



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Mon 25 Nov
2024
6.30 pm

Oakenshaw Community Centre,
Castleditch Lane, Redditch, B98 7YB

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

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Please note that this is a public meeting.

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Overview and Scrutiny

Monday, 25th November, 2024

6.30 pm

Oakenshaw Community Centre

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Matthew Dormer
(Chair)
Craig Warhurst
(Vice-Chair)
William Boyd
Andrew Fry
Joanna Kane

Sachin Mathur
David Munro
Rita Rogers
Paul Wren

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 - 16)

The minutes of the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee from 14th October 2024 will be considered at this meeting.

4. Public Speaking

To invite members of the public who have registered in advance of the meeting to speak to the Committee. Please note that the deadline for registering to speak is 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

5. Carbon Reduction Strategy and Implementation Plan Annual Review - Pre-Scrutiny

The report will follow in a supplementary pack for the meeting after it has been published for the meeting of Executive Committee (due for publication on Monday 18 November).

6. Health Inequalities - Review of Previous Discussions by Redditch Councillors (Pages 17 - 26)

7. Executive Committee Minutes and Scrutiny of the Executive Committee's Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 27 - 32)

8. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 33 - 38)

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9. 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

10. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports (Pages 39 - 40)

- 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.



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MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), Councillor Craig Warhurst (Vice-Chair) and Councillors William Boyd, Claire Davies, Andrew Fry, Joanna Kane, Sachin Mathur and David Munro

Also Present:

Councillor Brandon Clayton – Chair of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Worcestershire County Council

Sue Harris – Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

Natalie Willetts – Director of Nursing, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

Richard Keble – Programme Director for Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System

Officers:

Mark Cox (WRS). Guy Revans and Stephen Williams (WRS)

Democratic Services Officers:

M Sliwinski

35. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Rogers.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor of party whip.

Chair

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37. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public speakers registered to speak at this meeting.

38. CONTAMINATED LAND INSPECTION STRATEGY - PRE-SCRUTINY

The Specialist Lead Officer (Contaminated Land) from Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) presented the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy. It was explained that six Districts across Worcestershire would be looked at as part of the review, although not in any particular order. It was noted, however, that the Redditch Borough review was the first area to undertake such a review due to the number of contaminated land sites within the Borough.

During the presentation of the report the following was highlighted:

- Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 placed a duty on local authorities to review and assess risks through the contaminated land regime. On occasions, local authorities could cause their area to be inspected in order to ensure that this regime was being adhered to. The term 'Contaminated Land' covered a range of sites including petrol stations, factories, depots and launderettes. The presence of a harmful substance did not mean that land would meet the definition of "contaminated land". However, it was reported that a very high bar must be met in order to deem it as not contaminated.
- Statutory guidance stated that action under contaminated land legislation should only be used when there was no other appropriate alternative. These included the planning and development control processes, as well as voluntary action taken by landowners to minimise the unnecessary burdens placed on taxpayers, businesses, and individuals.
- The new strategy had been amended in order to reflect the gradual reduction and withdrawal of central Government funding for Local Authority contaminated land work. It also outlined the inspection process, and the methodology applied.
- The strategy did not change the statutory responsibilities, and local authorities still had to adhere to the current statutory guidance.
- There were nine thousand three hundred contaminated land sites across Worcestershire and seven hundred and fifty of these were located in Redditch. This would necessitate a

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large number of inspections and investigations being carried out.

Following the presentation, Members raised questions in respect of some areas of the report, as follows:

- Assurances were sought that the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy was sufficient to prevent examples of contamination events such as the high-profile case which occurred following a flooding in Surrey in 2014 where water infiltration through a landfill site resulted in (contamination) hydrogen cyanide entering a property, resulting in a case of death and long-term disability. Officers explained that the strategy covered the local authority's legal duties in relation to contaminants but that the Strategy could not mitigate against all possible risk. Nevertheless, the Strategy provided a framework on how contamination risks would be addressed.
- It was reported that ongoing risk monitoring was being undertaken at the contaminated land sites in Redditch, Former British Aluminium Tubes, Studley Road, and Properties at Marlpool Drive. Present The former BA Tubes site was remediated in 2017 and Marlpool Drive site had been remediated but subject to active remediation solution and monitoring.
- Who was the responsible party when it came to remediation of contaminated land sites? - It was explained that this would be on a site-specific basis. In some cases, it might be the Council, however, the owner or a purchaser of a site might also be responsible.
- Has Redditch Council been impacted by the withdrawal in central Government funding for contaminated land work? –It was commented that the funding cut had not impacted on Redditch as to date and through the new Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy all the contaminated sites and potential risk sites in Redditch continued to be monitored.
- Was the process of assessing contaminated land sites subject to quality assurance? – It was reported that there was detailed guidance and best practice guidelines in respect of this. Often these reports would be peer reviewed in order to ensure that the correct process had been undertaken. It was explained that there was a significant amount of expertise within WRS in this matter and that this level of expertise would be utilised when undertaking these kinds of inspections. This was particularly important as contaminated land site reports were usually lengthy and detailed.

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- A Member highlighted that Blaze Lane in Astwood Bank ward was a former rubbish tip site with contaminants in the soil. It was raised that recently there were planning applications and housing built on the site and that it might necessitate adding the site to the list of contaminated sites. Officers responded that the site might already be included on the list but undertook to check this and report back to Members.

Members took the opportunity to thank Officers for producing a comprehensive Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy that identified a great range of potential risks.

RECOMMENDED that

The Council adopt the revised Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy which should be published on the Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) website.

39. PROPOSED RECONFIGURATION OF ADULT MENTAL HEALTH INPATIENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES AND CLOSURE OF HILLCREST WARD IN REDDITCH

The Chairman of Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) alongside representatives from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust (the Trust) and NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) were introduced.

The HOSC Chairman explained that the Worcestershire County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny (HOSC) was the only committee in the county to which the different NHS organisations were required by law to consult when any changes to health services were planned. HOSC could ask the relevant health professionals to attend its meetings to explain the change of service. It was reported that officers appeared before HOSC on a number of occasions to update on the situation concerning the Hill Crest mental health unit.

It was explained that the Hill Crest Mental Health ward was for acute care designed to admit people experiencing mental health difficulties, including patients detained under the Mental Health Act, for a period not exceeding one month.

The Trust's Director of Nursing provided background information into the situation at Hill Crest ward. It was explained that patient safety and quality of care concerns at the Hill Crest ward were

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highlighted in July 2022, following which discussions took place with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that triggered the first intelligence-led CQC inspection of Hill Crest ward.

During the CQC inspection in February 2023, concerns were identified which included poor patient experience in relation to insufficient staff to allow escorted leave from ward or supervised use of garden areas, lack of therapeutic activity for patients, and high use of temporary staffing. It was stated that many of the issues with Hill Crest ward had been identified prior to the 2023 inspection, and an Improvement Plan to restore safe operations within Hill Crest had been in place from September 2023. To lead the development and implementation of the Improvement Plan, the Trust and the ICB took the decision to appoint an Improvement Director to lead the development and implementation of that Plan.

It was reported that improvement in operations had subsequently been noted. Currently, there was a provision of 14 beds at the unit, which was deemed the safest level of provision. However, there were inherent environmental constraints with the Hill Crest building as it is a large, 'sprawling' ward, with a number of blind spots, which presents challenges for staff to provide good levels of observation to supervise the patients. Members were informed that in an acute mental health ward, there were safety risks related to patients detained at the ward becoming suddenly unwell, for example engaging in attempted self-harm or suicide. Therefore, observation by staff was required but the layout of the Hill Crest ward presented significant challenges in this.

There were also safety concerns arising from the ward's isolation from other mental health wards. Although the Hill Crest ward was on site of Alexandra Hospital in Redditch, the mental health ward was run by Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust (the Trust), whereas the rest of the hospital was managed by the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. As such there was little resilience and emergency staffing capacity in case of a serious incident occurring on site. Moreover, due to design and age of the building, improvements such as adding on suite bedrooms could not be made at Hill Crest.

The Trust's Director Strategy and Partnerships explained that in light of inherent building and staffing layout challenges at Hill Crest, it was proposed to relocate the acute mental health unit to a vacant Athlon Ward located on Elgar Unit on the Worcestershire Royal Hospital site. This was deemed the most effective and safest option as the Athlon ward was well designed and able to be adapted to most modern standards. The remaining acute mental health beds in

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Worcestershire were also located at the Worcestershire Royal Hospital site, and the Athlon ward was located next to a psychiatric intensive care unit, which provided additional back-up staff support when required.

It was highlighted that acute mental health provision at Hill Crest was a county-wide service and there were people from across the county accessing Hill Crest the unit. From October 2023 to the end of September 2024, 144 individuals had been admitted to the Hill Crest ward, of which 39 were Worcester residents at the time of admission, 24 from Redditch Borough, and 14 from Herefordshire. It was reiterated that the advantages of putting all beds into one campus area were that of safety and the ability to respond to emergency situations. It was highlighted that local mental health provision remained unaffected as a result of this change. Community, children and adolescent mental health provision would remain in Redditch, with mental health crisis team operating from the Town Hall.

Questions were invited and the following main points were made:

- Impact on staff resulting from relocation to Athlon ward, Worcester – A Member asked if all staff would be transferred to the new Worcester unit. It was explained that following engagement with staff, some staff had chosen not to relocate to Worcester as they lived locally to Hill Crest. However, all staff members had been retained and no redundancies were made as a result of the planned relocation. It was also explained that pay and conditions for all staff would remain unchanged following the move to Athlon ward as the Trust adhered to strict pay and conditions criteria set by the NHS.
- It was explained that the Hill Crest ward was staffed predominantly by a mixture of mental health nurses and healthcare support workers. Most mental health nurses at the ward were employed through a long-term booking with an agency. It was explained that there was a national shortage of mental health nurses.
- Use of Hill Crest unit following relocation of the mental health ward – It was explained that the Hill Crest building would remain in the NHS with outpatient mental health clinics and wider neighbourhood mental health services would continue operating from the Hill Crest site. It was only the acute mental health beds provision that would be relocated to the Athlon ward. It was further clarified that the risks highlighted relating to the layout of Hill Crest site concerned bedded care

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rather than provision of neighbourhood mental health services.

- Impact of relocation on arrangements for family visits – Concerns were raised about the impact of the relocation on creating additional transport burden placed on the family members from Redditch visiting patients. It was noted that the main messages from public engagement about relocation plans related to parking on the Worcestershire Royal Hospital site and transport costs for family members in Redditch visiting patients in Worcester. Members were reassured in this regard that the staff at the Hill Crest ward were providing bespoke arrangements to maintain visits for families of patients who had children, mobility and transport difficulties etc. Support included sourcing of local taxis, helping with the local bus routes. This arrangement would continue after the move to Athlon ward to accommodate visits from families of Redditch patients.
- It was reiterated that the acute mental health service provided from Hill Crest was for people from across Worcestershire and Herefordshire, and only a minority of patients currently admitted to Hill Crest were Redditch residents.
- Patients being placed in out of county placements – It was noted that the acute mental health service was subject to non-predictable fluctuations in demand and there were often patients who would have to be treated outside of Worcestershire, especially in specialist cases. It was explained that due to its nature there could be no waiting list for acute mental health services, and to cope with demand some patients would need to be treated out of county. It was noted that currently there were 10 people in out of county placements. Members requested that they be provided with data on how many people were placed in an out of county mental health placement in the last year and the number of people who were placed out of county because they could not be treated in Worcestershire.
- Members requested that an update be provided to the Committee on the repurposing of the space vacated at Hill Crest, including a plan on how this space was proposed to be accommodated.
- A query was raised about why NHS England (NHSE) commissioned a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

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(CAMHS) Tier 4 unit – for children and teenagers with the worst mental health problems – in an isolated location in a housing estate in Webheath. It was responded that whilst this was NHSE commissioning decision, outside of the control of the Trust or the ICB, the NHSE had plans to ultimately eliminate Tier 4 out of area (independent sector) beds in the country. It was noted that this target would take time to be realised and at a local level the Herefordshire and Worcestershire In-Patient Strategy details how the number of people in independent placements could be reduced locally. It was stated that locally only units rated at least ‘good’ by CQC were used. Members requested that they be provided with copies of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire In-Patient Strategy.

Members took the opportunity to thank the Chair of Worcestershire HOSC and Officers from the Trust and the ICB for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED that

the information provided regarding reconfiguration of Adult Mental Health Inpatient and Rehabilitation Services and the proposed closure of Hillcrest Mental Health ward be noted.

40. POST-16 EDUCATION TASK GROUP - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT

The Post-16 Education Task Group – Draft Scoping Document / Terms of Reference were presented for Members’ consideration.

RESOLVED that

the Post-16 Education Task Group Scoping Document be approved for use as Terms of Reference for the investigation.

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

The Executive Committee Minutes from the meeting held on 3rd September 2024 were submitted for information only.

The Executive Committee Work Programme from 1 November 2024 to 28 February 2025 was submitted for Members’ consideration.

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The Executive Director reported that an all-Member briefing on Food Waste would be provided on Friday 25th October.

RESOLVED that

the Executive Committee Work Programme including items agreed to be presented to future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for pre-scrutiny be noted.

42. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

It was requested that the following items be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme:

- Review of Cemetery Provision in Redditch – this issue was raised due to the report that the cemetery at Astwood Bank was at risk of running out of burial space. It was suggested that a briefing note on this topic be provided to Members of Overview and Scrutiny.
- Report on the process of becoming a constituent member of West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) – Members requested this report, setting out options for Redditch Council regarding this, as it was reported that the current non-constituent status on the WMCA was highly restrictive for the Council in terms of what it could do at regional level. It was deemed suitable to invite an external officer to provide a presentation setting out this topic to Members of Overview and Scrutiny.

RESOLVED that

the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be updated to include items detailed in the pre-amble above.

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

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

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

It was reported that the next meeting was to take place on 21st November 2024.

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

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The next meeting was due to take place on 16th October 2024.

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

The next meeting of the Group was scheduled for 6th November 2024.

- d) Post-16 Education Task Group – Chair, Councillor Warhurst

The first meeting of this Group had been arranged for 23rd October 2024. The Terms of Reference for this Group had been agreed at tonight's meeting.

RESOLVED that

the Task Groups, Short Sharp Reviews and Working Groups Update Reports be noted.

44. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

Updates on the meetings of External Scrutiny Bodies were provided by the representatives as follows:

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

Councillor Kane reported that no meeting had taken place since the last update to the Committee.

- b) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Transport Delivery Overview and Scrutiny – Council Representative, Councillor Munro

Councillor Munro reported that at the last meeting issues concerning traffic management within the metro area were discussed. One topic of relevance to Redditch was about policing of unnecessary cars left idling, especially around schools. Councillor Munro commented, however, that enforcement of this issue would be difficult in Redditch given the current level of parking enforcement carried out.

It was noted that the County Council had delegated responsibility for parking enforcement to district and borough councils (lower-tier authorities) including Redditch. This was in turn carried out by

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Wychavon District Council on behalf of the authority. However, Members commented that they felt there were issues with the current parking enforcement arrangement, including the relationship with the County Council. It was suggested that the Leader of the Council should raise this matter with the other Leaders at County level. The Leader agreed that he would raise this issue.

- c) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Council Representative, Councillor Munro.

Councillor Munro reported that the last meeting took place on 11th October, with the main topic discussed relating to improvements to the cancer pathway. Councillor Munro reported that the Herefordshire and Worcestershire NHS Health and Care Trust had been placed in tier 1 for its cancer performance by NHS England. This meant that the service was performing poorly, requiring the highest level of support and monitoring. However, the service had been improving and it was now in tier 2 (requiring less support from NHS England) and was expected to move to tier 3 by the end of 2024.

In terms of cancer diagnosis and treatment, it was reported that Herefordshire and Worcestershire NHS Health and Care Trust performed above national targets as of July 2024. 80.75 per cent of patients received their diagnosis within 28 days which is higher than national target of 77 per cent. 71.28 per cent of patients were treated within 62 days which was higher than national requirement by March 2025 of 70 per cent.

Councillor Munro updated the Committee about the proposals for a new Community Diagnostic Centre in Worcestershire. The location was to be decided and Councillor Munro reported that there was an opportunity for Redditch to be chosen as location. Redditch Members were urged to show support and promote the proposal for a Community Diagnostic Centre to be located in Redditch as it was a much-needed facility for the community.

RESOLVED that

the External Scrutiny Bodies updates be noted.

45. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was agreed that exclusion of the public and press was not necessary in relation to Minute Item 51. Minutes as it was agreed that no information relating to exempt minutes records would be

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discussed. The meeting remained in public session for its entire duration.

46. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of Overview and Scrutiny which took place on 29th August and 2nd September 2024, including the exempt records of items discussed in exempt session at those meetings, were submitted for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 29th August and Monday 2nd September 2024 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.55 pm

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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Review of Health Inequalities – Revisiting previous discussions by Redditch Councillors

Relevant Assistant Director	Judith Willis – Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services
Report Author: Mat Sliwinski	Job Title: Democratic Services Officer Contact email: mateusz.sliwinski@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Wards Affected	All wards
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	Improving health and wellbeing
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** to:

- 1) **Consider options with regard to the Committee considering the subject of Health Inequalities as outlined in the report.**
- 2) **Note this update regarding previous discussions concerning Health Inequalities Task Group at Overview and Scrutiny meetings.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had commissioned a number of task group reviews into health-related topics over the last decade. The reviews that had been undertaken included Tackling Obesity Task Group review in 2015, Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group concluded in 2017, and Suicide Prevention Task Group in 2020 (not concluded). However, there has not been a specific review into health inequalities carried out by Redditch Members.
- 2.2 Health inequalities has been highlighted as an area of concern previously, both at Redditch Borough Council and also at Worcestershire County Council. The last time Redditch Overview and Scrutiny Members considered the subject of health inequalities implications was as part of the update delivered to the Committee on

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Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership on 24th October 2019. However, no specific item on health inequalities in Redditch had been considered by the Committee in the last decade.

- 2.3 Members should be aware that health and social care are responsibilities of Worcestershire County Council, which has a dedicated Health and Well-being Board that brings together the organisations responsible for improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities across Worcestershire. In addition, the Worcestershire County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutinising services relating to NHS bodies and health services in Worcestershire.
- 2.4 At a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5th September 2022, a draft terms of reference / topic proposal in respect of the Task Group called 'Health Inequalities within the BME Community' was submitted. A copy of the proposal form submitted at that meeting is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.5 At that meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the task group titled 'Health Inequalities within the BME Community in Redditch' should be launched. However, it was not specified at that meeting what the membership of the Task Group should be or when it should be launched. The minutes extract from the 5th September meeting, recording the discussion with respect of this item is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.6 The topic of task group reviews was next discussed at the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1st December 2022. It was decided at that meeting that a review of fly tipping and bulky waste collections should be prioritised because the matter followed a referral from a full Council meeting on 14th November 2022.
- 2.7 Subsequent to the 1st of December 2022 meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny has not further considered the subject of Health Inequalities in Redditch Task Group.
- 2.8 The Health Inequalities in Redditch Task Group is not currently listed as a 'reserve' task group on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme. Due to officer capacity, should Members wish to add

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this to the work programme, the review could only proceed after the current task groups, into Fly Tipping and Bulky Waste, and into Post-16 Education, have been finalised.

- 2.9 Members can therefore consider several options in relation to the subject of Health Inequalities.
- 2.10 No further action be taken by Overview and Scrutiny Members in respect of this matter.
- 2.11 Overview and Scrutiny Committee can ask for a presentation or a briefing note to be provided on the subject of Health Inequalities in Redditch. This would be at one of the Committee meetings later in the municipal year. This would necessitate writing to relevant officers from the Worcestershire County Council and the NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICS).
- 2.12 A decision on the Health Inequalities Task Group can be taken by the Committee once the reviews listed at 2.6 have been finalised. Please note that at this point membership and terms of reference for the Task Group would need to be agreed by the Committee before meetings could commence.
- 2.13 It should also be noted that the Speeding and Road Safety Task Group is already listed on the Committee's Work Programme as a 'reserve' task group that is due to be launched once the current task group investigations into fly tipping and bulky waste and post-16 education have been finalised. Members are asked to consider if they wish to keep this task group as a 'reserve' on the Work Programme, and/.
- 2.14 Alternative action, to be identified and clearly specified during the meeting, can also be taken in relation to this matter.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 There are no specific priorities within the Council as it is not a health authority. However, the topic supports the wider purpose of living independent, active and healthy lives and improving health and wellbeing.

Climate Change Implications

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

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

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

Operational Implications

- 6.2 At present there are already two ongoing Task Group reviews. There is therefore no capacity amongst Officers and the Democratic Services team to support any Health Inequalities review.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 No specific risks have been identified.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Health Inequalities within the BME Communities in Redditch Task Group – Scoping Document Approved by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5th September 2022.

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Appendix 2 – Minute Extract – Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny
Committee 5th September 2022

Background Papers

Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 1st December 2022.
[Minute No. 74 2022 Revisiting Items Identified at the Overview and
Scrutiny Training](#)

Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 24th October 2019
(Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sustainability and Transformation
Update) [Minute No. 38 2019 - Herts and Worcs Sustainability and
Transformation Partnership - Update](#)

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Scrutiny Proposal Form

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

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

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

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

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



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 5th September,
2022

MINUTES

Present:

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

Also Present:

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

Officers:

Peter Carpenter, Ruth Bamford, Kevin Dicks and Judith Willis

Democratic Services Officers:

Jo Gresham

45. TASK GROUP REVIEWS - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENTS

Councillor Khan presented the Topic Proposal in respect of Health Inequalities within the BME Community in Redditch. In doing so the following was brought to Members' attention:

- The intention of the Task Group was to investigate what, if any, health inequalities, affected the BME Community within Redditch. As part of the topic proposal, objectives had been identified which included the following:
 - Gather evidence in respect of current health inequalities amongst Redditch BME Communities compared to the broader community.
 - Identify the top 5 prevalent illnesses and diseases among the top three BME communities in Redditch.

Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 5th September, 2022

- Identify the reason for poor health of BME Communities in Redditch.
- Identify any differences in life expectancy within the BME communities within Redditch.
- Identify the health engagement programmes that are currently in place to improve the health of BME Communities, particularly those where prevention is a focus.
- Identify what other local authorities have done to improve health and wellbeing among BME communities with an aim to roll out similar initiatives.
- Explore any areas of improvements that could be made in the health and wellbeing of Redditch BME communities including engagement of the BME community and the empowerment of elderly, women and young people for their health needs. These groups have been identified as those who have the least up take of physical activities nationally and are considered as hard to reach.

Following the presentation of the Topic Proposal, Members discussed in detail the potential for broadening the scope of the investigation to include social groups as outlined in the Single Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire 2011-2021. However, Councillor Khan confirmed that he wished the focus to remain on the BME Community within Redditch as stated within the proposal.

RESOLVED that

subject to any changes agreed during the meeting, the proposed Task Group in respect of Health Inequalities within the BME Community in Redditch be launched.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.42 pm

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME



1 December 2024 to 31 March 2025

(Published as at 1st November 2024)

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

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 Joe Baker - Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Governance
Councillor Sharon Harvey – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services
Councillor Juliet Barker Smith - Portfolio Holder for Leisure
Councillor Bill Hartnett - Portfolio Holder for Housing
Councillor Jen Snape – Portfolio Holder for Climate Change
Councillor Jane Spilsbury - Portfolio Holder for Performance
Councillor Monica Stringfellow - Portfolio Holder for Community Services and Regulatory Services
Councillor Ian Woodall - Portfolio Holder for Finance
Councillor Wanda King – Executive Member without Portfolio

Decision including Whether it is a key Decision	Decision Taker Date of Decision	Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting	Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List	Contact for Comments
Council Tax Base 2025/2026 Key: No	Executive 14 Jan 2025 Council 27 Jan 2025		Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)	Peter Carpenter, Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205
**Council Tax Empty Homes Discounts and Premiums Key: No	Executive 14 Jan 2025 Council 27 Jan 2025		Report of the Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070
**Discretionary Reduction - Council Tax Section 13a1(C) Policy Key: No	Executive 14 Jan 2025 Council 27 Jan 2025		Report of the Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070
**Final Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/2026 Key: No	Executive 14 Jan 2025 Council 27 Jan 2025		Report of the Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070
Food Waste Business Case and Associated Waste Related Issues Key: Yes	Executive 14 Jan 2025		Report of the Executive Director (Leisure, Environment and Community Services)	Guy Revans, Executive Director (Leisure, Environment and Community Services) Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3292

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
**HRA Rent Setting 2025/26 Key: No	Executive 14 Jan 2025 Council 27 Jan 2025		Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)	Peter Carpenter, Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205
* Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendations Key: Yes	Executive 14 Jan 2025 Council 27 Jan 2025		Report of the Deputy Chief Executive	Darren Whitney, Electoral Services Manager Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 2547
**Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy Key: No	Executive 14 Jan 2025 Council 27 Jan 2025		Report of the Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070
**Medium Term Financial Plan - Tranche 2 Budget including Fees and Charges (following consultation) Key: No	Executive 4 Feb 2025 Council 24 Feb 2025		Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)	Peter Carpenter, Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205

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 2025/26 Key: No	Executive 4 Feb 2025 Council 24 Feb 2025		Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)	Becky Talbot, Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3385
**Council Tax Resolutions 2025/2026 Key: No	Executive 24 Feb 2025 Council 24 Feb 2025		Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)	Peter Carpenter, Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205
* Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report Key: No	Council 24 Feb 2025		Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Mateusz Sliwinski, Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01527 64252
**Finance Recovery Programme Report Key: No	Executive 18 Mar 2025		Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)	Peter Carpenter, Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205
** Q3 Revenue and Performance Monitoring 24/5 Key: No	Executive 18 Mar 2025		Report of the Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070

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
* Shareholders' Committee Annual Report Key: No	Executive 18 Mar 2025 Council Not before 2nd Jun 2025	This report may contain exempt information that would need to be considered in private session.	Report of the Deputy Chief Executive	Peter Carpenter, Section 151 Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 1205

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Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

25th November 2024**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

25th November 2024

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
25 th November 2024	Health Inequalities – Revisiting previous discussions of health inequalities by Redditch Councillors	Democratic Services
25 th November 2024	Carbon Reduction Strategy and Implementation Plan Annual Review – Pre-Scrutiny	Climate Change Manager
13 th January 2025	Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendations – Pre-Scrutiny	Electoral Services Manager
13 th January 2025	Play and Parks Provision – Overview Report	Assistant Director Planning, 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
17 th March 2025	Shareholders' Committee Annual Report – Pre-Scrutiny	Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

25th November 2024**ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR WHICH DATE IS STILL TO BE SCHEDULED**

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
To be considered when reports on Town Hall appear for pre-scrutiny by the Committee	Modelling financial implications of various decisions relating to Redditch Library	Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer
TBC	Parking Enforcement – Management of Contract (Executive report to be scrutinised when it becomes available)	Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property 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 be circulated to Members)	Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services
TBC	Review of Cemetery Provision in Redditch (via a briefing note to be circulated to Members)	Bereavement Services Manager
TBC	Report on WMCA Constituent Membership - Process	Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

25th November 2024**Working Groups:**

- **Budget Scrutiny Working Group**

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED
21 st November 2024	Q2 Revenue and Performance Monitoring 2024/2025 Medium Term Financial Plan – Tranche 1 Budget including Fees and Charges (prior to consultation)
TBC (second week of January)	Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy HRA Rent Setting 2025/26 Final Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26 Discretionary Reduction - Council Tax Section 13a1(C) Policy Council Tax Empty Homes Discounts and Premiums
29 th January 2025	Medium Term Financial Plan – Tranche 2 Budget including Fees and Charges (following consultation)
17 th February 2025	Council Tax Resolutions
11 th March 2025	Q3 Revenue and Performance Monitoring 2024/2025 Finance Recovery Programme Report

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

25th November 2024

- **Performance Scrutiny Working Group**

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED
11 th December 2024	Road Maintenance and Cleanliness
8 th January 2025	Tree Maintenance Update

Task Groups

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

The last meeting took place on 6th November 2024.

- **Post-16 Education Task Group**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 2nd December 2024.

- **Speeding and Road Safety Task Group**

Members are asked to note that at the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3rd February 2022 (Minute Item 71 (2021-22) Refers), it was agreed to establish this Task Group. Officer research has been undertaken in respect of providing examples of road safety and speeding prevention initiatives at other authorities, however, the group has yet to hold a meeting.

The Committee is asked to note that this group can proceed once the above task groups had concluded. The Scrutiny Proposal Form and Terms of Reference of this Task Group, submitted in February 2022, would need to be approved (or amended) by the Committee prior to this Task Group commencing.

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Report from WMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Monday 21 October 2024

The whole meeting was a question-and-answer session with Richard Parker, the Mayor of the West Midlands, who was elected in May 2024.

Overview

The Mayor gave an opening statement outlining his priorities.

He said his focus is on four key themes:

- Homes – a commitment to delivering more social affordable housing in the most ambitious programme for decades
- Good jobs for everyone
- Economic growth and the need to be more competitive – he said that since 2017, the West Midlands region's productivity has fallen about 15 per cent behind Manchester's
- Transport – he particularly highlighted bus franchising.

The Mayor also emphasised the importance of rebuilding the economic fabric of the region, especially improving the skills and job prospects of young people, and of focusing on delivery.

He said the West Midlands Combined Authority may need to do things differently in the future.

Topics covered included the following:**Financial situation**

The Mayor said that a projected shortfall was expected, but discussions with the Government were underway to address the funding gaps. He said his manifesto commitments were still on track, with housing and skills development being prioritised within the current financial limits. Public transport, especially the bus franchising system, was a priority. He was optimistic about securing Government support to continue major infrastructure projects.

Housing

The Mayor gave an overview of how he intended to resolve the housing crisis by delivering 20,000 additional homes by 2031, equating to an annual goal of building more than 2,800 homes.

The plan included streamlining housing delivery processes, collaborating closely with local councils, and attracting investment. He identified the need for an overhaul of the existing housing resource allocation system, which had historically been fragmented and ineffective. He confirmed that he was aiming for a more strategic and efficient use of resources.

Councillor Joanna Kane,
Redditch Borough Council Representative on WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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