to encourage physical movement into part of people's normal routines. We will also look to catalyse an integrated approach to care.

Success measures:

- Number of Community Builders in post. There are 3 currently in post:
 - Abbeydale (started end of Jan 2022)
 - Woodrow (started end of Apr 2022)
 - Focussing on BAME (started mid-Jul 2022)

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is an approach built on tried and tested methods from sustainable community development practice. It is not a set formula that can be prescribed in a one size fits all manner. The aim of ABCD approaches is to create the conditions that will enable both place and people to flourish, reduce inequalities, improve quality of life that supports communities to thrive and to reduce or delay the need for long term care and support

ABCD does this through an approach which consists of:

- Community Builders - paid workers ideally hosted by neighbourhood organisations.
- Community Connectors - individuals living locally who may organise and support local activities.
- 'Small Sparks' grants - funds for groups and individuals to support hyper local activity.

Community Builders are on fixed term contracts with the hope that these will be extended, and the longer-term aim is other areas will be covered if funding becomes available for additional Community Builders.

Performance measure

- Completion and implementation of the actions in the Leisure Strategy

Update

The Leisure Strategy will be going to Council in October 2022.

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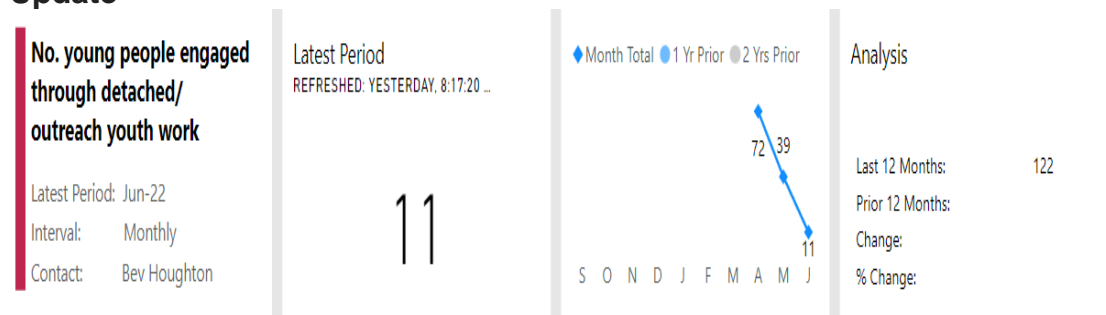
6 September

5 Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour

Working with Community Safety partners we will implement crime prevention projects and promote community safety services to reduce the hazards and threats that result from the crime, violence, and anti-social behaviour. We will also promote and support victim services that are in place to help and encourage recovery from the effects of crime.

Performance measure

- Number of young people engaged through Detached/Outreach youth work. This is a new measure from April 2022.

Update

Woodrow saw most youth patrols in the early part of the quarter following significant community concerns and Elected Member enquiries about Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the area. Multi-agency interventions are ongoing alongside increased policing activity at the location.

Performance measure

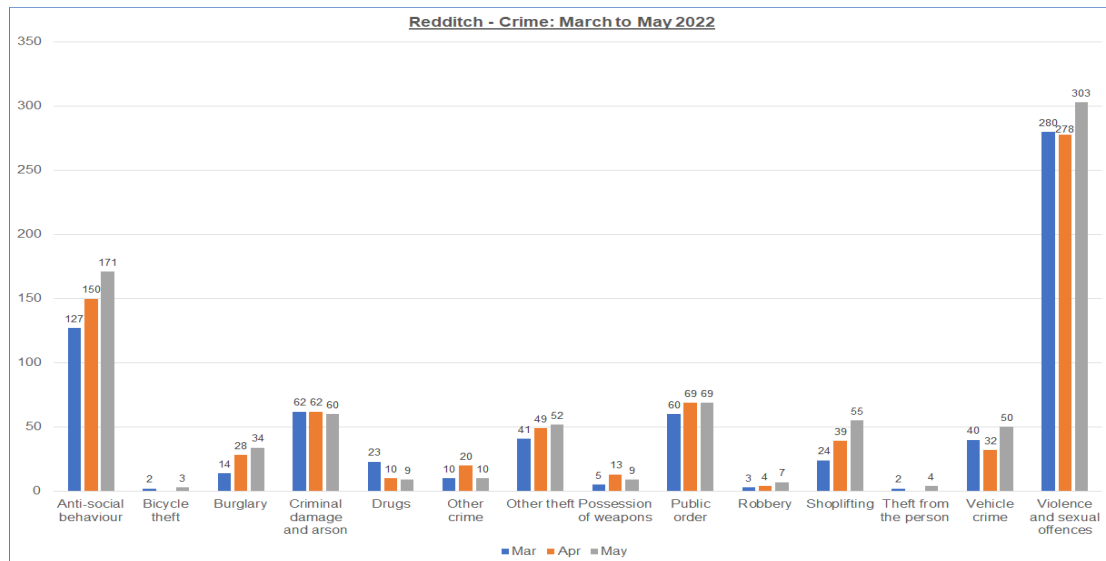
- Levels of crime.

Update

Data extracted from 'data.police.uk' below

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Total Recorded Crime is increasing when compared to the previous 12-month period (which includes periods of Covid-19 restrictions up to July 2021). Recorded crime dropped during lockdown periods as people were restricted to their homes and public places were closed. Many offence types are now returning to pre-Covid reporting levels and North Worcestershire has seen increases in reports of vehicle crime, public order and violent offences as reflected in the district data this quarter. Please note: Crime data is reliant on public reporting of offences – it is widely recognised that some offence groups are known to be significantly under reported and some community groups are known to particularly under report for a variety of reasons.

Contrary to reports of crimes, reports of ASB incidents increased during the Covid-19 lockdown periods. This was due to extremely high volumes of reported Covid-19 breaches. The end of lockdown measures and subsequent reduction in reported breaches saw ASB reports reduce considerably. Since a peak in May 2020, there has been a gradual reduction in ASB reports to below pre-Covid levels. However, since Feb 2022 there has been a slight upward trend across all North Worcestershire districts as reflected in this quarter's data. Nuisance ASB is the most common incident type accounting for 88% of all ASB reports. Nuisance ASB is defined as – when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.

Performance measure

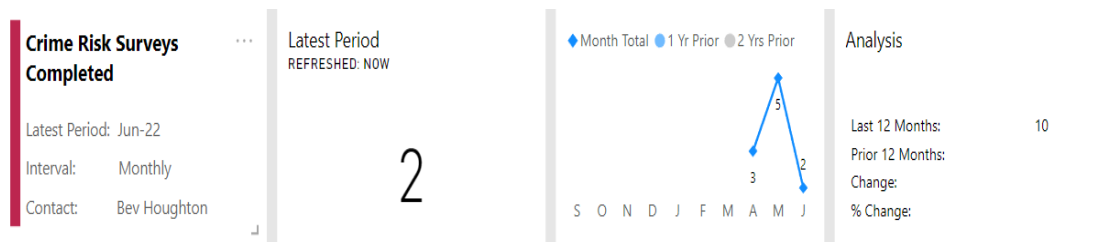
- Number of crime risk surveys carried out.

Update

This is a new measure from April 2022.

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ASB reports from residents and Elected Members in Woodrow and Brockhill led to multi-agency intervention and crime risk assessments being conducted at each location.

Performance measure

- Number of positive outcomes because of Safer Streets Woodrow project.

Update

Project still to be finalised. Data is expected next quarter.

6 Green Thread

There will be a renewed focus on innovation as we play our part in the response to climate change and biodiversity challenges. Working with partners across the region, including the LEPs and the Waste Partnership, we will explore the possibilities of bringing modern technologies to bear on our fleet but also how modern technology can help us deliver greener and more efficient systems internally. We also need to maintain work around waste minimisation and maximising recycling, particularly around recycling quality and the implications of the new Environment Bill.

Performance measure

- Have an agreed and funded plan and capital replacement programme for the Council's fleet subject to any budget constraints.

Update

We now have Environment Savings Trust (EST) reports giving information to assist with the future of the fleet.

Presentations regarding the EST reports and findings have been made to the Climate Change panel.

Money is allocated in the capital programme for consultant support regarding greening the fleet and the development of a revised capital programme.

Officers are currently working to procure a suitable consultant and are also arranging a visit to Nottingham City Council who are leaders in this field to learn from their experience.

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Performance measure

- Have an agreed plan in place to deliver new requirements of national Resources and Waste Strategy and Environment Act.

Update

Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) funding gained via the waste partnership to fund a study to look at options for waste collection and disposal across Worcestershire.

Findings from the consultants presented to a joint meeting of the Worcestershire Leaders Board and Waste Partnership Board. Final report awaited, and still awaiting the results of the Government's waste consultation, that will advise what exactly the Council will be required to do.

Moving forward we are using the waste board as a task and finish group to examine the options to create a report and recommendations that can be agreed by Worcestershire Councils.

Performance measure

- Introduce vegetable derived diesel into the councils' vehicles to reduce carbon emissions subject to any budget constraints.

Update

Signed up to the framework and just awaiting final documentation so that Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) can be purchased.

Performance measure

- Households supported by the Council's energy advice service

Update

A new contract commenced June 2022 so data is currently unavailable.

7 Financial Stability

The Councils resources will continue to be constrained. To address this, we will continue to work to ensure our people, assets and financial resources are focused on the priorities and activities that most effectively deliver wellbeing and progress for our local population.

Success measures:

- Financial performance – actuals consistent with budget.

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-
- Increased levels of General Fund Balances over medium term.
 - Towns Fund Project delivered within budget.

The financial information is provided in a separate report.

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8 Organisational Sustainability

The Council will work to maximise the use of digital infrastructures, including cloud technologies, to enhance its support for customers. We will encourage residents and businesses to access high speed fibre and wireless technologies to deliver growth in the local economy. Ensuring the Council's infrastructure can securely process the increased demand placed on it by the expanding use of Internet of Things devices will be key to its digital success. Any new delivery models, utilising technology, must deliver improved customer service at a lower cost.

Performance measure

- Number of corporate measures accessible through the dashboard.

Update

The organisation is moving from the current legacy dashboard to a new Power BI dashboard. Power BI is an interactive data visualisation software product with a primary focus on business intelligence. Currently there are 39 strategic measures available via the dashboards.

Performance measure

- % Of staff able to work in an agile way.

Update

This is a new measure and will be reported from January 2023.

9 High Quality Services

The Council's people are key to its long-term success. We need to recruit, retain, and motivate the right employees, with the right knowledge, skills, and attitude to deliver excellent services and customer care.

Performance measure

- % of employees who undertake management training.

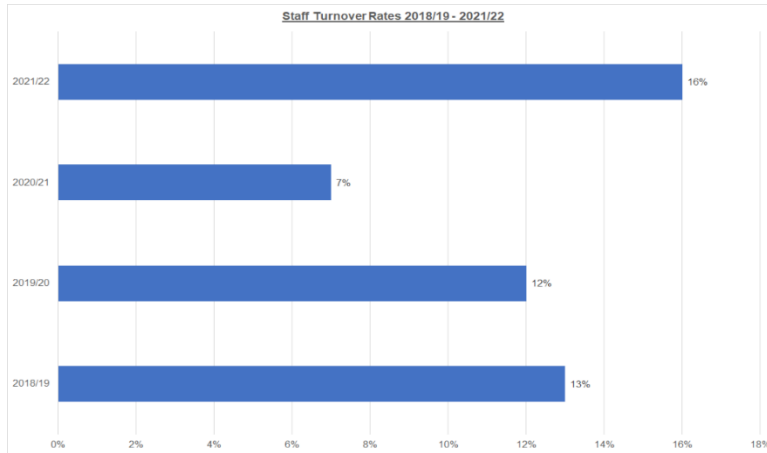
Update

The management training was launched for the first time in Summer 2022. It is an annual measure, and the first data will be reported Winter 2022/23

- Staff turnover rates in relation to national rates.

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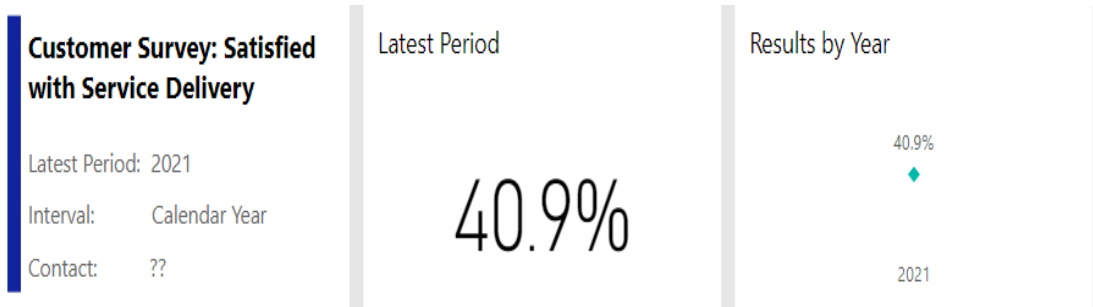
Staff turnover for 21/22 was 16%. This compares with the national average of 15% for 2021.

Performance measure

- Customer satisfaction with service delivery, measured through the Community Survey.

Update

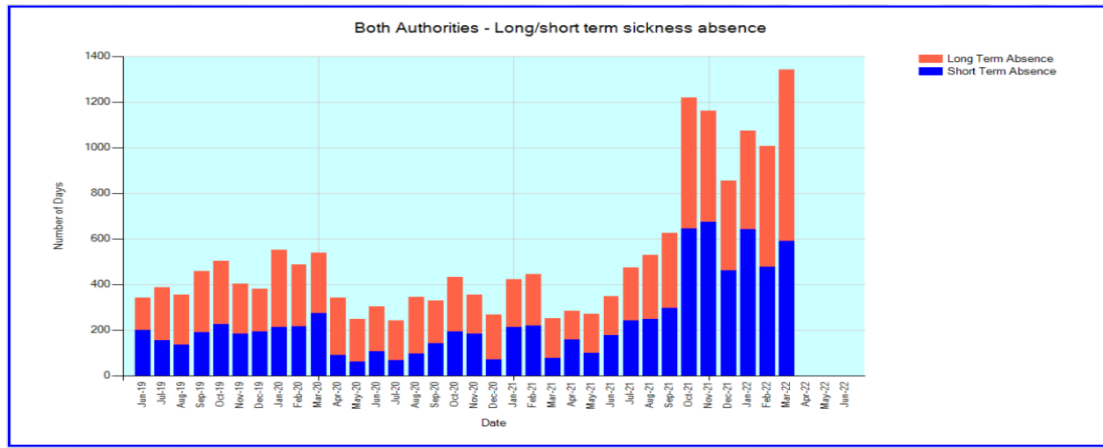
This is a new data set and as such, there is no historical data to provide context until after the next survey in October 2022. However, national customer satisfaction with LA's according to the Local Government Chronicle is currently at 40%.



Appendix F Operational Measures

Business Transformation, Organisational Development & Digital Services

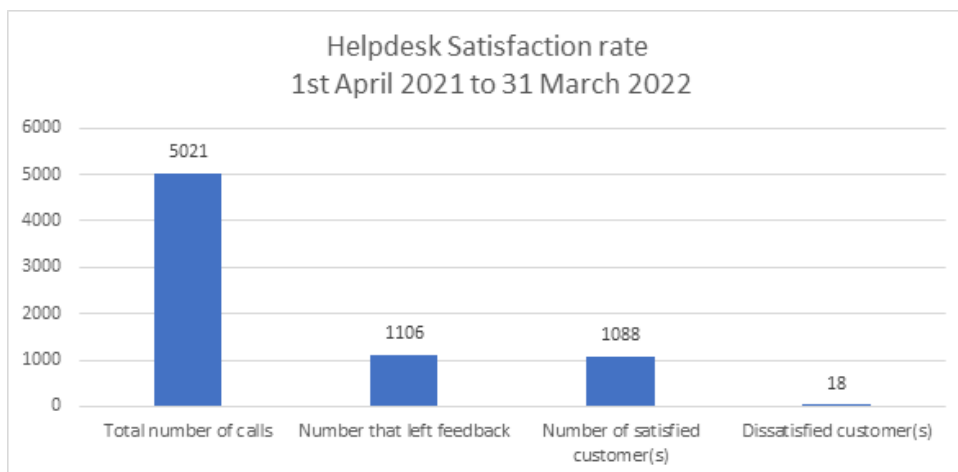
Sickness absence (to end 2021/2022):



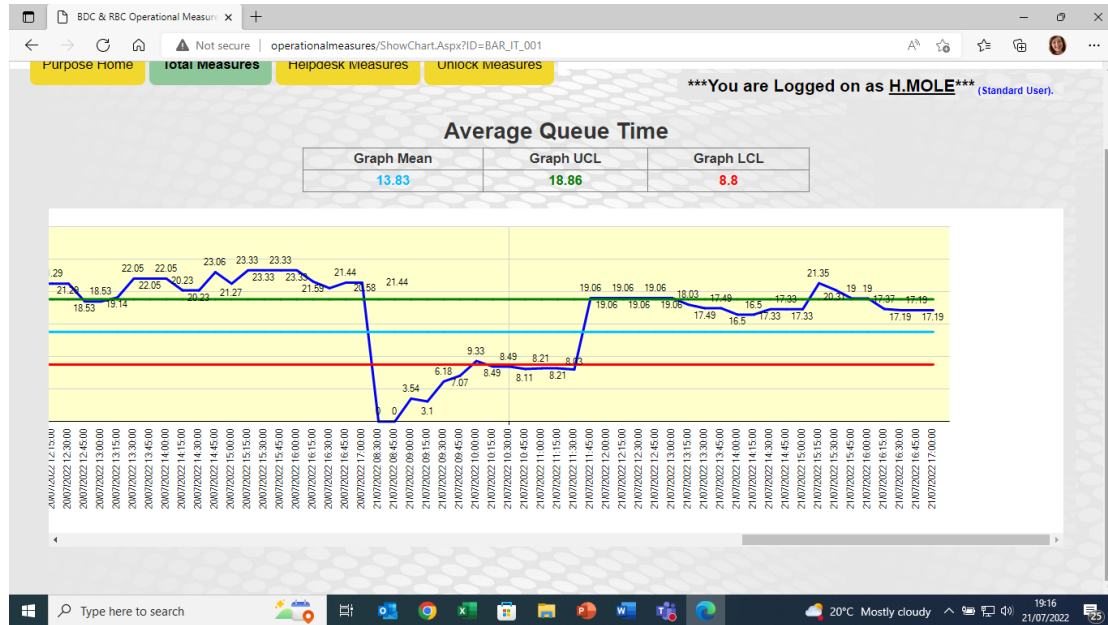
The data provided now includes Covid related absences. We have seen an increase in sickness compared to 19/20 which was the last data set pre covid with 6.6 days lost per FTE. For this reason, it is difficult to compare to previous years, but we can clearly see a rise in days lost. By way of a comparator the national number of days lost to sickness absence in 2021 according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) was 4.6 days.

Information Technology

During the budget year 2021/2022, 5021 calls were made to the helpdesk, 1106 chose to leave feedback, of these 1088 were satisfied. Shown in graph below: -

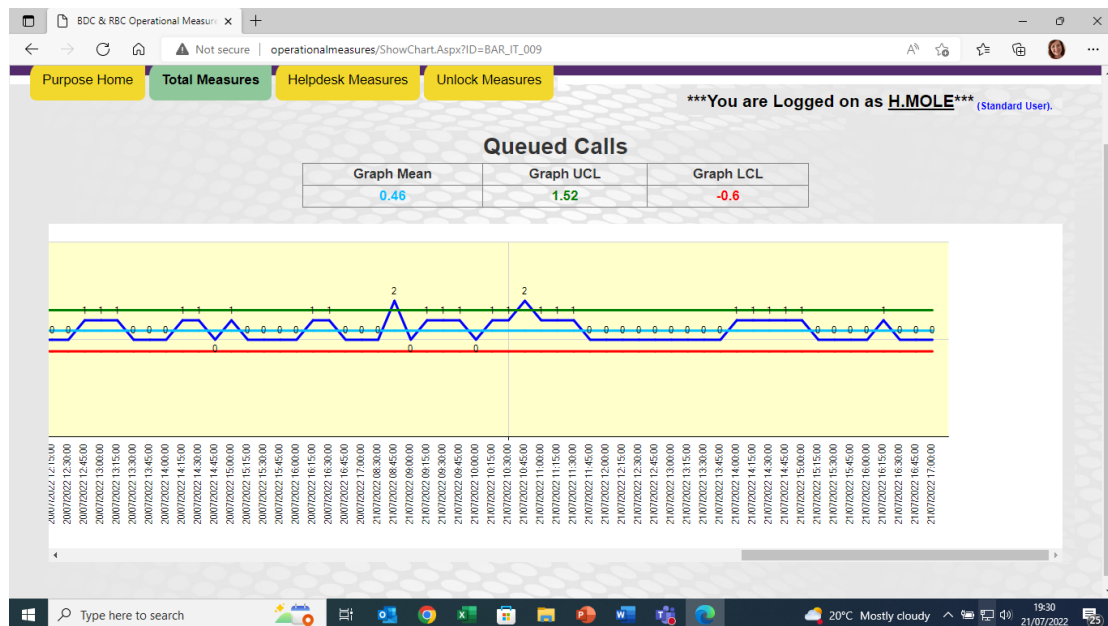


The average queue time including calls that have been abandoned and answered is shown below



Mean average for queue time is 14 minutes 23 seconds. This measure spans a rolling two-week period.

Covering the same period, the graph below, shows number of calls in queue. Mean average is one person waiting.



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Environmental and Housing Property Services**Environmental Services - RBC Domestic Waste Collection****Performance measure**

- Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting

Update

	2021/22	2022/23
April	36.65	35.27
May	31.20	28.45
June	25.82	28.16
July	26.57	
August	34.13	
September	34.69	
October	32.52	
November	27.38	
December	25.61	
January	34.91	
February	30.52	
March	39.82	

This is a National Indicator measuring the percentage of household waste arisings which have been sent by the Authority for reuse, recycling, and composting, and is used in the national league tables ranking Local Authority performance. In 2020/21 and Redditch was ranked 315th (primarily due to the lack of a widespread garden waste service in Redditch).

The tonnages fluctuate during the year for a number of reasons linked to habits of residents, and the seasons, and can be skewed by increases in the quantity of residual waste collected, which appears to be the case this year please see Kgs per household below.

Last year's data, follows a similar pattern, although August & September also reflect full easing of Covid restrictions so may have been influenced by increased socialising during the summer holiday

Performance measure

- NI 191 Residual Waste per household (kg) – RBC

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Update

	2021/22	2022/23
April	44.77	36.84
May	41.84	46.37
June	55.21	48.18
July	51.00	
August	40.09	
September	40.96	
October	38.78	
November	46.10	
December	51.99	
January	41.79	
February	39.64	
March	39.26	

Kgs collected per household statistics show that the tonnage of residual waste collected in the first quarter increased, which will have distorted the percentage recycling figures. It is believed that this is due to garden waste included in the residual waste bins in Redditch. Garden waste has a high moisture content, so during the Spring this typically increases the tonnages being collected. Whilst this does have some benefit on recycling rates where customers have paid for the garden waste collection service, Redditch currently has a low number of customers in the current service due to a lack of capacity and uncertainty over government plans regarding the future of Garden Waste Collections in the UK.

We are waiting on a consultation response to support future service planning. We are currently carrying out a waste composition analysis to identify in greater detail what is being disposed of in the residual waste stream, and this information will also support future service planning and communication campaigns to help boost recycling and reduce residual waste.

Performance measure

- RBC Fly Tipping

RBC Fly-tips 2021	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2021	66	90	138	125	87	130	118	133	153	108	104	90

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2022	103	102	138	130	128	137						
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Update

Most fly-tips in Redditch are small and consist of domestic related materials. Monthly reports for ESMT show all the fly-tips and their geographical location i.e., Winyates, Batchley etc. This enables us to focus on a particular area/s that may require pro-active enforcement and monitoring.

Housing Property Services

Housing Property Services Operational KPIs are shown below. Housing Property Manager is working with the teams to get a wider range of KPIs from both a Strategic and Operational angle. Some of this is driven by compliance others by the actions required because of the Social Housing White Paper. In the interim however please see below:

Performance measure

- Third Party Gas Audit Compliance – Frequency Monthly – Target 85%

Update

The Performance Indicator is a measure of the compliance with Regulations and codes of practice for the work undertaken by the in-house Gas Team. An Independent external company undertakes a random sample of Audits across several properties to assess the standard of workmanship and compliance and reports their findings monthly. The percentage reflects the performance in relation to compliance with a high score representing high compliance. (As context performance in October 2020 was at 70%).

April 2022	98.61%
May 2022	90.91%
June 2022	98.31%

Performance measure

- Average time taken to complete repairs to standard voids – Frequency Monthly – Target 20 Calendar days

Update

The performance indicator is a measure of the number of calendar days taken on average to complete works to standard voids (those not requiring two or more elements to be replaced e.g., kitchen and bathroom).

The target was set as a stretch target as during the previous year we had achieved below 20 days in 6 months of the 12 and was an improvement on the 21.9 day average of last year. The variable we have also are the numbers we receive and of course the condition and therefore volume of work required.

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April 2022	23.6
May 2022	20.5
June 2022	21.4

The actions we are taking are that we are now prioritising voids that can be quickly turned around, we are working closely with Housing Management to identify properties that we may be able to access sooner to carry out works, we are currently changing the company that provides us with utility management i.e. debt on meters, that then delay us in commissioning heating and electrical systems, where there are contractors involved, typically with electrical and cleaning prior to letting, we are working more closely with them to reduce any delays.

Finance & Customer Services (inc Revenues & Benefits)**Performance measure**

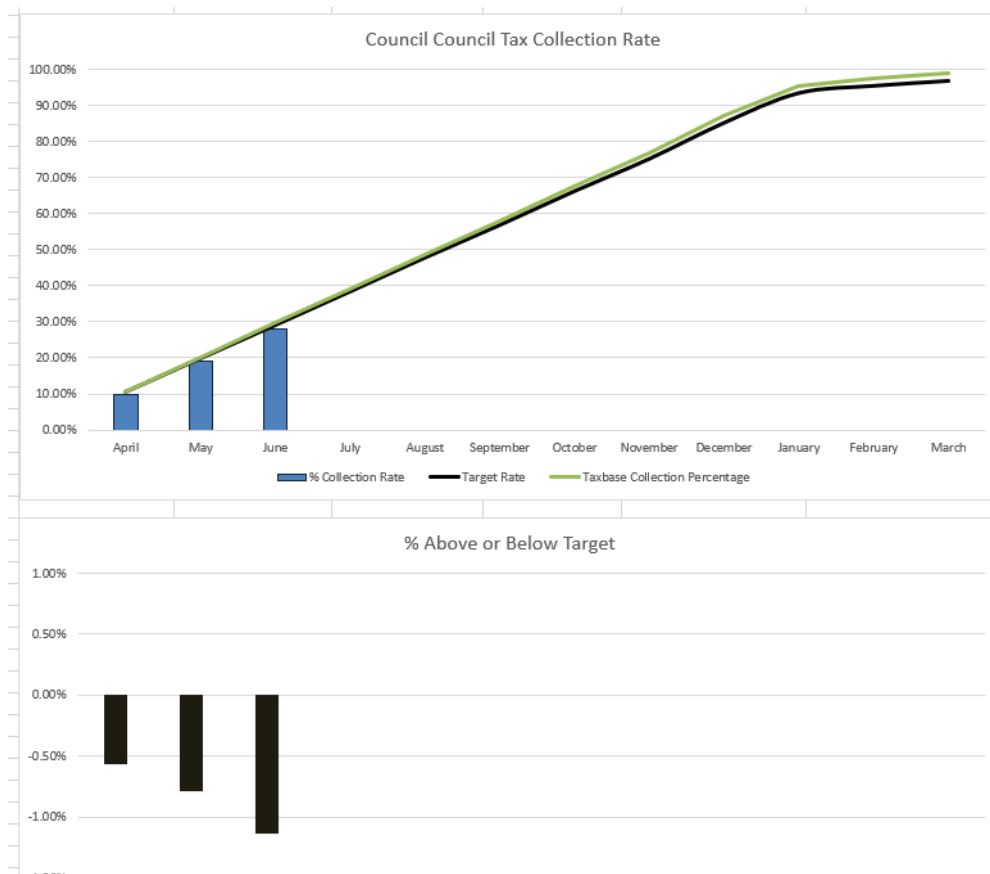
- Council Tax Collection Rate

Update

The Council is responsible for the collection of Council Tax income on behalf of itself and precepting authorities such as the County Council, The Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, and the Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority. Any reductions to the target collection rates result in additional charges to the precepting authorities in the following financial year. Collection rates are a reflection of the economy and with the current “cost of living crisis” it is expected that collection rates might fall.

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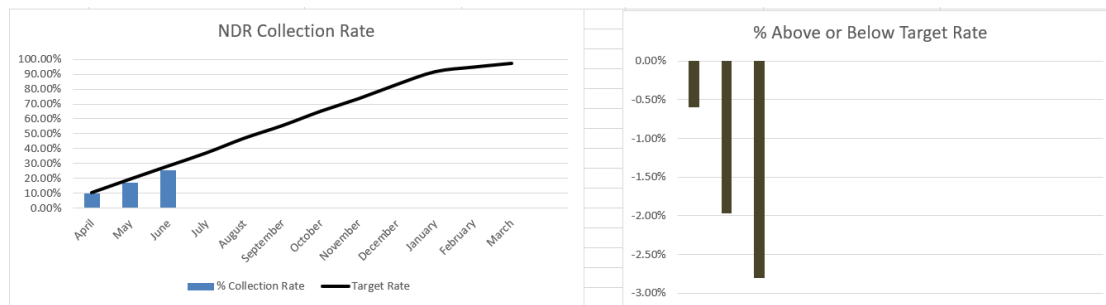


Performance measure

- NDR Collection Rate

Update

The Council is responsible for the collection of Business rates on behalf of itself and the Government. Like the Council Tax, any reductions to the target collection rates result in additional charges to the collecting authorities in the following financial year. Collection rates are a reflection of the economy and with the current “cost of living crisis” it is expected that collection rates might fall. Presently as of June we are slightly below these target rates already. It should be noted that for the past 2 years during the C-19 pandemic there were significant reliefs for businesses. 2022/23 is the first year without those reliefs.

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- Revenues Processing

Update

There are always significant quantities of items being processed by the Revenues team including both on Council Tax and Business Rates queries. This activity has been increased in the initial 3 months of 2022/23 by the administration of the Energy Rebate Payments. In terms of Benefits processing, new claims are being turned round in 20 days and changes of circumstances are being actioned within 9 days.

Month	Completed Items	Completed < 7 Days	Completed < 14 Days	Completed < 21 days	Completed < 28 Days	Completed > 28 days	Outstanding Documents
Apr	2618	637	363	423	732	463	1641
May	4919	1194	659	615	859	1592	2029
Jun	7880	1751	985	841	1208	3095	2089
Jul	9721	2070	1207	986	1431	4026	

Performance measure

- Online Customer Interactions

Online Customer transactions and Revenues calls (the next two tables) are being significantly affected by the administration of the Energy Rebate scheme which affects almost 28,000 households in the borough.

Month	On-Line Service Requests	Auto Processed	Referenced	Rejected
Apr	1340	385	384	571
May	6811	5734	460	617
Jun	4242	3413	328	501

Customer Services**Performance measure**

- Revenues Calls

Update

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Performance measure

- Number of Web Payments

Update

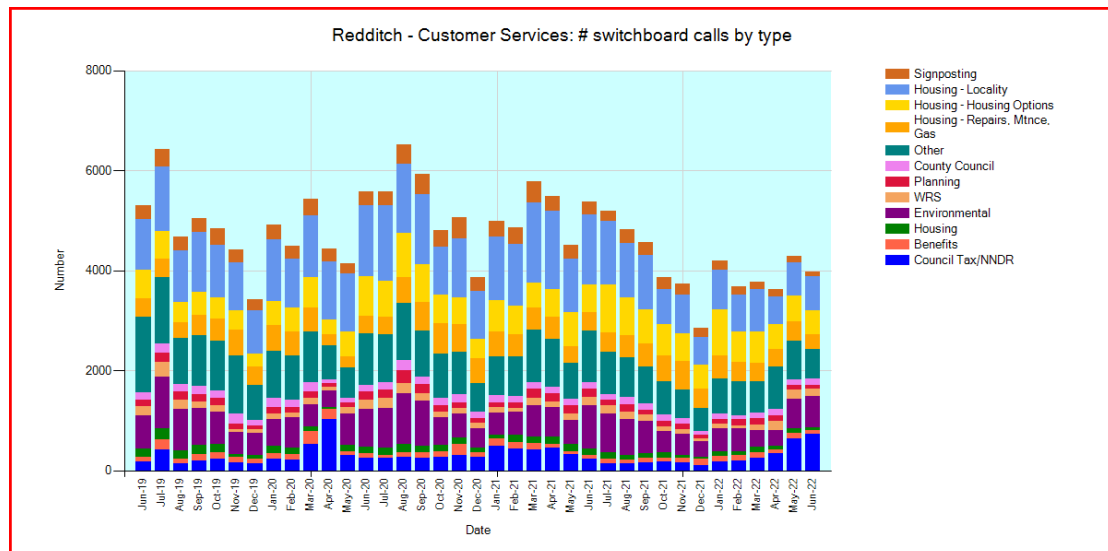
Number of Web Payments		
Date	RBC	BDC
Jan-22	3637	2019
Feb-22	2582	2175
Mar-22	2795	1450
Apr-22	3445	1339
May-22	3693	1754
Jun-22	3337	1189

Performance measure

- Customer Service calls

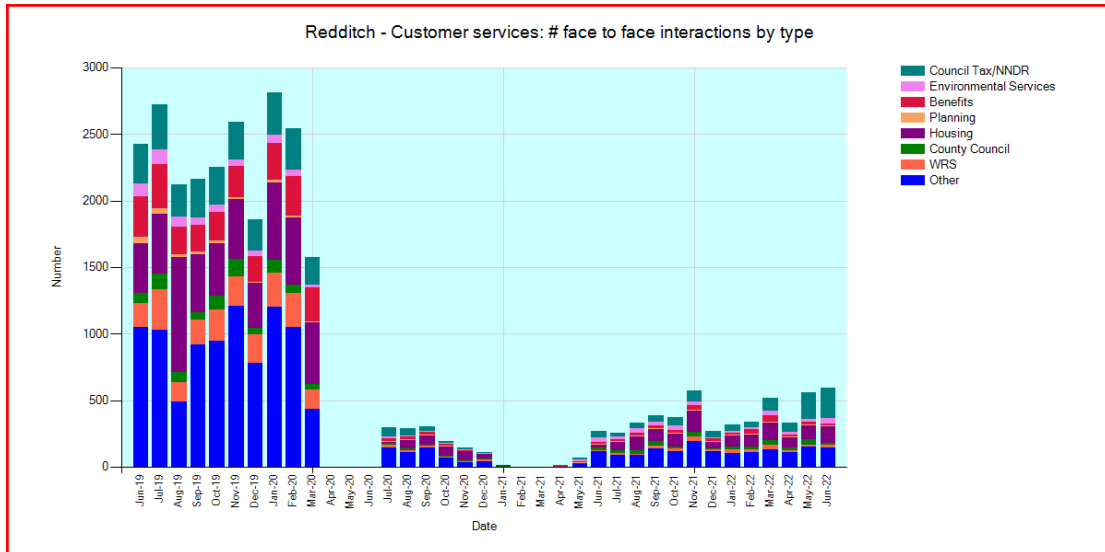
Update

There have been slightly fewer Customer Services calls the first quarter of 22/23 compared to the previous 2 years, although those numbers might be slanted due to the Country being under C-19 restrictions. This can be seen better in terms of the face to face interactions which reflect the periods when the Cash Office was closed and the fact that C19 has led to customers interacting with us in other ways.



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Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services

The Leisure Strategy has been received and shared with CMT (Corporate Management Team), it will be reported to Committee in October and there will be a prominent level of stakeholder engagement and discussions with CMT.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**Council**10th October 2022**Report title: Political Balance**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Karen Ashley
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services
Report Author	Job Title: Principal Democratic Services Officer (Redditch) Contact email: jess.bayley-hill@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: (01527) 64252 Ext: 3072
Wards Affected	N/A
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	An Effective and Sustainable Council
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS**Council is asked to RESOLVE that:-**

- 1) the Political balance of the Committees of the Council be agreed as set out at Appendix 1;**
- 2) appointments by political group leaders to the places on each Committee etc. be noted;**
- 3) the Council appoints Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Committees and other bodies as set out in Appendix 2; and**
- 4) appointments to Working Groups and other bodies listed in Appendix 2 be agreed.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report sets out the proposed political balance of the Council's Committees and seeks the Council's agreement to these. This report is required following a change to the political balance as a result of the byelection in September 2022.
- 2.2 Once the Council has agreed the political balance, the Leaders of each of the Political Groups on the Council can nominate to the places on each for their group. Councillors who are not members of a political group are appointed to Committees by the Council.

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- 2.3 The Council also makes appointments to other bodies which are not required to be politically balanced.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The level of Members' allowances, based on the current number of positions as set out in this report, has been agreed previously by the Council.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 With the exception of the Executive Committee, the Council is required by law and / or its own constitution to allocate places on its main Committees in accordance with its political make-up and to approve the Committee terms of reference. The main requirements are that:

- the number of seats on each Committee allocated to each Political Group reflects the proportion it holds of the total number of seats on the Council;
- the Group with the majority of seats on the Council should hold the majority of seats on each Committee.

- 4.2 The definition of a Political Group for these purposes is that it has a minimum of 2 members. The current composition of the Council is 19 Conservative, 8 Labour, 1 Green Party Councillor and 1 independent Member.

- 4.3 When considering the political balance, the group leaders took into account the current rules in the Council's constitution in respect of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee. These rules require that:

- The Chair and the Vice Chair of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee shall not be a member of the controlling group.
- The Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be a member of a political group not forming part of the ruling administration.

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

- 5.1 The proposals detailed in this report support the strategic purpose 'An Effective and Sustainable Council'.
- 5.2 The Council is required to consider the political balance when changes are made to the composition of the membership of the authority and this report enables the Council to address this requirement.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 There are no climate change implications.

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

- 6.1 There are no equalities and diversity implications.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 Once the Council has agreed the allocation of seats to the main Committees, the leaders of each political group will nominate members to fill them so that the business of the Council can continue to run smoothly. It is planned to have a list of the nominations available for noting at the Council meeting.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no specific risks arising from this report.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Political Balance
Appendix 2 - Committee Appointments

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Political Balance Calculation September 2022

Committee	Cons 19 65.52% of total	Lab 8 27.59% of total	Green Councillor Not entitled on political balance basis but figures provided for mathematical calculation 1 3.45% of total	Independent Councillor Not entitled on political balance basis but figures provided for mathematical calculation 1 3.45% of total	Total
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6 5.90	3 2.48	0 0.31	0 0.31	9 9 members on Committee
Licensing Committee	8 7.21	3 3.03	0 0.38	0 0.38	11 11 members on Cttee
Planning Committee	7 5.90	2 2.48	0 0.31	0 0.31	9 9 members on Cttee
Audit, Gov'ce & Stands Committee	6 5.90	3 2.48	0 0.31	0 0.31	9 9 members on Cttee
Statutory Officers Disciplinary Action Panel	3 3.28	1 1.38	0 0.17	1 0.17	5 5 members on committee
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel	3 3.28	1 1.38	1 0.17	0 0.17	5 5 members on committee
Appointments Committee	3 3.28	1 1.38	0 0.17	1 0.17	5 5 RBC Members on Committee
Shareholders Committee	3 3.28	2 1.38	0 0.17	0 0.17	5 5 Members on Committee
Electoral Matters Committee	3 3.28	1 1.38	1 0.17	0 0.17	5 5 Members on Committee
Allocated Total	40	14	0	0	54
Entitlement Mathematical calculation	41 41.28	17 17.38	2 2.17	2 2.17	62
Final Total	42	17	2	2	63

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**Council**10th October 2022**Appendix 1 - Nominations and Appointments to Offices, Committees, Sub-Committees etc.**

Committee / Sub-Committee etc.	Size (Members)	Conservative	Labour	Green (Non-aligned)	Independent (Non-aligned)
Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	9	6 Cllrs Akbar, Altaf, Baker-Price, Chalk, Court and Pearman	3 (Ch) Cllr Begum (V Ch) Cllr Fry And Cllr Harvey	-	-
Licensing Committee (Note the sub-committees are now selected from the committee membership)	11	8 (Ch) Cllr Akbar (V Ch) Cllr Baker-Price Cllrs Ashley, Beecham, Chalk, Clayton, Marshall and Pearman	3 Cllrs Fry, Harvey and Khan	-	-
Planning Committee (A pool of named substitutes would be welcomed for this Committee from both groups)	9	7 (Ch) Cllr Chalk (V Ch) Cllr Pearman Cllrs Akbar, Altaf, Baker-Price, Clayton and Fogg <u>Named substitutes:</u> Cllrs Akbar, Ashley, Lovell, Marshall, Prosser and Warhurst	2 Cllrs Fry and Hartnett <u>Named Substitutes:</u> Cllrs Baker, Begum, Harvey, Kane and Khan	-	-

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**Council**10th October 2022

Committee / Sub- Committee etc.	Size (Members)	Conservative	Labour	Green (Non-aligned)	Independent (Non-aligned)
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	9	6 Cllrs Akbar, Altaf, Baker-Price, Chalk, Clayton and Pearman	3 (Ch) Cllr Hartnett (VC) Cllr Kane Cllr Khan	-	-
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel	5	3 Cllrs Altaf, Baker-Price and Pearman	1 (Ch) Cllr Khan	1 Cllr Thain	-
Corporate Health, Safety and Welfare Committee	1	1 Member Cllr Nazir	-	-	-
Members' Support Steering Group	5	3 (Ch) Cllr Dormer (V Ch) Cllr Harrison Cllr Court	2 Cllrs Harvey and Fry	-	-
Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee	2 (+ 2 subs)	1 Cllr Nazir Sub: Cllr Harrison	1 Cllr Khan Sub: Cllr Fry	-	-
Planning Advisory Panel	5	3 Members (Ch) Cllr Dormer (V Ch) Cllr Warhurst Cllr Akbar	2 Cllrs Fry and Hartnett	-	-

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**Council**10th October 2022

Committee / Sub- Committee etc.	Size (Members)	Conservative	Labour	Green (Non-aligned)	Independent (Non-aligned)
Climate Change Advisory Panel	5	4 Members (Ch) Cllr Lovell (V Ch) Cllr Marshall Cllrs Clayton and Court	1 Member Cllr Harvey	-	-
Constitutional Review Working Party	5	3 Members (Ch) Cllr Dormer (V Ch) Cllr Baker-Price Cllr Chalk	2 Cllrs Baker and Hartnett	-	-
Appointments Committee	5	3 Members (Ch) Cllr Dormer (V Ch) Cllr Nazir Cllr Warhurst	1 Cllr Begum	-	1 Cllr Brunner
Shareholders Committee (Rubicon Leisure)	5	3 Members (Ch) Cllr Fogg (V Ch) Cllr Court Cllr Harrison	2 Cllrs Baker and Hartnett	-	-
Electoral Matters Committee	5	3 Members (Ch) Cllr Dormer (V Ch) Cllr Fleming Cllr Baker-Price	1 Cllr Baker	1 Cllr Thain	-

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**Council**10th October 2022

Committee / Sub- Committee etc.	Size (Members)	Conservative	Labour	Green (Non-aligned)	Independent (Non-aligned)
Statutory Officers Disciplinary Panel	5	3 Members (Ch) Cllr Dormer (V Ch) Cllr Nazir Cllr Warhurst	1 Cllr Harvey	-	1 Cllr Brunner
Holocaust Memorial Steering Group	5	3 Members (Ch) Cllr Fleming (V Ch) Cllr Marshall Cllr Beecham	2 Cllrs Baker and Hartnett	-	-
Redditch Matters Editorial Panel	3	2 Members Cllrs Beecham and Harrison	1 Cllr Kane	-	-

Scrutiny Groups**(political proportionality not required)**

Working Group / Task Group / Short Sharp Review	Size (Members)	Conservative	Labour	Green (Non-Aligned)	Independent (Non-aligned)
Budget Scrutiny Working Group	5 (maximum)	Cllrs Akbar, Clayton and Court	(Ch) Cllr Kane Cllr Begum	-	-
Performance Scrutiny Working Group	5 (maximum)	Cllrs Akbar, Clayton and Court	(Ch) Cllr Kane Cllr Harvey	-	-

*The Chairs of each of these scrutiny groups must be a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES

SUBJECT: Plot 5 Middlehouse Lane, Redditch

BRIEF STATEMENT OF SUBJECT MATTER:

In January 2021 Executive Committee declared surplus land it owned at Middlehouse Lane, and agreed to its inclusion in the creation of a 'blue light hub' for West Mercia Police [WMP] and Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service. Plot 5 was not part of that decision. However West Mercia Police have now requested to purchase this land for £105,000 to facilitate the development. This sum has been assessed and approved by Property Officers.

DECISION:

RESOLVE that

Plot 5, Middlehouse Lane be declared as surplus and agree its sale to West Mercia Police for £105,000.

(Executive decision)

GROUND FOR URGENCY:

In conjunction with this acquisition, WMP have requested a Licence to enter the land to relocate badgers onto the site, and this work needs to commence by 12 August 2022. The Council will require a contract for sale in conjunction with a grant of such licence to protect the Council's position for this activity to take place on our land.

DECISION APPROVED BY:

(Deputy) CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Interim Section 151 Officer
(if financial implications)

.....
(Signature) (Sue Hanley / Kevin Dicks - (D)CX)

.....
(Signature) (Pete Carpenter)

Date: 9 August 2022

PROPOSED ACTION SUPPORTED *(amend as appropriate)*

..... (Signature) (Signature) (Signature) (Signature) (Signature)
<i>(Block Capitals)</i>	<i>(Block Capitals)</i>	<i>(Block Capitals)</i>	<i>(Block Capitals)</i>	<i>(Block Capitals)</i>
MAYOR *	PF HOLDER	LEADER of the LABOUR Group	LEADER / LDR CONSERVATIVE Group	CHAIR O&S Committee
Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:

Notes:

* In addition to the Executive decision above regarding the matter under consideration, the Mayor is signing to agree both that the Executive decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency. This is to ensure that the call-in procedures as set out in Part 8 of the Constitution shall not apply where an Executive decision being taken is urgent.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES**

SUBJECT: Levelling Up Parks Fund

BRIEF STATEMENT OF SUBJECT MATTER:Introduction to LUF for Parks

The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) announced a Levelling Up Parks fund in August 2022 and selected 85 authorities that would be recipients of the available monies. Redditch BC was one of those authorities and can claim £85,000, subject to being able to produce a convincing bid. The fund is targeted at key areas of deprivation that are also lacking in green space provision. To bid for the funds, the authority needs to develop a credible project that will enhance an existing green space, which includes using the green space strategy mapping work to identify suitable spaces, site visits to assess the space(s), developing a sketch master plan and identifying suitable costings.

The Proposal for spending LUF Parks monies in RBC

The project proposal for submission to central government is to be described as “Heart of the Park”. It is a play on words as the area of Arrow Valley Park with the lake is the geographical centre of the town and the project emphasis is a series of interventions, near the lake, that will benefit the physical hearts of all residents and particularly those in areas closest to the heart of the park. Attached is an initial sketch plan and this will be worked up in more detail to support the application.

Decision Sought

This decision form seeks support for the emerging Heart of the Park Proposal as described in this form and as illustrated on the attachment. In addition, a decision is sought, subject to approval of the bid, for the funding to be incorporated into the capital programme and the revenue budget for 22/23 and 23/24.

Further information on Tasks to be undertaken

Officers with consultants have not yet completed the proposal for submission to central government in early October. Following on from using GIS to plot the location of the Defra preferred Lower Social Output Area (LSOA), i.e. areas with limited access to open spaces and in an area of deprivation, measured as the top 20% most deprived nationally, to which the project must relate and be in close proximity to, the following is on-going:

- Fully develop proposals for a viable project to meet the grant criteria for capital works, revenue funding (for events, fees and maintenance) and tree planting.
- Produce a report showing plans and detailed designs.
- Produce text describing the project and the outcomes that will be delivered
- Produce a cost plan setting out project costs aligned with the grant criteria

DECISION:**RESOLVED that:-**

- 1) **The Heart of the Park Proposal, as detailed in this urgent decision form and as illustrated in the attached document, be agreed and submitted to the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities; and**

2) Subject to the approval of the bid by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the £85,000 Levelling Up Parks Funding be incorporated into the capital programme and revenue budget for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

(Council / Executive decision)

GROUNDS FOR URGENCY:

From notification in August, the authority only has until 03 October 2022 to make the submission. Due to staff vacancies, consultants had to be procured to undertake the task of working up the proposals described above. Procurement timescales and report drafting timescales have made it difficult to present proposals for how LUF Parks monies could be spent whilst adhering to normal committee cycles

DECISION APPROVED BY:

(Deputy) **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

INTERIM SECTION 151 OFFICER
(if financial implications)

.....
(Signature) (Sue Hanley / Kevin Dicks - (D)CX)

.....
(Signature) (Pete Carpenter)

Date: Month 2022

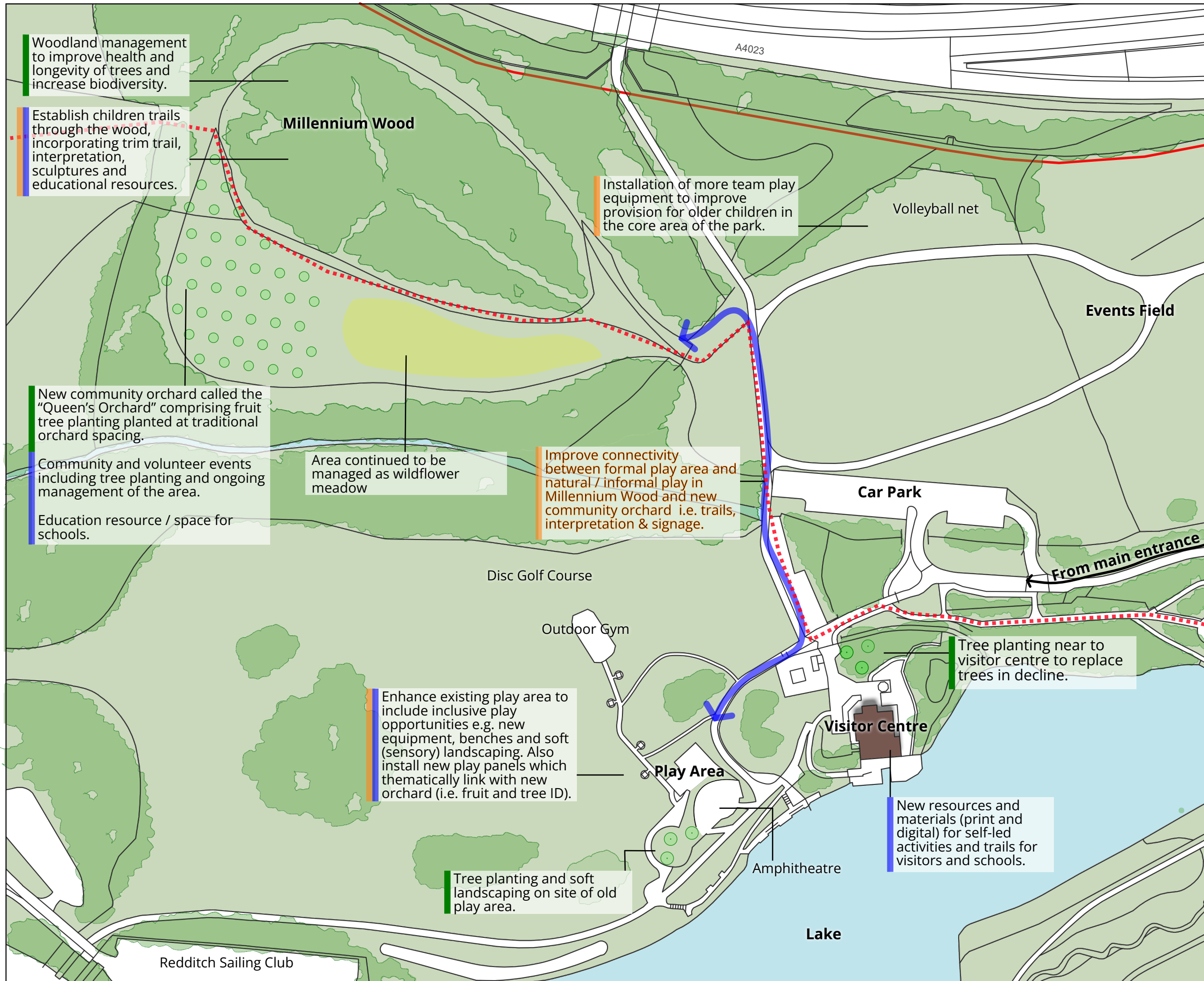
PROPOSED ACTION SUPPORTED (amend as appropriate)				
..... (Signature) (Signature) (Signature) (Signature) (Signature)
(Block Capitals)	(Block Capitals)	(Block Capitals)	(Block Capitals)	(Block Capitals)
 MAYOR *	 PF HOLDER	 LEADER of the LABOUR Group	 LEADER / LDR CONSERVATIVE Group	 CHAIR O&S Committee
Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:

Notes:

* In addition to the Executive decision above regarding the matter under consideration, the Mayor is signing to agree both that the Executive decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency. This is to ensure that the call-in procedures as set out in Part 8 of the Constitution shall not apply where an Executive decision being taken is urgent.

Key

- Country Park Boundary
- - - Meadows Trail (publicised walk)
- Capital works
- Tree uplift
- Activities / revenue
- Proposed orchard planting
- Proposed tree planting



Woodland management to improve health and longevity of trees and increase biodiversity.

Establish children trails through the wood, incorporating trim trail, interpretation, sculptures and educational resources.

New community orchard called the "Queen's Orchard" comprising fruit tree planting planted at traditional orchard spacing.

Community and volunteer events including tree planting and ongoing management of the area.

Education resource / space for schools.

Area continued to be managed as wildflower meadow

Improve connectivity between formal play area and natural / informal play in Millennium Wood and new community orchard i.e. trails, interpretation & signage.

Enhance existing play area to include inclusive play opportunities e.g. new equipment, benches and soft (sensory) landscaping. Also install new play panels which thematically link with new orchard (i.e. fruit and tree ID).

Tree planting and soft landscaping on site of old play area.

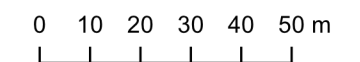
Installation of more team play equipment to improve provision for older children in the core area of the park.

Tree planting near to visitor centre to replace trees in decline.

New resources and materials (print and digital) for self-led activities and trails for visitors and schools.

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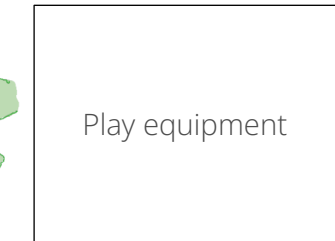
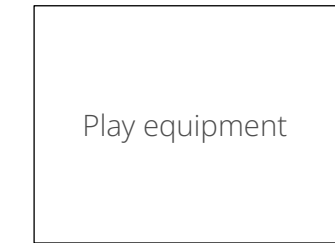
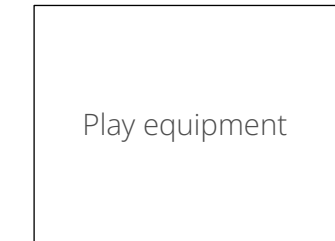
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Existing site and example proposal images

Key

 Country Park Boundary



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