



# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Mon 8 Jun  
2026  
6.30 pm



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

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

**Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH  
Tel: (01527) 64252 (Ext. 3095)  
email: [mateusz.sliwinski@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:mateusz.sliwinski@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)**

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

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**Please note that this is a public meeting. You are able to see the agenda documents for this meeting from the Committee Pages of the Council's website.**

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

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

The usual process for public speaking at Committee meetings will continue to be followed subject to some adjustments which allow written statements to be read out on behalf of residents at meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Virtual participation of residents at meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committee can currently be arranged by prior arrangement.

### **Notes:**

**Although this is a public meeting, there are circumstances when the Committee 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, 8th June, 2026

6.30 pm

Oakenshaw Community Centre

## Agenda

### Membership:

Cllrs:	Nicola Lloyd (Chair)	Joanna Kane
	Roger Bennett (Vice-Chair)	David Meredith
	Joe Baker	Rita Rogers
	Sharon Harvey	Jane Spilsbury
		1 vacant seat

### 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 to declare any Party Whip.

### 3. Minutes (Pages 7 - 20)

The minutes of the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee which took place on 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2026 will be considered at this meeting.

### 4. Public Speaking

To invite members of the public who have registered in advance of the meeting to address the Committee in relation to an item of business on the agenda.

### 5. Redditch Partnership - Annual Report Update (Pages 21 - 26)

### 6. Shared Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2031 - Pre-Decision Scrutiny

This report will follow in supplementary papers after it has been published for the meeting of the Executive Committee (due for publication on Monday 1 June 2026).

### 7. Q4 2025-26 Housing Improvement Plan Update - Pre-Decision Scrutiny

This report will follow in supplementary papers after it has been published for the meeting of the Executive Committee (due for publication on Monday 1 June 2026).

### 8. Q4 2025-26 Housing Performance incorporating Tenant Satisfaction Measures Results - Pre-Decision Scrutiny

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This report will follow in supplementary papers after it has been published for the meeting of the Executive Committee (due for publication on Monday 1 June 2026).

## **9. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 27 - 30)**

## **10. Executive Committee Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny**

The latest version of the Executive Work Programme will be published on 1 June 2026 and will be published in supplementary papers for this meeting.

## **11. Budget Scrutiny Working Group - Appointments (Pages 31 - 32)**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the attached Budget Scrutiny Working Group Terms of Reference and to appoint five Members to sit on the Working Group.

## **12. Performance Scrutiny Working Group - Appointments (Pages 33 - 34)**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the attached Performance Scrutiny Working Group Terms of Reference and to appoint five Members to sit on the Working Group.

## **13. Post-16 Education Task Group (Pages 35 - 36)**

Overview and Scrutiny Members are asked to consider whether they wish the Post-16 Education Task Group investigation to continue in the 2026-27 municipal year and, if so, to appoint to the 4 positions on the Task Group that are currently vacant.

Attached is the Post-16 Education Task Group's scoping document that details the agreed remit of work for this Task Group.

## **14. Exclusion of the Public and Press**

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) – to be specified - 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;

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- 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'.

## **15. Construction of Redditch Innovation Centre - Pre-Decision Scrutiny**

This report will follow in supplementary papers after it has been published for the meeting of the Executive Committee (due for publication on Monday 1 June 2026).

This report is due to contain exempt information and may need to be considered in exempt (closed) session.

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Monday, 16th March, 2026

## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), Councillor Craig Warhurst (Vice-Chair) and Councillors William Boyd, Claire Davies, Andrew Fry, Rita Rogers and Paul Wren

### Officers:

Judith Willis, Toni Ainscough, Matthew Bough, Mark Cox, Amanda Delahunty and Matthew Eccles

### Democratic Services Officers:

M Sliwinski

### 82. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fardoe.

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

There were no declarations of interest nor of party whip.

### 84. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were submitted for Members' consideration.

### RESOLVED that

**the minutes of the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.**

### 85. PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

Chair

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## 86. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2026 TO 2031 - PRE-SCRUTINY

The Climate Change Manager presented a report on the Climate Change Strategy 2026-2031 and in doing so recapped that the Council had declared a climate emergency in 2019 and had committed to place climate considerations at the centre of its decision-making.

The Strategy for 2026-2031 appended to this report updated and replaced the previous Carbon Reduction Action Plan and set out the pathway for the Council's own operations to achieve a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 50 per cent by 2030 and to achieve net zero by 2040. It was highlighted that current modelling suggested the Council was on course to achieve net zero by 2040.

The carbon emissions context was provided for Redditch. It was noted that the latest official data, for 2023, showed Redditch achieving emissions of 3.5 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per capita, below both the regional and the national averages.

Information on the Council's initiatives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions had been provided. This included the £1.81 million invested by the Council in its social housing stock to provide energy efficiency upgrades alongside £260,000 for private home retrofits, expansion of electric vehicle (EV) charging across the Borough, and biodiversity improvements, for example through Council's mowing regimes and ways of treating weeds. It was highlighted that there was ongoing work to improve performance monitoring through the dashboard and expand reach of the Council's initiatives to the community and businesses.

Following the presentation of the report, a Member expressed disappointment that the report did not consider the environmental impact of the introduction of the Council's dedicated Pet Cremation Service at the Abbey Crematorium and, in particular, the proposed introduction of a capital budget of £50,000 to purchase a Pet Cremator Machine and ancillary plant equipment, as approved at the full Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026.

The Member clarified that her concerns related to the Pet Cremator Machine being proposed for purchase would be fuelled by diesel. Although there were options to operate the proposed machine on natural gas or biofuel in the future, the Member highlighted that this was a missed opportunity for adoption of electric technology which would prevent emissions at source. The Member further stated that

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the Pet Cremation report suggested the potential switch to electric-powered cremators would not be considered by the Council until its next planned replacement window in approximately eight years. The Member commented that this contradicted the urgency for the Council to meet its net zero targets and improve local air quality.

Several other Members argued that the Pet Cremation Service would provide a good source of revenue for the Council and at the current state of technology, in industries such as cremation, electric machines were significantly less efficient than the fossil fuel powered counterparts. Some Members argued that consideration had to be given to emissions produced in the manufacturing of electric machines, such as from the production of batteries.

A Member questioned the lack of noticeable decline in tCO<sub>2e</sub> following the declaration of the climate emergency by the Council in 2019, both in Redditch and across Worcestershire. The Climate Change Manager responded that there could be several reasons behind this including the initial focus of carbon reduction being on areas where emissions reductions could be easily achieved and subsequent difficulties in keeping the previous rates of decrease in emissions. Also highlighted was the difficulty for the Council in quantifying its scope 3 emissions, which were the indirect emissions created through Council's supplier operations and procurement decisions. It was noted that the Council would be undertaking a review and proportionate environmental impact assessments of key suppliers to identify scope 3 emissions hotspots. The Strategy aimed to provide a way to accelerate the rate of decline in Council's carbon (and other greenhouse gas) emissions over the next few years.

The lack of mention of the Council's relationship with key regional stakeholders in addressing environmental issues, such as North Worcestershire Water Management, was highlighted. It was clarified that although the Strategy did not directly reference some regional agencies, the Council would collaborate with these agencies when required. The Climate Change Manager explained that the Strategy focused not only on carbon emissions but also on the wider living environment and biodiversity. It was highlighted that when addressing these challenges, wider solutions would be explored, rather than simply technological solutions.

A further comment was made by a Member regarding the Worcestershire County Council's environmental campaigns such as 'Let's Waste Less Worcestershire'. It was asked whether local campaigns/initiatives organised or supported by the Borough

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Council would be protected during the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). It was responded that the ambition was for the Climate Change Strategy and initiatives and plans detailed in this to be continuing through the LGR. However, it was highlighted that the Strategy was designed to be also adaptable to new local government arrangements that would be in place post-LGR.

The Vice-Chair stated that the Council needed monitoring of the monetary costs (or savings) of achieving the reductions in tCO<sub>2</sub>e through the Climate Change Strategy. It was suggested that monitoring the Strategy should include a graph to monitor the Council's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from its own operations against the cost/saving achieved. In response, the Officers explained that the Climate Change Strategy covered all Council departments and that the cost and environmental impact of each initiative, programme or procurement decision that the Council was proposing to undertake would be considered as part of every report that was considered by Members. The Committee was reassured that climate change implications had to be considered as part of a business case submitted by service areas/departments for every new proposal.

Before the Committee deliberated on the recommendations set out in the report, it was clarified that this Climate Change Strategy was due to be further considered by both the Executive Committee in March 2026 and by full Council in May 2026.

The Committee endorsed the recommendations as set out in the report.

## **RECOMMENDED that**

- 1) The Council's Climate Change Strategy 2026-2031 be approved; and**
- 2) An annual review of the Climate Change Strategy be reported to Council.**

## **87. SHARED HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2026-2031 - PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Shared Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031 report was presented for Members' consideration. It was explained that the Homelessness Act 2002 required all housing authorities to have a homelessness strategy in place based on a review of all forms of homelessness in their local authority area.

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It was noted that the Government published 'The National Plan to End Homelessness' in October 2025 which provided a vision that homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring and that people who become homeless should receive support quickly and effectively. Local authorities were expected to move from crisis to prevention. A key requirement of the Plan was for greater collaboration across government departments. There were 5 pillars to the Plan as stated in the report.

In developing the local Strategy, as submitted in the report, a comprehensive assessment was undertaken across the authorities in Worcestershire that would be sharing this Strategy. It was explained that this new Shared Homelessness Strategy had been developed by the five district authorities in Worcestershire: Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills, Wychavon, Wyre Forest, and Redditch. The sixth district authority in the county, Worcester City Council, would be developing its own strategy separately.

The Shared Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031 set out how the Council would invest in early intervention and support systems to stop homelessness before it happens. The Strategy also covered how the authority would work to eliminate use of bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation beyond statutory short stays (above 6 weeks) and improve the quality of temporary accommodation (TA). Further strands to the Strategy included focus on eliminating negative impact of staying in TA on children and how the structural causes of homelessness would be tackled through building more affordable and social homes and through reform to the private rented sector.

It was stated that in terms of Government grant funding to local authorities, from April 2026 a Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) would replace the previous emergency welfare schemes including Household Support Fund (HSF) and Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). The CRF allocation would be used to provide welfare support to those who had experienced short-term emergency problems, such as an income shock or unexpected bill. Local authorities were required to look at person's circumstances holistically when making decisions on allocating funding.

Furthermore, the Government funding streams had been amalgamated into a new Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant. It was explained that this consolidation of funding into a single grant over a three-year period (April 2026-March 2029) provided greater stability for local authority's partners to prioritise local needs. Officers noted that the grant award to the

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Council was circa £30,000 higher than anticipated. It was clarified that this consolidated grant would bring together the previous separate grants of: Prevention, Relief and Staffing element of the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG), Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSPARG), Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP), and Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Grant.

In response to a question, it was clarified that the Council was required to adhere to statutory duties when an eligible homeless applicant presented to the Council. The Prevention Duty provided that when a person was eligible and at risk of homelessness the Council was required to provide advice and assistance to prevent such a person from becoming homeless within 56 days' period. The Relief Duty applied when a person was eligible and homeless in which case the Council was required to assist the person to take 'reasonable steps' to secure accommodation to end their homelessness. This could include assisting the person to find their own accommodation, or in some cases, the local authority providing the person with accommodation.

The Council had no statutory duty to provide support beyond the two 56-day periods above in line with the legislation. Officers would, however, continue working where necessary to assist in finding housing solutions for people beyond this statutory period, albeit there was no duty on the Council to do so.

There was a further question about supported housing and the use of Government grants to undertake retrofits in those properties. It was explained that the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 introduced a new statutory duty for local authorities to formulate and publish a Local Supported Housing Strategy. It was noted that for Redditch this would necessitate the Council undertaking a supported housing needs survey, with the Government providing funds to undertake this over 12 months. This was before this grant could be accessed. It was noted that Redditch Borough Council would be a licensing authority for supported housing purposes.

Clarification was sought about access to Council's homelessness support. It was clarified that only individuals with 'recourse to public funds' had access to homelessness support from local authorities. People who did not meet national immigration conditions had 'no recourse to public funds' and could not access homelessness support from local authorities other than general advice. It was noted that applicants for homeless support were required to have a

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local connection to Redditch in order to access the Council's help, although there would be circumstances where people from outside the area were also eligible.

A Member requested that paragraph 3.3.8 of the draft Shared Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy be corrected with regard to the number of days' notice to quit Home Office accommodation after asylum is granted. The Officers undertook to correct this within the final version of the Strategy to be submitted following the public consultation.

Members sought assurance that the 'duty to collaborate' for key public services, (planned for future legislation) would be followed through at the local level in Redditch. It was responded that this was recognised by all partners at the local level and efforts were being made to tackle the structural causes of collaboration issues. Officers commented that where the issues occurred was usually in relation to supply issues, such as accommodation. It was added that in Redditch the Council had been able to avoid supply issues through the use of its own temporary accommodation (TA) and through investing in the council housing stock.

It was commented that much of the funding for the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy came from Government grants and it was questioned whether there was a possible risk of services and initiatives not being delivered if the grants became unavailable. Officers responded that a number of grants stated within the Strategy were recurring grants, however, the Council also needed to be creative in terms of how the homelessness and rough sleeping services operated in order to respond to any possible uncertainties in funding provision. It was further stated that the grants in place provided initiatives to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of these services.

It was clarified by Officers that only recommendation 1 of the report would be considered as part of this reporting (with the report being further submitted to Executive Committee only) and that another report would be produced following the period of public consultation on the Strategy.

The recommendation 1 as set out in the report was endorsed by the Committee.

**RECOMMENDED that**

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- 1) The draft Shared Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031 and action plan be approved for public consultation for six weeks starting 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

## 88. REVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME ENFORCEMENT POLICY - PRE-SCRUTINY

The Principal Officer, Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS), presented the Revision of Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy report.

The purpose of the report was to update the existing joint environmental enforcement strategy. Members were advised that the revised policy would mirror the WRS policy already in operation for environmental health and licensing enforcement across the six Worcestershire districts for which WRS delivered environmental crime functions on behalf of. The updated policy also ensured that the most current procedures and enforcement options were clearly set out in a transparent manner.

Following the presentation of the report, a Member commented that recent reporting suggested an increase in larger, organised fly tipping in the Borough. A question was asked about the agencies responsible for dealing with investigating the different types of fly tipping issues. Officers responded that enforcement against large, hazardous or industrial fly tipping on private land was primarily the responsibility of the Environment Agency (EA). WRS would primarily investigate and undertake enforcement work around fly tipping on public land and would do so in cooperation with other agencies as necessary.

Some Members expressed the view that insufficient officer resources were allocated to Redditch to provide effective enforcement of fly tipping and other environmental issues and this needed to be reviewed as a priority.

The recommendation as set out in the report was endorsed by the Committee.

### **RECOMMENDED that**

**the Redditch and Bromsgrove Enforcement Policy be adopted and replace the current Joint Environmental Enforcement Policy.**

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## **89. INTRODUCTION OF ENFORCEMENT OF LITTERING FROM VEHICLES - PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Principal Officer from Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) presented a report on the introduction of enforcement measures for littering from vehicles.

It was explained that littering was currently enforced as a criminal offence. However, it was often difficult to prove beyond reasonable doubt who had committed the offence. Delegation of authority was therefore sought to enable Civil Enforcement Team to issue Litter Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs).

Members were advised that the PCNs would be issued to the registered keeper of the vehicle, in the same way that parking charges were administered. This report specifically dealt with enabling Civil Enforcement Officers to issue notices for littering when they witnessed littering offences from vehicles being committed.

Members commented that whilst it was positive to provide officers with appropriate enforcement tools, concerns were expressed by Members around the effective ability to enforce this given the Civil Enforcement Officer staff level currently available to Redditch.

The recommendations set out in the report were endorsed by the Committee.

### **RECOMMENDED that**

- 1) Civil enforcement of Littering from Vehicles be introduced.**
- 2) The Civil Enforcement Team be given delegated authority to issue Litter Penalty Charge Notices.**
- 3) The parking administration team be authorised to deal with appeals and enforcement matters in respect of Litter Penalty Charge Notices.**
- 4) The Penalty Notice Charge be set at the level set by Council for Criminal offences where a Fixed Penalty Notice is served for Depositing Litter (section 87/88 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) which for 2026/27, subject to Council approval, are proposed to be set as:
  - a) £250; and****

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b) £125 for prompt payment (within 14 days)

5) Authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Regeneration & Property to issue Penalty Notice Charges for Littering from Vehicles under The Littering From Vehicles Outside London (Keepers: Civil Penalties) Regulations 2018.

## 90. STRATEGIC ENVIROCRIME UPDATE

The Principal Officer, Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS), introduced the Strategic Environmental Crime Update report. The report updated Members on fly tipping, littering, dog fouling and untidy land enforcement activity within the Borough.

It was noted that in Redditch the majority of fly tipping consisted of small amounts of domestic waste. Waste crime offences were often conducted inadvertently because of a lack of knowledge or understanding that leaving waste outside of a refuse bin is an offence. Recognising this, a significant focus of WRS activity in Redditch had been on informal warnings to provide education on appropriate behaviour. During 2025, 20 streets / local areas in Redditch were targeted by WRS through this activity.

It was noted that intelligence assessments were used to identify hot spot areas where informal warnings and letter drops had been unsuccessful so that those areas could be prioritised for enforcement action.

A summary table was provided in paragraph 3.8 of the report. This provided data for Redditch Borough covering the period 2023 to January 2026 on the number of fly tips, littering, dog fouling, and untidy land cases reported and investigated, and data for the number of enforcement actions being taken against the number of cases reported and investigated. The enforcement actions included letter drops, warning letters, and Fixed Penalty Notices issued. It was highlighted that WRS took over the responsibility for environmental enforcement in the Borough from June 2024. Therefore, only data from that point on reflected activity undertaken by WRS.

Following the presentation of the report, Members debated the report and provided comments. Members expressed concern about insufficient staffing levels to enable effective environmental enforcement, with 1.5 full time equivalent (FTE) posts for environmental crime enforcement across the Borough. Some

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Members suggested that the Council should investigate how to fund additional officer resources in this area with the aim of improving the enforcement rate.

The Vice-Chair commented that enforcement in Redditch had been a long-term issue with low levels of enforcement actions taken against the number of environmental offences that were being reported. It was highlighted that data in paragraph 3.8 of the report suggested that only a low proportion of fly tipping cases reported and investigated by WRS would lead to an enforcement outcome. Data for 2025 was quoted, for example for fly tipping cases in the Borough that were reported to WRS, less than 0.25 per cent resulted in Fixed Penalty Notices being issued. If reported cases that were investigated by WRS was considered, the proportion of cases that resulted in Fixed Penalty Notices was circa 1.7 per cent.

It was reiterated that WRS officers were aware of fly tipping hotspots within Redditch and that every fly tip identified was recorded. The main issue in respect of fly tipping remained the lack of subsequent evidence that could allow enforcement action to be taken on the reported/investigated cases, as most fly tips in Redditch consisted of single bulky items that were not easily traced back to source. It was also noted that fly tipping was an urban issue in Redditch, and this limited the scope for use of covert camera deployment in tackling fly tipping.

The Technical Services Manager, WRS, explained further that letter drops to provide informal warnings were conducted in conjunction with Council's tenancy officers. Through letter drops and warning letters, potential offenders were reminded that for council housing tenants, fly tipping offences might impact on social housing tenancy.

The role of education and attitude was discussed. Members commented that the majority of residents in Redditch took pride in their neighbourhoods and wanted to see actions taken to eliminate fly tipping. It was highlighted that further work was needed to increase sense of community cohesion in some areas of the Borough. Members considered it important that fly tipping cases that led to prosecution be publicised widely to provide a strong message to potential perpetrators of environmental crime.

A question was asked about activities that were done to provide fly tipping / littering education in schools in Redditch. WRS Officers responded that the WRS currently had an air quality officer who

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engaged with schools on that subject, but this approach could be widened in the future to include education on fly tipping and littering.

**RESOLVED that**

**the update on Environmental Crime Enforcement be noted.**

**91. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME - SELECTING ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY**

The Executive Committee Work Programme was submitted for Members' consideration.

**RESOLVED that**

**the Executive Committee's Work Programme be noted.**

**92. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme was submitted for Members' consideration.

**RESOLVED that**

**the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be noted.**

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

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

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

Councillor Warhurst reported that the last meeting due to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 had to be cancelled as the meeting was not quorate. Councillor Warhurst noted that the political Group Leaders would be contacted to ensure attendance issues were followed up and resolved.

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

There was no further meeting of this group since December 2025.

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

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Councillor Warhurst reported that a rescheduled date for the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 that had to be postponed had not yet been arranged.

**RESOLVED that**

**the Task Groups and Working Groups Update Reports be noted.**

## 94. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

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

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

Councillor Boyd reported that he had no update to provide at this meeting.

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

As Councillor Fardoe had submitted his apology, there was no update provided at this meeting

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

Councillor Fry reported that the last meeting of HOSC took place on 4<sup>th</sup> March and that an update with details would be provided to the next meeting of Overview and Scrutiny.

**RESOLVED that**

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

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm  
and closed at 8.08 pm

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## **Redditch Partnership & Redditch District Collaborative**

### **Overview and Scrutiny Briefing Report**

**8th June 2026**

#### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Redditch Partnership and Redditch District Collaborative.

#### **Recommendation**

2. It is recommended that the contents of this report be noted.

#### **Redditch Partnership**

3. The Redditch Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the Borough which has existed for a number of years in different forms. The primary purpose of the Redditch Partnership is to bring together representatives from a wide variety of agencies, primarily from the public and voluntary and community sectors, to enable partnership working on what matters locally.
4. The makeup of the Redditch Partnership has changed in recent years for a number of reasons, including changes around health with the introduction of Integrated Care Systems (ICS), which were formalised in 2022. As part of those changes District Collaboratives were formed, including Redditch District Collaborative.
5. The former Redditch Partnership Executive Group oversaw the early set up arrangements of the Redditch District Collaborative (RDC). There was a collective agreement from the start that the Partnership and Collaborative needed to be interweaved in some way, building on the strengths of the Partnership and avoiding duplication, whilst making the most of the energies and resources available at the time for a newly formed Collaborative. Further information regarding RDC is covered later in this report.

#### **Redditch Community Wellbeing Group (RCWG)**

6. RCWG is a long-standing Redditch Partnership Group that has continued to meet regularly for a number of years. As with any of the partnership groups, there is no funding attached and it is non-statutory, however, the group provides a platform for different representatives to come together and make connections. The strong attendance of longer term representatives continuing to meet and new partners keen to join shows the value of this Group by partners.

7. Relevant portfolio holder(s) have been members of this group. Typically you would expect one elected member but for the past 12 months in Redditch there have been two: the former Portfolio Holder for Community Services and Safeguarding (covering health and wellbeing) and the former Portfolio Holder for Community Spaces and the Voluntary Sector.
8. The RCWG meets approximately every two months and it covers a wide remit, in particular, health and wellbeing, children and young people, and older people. With changes to services and roles, representatives new to their role and sometimes new to Redditch, look to join the group. The partnership group is open to any organisation that is supporting our residents. The primary aim is to provide an easy way for partners to connect and engage with a variety of different agencies at one time on an ongoing basis, helping to maintain existing relationships between partner agencies, as well as help build new ones.
9. Chaired by the CEO of Young Solutions (a VCS organisation that works in Redditch and countywide), it is predominately used by partner organisations to share information about the work they are doing in Redditch and to highlight challenges they and/or those they are supporting are facing. This in turn helps identify partnership opportunities so that collectively we can make the best use of resources available in Redditch to support our local residents.
10. To give an example of a recent partnership opportunity, at a Redditch Community Wellbeing Group last year, it became apparent that there was some confusion between partners working in Redditch that provide financial advice and support. Following separate one-to-one conversations the Partnership Manager had with a handful of partners, it was agreed that a small and informal one-off network meeting might be useful. Hosted by Acts of Kindness, who run the Redditch Foodbank, it brought together Citizens Advice Bromsgrove and Redditch, CAP (Christians Against Poverty) and The Project (which provides advice and guidance, funded via the Trussell Trust to work with people accessing Redditch Foodbank). The purpose was simply to gain a better understanding of what each did and between them, decide the best way to refer to each other, being mindful of each other's capacity. This led to those partners joining 'Refernet' (a tool paid for by Worcestershire County Council) as a way to refer between themselves so, no matter which route a person came in, they were directed easily to the most appropriate support. The partners found it so useful that they continue to meet on an informal basis, with no set agenda, and more recently additional representatives have been invited to join from Age UK North Worcestershire and RBC Financial Inclusion Team.
11. Another example is when the Kingfisher and Nightingales PCNs wanted to deliver a couple of drop-ins at one of the surgeries but open to all. They were able to use the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group to link in partners to join them, such as Act on Energy who were able to provide energy-related advice and the Fire Service, who offered their Home Fire Safety Checks. The social prescribers from both PCNs use the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group to help keep themselves up to date with changes in local provision and support too, which helps enable them to focus their time on the patient rather than researching support or relevant / up to date contacts.

**Cost of Living Partnership Group**

12. A joint Redditch and Bromsgrove Cost of Living Partnership Group was established by the former Chief Executive of the Borough Council approximately 5 years ago and is continuing. It is chaired by Judith Willis, Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services.
13. It brings together agencies to create a unified and comprehensive approach to tackling the cost of living crisis and minimising its impact, with the aim of improving the well-being of residents and communities.
14. It meets bi-monthly to help ensure collectively we are doing all we can together to alleviate the impact of the cost of living crisis. In addition to officers from the Borough Council from different teams (including the Council's Financial Inclusion Team and Housing Team) partner agencies engaged include: Citizens Advice Bromsgrove and Redditch, Worcestershire County Council, Department for Work and Pensions, Redditch Foodbank, CAP, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, Act on Energy and more.
15. Redditch (and Bromsgrove) were the first in the County to recognise the need to get messages out there to ensure people know where to go for support as early as possible. In addition to website and social media messages, there have been different editions of a printed cost of living leaflet, to help reach those digitally excluded. Although having unified communications has been led by the Borough Council, all partners have worked closely with us, whether that is through the Primary Care Networks (PCNs) promoting through the GP surgeries to schools sharing with parents.
16. Most recently, the 'useful contacts' business-size card were printed and distributed via Council teams and partners. It is small enough for people to pick up without embarrassment and slip in their pockets. We have topped up the cards so that they remain available at our Customer Service Centre for partners (and councillors) to pick up and distribute. The aim is to help ensure people know where to turn should they need information, advice and/or support.

**Redditch Mental Health and Housing Group**

17. A Head of Housing and Health Partnerships for Worcestershire post was created in 2022 in recognition of the importance of housing in relation to health and wellbeing and came about due to partnership working. The post was funded for 3 years and hosted by the Acute NHS Trust.
18. One of the tasks for the post holder was to set up a Redditch specific group focussing on bringing together Redditch Borough Council Housing and NHS Mental Health Teams, along with colleagues from other relevant agencies, such as Cranstoun (a service that provides support to those addicted to drugs or alcohol).
19. Initially it was primarily about helping to bring together colleagues from Housing and Mental Health in particular, so that they could obtain a better understanding of each other's roles and the challenges they face. This proved very successful in enabling the different teams from different agencies to work more effectively together.

20. Although there is no longer a Head of Housing and Health Partnerships for Worcestershire post, the good work is continuing, with Redditch Housing taking the lead in ensuring those meetings continued. Ultimately, it is our tenants, who are also known to mental health services (and often many other services) who are benefiting from the different teams working together. This Group, although a separate group in its own right focusing on particular cases, links to both the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group and the RDC Steering Group, via Housing colleagues to help ensure work is joined up.

### **Redditch District Collaborative (RDC)**

21. District Collaboratives (sometimes called different names in other areas) were formed following changes nationally in health and the development of Integrated Care Systems (ICS). A District Collaborative brings together organisations across sectors on a place basis to meet the needs of the local community. The Redditch District Collaborative (RDC) is part of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICS.
22. There are two Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in Redditch – Kingfisher PCN and Nightingale PCN. PCNs were formed as part of a national NHS contract back in 2019, although prior to this our local GP Practices were working together informally through Neighbourhood Teams and other local contracts. It was the two PCNs, working closely with Redditch Borough Council and Public Health, which took the lead in setting up RDC.
23. The District Collaborative in Redditch was the first one in the County to be established, with a small programme team to support it initially. Its structure and support have changed over time but its three main priorities have remained unchanged: mental health and wellbeing; frailty; and obesity.
24. Asset mapping was undertaken at the start and one outcome from that has been it has further enriched the content of our local community services directory, the Knowledge Bank, as well as the more recently established County Council's community services directory.
25. Due to resource changes, there is no longer a programme lead or connector posts for RDC, however the PCNs remain committed to work collaboratively with a focus on health and wellbeing.
26. The resource reduction did trigger a mini review of the large RDC structure to ensure RDC was more sustainable and streamlined going forward. The outcome was the formation of one group only - the RDC Steering Group. The terms of reference, including the membership, have been refreshed and it has resulted in a far better balance of representation with a mix of statutory and voluntary sector representatives. Whilst ensuring the Steering Group remains a manageable size, additional key officer representatives have recently been invited, including from Health and Care NHS Trust and Acute NHS Trust, as well as our Redditch Housing Manager.
27. There is a tighter membership for RDC Steering Group which is complemented by the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group that directly feeds in and has deliberately less restrictions around its membership.

28. RDC is very keen to support and engage in the Priority Neighbourhood Development (PND) areas in Redditch. The Public Health PND programme is a targeted, place-based initiative designed to address health inequalities and unmet needs in communities. Work has commenced in Woodrow and also Winyates. For instance, via the RDC Steering Group, the PCNs have set up monthly drop ins at the new Woodrow Hub, with access to health professionals and support from other partners. Often people need access to more than one agency so this provides residents the option of being able to access in-person support on a range of issues in one place.
29. Neighbourhood Health sits at the heart of the 10 Year Health Plan, but it cannot be achieved by Health partners alone. In addition to the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board, RDC and the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group are well placed to support at a local level as local partners can collaborate ensuring a shared understanding, improved outcomes and the best use of collective resources, all with the aim of empowering people to lead healthier and independent lives.

### **Other Redditch Groups and Countywide Groups**

30. There are other groups involving partners in Redditch, often with a specific focus, however, there is a still a need to ensure links are made, wherever possible, between groups rather than them operating in isolation. For instance: Redditch Community Workers Meetings; the Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN) Meetings; Safer Redditch Meetings, Redditch Youth Providers Group and Family Hub District Network Meetings. These are all separate meetings with different purposes, however, there are links made between them which means partners can engage with whichever one works for them / is most relevant for them.
31. As well as looking at local groups, it is important to ensure Redditch is represented appropriately in countywide groups so that there is 2-way communication between County and District level, both from a Borough Council perspective and from a wider Redditch Partnership/Collaborative perspective.
32. At the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board level, Redditch Borough Council is represented by an elected member (appointed at the RBC Annual Council Meetings). As the same elected member is invited to join the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group, it helps ensure a connection between our local Redditch Partnership Group and the Worcestershire Board.
33. The Worcestershire Being Well Strategic Group is a sub group of the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Partnership Manager and the Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services represent Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils and Collaboratives, ensuring a connection via the County sub group at officer level too.
34. As part of the change to ICS, VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) Alliances were formed nationally and there is currently one covering Worcestershire. Through the Redditch Partnership, we were able to make sure that Redditch had good voluntary sector representation on that countywide Alliance, and in turn on countywide groups such as the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board. This all helps ensure Redditch has a strong voice at those countywide meetings.

**Wellbeing in Partnership E-Bulletin**

35. There has been a Partnership E-Bulletin across Redditch and Bromsgrove for a number of years in slightly different forms. The Partnership E-Bulletin continues monthly and contains a wide range of information that comes into the Partnership Team from a wide variety of sources. Anyone involved in the Redditch Partnership and RDC automatically receive the bulletins, as do all local Councillors (Redditch Borough and County Councillors covering the Borough). The aim is to arm as many representatives as possible who work or volunteer in Redditch, from the statutory or voluntary and community sectors, with local information which in turn they can use and pass on to their service users / local residents as appropriate.

**Redditch and Bromsgrove Knowledge Bank (Community Services Directory)**

36. A local directory of community services, called the Knowledge Bank, which built on previous internal directories used by the Council's Customer Service Team and the Parenting and Family Support Service, was created a number of years ago. The Council's IT development team assisted on the technical side of this while officers including Customer Services, Parenting and Family Support, Redditch and Bromsgrove Partnership Managers at the time worked to populate it with all services from the statutory and voluntary and community sectors available in Redditch and Bromsgrove. Originally created for internal teams, it was suggested and agreed that it should be made publicly available to allow anyone to use it.
37. The Knowledge Bank was given a facelift approximately 18 months ago and made more user friendly. With support from BARN (Bromsgrove and Redditch Network) and using the results of the RDC Asset Mapping, the content has been updated and increased further and continues to be maintained.
38. The fully searchable directory is available on the Council's webpages for the public and local partners to use. The content of the Knowledge Bank is regularly reviewed but local organisations can contact the partnership team and add or update their organisation's details at any time.
39. Knowledge Bank business-sized cards and posters were created and made available publicly to help raise awareness of this resource which is freely available to all – our teams, partner agencies and local residents too. The supply has recently been topped up partners (and members) are welcome to collect a supply from our Customer Service Centre to help raise awareness of the too. The direct link for the Knowledge Bank is below – please feel free to use and share: [knowledgebank.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](http://knowledgebank.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

**Officer Contact Details**

Officer Name: Della McCarthy  
Job Title: Redditch and Bromsgrove Partnership Manager  
Contact Tel: 01527 881618  
Email: [d.mccarthy@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:d.mccarthy@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

**Overview & Scrutiny**

Committee

8<sup>th</sup> June 2026**WORK PROGRAMME 2026-27****STANDING ITEMS:**

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

**Overview & Scrutiny**

Committee

8<sup>th</sup> June 2026

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
<b>8<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b> <i>[Note: report may contain exempt information which would need to be considered in private session].</i>	Construction of Redditch Innovation Centre – Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Previously called: Digital Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (DMIC))	Neil Batt, Regeneration Project Delivery Manager
<b>8<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>	Shared Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2031 – Pre-Decision Scrutiny	Amanda Delahunty, Acting Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager
<b>8<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>	Quarter Four 2025/2026 Housing Improvement Plan Update – Pre-Decision Scrutiny	Simon Parry, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services; Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community and Housing Services
<b>8<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>	Quarter Four 2025/2026 Housing Performance incorporating Tenant Satisfaction Measures Results – Pre-Decision Scrutiny	Simon Parry, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services; Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community and Housing Services
<b>8<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>	Redditch Partnership Annual Report – Overview Report	Della McCarthy, Bromsgrove and Redditch Partnership Manager
<b>27<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b>	Overview and Scrutiny – Outcomes of the Training and Work Programme Prioritisation Session	Chair of the Committee / Democratic Services
<b>7<sup>th</sup> September 2026</b>	Housing Decant Policy – Pre-Decision Scrutiny	Jonathan Elger, Neighbourhood and Tenancy Manager

**Overview & Scrutiny**

Committee

8<sup>th</sup> June 2026**ITEMS PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION BUT WITH NO MEETING DATE CONFIRMED**

The Committee is asked to decide which of the items below it wishes to retain on its work programme:

MEETING DATE	ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED	RELEVANT LEAD
TBC	Parking Enforcement – Management of Contract <i>Note: Executive report to be scrutinised when it becomes available</i>	Simon Parry, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services
TBC	Report on Homelessness, Food Bank use and associated metrics	Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community and Housing Services
TBC	Half-yearly Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) update on fly tipping enforcement and data in Redditch	Simon Wilkes, Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
TBC	Auxerre House Refurbishment <i>Note: to be considered when the Executive report becomes available</i>	Andrew Rainbow, Housing Property Services Manager
TBC	Community Investment Fund – Pre-Decision Scrutiny <i>Note: to be considered when the Executive report becomes available</i>	Georgina Harris, UK Shared Prosperity Fund Manager

# Overview & Scrutiny

## Committee

8<sup>th</sup> June 2026

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### WORKING GROUPS:

- **Budget Scrutiny Working Group**

The following provisional dates have been scheduled for meetings of this Working Group:

- 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (1pm start)
- 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026 (1pm start)
- 8<sup>th</sup> October 2026 (6pm start)
- 19<sup>th</sup> November 2026 (6pm start)
- 7<sup>th</sup> January 2027 (6pm start)

Further dates over February and March 2027 are due to be confirmed.

- **Performance Scrutiny Working Group**

The meetings are due to be arranged following consultation with members to establish the work programme for this Working Group. There is currently one provisional date scheduled for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026 (6pm start).

### TASK GROUPS

- **Post-16 Education Task Group**

Significant work with a number of meetings had been undertaken for this Task Group in the previous municipal years. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be asked to consider (under separate agenda item) if this Task Group investigation should continue, and if so, appoint 4 Members to the Task Group. There is 1 Member of the Task Group eligible to continue in the role from the previous year.

### **Budget Scrutiny Working Group: Terms of Reference**

The Budget Scrutiny Working Group is a small group of Members that will meet in private to scrutinise the budget and associated finance reports.

The Budget Scrutiny Working Group shall comprise 5 Councillors. The Councillors to be appointed do not need to be also Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, but Members of the Executive Committee are excluded from membership. The quorum shall be 3, with no substitutes permitted.

The Chair of the group reports back to the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the work of the group and attempts to ensure recommendations are directed through the Committee. However, in cases where the time available is limited the working group may be required to forward recommendations directly to the Executive Committee for consideration.

The update on the Working Group will be a standing item on the agenda of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and either a verbal or a written report will be provided by the Chair of the Working Group (or on behalf of the Chair by prior agreement) at every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Scrutiny of the budget will take place throughout the year as finance reports are prepared and will cover the following areas, although this list is not exhaustive:

- To carry out full reviews of the cost centres for actual spend, involving comparable figures for consecutive years.
- To assess income levels.
- To consider the quarterly budget monitoring report.
- To review the capital programme and borrowing costs.
- To comment on the report format for budget reports to Committee.
- To consider links to the strategic purposes in the financial reports.
- To scrutinise business cases in respect of investment opportunities identified by the Council.
- To investigate any new pressures on savings.
- To review reserves and balances.
- To assess any sources of external funding that has been received.

#### **Meeting dates:**

There are 7 scheduled meetings of Budget Scrutiny, held remotely, throughout the year (meetings held in the week before the relevant finance reports are due for consideration by the Executive Committee). Any Members appointed would be expected to be available to attend all meetings. Provisional dates for 2026/27 are given in the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.

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### **Performance Scrutiny Working Group: Terms of Reference**

The Performance Scrutiny Working Group is a small group of Members that will meet in private to scrutinise performance matters across services that the Council delivers.

The Performance Scrutiny Working Group shall comprise 5 Councillors. The Members to be appointed do not need to also be Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, but Members of the Executive Committee are excluded from membership. The quorum shall be 3, with no substitutes permitted.

The Chair of the group will report back to the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the work of the group and will attempt to ensure recommendations are directed through the Committee. However, in cases where the time available is limited the working group may be required to forward recommendations directly to the Executive Committee for consideration.

The update on the Working Group will be a standing item on the agenda of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and either a verbal or a written report will be provided by the Chair of the Working Group (or on behalf of the Chair by prior agreement) at every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will assess the effectiveness of this working group at the end of the municipal year and based on this assessment will determine whether the working group should continue to meet.

The following are key points in the terms of reference for meetings of this group:

- To consider the content of the corporate measures dashboard.
- To determine how this data can be used to inform the scrutiny process.
- To receive updates in respect of particular measures from relevant officers.
- To monitor service performance in relation to specific service areas or measures detailed on the dashboard.
- To consider the content of Performance Reports and any aspects within those reports that may be considered suitable for further scrutiny.

The Performance Scrutiny Working Group will decide dates for meetings once Members of the Working Group have identified suitable items for consideration. There is one provisional meeting date reserved already – details are in the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.

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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	Councillor Jane Spilsbury	Date of referral	04 March 2024
Proposed topic title	Review of Post-16 education provision		
Link to local priorities including the strategic purposes	Run and grow a successful business Aspiration, work and financial independence  Improving outcomes for young people in terms of education, employment and training (EET)		
Background to the issue	Redditch Borough Council seeks to review the range of post-16 provision to ensure that residents of all ages are able to access a broad offer of courses from level 2 to level 4 and beyond in the immediate area of Redditch.		
Key Objectives Please keep to SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely)	To compile a register of the range of current post-16 education provision; To gather views of local residents, including pupils, students and parents and carers about the quality and breadth of the current offer; To gather views from local businesses of the necessary knowledge and skills for employment; To identify any gaps in provision; To gather views from local post-16 providers to identify capacity and potential to deliver courses to address identified needs; To make recommendations to Redditch Borough Council On how best to take forward the findings 2 enhance provision and improve education employment and training outcomes 4 young people in Redditch.		
How long do you think is needed to complete this exercise? (Where possible please estimate the number of weeks, months and meetings required)	It is anticipated that this review will take no more than 3 months.		

Please return this form to: Democratic Services Officers, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH  
Email: [democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

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