



# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thu 30 Nov  
2023  
6.30 pm

Council Chamber  
Redditch Town Hall

**REDDITCH** BOROUGH COUNCIL

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**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact  
Mat Sliwinski**

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

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**Please note that this is a public meeting.**

**You are able to see the agenda for this meeting from the Committee Pages of the Council's website.**

**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**

Meeting attendees are encouraged not to attend a Committee if they have any of the following common symptoms of flu or Covid-19 on the day of the meeting; a high temperature, a new and continuous cough or a loss of smell and / or taste.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

The usual process for public speaking at Committee meetings will continue to be followed subject to some adjustments which allow written statements to be read out on behalf of residents and the virtual participation of residents at meetings of Overview and Scrutiny.

### **PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

Members of the public are encouraged not to attend a Committee if they have any of the following common symptoms of flu or 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.**



# Overview and Scrutiny

Thursday, 30th November,  
2023

6.30 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

## Agenda

### Membership:

Cllrs:

Sid Khan (Chair)  
Sharon Harvey  
(Vice-Chair)  
Imran Altaf  
Karen Ashley  
Chris Holz

Joanna Kane  
Emma Marshall  
Jane Spilsbury  
Monica Stringfellow

### 1. Apologies and Named Substitutes

### 2. Declarations of Interest and of Party Whip

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

### 3. Minutes (Pages 5 - 18)

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 will be considered at this meeting.

### 4. Public Speaking

To invite members of the public who have registered in advance of the meeting to address the Committee. Please note that the deadline to register to speak at this meeting is 12 noon on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### 5. Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Proposal for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Redditch Town Centre

This report will follow in an Additional Papers pack once the report has been published for consideration of the Executive Committee (due for publication on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023).

### 6. Update on the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel 2023-24 (Verbal Update)

### 7. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 19 - 38)

### 8. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 39 - 44)

# Overview and Scrutiny

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## **9. Task Groups, Short Sharp Reviews and Working Groups - Update Reports**

- a) Budget Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Kane
- b) Performance Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Holz
- c) Fly Tipping and Bulky Waste Task Group – Chair, Councillor Khan

## **10. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports**

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



# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Thursday, 26th October,  
2023

## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillor Sid Khan (Chair), Councillor Sharon Harvey (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Imran Altaf, Chris Holz, Joanna Kane, Emma Marshall, Jane Spilsbury and Monica Stringfellow

### Also Present:

Councillor Brandon Clayton – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services  
Councillor Lucy Harrison – Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services

### Officers:

Guy Revans, Judith Willis, Matthew Austin and Bev Houghton

### Democratic Services Officers:

M Sliwinski

### 33. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ashley.

### 34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor of party whip.

### 35. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public speakers on this occasion.

### 36. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - GARDEN WASTE SERVICE

[With the Chair's agreement item 5 on the published agenda – Pre-Decision – Garden Waste Service – was considered as item 4 at the meeting]

Chair

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The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services addressed the Committee to introduce this item and in doing so stated that the provision of Garden Waste Service to residents was a matter the Portfolio Holder had been passionate about, and campaigned, for over a decade and he was pleased that a dedicated Garden Waste Collection Service was finally going to be provided to Redditch residents, subject to approval of the report recommendations by the Executive Committee and Full Council.

The Environmental Services Manager introduced the report and noted that in 2017, Redditch Borough Council commissioned Bromsgrove District Council to use spare capacity within their garden waste service to support Redditch residents by providing a limited service utilising a single vehicle and crew every other week for 20 scheduled collections per year (February – November). This was to gauge the level of interest for the service among Redditch residents.

It was added that in 2021 the Government outlined plans for potential changes to legislation around Garden Waste including the possibility of making collection of garden waste a statutory service for local authorities. Last week it was announced, however, that the Government was not planning to change legislation on Garden Waste. This meant that the Council would retain discretion over whether to provide the service and whether, and how much, it charged for it.

The proposals were set out as being to purchase one additional refuse vehicle and to recruit three full-time staff to provide a dedicated Redditch Borough Council Garden Waste Collection Service. As the lead in time for purchases of new Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCV's) were approximately 18 months at the moment, it was proposed that if the Council were to expand the current service, an RCV was hired to support the service from February 2024 until the delivery of the dedicated vehicle. This would necessitate the hire of the refuse vehicle for the 40 weeks of the year that the current garden waste service operated.

The current arrangements cost £49,000 for the provision of the vehicle and staff from Bromsgrove District Council's service, but generated £88,500 in income, leaving a net benefit to Redditch Borough Council of £39,500 with minimal direct risk. It was estimated that the service with the new arrangements, if agreed, would require 1-2 years to build its customer base to a break-even point (approximately 1,300 additional customers at current pricing levels). This service, however, then had the potential to grow and deliver more significant income for the Council in the longer term.

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It was noted that based on the current customer base of 1,800 customers, there was a risk of losing up to £100,000 of revenue in year one as a result of the increased costs and lost income from the service-level agreement (SLA) arrangements. However, a dedicated crew and vehicle would have the capacity to generate higher income over time, as well as support environmental benefits through increased recycling rates for Redditch. There would also be carbon reduction benefits in composting garden waste than if it were collected within the residual waste bin (grey), although this would be offset by an increase in emissions arising from an additional Refuse Vehicle operating every other week in comparison with the current service.

Following the presentation by the Officer, a discussion took place with the following areas considered by Members:

- Potential number of collections – It was highlighted that at Bromsgrove on average 29,000 households had their garden waste collected, but the initial capacity of the single crew to be initially deployed at Redditch would be 6,000.
- Waiting list for garden collection services – It was noted that the Council no longer kept a waiting list of residents who requested a garden waste service. It was noted that, if approved, a communication campaign would be undertaken to encourage residents to use the service. It was expected that this would be undertaken through social media, local newspapers advertisements, and possibly banners displayed on existing fleet vehicles promoting the service.
- Proposed charges and comparison with other authorities – The Council's proposed fee for Garden Waste as in the recommendation was £60 per year plus a one-off set up fee of £20 for new customers. It was noted that nationally annual charges ranged from £35 to £90.
- It was noted that in the winter period when the staff working on garden waste, they would be encouraged to either book leave during the period or support staff across the rest of the fleet.
- Officers reported that forecasts of financial performance and customer take-up of the service were arrived at through conversations with other authorities on their levels of take-up as well as looking at the Council's take up when the garden waste service was first launched. It was noted that 1800 capacity of the then system was reached within the first year.
- Support for residents who cannot afford the service – Officers reported that the set up of an administrative system to support specific offering concessionary service would be

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difficult to implement due to data protection requirements. It was reported that most authorities did not offer a concessionary garden waste service and that residents could also dispose of the waste by accessing the tip sites in the Borough. However, once the service started delivering profit the viability of this option would be investigated.

Furthermore, residents were encouraged to tell the Council if unable to afford the service when the public consultation on this is launched as it would enable the Council to estimate the demand for a subsidised service.

- Implementing a dedicated RBC Garden Waste Service would impact on the current SLA with Bromsgrove District Council and require the current arrangements to be cancelled. However, there would be no penalties (including financial) for the Council for withdrawing the SLA.
- Refuse Vehicle Rental Costs and Costs of the New Refuse Vehicle – It was reported that a rental of a refuse vehicle from February 2024 would cost an estimated £1000 to £1100 per week. The new refuse vehicle would cost £210,000 in the 2025/26 capital budget as per recommendation three.
- Transition of the Council's Refuse Vehicles from diesel to HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) - It was noted that the Council's existing diesel refuse vehicles were EURO 6 vehicles which meant they were compatible to run on HVO with relatively minor adjustments. This would also be the case with the new refuse vehicle. It was reported that consideration was given to electric and hydrogen-powered refuse collection vehicles but these were significantly more expensive at around £400,000 (electric) and over £800,000 (hydrogen-powered) respectively.

The recommendations contained in the report submitted were endorsed by the Committee as follows:

## **RECOMMENDED that**

- 1) The Executive Committee resolve that subject to approval of recommendations 2 – 4 below, to agree the creation of a dedicated Garden Waste Collection Service for Redditch Borough Council;**

**And the Executive Committee to Recommend to the Council:**

- 2) An increase to the cost on Fees and Charges for Garden Waste to £60 per year, whilst maintaining the existing one-off set up fee of £20 for new customers;**

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### 3) Inclusion of the following Capital and Revenue expenses in the Medium Term Financial Plan:

Capital Investment	
2025/26 & Inclusion on Fleet Replacement Schedule	£210,000

Revenue Investment	
2023/24	£11,000
2024/25	£156,000
2025/26	£135,000
2026/27 Onwards	£114,000

### 4) Adjust the Medium Term Financial Plan to reflect the following financial pressures:

2023/24	-£11,897
2024/25	-£20,528

### 37. DOMESTIC ABUSE - COUNCIL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

Members received a paper that set out the support currently provided by the Council (through its grants and schemes) and regional and national bodies including the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, and the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) to third sector organisations providing domestic abuse prevention services or supported victims of domestic abuse.

It was noted that the paper set out the list of grants provided by one of the above agencies to the third sector organisations, the project details, the grant amount associated with the service, and the geographical area covered by the service as some of the services covered the Redditch area specifically and other services on the list had a wider geographical reach, for example covering the whole of Worcestershire county or the West Mercia police area.

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Housing Services was invited to address the Committee and in doing so thanked the

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Overview and Scrutiny for deciding to scrutinise this topic. She noted that all Members had a role to play in raising awareness of the prevalence of domestic abuse in society, and to work towards reducing its incidence by raising awareness of the issue in local communities and assist and signpost residents towards the support services that were available.

The Portfolio Holder commented that the report provided reassurance that Redditch Borough Council was doing much, in conjunction with partners, to provide support to third sector organisations offering domestic abuse support services. It was vital that all council services had an awareness of recognising signs of domestic abuse issues, and the Portfolio Holder encouraged all Members to undertake the training on recognising signs of domestic abuse.

After the report presentation, the following areas were discussed and considered by Members:

- Scale of domestic abuse in Redditch – It was noted that domestic abuse was a ‘hidden crime’ with many unreported incidents. It was estimated that victims of domestic abuse would experience 45-50 incidents before coming forward to report the issue to support agencies. Officers estimated that there were hundreds of families impacted by domestic abuse in Redditch Borough.
- Identifying incidences of domestic abuse from data – Officers reported that domestic abuse was not classed as a crime type in itself. To analyse domestic abuse incidence, reported crime data shared by the police was interrogated by offence type within which some offences would have a marker recorded to indicate that the offence was classed as a domestic abuse case. For example, an incidence of assault with injury could have a domestic abuse marker included. It was noted that this would be recorded by the police officer investigating the crime who would put the marker against that crime. It was noted that for violence with injury offence, domestic abuse was the second highest marker, only behind the alcohol-related marker. For the reason above, however, it was difficult to break down crime data in terms of the number of domestic abuse crimes as a given crime could have multiple markers included.
- Officers highlighted that domestic abuse reporting had increased which could indicate that more victims felt confident enough to come forward and seek support. While the community safety partnership agencies were undertaking a lot of work directly supporting the victims and families,

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there was likely more that could be done in terms of recording outcomes, for example records of the type of domestic abuse support provided in each case.

- The Community Safety Manager reported that the Community Safety Team had direct contact with domestic abuse victims and survivors when undertaking work to make their homes safer, and this involved community safety project officers going into a property, undertaking a crime risk assessment and recommending improvements to the safety of the house such as window locks etc. Such sanctuary assessments, for example, provided anecdotal feedback from families supported, but collating quantitative data on outcomes presented a challenge because of the long-term impact associated with domestic abuse.
- Domestic abuse and associated support services – It was explained that domestic abuse was often the underpinning factor for a lot of other issues. For example, incidents of domestic abuse could lead to homelessness and mental health concerns, substance misuse. Equally some of the above factors could lead to domestic abuse. As a result, it was difficult to delineate support in one area from another, for example, in the case of somebody who received a grant through homelessness support, for example, because they were fleeing from a domestic abuse situation. Due to these interlinks, it was felt appropriate that the paper included organisations providing support on issues that could be related to domestic abuse.
- Third Sector Support Services specific to Redditch and county-wide commissioned services – It was noted that some organisations receiving grants listed in the report covered a wider geographical area than Redditch Borough, for example there were some services listed in the report that were commissioned across Worcestershire County or the West Mercia Police area. It was explained that when funding was provided from national government and from public health the services would be usually commissioned across the County. The Community Safety Manager explained that through the Joint Commissioning Group for Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse the Council could monitor and look at detail of what the county-wide commissioned services delivered within Redditch Borough itself.
- Members were encouraged to take part in the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment Survey that was currently out for consultation, on the Worcestershire County Council's website. Through this survey, Members had the opportunity to provide their views on how they see county-wide domestic abuse services should be delivered in the Borough.

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- It was noted that tackling domestic abuse was one of the priorities for law enforcement agencies because of its significant negative effects on society. It was estimated that in 2017, for example, tackling domestic abuse accounted for £66 million spend by law enforcement agencies. This figure had likely increased significantly since then.
- It was reported that there West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner had made a major funding commitment to domestic abuse services, in particular organisations working on prevention route. As such, when local organisations were supported in applying for funding by the Council, they were encouraged to evidence how they would contribute to preventing domestic abuse in the first place.
- It was noted that extra consideration was given to people trying to flee traumatic experiences. There was a direct link between the Council's Community Safety Team and other Council departments such as Housing in particular. In the case of sanctuary assessments, it would be the initial contact by housing officers who would identify if somebody was able to stay in their home and if it needed to be made safer. The Community Safety Team would then go into the identified properties to undertake the sanctuary assessment itself.
- The local Partnership organisation providing cross-agency framework for community safety (which included tackling domestic abuse) was the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP), there were forums within this such as Worcestershire Forum Against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.
- The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) provided a comprehensive framework for making assessments of the cases and link the provision of appropriate services for victims and their children.

## **RESOLVED that**

**the report be noted.**

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

Members considered the Executive Committee Work Programme (Forward Plan) and it was requested that the following items from that Work Programme be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for pre-decision scrutiny:

- Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendations

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- Pay Policy 2024/25

It was requested that the following items be added for pre-scrutiny by the Budget Scrutiny Working Group:

- Council Tax – Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Policy
- Council Tax – Empty Homes Discounts and Premiums

It was queried by Members, in relation to the Executive Committee item on Council Tax Base and Business Rates Yield 2024-25, whether the Council had scope in relation to setting the business rates yield. Officers present undertook to contact the necessary Officers who would provide an answer before the Committee made a decision on whether it would add this item to its work programme.

**RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be updated with items from the Executive Committee's Work Programme as detailed in the preamble above.**

## 39. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

It was requested that the consideration of the overview item on Social Housing Repairs be moved to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023 meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was reported that the item currently on the work programme relating to the Matchborough and Winyates Regeneration Proposals would be withdrawn from the Executive Work Programme. Members asked for the item to be kept on the Overview and Scrutiny work programme until confirmation of the details with regards to this item had been received.

**RESOLVED that subject to changes detailed in the preamble above the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme be noted.**

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

Updates on the Task Groups and Working groups were provided as follows:

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

Councillor Kane reported that the next meeting of the Working Group was due to take place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

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- b) Performance Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Holz

Councillor Holz reported that no meetings of the Group had taken place to date and the next scheduled meeting was due on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Members of the Group would be contacted shortly about agenda items that could be considered at that meeting.

- c) Fly Tipping and Bulky Waste Task Group – Chair, Councillor Khan

Councillor Khan reported that the Task Group held its first meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October with further meeting dates agreed. The actions from the first meeting included the ask for Officers to gather up-to-date statistics on fly tipping incidence in the Borough and compare this with neighbouring authorities. Another action was for Members of the Task Group to formulate questions which could be used in a resident survey on the subject of fly tipping. The third action was for Officers to provide case studies for the next meeting of authorities that had household recycling pop-up centres, for example Birmingham.

**RESOLVED that the Task Groups, Short Sharp Reviews and Working Groups Update be noted.**

## 41. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

The Council's Representative on the external scrutiny bodies, Councillor Marshall, updated the Committee on recent meetings of the following external scrutiny bodies.

- a) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Marshall reported that she attended a question-and-answer session with the Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street. A written update on this would be provided to the Committee at the next meeting.

With regards to WMCA bodies, it was reported that councillors from non-constituent councils were not being remunerated for attending meetings. The workload of a non-constituent members was, however, comparable to that of constituent authority members who, in contrast, were in receipt of annual allowance. It was deemed that given comparable workload for constituent and non-constituent representative councillors, the issue should be raised with the Council's Monitoring Officer in the first instance for advice. It was

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clarified that if any remuneration was to be agreed for non-constituent councillors on the WMCA, the payment would come from the WMCA itself.

A question was raised in relation to the benefits of Redditch Borough Council's representation as a non-constituent member of the WMCA, and the benefits of sending elected member representation to meetings of WMCA's scrutiny bodies. It was noted that by being a non-constituent member, the Council had an opportunity to bid for some of the funding that was available through WMCA, for example the Homes England funding. There were also issues decided at regional level that had an impact on Redditch, for example in relation to skills training and funding for young people.

Members asked that it be checked which grants provided by WMCA were available to access by its non-constituent authorities such as Redditch Borough.

- b) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Transport Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Members were referred to the information contained in the written update report provided in the agenda pack.

- c) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

Councillor Marshall reported that the following issues were raised at the last HOSC meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023:

Hillcrest Mental Health Ward - It was noted that the Ward was recently given a 'poor' rating by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). There were actions being implemented to improve the situation. However, it was noted that Hill Crest would not be likely to be used as the facility where patients from Redditch would be placed and the unit would be used for psychological rehabilitation. It was reported that the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust (HWHCT) recently updated the Athelon ward and it was likely that the mental health facility would move there from the current Hill Crest facility. This would reduce the need for HWHCT to outsource beds to Wrexham and would see improvement in the offer to patients. However, it was noted that the bed capacity would be 14 at Athelon ward which still represented a reduction in mental health beds capacity. It was added that specialist treatment might still require patients to be referred to a facility further afield.

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Children's Hearing Services (Paediatric Audiology) – It was explained that the Trust had identified issues around the accuracy of some children's hearing tests, specifically auditory brainstem response (ABR) tests, which the Trust provided across the County. ABRs were mainly carried out when a baby failed a newborn hearing screen and on average 4 ABRs were conducted each week. The Trust had reviewed 462 tests taken since 1 April 2018. To date, 7 cases of moderate harm and 16 cases of greater harm had been identified, such as language and development delay or providing appropriate intervention such as a cochlear implant. It was explained, however, that as this affected the cohort of children under 5 years old most children were likely able to catch up in educational development even in case of an error in testing. Every family had been given a full explanation and apology and those affected were directed to seek further advice if required. Members of the Committee expressed significant concern at this issue and asked to be kept updated by the Council's HOSC representative.

**RESOLVED that**

**the External Scrutiny Bodies updates be noted.**

## **42. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Committee agreed that exclusion of the press and public was not required for item 11 – Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – as it was agreed that discussion would only concern the accuracy, not the content, of the public and restricted versions of the minutes. Subsequently, when item 11 was under consideration, no discussion took place on any of the content of the restricted minutes record of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## **43. MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING OF 7TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were considered including the minutes record of the exempt session of that meeting (Minute Item No. 32 – The Town Hall Refurbishment – Final Decision). No information regarding the exempt minutes was disclosed or discussed during consideration of this agenda item.

**RESOLVED that**

# **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

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Thursday, 26th October, 2023

**the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.**

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm  
and closed at 8.12 pm

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# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S

## WORK PROGRAMME

1 December 2023 to 31 March 2024

(published as at 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023)

\* item has been selected for pre-scrutiny by main Committee  
\*\* item has been selected for pre-scrutiny by Budget Scrutiny Working Group

This Work Programme gives details of items on which key decisions are likely to be taken by the Borough Council's Executive Committee, or full Council, in the coming four months. "Key Decisions" are ones which are likely to:

- (i) result in the Council incurring expenditure, foregoing income or the making of savings in excess of £200,000 or which are otherwise significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (ii) be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in the area comprising two or more wards in the Borough;
- (iii) involve any proposal to cease to provide a Council service (other than a temporary cessation of service of not more than 6 months).

If you wish to make representations on the proposed decision you are encouraged to get in touch with the relevant report author as soon as possible before the proposed date of the decision. Contact details are provided. Alternatively, you may write to the Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Property Services, The Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH or e-mail: [democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

The Executive Committee's meetings are normally held at 6.30pm on Tuesday evenings at the Town Hall. They are open to the public, except when confidential information is being discussed. If you wish to attend for a particular matter, it is advisable to check with the Democratic Services Team on (01527) 64252, ext: 3072 to make sure it is going ahead as planned. If you have any other queries, Democratic Services Officers will be happy to advise you. The full Council meets in accordance the Council's Calendar of Meetings. Meetings commence at 6.30pm.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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

Councillor Gemma Monaco, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change

Councillor Joe Baker

Councillor Joanne Beecham Portfolio Holder for Leisure

Councillor Brandon Clayton Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

Councillor Luke Court Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling

Councillor Lucy Harrison Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services

Councillor Bill Hartnett

Councillor Craig Warhurst, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Procurement

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Animal, Bird and Fish Welfare on Council Land Policy <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 5 Dec 2023		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ishrat Karimi-Fini, Parks and Events Service Manager Tel: 01527 881204
** Finance and Performance Quarter 2 Report 2023/24 <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 5 Dec 2023  Council 29 Jan 2024		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	Michelle Howell, Head of Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252
* Future Plans for Auxerre House <b>Key:</b> No	Executive Not before 6 Feb 2024	This report may contain exempt information which would need to be discussed by the Executive Committee in private session.	Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Simon Parry, Acting Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services Tel: 01527 64252
Homelessness Prevention Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant <b>Key:</b> Yes	Executive 5 Dec 2023		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Amanda Delahunty, Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer Tel: (01527) 881269

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
* Parking Enforcement Service Level Agreement <b>Key:</b> Yes	Executive Not before 6 Feb 2024  Council Not before 26 Feb 2024	This report may contain exempt information which would need to be discussed in private session.	Report of the Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	Simon Parry, Acting Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services, Tel: 01527 64252, Tel: 01527 64252
* Proposal for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Redditch Town Centre <b>Key:</b> Yes	Executive 5 Dec 2023		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager (Redditch and Bromsgrove) Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3656
* Council response to Local Plan Consultations; Birmingham Development Plan, South Staffordshire Local Plan and South Worcestershire Development Plan <b>Key:</b> No	Executive Not before 9 Jan 2024  Council Not before 29 Jan 2024		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager Tel: (01527) 881325

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
* Carbon Reduction Strategy - Annual Review <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Jan 2024 Council 29 Jan 2024		Report of the Head of Community and Housing Services	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3284
** Council Tax Base and Business Rates Yield 2024/25 <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Jan 2024 Council 29 Jan 2024		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Michelle Howell, Head of Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252
** Council Tax - Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Policy <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Jan 2024 Council 29 Jan 2024		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	David Riley, Revenues Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3382
** Council Tax - Empty Homes Discounts and Premiums <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Jan 2024 Council 29 Jan 2024		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	David Riley, Revenues Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3382
Environmental Enforcement Business Case <b>Key:</b> Yes	Executive 9 Jan 2024		Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources	Mark Cox, Technical Services Manager Tel: 01562 738023

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
** Final Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25 <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Jan 2024 Council 29 Jan 2024		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
** Finance Recovery Plan - Update <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Jan 2024		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
** HRA Rent Setting 2024/25 <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Jan 2024 Council 29 Jan 2024		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
* Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendations <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Jan 2024 Council 29 Jan 2024		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Darren Whitney, Electoral Services Manager Tel: 01527 882547
Non-Domestic Rates - Discretionary Rate Relief Policy <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Jan 2024 Council 29 Jan 2024		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	David Riley, Revenues Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3382

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
* Pay Policy 2024/25 <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Jan 2024 Council 29 Jan 2024		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Becky Talbot, Human Resources and Development Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3385
* Play Audit <b>Key:</b> Yes	Executive Not before 9th Jan 2024 Council Not before 29th Jan 2024		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Ishrat Karimi-Fini, Parks and Events Service Manager Tel: 01527 881204
* Playing Pitch and Built Facilities Strategies <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Jan 2024		Report of the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Jonathan Cochrane, Development Services Manager Tel: 01527 63051
* Review of Governance Arrangements for Rubicon Leisure Limited <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 9 Jan 2024 Council 29 Jan 2024		Report of the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services Tel: 01527 881429

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
** Medium Term Financial Plan (including Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision and Investment Strategy) (Tranche 2) <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 6 Feb 2024 Council 26 Feb 2024		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252
Council Tax Resolutions 2024/25 <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 26 Feb 2024 Council 26 Feb 2024		Report of the Executive Director of Resources	Michelle Howell, Head of Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252
Finance and Performance Quarter 3 Report 2023/24 <b>Key:</b> No	Executive 26 Feb 2024 Council 26 Feb 2024		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	Michelle Howell, Head of Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252
* Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report <b>Key:</b> No	Council 26 Feb 2024		Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Mateusz Sliwinski, Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01527 64252 Ext. 3095

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Finance and Performance Monitoring Outturn Report 2023/24 <b>Key:</b> No	Executive Not before 1st Jun 2024  Council Not before 1st Jun 2024		Report of the Head of Finance and Customer Services	Peter Carpenter, Interim Section 151 Officer Tel: 01527 64252



## Executive Committee

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Tuesday, 31st October,  
2023

### MINUTES

#### Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), Councillor Gemma Monaco (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Brandon Clayton, Luke Court, Lucy Harrison and Craig Warhurst

#### Also Present:

Councillors Juma Begum, Sharon Harvey, Jane Spilsbury and Monica Stringfellow

#### Officers:

Peter Carpenter, Nicola Cummings, Sue Hanley, Michelle Howell and Guy Revans

#### Principal Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley-Hill

#### 38. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Joe Baker, Joanne Beecham and Bill Hartnett.

#### 39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 40. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader advised that at the latest meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Members had considered and endorsed the proposals in the Garden Waste Collection report, which was also due to be considered at the Executive Committee meeting. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was thanked for the time Members of the Committee took to pre-scrutinise this report.

Chair

**41. GARDEN WASTE SERVICE**

The acting Executive Director of Environment, Leisure and Community Services presented a report proposing the introduction of a Garden Waste Collection Service for the Council.

Members were advised that there had been a garden waste collection service in the Borough for a number of years but this had been delivered by Bromsgrove District Council on behalf of Redditch Borough Council. Originally, it had been intended that this would be a short-term temporary arrangement and the plan had been to introduce an inhouse Garden Waste Collection service at some point. However, there had been a delay in making a decision on this subject due to the uncertainty surrounding the implications of the Environment Act for local authorities and the associated financial implications, particularly as it had been suggested that Councils might need to provide a garden waste collection service free of charge. More recently, the Government had confirmed that local authorities would be permitted to continue to charge for local garden waste collection services and the Council had concluded that it would be timely to consider introducing this service in Redditch.

The garden waste collection service proposed for Redditch Borough Council would operate for 40 weeks in the year. By providing this service inhouse, it was anticipated that the Council would be able to increase the number of residents in the Borough who could register to receive the service. By contrast, under existing arrangements, there was a threshold beyond which the Council could not increase customer numbers and there were residents who had had to be turned down when requesting the service.

The Council was proposing to charge residents who opted for the service an annual fee of £60 and there would also continue to be a one off £20 set up charge. When the service started to be delivered directly by the Council, the authority would initially lose £40,000 income received through current arrangements. However, Officers calculated that the authority would need to attract approximately 600 customers, in addition to the existing number of customers, in order to break even. There would be capacity to increase the service to provide for up to 6,000 customers, which would result in an increase in income.

There were significant financial costs attached to procuring a new vehicle for the Garden Waste Collection service and this could also take time to arrange. Therefore, initially, it was anticipated that the Council would hire an extra vehicle until a new vehicle could be purchased, although it was likely that the hire vehicle would be used for other waste and recycling services so that a Council owned

vehicle could be used for Garden Waste Collections and the green credentials of the service would then be advertised on that vehicle.

The Executive Committee was advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had pre-scrutinised the report at a meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023. During this meeting, questions had been raised about the potential for the Council to provide this service to residents on low incomes. Whilst this might be difficult in the short-term to achieve, due to the initial financial implications of introducing the service, there was the potential that this matter could be explored further in the long-term. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had also queried whether the Council had a waiting list in terms of local residents who had expressed an interest in receiving the Garden Waste Collection service in the future. Members were asked to note that there was no waiting list at present, as the Council had not wanted to raise expectations that could not be met. However, this could be implemented once a decision had been taken to introduce a Garden Waste Collection service.

Following the presentation of the report, Members discussed the proposals in detail and in doing so welcomed the potential to introduce a Garden Waste Collection Service at the Council. Members suggested that, due to the number of enquiries received by Councillors from residents on a regular basis about the potential for the Garden Waste Collection service to be extended to new customers, it was anticipated that there would be sufficient demand for the service to enable the Council to deliver the service without this being at a significant cost to the authority. It was also noted that the introduction of a Garden Waste Collection service would have a beneficial impact on recycling rates for the Borough; the Council's recycling rates did not currently compare favourably with other Councils in the county because they all operated chargeable Garden Waste Collection services which contributed to their higher recycling rates.

Reference was made to the potential to promote the Garden Waste Collection service on the vehicle used for the service. Members commented that this could help to encourage more residents to use the service.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) subject to approval of recommendations 2 – 4 below, to agree the creation of a dedicated Garden Waste Collection Service for Redditch Borough Council residents;**

**RECOMMENDED**

- 2) an increase to the cost on Fees and Charges for Garden Waste to £60 per year, whilst maintaining the existing one-off set up fee of £20 for new customers;
- 3) inclusion of the following Capital and Revenue expenses in the Medium-Term Financial Plan:

<b>Capital Investment</b>	
2025/26 & Inclusion on Fleet Replacement Schedule	£210,000

<b>Revenue Investment</b>	
2023/24	£11,000
2024/25	£156,000
2025/26	£135,000
2026/27 Onwards	£114,000

- 4) adjusting the Medium Term Financial Plan to reflect the following financial pressures:

2023/24	-£11,897
2024/25	-£20,528

**42. ANNUAL REFRESH OF COUNCIL PLAN**

The Acting Chief Executive presented the refresh of the Council Plan for Members' consideration.

The Executive Committee was advised that the Council Plan detailed the Council's vision and the strategic purposes, or Council priorities, underpinning this. The strategic purposes had been informed by the data available and a review of the content of the Council Plan had been undertaken by the Leader and Portfolio Holders. It was recognised that the Council needed to work closely with other key partners in order to meet the needs of local communities and to address the strategic purposes. The Council Plan and strategic purposes would be reviewed in more detail following the local elections that were due to take place in May 2024.

When reviewing the content of the Council Plan, feedback received from residents who had completed the Council's community survey had been taken into account. There had been three key priorities highlighted by residents in completed surveys:

- Community safety

- Parks and well maintained public spaces
- Housing

Based on this feedback and taking into account other key data, these three priorities were proposed as the focus for the Council's strategic purposes moving forward, alongside economic development.

Members welcomed the proposed amendments to the Council Plan and strategic purposes detailed in the report and highlighted that the changes, given they were informed by feedback received in completed community survey panel responses, demonstrated that the Council was listening to the public. Officers were asked to thank residents for the feedback that they had provided in completed surveys and to highlight how their responses had informed proposed changes to the Council Plan.

**RECOMMENDED that**

- 1) **the 2023/24 annual refresh of the strategic priorities, associated with the key deliverables and financial implications, be approved.**
- 2) **the process of establishing and agreeing meaningful outcomes for the key deliverables be approved and reported within the Financial and Organisational Quarterly Performance Reports; and**
- 3) **a full review of Council Plan and priorities for 2024 – 2027 take place in Autumn 2024 alongside the financial planning process and in accordance with the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).**

**43. FINANCE RECOVERY PLAN - UPDATE**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling presented the Finance Recovery Plan for the Executive Committee's consideration.

Members were advised that the report set out the processes the Council had been following to rectify a deterioration in its financial position and processes due to the impact of the implementation of a new financial system in February 2021 during the Covid-19 pandemic. This followed on from reports to the Executive Committee in September 2022 and July 2023. The Audit Governance and Standards Committee was also receiving similar updates at all their meetings.

# Executive Committee

Tuesday, 31st October, 2023

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Since the report to the Executive Committee, the following progress had been achieved:

- A draft Outturn Report for 2022/23 had been presented to the Executive Committee.
- The draft 2022/23 Revenue Outturn Estimates had been presented to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
- The draft 2022/23 Capital Outturn Estimates had been presented to DLUHC.
- A Quarter 1 Finance and Performance Report 2023/24 had been presented to the Executive Committee.
- Joint work had continued with the external auditors on providing evidence of control balances at the time of the transfer from the old finance system to TechOne on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The external auditors had validation routines for the 2020/21 financial year and were in the process of reviewing this data. However, the Council was still due to provide data and an agreement had now been reached with the Council's previous financial system providers, to deliver this data to the external auditors.
- The 2021/22 Housing Benefits Audit had been signed off.
- Financial Awareness Training with Managers had taken place.
- Budget Management Training for Managers (including use of TechOne) had taken place.
- Monthly Accounts Payable Training was taking place.
- The Council had recruited a Head of Management Accountancy on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and two temporary Technical Accountants.
- The Council had upgraded the TechOne finance system to the latest version in July 2023.
- The Financial Compliance Report, setting out movement in the financial recovery plan, had been reviewed by the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee in July and September 2023.

There were still significant concerns in relation to closure of the accounts, and their delivery, as there was the potential that the Government would introduce new national timetables. The Government had set statutory deadlines for the completion of the audit of accounts as follows:

- Accounts for 2015/16 through to 2019/20 needed to be signed off by 30<sup>th</sup> December 2023
- Accounts for 2020/21 and 2021/22 needed to be signed off by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024
- Accounts for 2022/23 needed to be signed off by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

The Council was still on track to clear the suspense backlog by the end of the 2023 calendar year and, with this, would finally be able to complete the 2020/21 and 2021/22 Revenue Outturn (RO) and Capital Outturn (CO) forms and all the VAT returns.

The Quarter 2 monitoring, which was due to be considered by the Executive Committee in December 2023, had for the first time been delivered on the TechOne system following the training that took place in September 2023.

The Council had been going through a Value for Money (VfM) audit. The accounts would not be verified until the full take from balances had been finalised. However, the annual VfM audit was on track to be reported to the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee in November 2023. The Council was anticipating that this would provide a positive analysis of the financial situation at the authority.

Following the presentation of the report, Members discussed the challenges that had been encountered by the Council following the introduction of the TechOne finance system and questions were raised about whether this remained the right system for the Council to use moving forward. Officers explained that the issues with the system had emerged in relation to implementation. There were other Councils in the country that used the TechOne finance system successfully, but Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District Councils had been the first authorities to use the cash receipting module and this had been the cause of many issues. The training that had been provided to budget managers would potentially result in improvements to budget management at the Council as well as helping to upskill those members of staff.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) **Progress made on the financial recovery be noted including:**
  - a) **Delivery of the Statutory Accounts**
  - b) **Delivery of Statutory Financial Returns**
  - c) **Improvements in the Control Environment**
- 2) **the work still under way to move back to a best practice operation and the associated timetable for completion of this work, as contained in this report, be noted.**

**44. DRAFT COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2024/25**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling presented a report in respect of the draft Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25 for Members' consideration.

# Executive Committee

Tuesday, 31st October, 2023

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The Executive Committee was informed that the Council was required by section 13A(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (LGFA '92) to make a Council Tax Reduction Scheme specifying the reductions in Council Tax that would be provided to people who were in financial need, or to classes of people who were in general in financial need.

When a scheme had been made the Council had to, for each tax year, consider whether to revise or replace its scheme. If the Council intended to revise or replace the scheme, then there was a requirement to undertake a formal consultation before making a new scheme.

The Council introduced a new income banded scheme for working age applicants with effect from 1st April 2021. The rationale for the new scheme was to ensure that it was future proofed, and it reduced the administrative burden placed on the Council by the introduction of universal credit. The Council had amended the scheme in the years since April 2021 to adjust the level of support in-line with funding available; to amend income bands and tapers to adjust for the impact of inflation; and to aid administration.

The existing scheme included a provision for the uprating of income bands by an inflation factor decided by the Council. Changes to income bands would be made in accordance with the existing scheme and would not require consultation but would be subject to the approval of Council. These increases would be based on the increases in benefits levels that would be announced in the Chancellor's Speech on 22nd November 2023.

## **RESOLVED that**

- 1) the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme be retained for the 2024-25 tax year, subject to the uprating of income bands as provided for within the existing scheme; and**
- 2) options for the uprating of the income bands to be modelled and presented to Executive Committee for approval and the recommendation of new income grid to Council.**

## **45. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - TRANCHE 1 BUDGET INCLUDING FEES AND CHARGES (PRIOR TO CONSULTATION)**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling presented the Medium Term Financial Plan Tranche 1 Budget Report including fees and charges for the Executive Committee's consideration.

Members were informed that the budget setting process would be more complicated in 2023/24 compared to previous years. The Council would still be asked to consider budget proposals in two tranches and Council Tax would need to be agreed in February 2024. However, the Council's budget would be reviewed in a challenging macro-economic climate and this would impact on the settlement for local government. As the Chancellor's autumn statement was not due to take place until 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, the Council was not expecting to learn about the authority's financial settlement from the Government until late December 2023. The Executive Committee was asked to note that the settlement was likely to be for a two-year period.

The tranche 1 report detailed the progress that had been achieved to date and the current position of the Council's budget, prior to consultation with the public. This was intended to be the start of the Council's budget setting process and there remained opportunities to shape the budget during tranche 2 of the process.

During consideration of this item, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling thanked the Budget Scrutiny Working Group for reviewing the content of the report in detail at a meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023. A number of suggestions had been made by Members during this meeting of the Budget Scrutiny Working Group and these would be explored further as part of tranche 2 of the budget setting process.

Reference was made to the fees and charges detailed at Appendix C to the report. Officers clarified that the proposal was for there to be a standard 7 per cent increase to the Council's fees and charges in 2024. However, Members were asked to note that one of the fees detailed within the report would be removed; this was the fee for the Lifeline analogue system, as the system no longer existed.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1) that the inputs into the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan as at the start of October, and the associated risks and opportunities, be endorsed;**
- 2) to note that these inputs have been used, along with the 2023/24-25/26 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) agreed by Council in February 2023, to project an initial "gap" to be closed;**
- 3) the initial Tranche of savings proposals be published on the 24<sup>th</sup> October and any feedback will be considered by**

# Executive Committee

Tuesday, 31st October, 2023

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**Executive in December 2023 prior to seeking approval at Council in January 2024;**

- 4) to note that tranche 2 of this process will add further information such as the Local Government Settlement to give a final financial position for the Council; and**

**RECOMMENDED that**

- 5) the Play Audit recommended capital works for 2023/4 are approved and added to the Capital Programme.**

**46. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling explained that the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee had agreed a number of recommendations at a meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 which were designed to improve the audit process for Local Government accounts. The Executive Committee was advised that the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling was due to attend a Local Government Association (LGA) conference alongside other Councils' Portfolio Holders for Finance and he confirmed that he would ensure that this matter was raised at that conference.

Members thanked the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee for the recommendations and confirmed that these would be approved.

**RESOLVED that**

**in relation to the proposed plans by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to tackle the backlog in local government audits by setting statutory deadlines for historic accounts to be cleared:**

- 1) the Executive Committee ensure that the possibility of legislation being passed to speed up the local authority audit process be noted on the Council's Corporate Risk Register; and**
- 2) the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling be asked to lobby the Government through the Local Government Association (LGA) to provide a timeframe for when this legislation is to come into effect.**

# Executive Committee

Tuesday, 31st October, 2023

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## 47. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Leader confirmed that there were no outstanding recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee requiring consideration on this occasion.

### **RESOLVED that**

**the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7th September 2023 be noted.**

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

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

## 49. MINUTES

### **RESOLVED that**

**the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.**

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm  
and closed at 7.10 pm

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**Overview & Scrutiny**

Committee

30<sup>th</sup> November 2023**WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Subject Matter</b>	<b>Officer(s) / Member(s) Responsible for report</b>
<b>ALL MEETINGS</b>	<b>REGULAR ITEMS</b>	<b>(CHIEF EXECUTIVE)</b>
	Minutes of previous meeting Consideration of the Executive Committee Work Programme Call-ins (if any) Pre-scrutiny (if any) Task Groups / Short, Sharp Review Groups – feedback Working Groups - feedback Committee Work Programme	Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chair of Task Group / Short, Sharp Review Chair of Working Group Chief Executive

**Overview & Scrutiny**

Committee

30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
<b>30<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b> <b>(Executive 5<sup>th</sup> December)</b>	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Proposal for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Redditch Town Centre	Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager
<b>4<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> <b>(Executive 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024)</b>	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendations	Darren Whitney, Electoral Services Manager
<b>4<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> <b>(Executive 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024)</b>	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Council response to Local Plan Consultations; Birmingham Development Plan, South Staffordshire Local Plan and South Worcestershire Development Plan	Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager
<b>4<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> <b>(Executive 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024)</b>	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Decarbonisation of the Council Fleet	Kevin Hirons, Environmental Services Manager
<b>4<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> <b>(Executive 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024)</b>	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Review of Governance Arrangements for Rubicon Leisure Limited	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services
<b>4<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> <b>(Executive 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024)</b>	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Play Audit	Ishrat Karimi-Fini, Cultural Services and Parks Manager
<b>4<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> <b>(Executive 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024)</b>	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Carbon Reduction Strategy – Annual Review	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services
<b>4<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> <b>(Executive 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024)</b>	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Playing Pitch and Built Facilities Strategies	Jonathan Cochrane, Development Services Manager
<b>4<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> <b>(Executive 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024)</b>	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Pay Policy 2024/25	Becky Talbot, Resources and Development Manager

**Overview & Scrutiny**

Committee

30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

<b>1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 (Executive 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024)</b>	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Future Plans for Auxerre House	Simon Parry, Acting Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services
<b>1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 (Executive 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024)</b>	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Parking Enforcement Service Level Agreement	Simon Parry, Acting Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services
<b>19<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-24	Mat Sliwinski, Democratic Services Officer
<b>19<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b>	Redditch Partnership - Annual Report	Della McCarthy, Bromsgrove and Redditch Partnership Manager
<b>19<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b>	Overview – Social Housing Repairs	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services
<b>Date to be confirmed</b>	Health Priorities in Redditch - Overview item	Sue Hanley, Interim Chief Executive Officer
<b>Date to be confirmed</b>	Outcome of Tenant Consultation on Housing Policies	Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services
<b>Date to be confirmed</b>	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Matchborough and Winyates Regeneration Proposals	Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development

**Overview & Scrutiny**

Committee

30<sup>th</sup> November 2023**Working Groups:**

- Budget Scrutiny Working Group**

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 (Executive 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2023)	Finance and Performance Monitoring Report – Q2 2023/24  Chancellor’s Autumn Statement Update
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2024 (Executive 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024)	Medium Term Financial Plan - Tranche 1 Budget including Fees and Charges (prior to consultation)  Finance and Performance Quarter 2 Report 2023/24  HRA Rent Setting 2024/25  Council Tax – Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Policy  Council Tax – Empty Homes Discounts and Premiums
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2024 (Executive 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2024)	Medium Term Financial Plan – (including Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision and Investment Strategy) (Tranche 2)

- Performance Scrutiny Working Group**

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2023	-
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024	Climate Change Policy Progress Update - confirmed
12 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2024	-

# Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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## Task Groups

- **Fly Tipping and Bulky Waste Task Group**

The first meeting of the Group is due to take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Further meeting dates have now been confirmed for 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

- **Speeding and Road Safety Task Group**

Next task group to be launched following the conclusion of the Fly Tipping and Bulky Waste Task Group. Please note that Membership, Full Topic Proposal and Terms of Reference of the Task Group will need to be agreed by the Committee before this Task Group is able to proceed.

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