



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Mon 2 Sep
2024
6.30 pm

Oakenshaw Community
Centre,
Castleditch Lane,
Redditch
B98 7YB

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
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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 officers named above.

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

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The usual process for public speaking at Committee meetings will 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.

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Notes:

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



Overview and Scrutiny

Monday, 2nd September, 2024

6.30 pm

Oakenshaw Community Centre

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Matthew Dormer
(Chair)
Craig Warhurst
(Vice-Chair)
William Boyd
Claire Davies
Andrew Fry

Joanna Kane
Sachin Mathur
David Munro
Rita Rogers

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. Public Speaking

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

4. Motion on Notice Concerning Acute Mental Health Services - Referral from Council (Pages 7 - 16)

5. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 17 - 24)

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 29th July 2024 have been attached.

The next edition of the Executive Committee's Work Programme is due to be published after the publication of the agenda for this meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Copies of this plan will therefore be published in a supplementary pack for this meeting.

6. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 25 - 30)

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

- a) Budget Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Warhurst
- b) Performance Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Warhurst
- c) Fly Tipping and Bulky Waste Task Group – Chair, Councillor Dormer
- d) Post-16 Education Task Group – Chair, Councillor Warhurst

8. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports

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

9. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, during the course of the meeting to consider excluding the public from the meeting on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be divulged, it may be necessary to move the following resolution:

“That, under S.100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter(s) on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs (to be specified) of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act”.

These paragraphs are as follows:

Subject to the “public interest” test, information relating to:

- Para 1 – any individual;
- Para 2 – the identity of any individual;
- Para 3 – financial or business affairs;
- Para 4 – labour relations matters;
- Para 5 – legal professional privilege;
- Para 6 – a notice, order or direction;
- Para 7 – the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime;
and may need to be considered as ‘exempt’.

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10. Shopmobility Future Options (Pre-Scrutiny)

The Shopmobility Future Options report will be published in a supplementary pack for this meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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Motion on Notice – Referral to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Monica Stringfellow
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Councillor Stringfellow was in attendance at the Council meeting held on 29 th July 2024
Relevant Assistant Director	Claire Felton, Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Property Services
Report Author	Job Title: Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Property Services Contact email: c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Wards Affected	No specific ward relevance
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Council Priority	Living Independent, Active and Healthy Lives
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve one of the following options:

- 1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should investigate the subject of the reconfiguration of Adult Mental Health Inpatient and Rehabilitation Services at a meeting, or series of meetings, of the Committee; or
- 2) That a Task Group should be established to review the reconfiguration of Adult Mental Health Inpatient and Rehabilitation Services; or
- 3) That Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be asked to further review the reconfiguration of Adult Mental Health Inpatient and Rehabilitation Services; or
- 4) That an alternative approach, to be specified at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, should be adopted to reviewing the reconfiguration of Adult Mental Health Inpatient and Rehabilitation Services; or

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- 5) That no further action should be taken in respect of reviewing the reconfiguration of Adult Mental Health Inpatient and Rehabilitation Services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The report details the background to discussions around a Motion on Notice that was considered at a meeting of Council held on 29th July 2024 and which was referred for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 The Committee is invited to consider what action, if any, to take in response.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 At a meeting of Council held on 29th July 2024, Members considered a Motion on Notice on the subject of Hill Crest Ward. The Motion, as submitted to Council, stated the following:

“That the Council asks Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust to reconsider the proposed closure of Hillcrest Ward in Redditch and the consequential transfer of all adult acute mental health in-patient treatment to the Elgar Unit at the Worcester Royal Acute Hospital site.”

- 3.2 When this Motion was discussed at the Council meeting, it received general, cross-party support from the Members who were present. However, an agreement was reached to alter this Motion to refer the matter to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration. This alteration added the following words to the start of the Motion:

“Council asks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the proposals for Reconfiguration of Adult Mental Health Inpatient and Rehabilitation services.”

- 3.3 In making this referral to overview and scrutiny, Council noted that the subject of Adult Mental Health Acute Inpatient and Rehabilitation Redesign had been discussed at a meeting of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) held on 8th July 2024.

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- 3.4 The Council did not specify how the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should review this subject and it should be noted that there are a number of options available:
- Discussion of this subject at a meeting or meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as an overview item. Representatives of NHS services and the Chair of the HOSC could be invited to attend this meeting (or meetings) to speak on this subject. This would need to be accommodated alongside other items of business on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme.
 - Establishing a Task Group to review the subject. A Task Group could meet on an ad hoc basis to investigate the matter further. The focus of the meetings could be entirely on this subject. However, it should be noted that there are already two Task Groups that have been set up and there could be difficulties providing the resources needed to support a third Task Group to run concurrently.
 - Referring the matter back to the Worcestershire HOSC for further consideration. Redditch Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a representative on the Worcestershire HOSC. Councillor David Munro was appointed to this position at the Council meeting held on 29th July 2024. This representative can raise issues for the consideration of HOSC on behalf of the Council and should also report back to the Redditch Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis on the work of the HOSC. It should be noted that the minutes of the HOSC meeting held on 8th July 2024 state that the Chairman of HOSC requested an update on this subject for the consideration of HOSC before March 2025.
 - Taking no further action. Despite the referral from Council, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is not obliged to investigate this subject further and Members may conclude that no further action is required.
 - Alternative action identified during the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members may identify an alternative course of action during the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which Members may wish to adopt in order to address this subject.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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4.1 No specific financial implications for the Council have been identified.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 In a two-tier authority area, such as Worcestershire, health scrutiny powers are conferred on the upper tier authority, which is Worcestershire County Council. This is confirmed by section 244 of the National Health Service Act 2006 which states that scrutiny powers for health apply “to any local authority, except that it applies to the council of a district only where the district is comprised in an area for which there is no county council” (section 244 (1)). Further provisions regarding the processes for the scrutiny of health issues are set out in the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 (as amended).

5.2 The recent updating of service delivery and organisational arrangements for the NHS as set out in the Health and Care Act 2022 is also important to note. This is the legislation that has led to the formal establishment of “Integrated Care Systems” comprising “Integrated Care Boards”, which replaced the Clinical Commissioning Groups, and a new type of consultative local committee known as an Integrated Care Partnership. This new body or “ICP” will run alongside the existing HOSC for each area. There have also been some consequential changes to the powers of HOSCs resulting from the Health and Care Act 2022.

5.3 The position is that Redditch Borough Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee does not have the power to compel health bodies to attend meetings to provide evidence or to consider recommendations that may be made.

5.4 The Worcestershire HOSC does have powers in relation to scrutiny of health services. This includes the power to make reports and recommendations to relevant NHS bodies, health service providers and the Secretary of State on health services in the authority’s area.

5.5 Given the greater statutory powers available at County level, Members may wish to refer this topic back to the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration and / or to refer any Borough scrutiny findings to HOSC for consideration.

5.6 Should Members choose to investigate this matter further and to report back to HOSC, it is suggested that the aim should be to complete this work prior to March 2025. This suggestion has been made due to the

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HOSC Committee's request for a further update on this subject from relevant NHS services and partners before March 2025.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Council Priority

- 6.1 The subject of Adult Mental Health Inpatient and Rehabilitation Services links to the strategic purpose of living independent, active and healthy lives.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.2 There are no specific climate change implications.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.3 No particular equalities and diversity implications have been identified.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There is a risk that scrutiny of this subject by the Redditch Overview and Scrutiny Committee might result in raising expectations within the community that the Committee has more influence over health services than are in fact available to a district-level Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Relevant extract from the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 29th July 2024.

Background Papers:

The minutes of the meeting of the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee when the subject of the redesign of Adult Mental Health Inpatient and Rehabilitation Services was discussed: [Adult Mental Health Acute Inpatient and Rehabilitation Redesign - Worcestershire County Council](#)

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Judith Willis, Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services	12.08.24
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor - Governance	15.08.24



Council

Monday, 29th July, 2024

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Juma Begum (Mayor), Councillor Joanna Kane (Deputy Mayor), and Councillors Joe Baker, Juliet Barker Smith, William Boyd, Brandon Clayton, Claire Davies, Matthew Dormer, James Fardoe, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett, Sharon Harvey, Chris Holz, Wanda King, Alan Mason, Sachin Mathur, Gemma Monaco, Rita Rogers, Gary Slim, Jen Snape, Jane Spilsbury, Monica Stringfellow, Craig Warhurst, Ian Woodall and Paul Wren

Officers:

Peter Carpenter, Nicola Cummings, Sue Hanley and Guy Revans

Democratic Services Officers:

Jess Bayley-Hill

23. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (PROCEDURE RULE 11)

The Mayor advised that one Motion on Notice had been received for this meeting.

Hillcrest Ward

Councillor David Munro had submitted the following Motion for consideration, which was proposed in his absence by Councillor Ian Woodall:

“That the Council asks Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust to reconsider the proposed closure of Hillcrest Ward in Redditch and the consequential transfer of all adult acute mental health in-patient treatment to the Elgar Unit at the Worcester Royal Acute Hospital site”.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Woodall referred to a recent meeting of the Worcestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) which Councillor Munro had attended to observe and where the redesign of Adult Mental Health Inpatient and Rehabilitation Services had been discussed. It was acknowledged that action needed to be taken following a Care Quality Commission (CQC) report based on inspections in 2023. The report was critical of the safety and effectiveness of the adult

Chair

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mental health services and rated them as “Requires Improvement”. The Acute ward for adults of working age and the psychiatric intensive care units were rated “Inadequate”. Councillor Woodall referred to specific issues raised by the CQC at Hillcrest ward, including safety not being prioritised and maintenance, cleaning and staffing issues.

The Health and Care Trust had reported that it would strive to treat admitted patients locally. Councillor Woodall reported that the reality was that facilities currently available were due to be improved in Worcester and Hereford but, as part of the reconfiguration proposals, present inpatient acute provision in Redditch was due to be transferred to Worcester. This would be a loss to the town which followed previous changes to maternity and paediatric services.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Rita Rogers, who referred to the detrimental impact that a loss of beds in Redditch would have on the ability of residents to access services, both as patients and carers. She also suggested that Worcestershire County Councillors could advocate retention of services in the Town as the County Council was a partner in service provision and delivery. She expressed concern that the services in Worcester were not of an appropriate standard to justify the relocation of services from Redditch.

During consideration of the Motion the main points discussed were:

- The reasons for changes in service provision that had been given at the HOSC meeting and which reflected changes that were needed in mental health service provision.
- The Get it Right First-Time guidance from the Royal College of Physicians advocated provision of the right type of treatment for the variety of patients who were treated.
- Major changes to health needed to be agreed by the Secretary of State for Health and thus the motion was premature as the consultation was still ongoing.
- A Member reported that HOSC members had visited Hillcrest to see the changes proposed and the building would be used for other purposes in treating mental health. It was clarified that the building was owned by the Health and Care Trust and not the Acute Hospitals Trust.
- The removal of health services from the Town to Worcester was a backward step since new housing developments were increasing the size of the population.
- Patients suffering mental health issues and their carers would experience extra strain by having to find transport to Worcester for treatment.

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- It was suggested that the consultation period was long enough that there would be time for the Redditch Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the proposals and invite representatives of the relevant organisations, such as the Health and Care Trust, to attend a meeting. Arising from this, Councillor Woodall agreed to add the following to the Motion: “Council asks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the proposals for Reconfiguration of Adult Mental Health Inpatient and Rehabilitation services.”
- NHS England had called for a review of mental health service provision nationally because of a reduction in the number of mental health inpatient beds and therefore it was appropriate for the Council to review the proposals.

RESOLVED that

- 1) Council asks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the proposals for Reconfiguration of Adult Mental Health Inpatient and Rehabilitation services; and**
- 2) Council asks Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust to reconsider the proposed closure of Hillcrest Ward in Redditch and the consequential transfer of all adult acute mental health in-patient treatment to the Elgar Unit at the Worcester Royal Acute Hospital site.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.57 pm

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Executive Committee

Monday, 29th July, 2024

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Joe Baker (Chair), Councillor Sharon Harvey (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Barker Smith, Bill Hartnett, Wanda King, Jen Snape, Jane Spilsbury, Monica Stringfellow and Ian Woodall

Also Present:

Councillors Brandon Clayton, Claire Davies, Matthew Dormer, James Fardoe, Andrew Fry, Joanna Kane and Gary Slim

Officers:

Peter Carpenter, Nicola Cummings, Sue Hanley and Guy Revans

Democratic Services Officers:

Jess Bayley-Hill

13. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader announced that he had made some changes to the membership of the Executive Committee, following Councillor Sid Khan's departure from the Committee. This included the following appointments:

- Councillor Sharon Harvey had been appointed Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services in addition to her role as Deputy Leader.
- Councillor Jen Snape had been appointed Portfolio Holder for Climate Change.
- Councillor Wanda King had been appointed as a member of the Executive Committee without portfolio.

Chair

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During consideration of this item, Members were asked to note that at a meeting held on Thursday 25th July 2024, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had pre-scrutinised the Town Hall Hub report, which was included on the Executive Committee's agenda for consideration that evening. At the end of a very detailed debate, the Committee had endorsed the recommendations in the report. On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Leader thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their hard work scrutinising this report. It was noted that four Members of the Executive Committee had been present at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, including the Leader, and those Members were urged to refer to the points made by the Committee when considering that item.

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 9th July 2024 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

17. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE - MARCH 2024

The Executive Committee considered a recommendation that had been proposed at a meeting of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee held on 21st March 2024.

RESOLVED that

the Council, as part of its quarterly budget monitoring, include appropriate balance sheet monitoring so that all stakeholders are appraised of the Council's overall financial position.

18. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8th July 2024 and in so doing noted that there were no outstanding recommendations.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8th July 2024 be noted.

19. 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.

20. UPDATE REPORT ON THE TOWN HALL HUB

The Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer presented an update report on the Town Hall Hub.

Members were reminded that two years' previously, following the closure of the cashiers at the Town Hall, the decision had been taken to introduce a community hub in the Town Hall. Some work had been undertaken in liaison with partner organisations, including Worcestershire County Council and their library subtenants, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), as well as the NHS to explore potential options for use of space in the community hub. The NHS had entered into a 15-year deal with the Council to lease two floors in the building and a new entrance had been introduced for the use of the NHS. In March 2024, final lease terms had been agreed with Worcestershire County Council, which would have involved the move of the library in the town centre into the community hub.

As part of the works on the introduction of a new community hub, a contractor had been appointed and design works had been completed up to RIBA Stage 4. The financial costs associated with works on the community hub had increased at RIBA Stage 4, however, this was not unusual at this point in the process and these costs could be offset by income.

Following the local elections in May 2024, Officers had been asked to review options available for the community hub that would not involve moving the library into the building from its existing location in the town centre. Members were asked to note that if the library did not relocate into the community hub, the DWP, which was the library's subtenant, would also not be able to move into the building at this time, as they had a contractual agreement in place with Worcestershire County Council until 2028.

The financial costs involved in delivering the project had been reviewed. A lot of the original financial outlay that had been envisaged for the project was allocated to expenditure on a new entrance and stairway in the building. Officers were proposing that these should no longer be included in the designs in order to help reduce costs. The floor plans for the community hub had also been reviewed, in light of the new administration's requirements and as part of this process it was suggested that the civic suite should be retained on the ground floor of the building, rather than being moved to the second floor as originally proposed. The remaining floors would be a mixture of office space used by Council staff and

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space leased to other organisations, including the space already allocated to the NHS. Members were asked to note that property agents Savills and GJS Dillon had advised that there was a dearth of high-quality office space in Redditch and the community hub could provide an attractive office space option in that context.

The Executive Committee was informed that, regardless of the final plans, there was a need to strip out the existing Town Hall building in order to make sure it was fit for purpose for future use. Indeed, Members were asked to note that all public buildings would need to receive an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of grade C or above by 2026 in order to remain in use. The works required on the Town Hall for these purposes would entail expenditure of £80,000.

Officers highlighted the proposals for the Town Hall in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), and it was noted that in 2022/23 the Council had been anticipating £400,000 in budget savings arising from the move of the library into the community hub from 2025 onwards. The Council was already receiving some income from the NHS but there was also due to be a loss of income from Bromsgrove District Council as a result of a reduction in the use of office space at the Town Hall to accommodate staff working in shared services. Therefore, as a result of a decision to not move the library into the Town Hall Hub, the Council would need to take action to address a £400,000 gap in the budget. The Council would also need to write off revenue expenditure that had already been spent on the existing design to allow the library and their subtenant to move into the building.

Potential measures to address this budget gap, would include anticipated savings of £100,000 from the repairs and maintenance budget for one year only and savings on utilities costs. Ongoing £130,000 – 140,000 in income from new tenants would be needed from 2026/27. Officers had entered into discussions with various potential clients that might be interested in becoming tenants of the community hub, but these would not be possible to implement until the 2026/27 financial year. Further details regarding the options available would be included in an additional report on the subject of the Town Hall Hub, which was scheduled for the Executive Committee's consideration in September 2024. This report would also need to include a formal business case detailing proposals for the community hub. In addition, the Council needed to formally notify Worcestershire County Council and the Redditch Towns Fund Board about the changes to the Council's plans.

Discussions had been held with the former Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) about the options available to the Council moving forward in terms of using Town's

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Funding previously allocated to Redditch for the project. The Council had been advised about the following options:

- Investing the funding in the new Innovation Centre for Redditch.
- Investing funds in the public realm works in the town centre.

The Council would also be required to complete a Project Adjustment Form, which would need to be agreed by the Towns Board and the MP for Redditch.

Reference was briefly made to the proposals for the civic suite on the ground floor of the Town Hall Hub. Officers commented that it had been recognised that the Council's existing audio-visual equipment and systems needed upgrading. For this reason, plans would continue to invest in a professional audio-visual system for the authority.

In considering the proposals detailed in the report, Members were asked to note advice from the Section 151 Officer in his capacity as a Statutory Officer. The Executive Committee was informed that the authority's external auditors were likely to challenge any decision not to move the library into the community hub, and the resulting financial implications, in their annual report. This challenge was likely, given that the authority had previously been in a position where contracts had been agreed with both the NHS and Worcestershire County Council to cover the £400,000 budget savings requirement and there was now an ongoing budget gap to fill as well as a potential write off of aborted design costs. There was also the potential that this could result in the Council being issued with a Section 24 Notice by its external auditors.

Following the presentation of the report, Members discussed the proposals that had been brought forward in respect of the community hub. Executive Committee members welcomed proposals to not move the library into the community hub. It was acknowledged that there were risks attached to this approach, but Members commented that savings had already been identified and work would continue to clarify how to further address the budget gap.

During consideration of this item, reference was made to the discussions that had occurred at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 25th July 2024 when Members had pre-scrutinised the report. Some of the points that had been raised at that meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were listed and addressed in turn, which included:

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- The financial risks to the Council arising from not moving the library into the Town Hall Hub. Executive Committee Members acknowledged that there was a need for action to be taken to address this and noted that some options had already been identified.
- The risk that Redditch library might close if it was not relocated into the community hub. The Leader advised that he had subsequently spoken to Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet Member with lead responsibility for libraries and had received assurances that there were no plans to close Redditch library.
- The risks that the project might not be able to progress quickly enough in accordance with timescales for expenditure of the Town's Funding and the potential need to return funding to the Government in this scenario. Members commented that a request had already been submitted for an extension in case needed and all action possible would be taken to avoid having to return the funding.
- The need to take difficult decisions and the risks associated with such decisions.

Prior to voting on the resolutions detailed in the report, the Leader proposed an alteration to the wording of the sixth proposal, as detailed below:

"Authority be delegated to the Interim Director of Finance and Resources and Deputy Chief Executive and the Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Property Services, following consultation with the relevant lead Portfolio Holder, to enter the consequential contractual arrangements."

This alteration to the wording of the sixth recommendation was approved by Members.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the progress towards the creation of a Town Hall Hub be noted and that the need to extend the project to include private sector tenants in the Town Hall be approved;**
- 2) formal notification be given to Worcestershire County Council that the Redditch Library cannot relocate to the Town Hall;**
- 3) revised works to RIBA stage 4 be approved in readiness for a detailed report to Executive in September 2024 setting out the revised Town Hall project;**

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- 4) **work continues to determine the most effective alternative use of the Towns Funding and that this is reported to and agreement sought through the Towns Board in readiness for a further report to Executive in September 2024;**
- 5) **Members note and approve the consequential risks associated with the revised proposals detailed within this report; and**
- 6) **authority be delegated to the Interim Director of Finance and Resources and Deputy Chief Executive and the Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Property Services, following consultation with the relevant lead Portfolio Holder, to enter the consequential contractual arrangements.**

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm
and closed at 6.36 pm

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Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

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WORK PROGRAMME 2024-25

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

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

2nd September 2024

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
2 nd September 2024	Shopmobility Future Options (Pre-Scrutiny)	Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services
2 nd September 2024	Motion on Notice Referral from Council – Acute Mental Health Services	Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services
14 th October 2024	Post-16 Education Task Group – Terms of Reference	Democratic Services
14 th October 2024	Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy – Pre-Scrutiny	Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
25 th November 2024	Play and Parks Provision	Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services / Parks and Events Service Manager
3 rd February 2025	Draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/25	Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
18 th February 2025	Medium Term Financial Plan – consideration of any recommendations arising from the budget Scrutiny Working Group	Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer

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ITEMS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR WHICH DATE IS STILL TO BE SCHEDULED

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
TBC	Modelling financial implications of various decisions relating to Redditch Library	TBC
TBC	Parking Enforcement – Management of Contract (Executive report to be scrutinised when it becomes available)	Interim Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services
TBC	Review of Health Inequalities – Revisiting outcomes of previous health inequalities review by Redditch Councillors	Democratic Services
TBC	Water quality and invasive species issues along brooks and streams to the River Arrow	Executive Director
TBC	Decarbonisation of the Council's Capital Programme (via a written update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee)	TBC

Meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also due to take place on the following dates and any items identified above or from the Executive Committee's Work Programme for pre-scrutiny will be added to the work programme for consideration on these dates:

- 13th January
- 17th March

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

2nd September 2024

Working Groups:

- **Budget Scrutiny Working Group**

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED
8 th October 2024	Medium Term Financial Plan – Tranche 1 Budget including Fees and Charges (prior to consultation)
21 st November 2024	Q2 Revenue and Performance Monitoring 2024/2025
29 th January 2025	-
17 th February 2025	Medium Term Financial Plan – Tranche 2 Budget including Fees and Charges (following consultation) Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy Final Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26
11 th March 2025	Q3 Revenue and Performance Monitoring 2024/2025 Finance Recovery Programme Report

Overview & Scrutiny

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- **Performance Scrutiny Working Group**

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED
8 th January 2025 (Provisional)	Tree Maintenance Update
Date TBC	Road Maintenance and Cleanliness
Date TBC	Upkeep of Verges
Further meeting dates to be confirmed.	

Task Groups

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

The next meeting date to be agreed.

- **Post-16 Education Task Group**

The next meeting date to be agreed.

- **Speeding and Road Safety Task Group**

Members will be asked whether to proceed with this Task Group once the current investigations above have been concluded. Please note that Membership, Topic Proposal and Terms of Reference will need to be approved by the Committee before this Task Group can commence.

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