



# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Mon 27 Jul  
2026  
6.30 pm



Oakenshaw Community Centre,  
Castleditch Lane, 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 and hear 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 organised by prior arrangement.

### **Notes:**

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

# Overview and Scrutiny

Monday, 27th July, 2026  
6.30 pm  
Oakenshaw Community Centre

## Agenda

### Membership:

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

### 4. Update on the Meeting of Budget Scrutiny Working Group (Verbal)

Verbal update to be provided on the meeting of Budget Scrutiny Working Group which was due to take place on Thursday 23 July 2026.

### 5. Housing Assistance Policy 2026 - 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 20 July 2026).

### 6. Food Waste Collections Implementation - 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 20 July 2026).

### 7. Executive Committee Work Programme - Selecting Items for Scrutiny (Pages 7 - 16)

### 8. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 17 - 22)

# Overview and Scrutiny

Monday, 27th July, 2026

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

- a) Budget Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, TBC
- b) Performance Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, TBC
- c) Post-16 Education Task Group – Chair, Councillor Spilsbury

## 10. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports

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

## 11. 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) on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs (to be specified) of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act”.

These paragraphs are as follows:

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

- Para 1 – any individual;
- Para 2 – the identity of any individual;
- Para 3 – financial or business affairs;
- Para 4 – labour relations matters;
- Para 5 – legal professional privilege;
- Para 6 – a notice, order or direction;

# Overview and Scrutiny

Monday, 27th July, 2026

- Para 7 – the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime; and may need to be considered as 'exempt'.

## **12. Minutes** (Pages 23 - 44)

The minutes of the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee which took place on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026, including the record of the exempt session, will be considered at this meeting.

## **13. Executive Committee Minutes** (Pages 45 - 70)

The minutes of the meeting of Executive Committee which took place on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026, including the exempt record of that meeting (to be attached in supplementary papers pack), are attached for noting.

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\* item has been selected for pre-scrutiny by main O&S Committee  
\*\* item has been selected for pre-scrutiny by Budget Scrutiny

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADER'S WORK PROGRAMME



**1 August 2026 to 30 November 2026 – update**

(Published as at 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026)

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

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

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

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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Matthew Dormer, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Regeneration, Economic Development, Strategic Partnerships, Town Deal / DMIC, Corporate Leadership, External Relations, overall strategic leadership of the authority, Health, Regulatory Services, Leisure and Recreation and Planning

Councillor Craig Warhurst, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance

Councillor Brandon Clayton, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Local Services

Councillor Gemma Monaco, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Biodiversity

Councillor Ashley Monk, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities

Councillor Wanda King, Executive Committee member without portfolio

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision                                           | Decision Taker<br>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 Support to Rubicon Leisure Limited - Update Report<br><b>Key:</b> No              | Shareholders Committee<br>20 Aug 2026 | This report may contain exempt information that would need to be considered in private session | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services             | Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070               |
| Performance Outturn Monitoring Report 2025/26 - Rubicon Leisure Limited<br><b>Key:</b> No | Shareholders Committee<br>20 Aug 2026 | This report may contain exempt information that would need to be considered in private session | Report of the Assistant Director of Planning, Leisure and culture Services | Ruth Bamford, Assistant Director Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext: 3219 |
| Performance Monitoring Quarter 1 2026/27 - Rubicon Leisure Limited<br><b>Key:</b> No      | Shareholders Committee<br>20 Aug 2026 | This report may contain exempt information that would need to be considered in private session | Report of the Assistant Director of Planning, Leisure and culture Services | Ruth Bamford, Assistant Director Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext: 3219 |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision           | Decision Taker<br>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                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| * RBC Engagement Strategy 2026-2028<br><b>Key:</b> No     | Executive 8 Sep 2026                            |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Services | Helen Mole, Transformation Manager<br>Tel: 01527 881685                      |
| RBC Equality Strategy 2026-2028<br><b>Key:</b> No         | Executive 8 Sep 2026<br><br>Council 21 Sep 2026 |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Services | Helen Mole, Transformation Manager<br>Tel: 01527 881685                      |
| * Redditch Town Centre Strategy<br><b>Key:</b> No         | Executive 8 Sep 2026                            |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Regeneration and Property Services    | Lyndsey Berry, Bromsgrove Town Centre Manager<br>Tel: 01527 881221           |
| * Housing Decant Policy<br><b>Key:</b> Yes                | Executive 8 Sep 2026                            |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services        | Jonathan Elger, Neighbourhood & Tenancy Manager<br>Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3272 |
| ** Quarter 1 2026/27 Performance Report<br><b>Key:</b> No | Executive 8 Sep 2026                            |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Services | Sarah Davis, Performance and Improvement Advisor<br>Tel: 01527 534156        |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision                                                                      | Decision Taker<br>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                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ** Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring Report 2026/27<br><b>Key:</b> No                                                   | Executive 8 Sep 2026               |                                                                                                | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services  | Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |
| * Quarter 1 2026/27 Housing Performance and Improvement Plan Update<br><b>Key:</b> No                                | Executive 8 Sep 2026               | This report may contain exempt information that would need to be considered in private session | Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services | Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community & Housing services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3348  |
| ** Medium Term Financial Plan Stage 1 2027/28 (Including Fees and Charges) - Prior to Consultation<br><b>Key:</b> No | Executive 13 Oct 2026              |                                                                                                | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services  | Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision                           | Decision Taker<br>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                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2026/27<br><b>Key:</b> No          | Executive 24 Nov 2026<br>Council 25 Jan 2027 |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services                                                                  | Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070                                                                                                           |
| ** Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2026/27<br><b>Key:</b> No        | Executive 24 Nov 2026                        |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services                                                                  | Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070                                                                                                           |
| * Quarter Two 2026/2027 Housing Improvement Plan Update<br><b>Key:</b> No | Executive 24 Nov 2026                        |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services, Assistant Director Community and Housing Services | Simon Parry, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services, Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community & Housing services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3201,<br>Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3348 |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision                                  | Decision Taker<br>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                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| * Quarter Two 2026/2027 Housing Performance<br><b>Key:</b> No                    | Executive 24 Nov 2026                        |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services | Simon Parry, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services, Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community & Housing services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3201,<br>Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3348 |
| ** Quarter 2 2026/27 Performance Report<br><b>Key:</b> No                        | Executive 24 Nov 2026                        |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Services                                                          | Sarah Davis, Performance and Improvement Advisor<br>Tel: 01527 534156                                                                                                                                  |
| Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent Setting Policy 2027/28<br><b>Key:</b> No      | Executive 12 Jan 2027<br>Council 25 Jan 2027 |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services                                                                  | Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070                                                                                                           |
| Non Domestic Rates - Discretionary Rates Relief Policy 2026/27<br><b>Key:</b> No | Executive 12 Jan 2027<br>Council 25 Jan 2027 |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services                                                                  | Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070                                                                                                           |

| Decision including<br>Whether it is a key<br>Decision                            | Decision Taker<br>Date of Decision           | Details of<br>Exempt<br>information (if<br>any) and any<br>additional<br>information for<br>noting | Documents submitted to<br>Decision Maker / Background<br>Papers List | Contact for Comments                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Discretionary Council Tax<br>Reduction Policy 2026/27<br><b>Key:</b> No          | Executive 12 Jan 2027<br>Council 25 Jan 2027 |                                                                                                    | Report of the Assistant Director<br>Finance and Customer<br>Services | Debra Goodall, Assistant<br>Director Finance and Customer<br>Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |
| Council Tax Support<br>Scheme 2026/27<br><b>Key:</b> No                          | Executive 12 Jan 2027<br>Council 25 Jan 2027 |                                                                                                    | Report of the Assistant Director<br>Finance and Customer<br>Services | Debra Goodall, Assistant<br>Director Finance and Customer<br>Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |
| Council Tax - Empty<br>Homes Discounts and<br>Premiums 2027/28<br><b>Key:</b> No | Executive 12 Jan 2027<br>Council 25 Jan 2027 |                                                                                                    | Report of the Assistant Director<br>Finance and Customer<br>Services | Debra Goodall, Assistant<br>Director Finance and Customer<br>Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision                                                                                                                                      | Decision Taker<br>Date of Decision           | Details of Exempt information (if any) and any additional information for noting | Documents submitted to Decision Maker / Background Papers List  | Contact for Comments                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ** Medium Term Financial Plan Stage 1 2027/28 (Including Fees and Charges and Worcestershire Regulatory Services' Budget Recommendations) - Following Consultation<br><b>Key:</b> No | Executive 12 Jan 2027<br>Council 25 Jan 2027 |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services  | Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |
| Council Tax Base 2027/28<br><b>Key:</b> No                                                                                                                                           | Executive 12 Jan 2027<br>Council 25 Jan 2027 |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services  | Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |
| Grants to Voluntary Bodies Awarding of Grants<br><b>Key:</b> No                                                                                                                      | Executive 8 Feb 2027                         |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services | Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community & Housing services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3348  |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision                             | Decision Taker<br>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                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| * Quarter Three 2026/2027 Housing Improvement Plan Update<br><b>Key:</b> No | Executive 8 Feb 2027               |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services, Assistant Director Community and Housing Services | Simon Parry, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services, Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community & Housing services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3201,<br>Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3348 |
| * Quarter Three 2026/2027 Housing Performance<br><b>Key:</b> No             | Executive 8 Feb 2027               |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services, Assistant Director Community and Housing Services | Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community & Housing services, Simon Parry, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 ext 3348,<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3201 |
| ** Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring Report 2026/27<br><b>Key:</b> No          | Executive 8 Feb 2027               |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services                                                                  | Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070                                                                                                           |

| Decision including Whether it is a key Decision                                                                                                    | Decision Taker<br>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 Resolutions 2027/28<br><b>Key:</b> No                                                                                                  | Executive 22 Feb 2027<br>Council 22 Feb 2027 |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services | Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |
| ** Medium Term Financial Plan Stage 2 2027/28 (Including Capital Strategy, Investment Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy)<br><b>Key:</b> No | Executive 8 Feb 2027<br>Council 22 Feb 2027  |                                                                                  | Report of the Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services | Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance and Customer Services<br>Tel: 01527 64252 Ext 3070 |

**Overview & Scrutiny**

Committee

27<sup>th</sup> July 2026**WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26**

| Date of Meeting | Subject Matter                                          | Officer(s) / Member(s) Responsible for report |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| ALL MEETINGS    | REGULAR ITEMS                                           | (CHIEF EXECUTIVE)                             |
|                 | Minutes of previous meeting                             | Chief Executive                               |
|                 | Consideration of the Executive Committee Work Programme | Chief Executive                               |
|                 | Call-ins (if any)                                       | Chief Executive                               |
|                 | Pre-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

27<sup>th</sup> July 2026

| MEETING DATE                                          | ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | RELEVANT LEAD                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2026                            | Food Waste Collections Implementation – Pre-Decision Scrutiny                                                                                                                                                                                  | Matthew Austin, Environmental Services Manager                                                                                                |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2026                            | Housing Assistance Policy 2026 – Pre-Decision Scrutiny                                                                                                                                                                                         | Katie Sharp-Fisher, Private Sector Housing Manager                                                                                            |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2026                        | Redditch Town Centre Strategy – Pre-Decision Scrutiny                                                                                                                                                                                          | Lyndsey Berry, Bromsgrove Centres Manager                                                                                                     |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2026                        | Q1 2026/27 Housing Performance and Improvement Plan Update – Pre-Decision Scrutiny                                                                                                                                                             | Simon Parry, Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services; Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community and Housing Services |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2026                        | Review Report – Parking Enforcement – current management of contract and approach to enforcement (identify if Task Group Review necessary after Post-16 Education review has finished)                                                         | Rachel Egan, Assistant Director Regeneration and Property                                                                                     |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2026                        | RBC Engagement Strategy 2026-2028 – Pre-Decision Scrutiny                                                                                                                                                                                      | Helen Mole, Transformation Manager                                                                                                            |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2026                        | Housing Decant Policy – Pre-Decision Scrutiny                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Jonathan Elger, Neighbourhood and Tenancy Manager                                                                                             |
| <b>Provisional date: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2026</b> | Overview Presentation – Mental Health in the Community including mental health crisis support – Invitation to NHS Trust/Public Health                                                                                                          | TBC                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Provisional date: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2026</b> | Briefing on Current Community Safety Arrangements in regard to responding to Child Sexual Exploitation and Violence Against Women and Girls –[please note that this item is within the remit of Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel and referral | Bev Houghton, Community Safety Partnership Manager                                                                                            |

# Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

27<sup>th</sup> July 2026

|  |                                                |  |
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|  | for consideration by that Panel might be made] |  |
|--|------------------------------------------------|--|

**ITEMS PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED BUT WITH NO MEETING CONFIRMED**

| MEETING DATE                     | ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED                                                                                       | RELEVANT LEAD                                                    |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TBC                              | Community Investment Fund – (scrutinise Executive report when it becomes available)                         | Georgina Harris, UK Shared Prosperity Fund Manager               |
| TBC                              | Report on Homelessness, Food Bank use and associated metrics                                                | Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community and Housing Services |
| TBC (falls due in November 2026) | 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 – (scrutinise Executive report when it becomes available)                       | Andrew Rainbow, Housing Property Services Manager                |

**Working Groups:**

- Budget Scrutiny Working Group**

| MEETING DATE                                                                     | ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Thursday<br/>23/07/2026<br/>(5.15pm) –<br/>Oakenshaw<br/>Community Centre</b> | Medium Term Financial Plan Scene Setting Report 2027/28<br><br>Treasury Management Outturn Report 2025/26<br><br>Quarter 4 Financial Monitoring and Outturn Report 2025/26 |
| <b>Thursday<br/>03/09/2026 (6pm)</b>                                             | Q1 2026/27 Performance Report<br>Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring Report 2026/27                                                                                             |
| <b>Thursday<br/>08/10/2026 (6pm)</b>                                             | Medium Term Financial Plan Stage 1 2027/28 (Including Fees and Charges) - Prior to Consultation                                                                            |

# Overview & Scrutiny

## Committee

27<sup>th</sup> July 2026

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Thursday<br/>19/11/2026 (6pm)</b>  | Quarter 2 2026/27 Performance Report<br>Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Report 2026/27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Thursday<br/>07/01/2027 (6pm)</b>  | Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2026/27<br>Medium Term Financial Plan Stage 1 2027/28 (Including Fees and Charges and Worcestershire Regulatory Services' Budget Recommendations) - Following Consultation<br><br>The Working Group to determine if it wishes to consider the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Tax Base 2027/28</li> <li>• Council Tax - Empty Homes Discounts and Premiums 2027/28</li> <li>• Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27</li> <li>• Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Policy 2026/27</li> <li>• Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent Setting Policy 2027/28</li> <li>• Non Domestic Rates - Discretionary Rates Relief Policy 2026/27</li> </ul> |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>03/02/2027 (6pm)</b> | Quarter 3 2026/27 Performance Report<br>Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring Report 2026/27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Monday<br/>15/02/2027 (6pm)</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Thursday<br/>11/03/2027 (6pm)</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

- Performance Scrutiny Working Group**

|                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday<br/>29/07/2026 (6pm) - remote</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN) - presentation</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Warden Service (including review of enforcement powers)</li> </ul>                                       |
| <b>Thursday<br/>01/10/2026 (6pm) - remote</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks – works in parks including possible improvement works to obtain 'Gold Standard' for Arrow Valley Lake / Morton Stanley Park</li> <li>• Tree Maintenance and Tree Policies Update</li> </ul> |
| Further meetings to be arranged as further topics are identified. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

### Task Groups

- Post-16 Education Task Group

# **Overview & Scrutiny**

Committee

27<sup>th</sup> July 2026

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Next meeting is on Thursday 30/07/2026 (6pm) - remote.

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# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Monday, 8th June, 2026

## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillor Nicola Lloyd (Chair), Councillor Roger Bennett (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Joe Baker, Sharon Harvey, Joanna Kane, David Meredith, Rita Rogers and Jane Spilsbury

### Officers:

Guy Revans, Rachel Egan, Judith Willis, Neil Batt, Amanda Delahunty and Della McCarthy

### Democratic Services Officers:

M Sliwinski

### 1. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies for absence.

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

Councillor Sharon Harvey declared an other disclosable interest in respect of Minute Item No. 6 – Construction of Redditch Innovation Centre – Pre-Decision Scrutiny – due to the fact that she was named in that report as the ward member consulted for that report. She remained present for the debate for that item and to vote thereon.

### 3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were submitted for Members' consideration.

**RESOLVED that**

Chair

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Monday, 8th June, 2026

the minutes of the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

**4. PUBLIC SPEAKING**

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

**5. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

*[With the agreement of the Chair and the Committee, the order of the agenda was changed and this item 14 on the published agenda was considered as item 5 at the meeting – and recorded as Minute No. 5].*

**RESOLVED that**

Under S.100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matters on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended:

**Minute Item No. 6 – Construction of Redditch Innovation Centre – Pre-Decision Scrutiny.**

**6. CONSTRUCTION OF REDDITCH INNOVATION CENTRE - PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

*[With the agreement of the Chair and the Committee, the order of the agenda was changed and this item 15 on the published agenda was considered as item 6 at the meeting – and recorded as Minute No. 6].*

The Regeneration Project Manager presented a report on the Construction of Redditch Innovation Centre.

In relation to timescales, it was reported that construction was due to commence in Summer 2026 and that there was an anticipated seventy-week construction period with building works due to be completed by the end of 2027.

Speller-Metcalf had been appointed to work alongside the Design team to complete the stage four designs for the Innovation Centre.

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Members were informed that extensive value engineering had been undertaken.

Following presentation of the report, Members held a detailed discussion regarding the project at its current stage and costings.

A typographical error was noted in respect of the report sign-off, which listed the previous Portfolio Holder rather than the current Portfolio Holder as having sign-off for this report.

In respect of recommendation three of the report, an amendment was proposed to add that the relevant Portfolio Holder would also be consulted in entering into the necessary contracts and legal agreements required to implement the other two recommendations. This amendment was seconded and on being put to the vote agreed by the Committee.

The Committee endorsed recommendations one and two of the report as printed.

## **RECOMMENDED that**

- 1) The Council utilise all available underspend from within the Town Deal programme for construction of the Innovation Centre.**
- 2) The Council accept the £2,425,000 Enterprise Zone funding from Birmingham City Council for the construction of the Innovation Centre and incorporate it into the Council's Capital Programme.**
- 3) Subject to the agreement of recommendations 1 and 2, authority be delegated to the Assistant Director of Regeneration and Property Services, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, and in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, to enter into the necessary contracts and legal agreements required to implement the recommendations within this report.**

(During consideration of this item, Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to move to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

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## 7. REDDITCH PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL REPORT UPDATE

The Redditch and Bromsgrove Partnership Manager introduced the report and in doing so noted that Redditch Partnership was the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the Redditch area and aimed to bring together representatives from a wide variety of agencies across the public, private and voluntary and community sectors to enable partnership working for the benefit of residents locally.

It was explained that the makeup of the Redditch Partnership had 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

The Redditch and Bromsgrove Partnership Manager provided an overview of the structure and work of the Redditch Partnership and Redditch District Collaborative (RDC) in addition to a number of other partnership groups highlighted in the report in which the Council was involved in a co-ordinating or partnership role.

Following the presentation, a Member expressed concerns about the performance of the Redditch Partnership and the RDC. In addition, concerns were raised about the lack of elected member representation on Redditch Partnership or any of the groups mentioned in the report.

A response was provided by Officers that the Worcestershire County Council Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) provided a Member oversight over the work of the partnership groups across the county. Redditch Borough Council was represented at the HWB by a Member chosen at the Annual Council (Councillor Brandon Clayton was the Council's representative for 2026/27). As the same elected member was also invited to join the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group, it ensured there was a connection between the local Redditch Partnership Group and the Worcestershire-wide health board. It was also confirmed that the relevant Portfolio Holders were also represented on the Redditch Partnership last year and this was hoped to continue.

In response to concerns over the performance metrics and monitoring, it was highlighted that the Redditch Partnership was a completely voluntary, non-statutory partnership, it was difficult to set precise targets as the aim of the Partnership was for voluntary

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organisations and public sector bodies within Redditch to come together and form connections and partnerships.

It was explained that several years ago the Redditch District Collaborative (RDC) was in a situation where multitude of groups existed that were not connected to one another with the result that a number of different groups of voluntary sector and public partners worked in isolation. Following a review outlined within the report, the number of groups under the umbrella of Redditch Partnership had reduced. Membership of each group was also reviewed and all groups retained had to set out how they linked to the overall Redditch Partnership structure. It was noted that work continued on establishing which organisations were best represented through the RDC.

It was emphasised that collaboration through RDC enabled the different organisations to network and share ideas on how they were delivering their individual programmes and initiatives and how their organisations could collaborate to improve overall outcomes for residents. It was reiterated that as such there was no governance structure to set quantitative targets for the individual organisations that chose to voluntarily collaborate in the arrangement, and especially voluntary sector organisations.

Officers also explained that the various groups and partnerships listed in the report also enabled various agencies to come together and enable multi-agency work that otherwise would not be possible. An example was cited of one of the primary care network (PCN) that was part of the RDC being able to provide drop-ins practices where patients were able to come for health appointments and also receive support on housing and energy matters at the same time: this was an example of developing a holistic approach to health that took account of how financial and housing problems could be tackled to improve overall health outcomes.

It was clarified that the Redditch Partnership itself held no funds to provide to its individual members or any voluntary organisations, it acted entirely as a Partnership that brought different organisations together. Redditch Borough Council provided funding to some of the organisations involved with the work of the partnerships and groups named in these reports, and where such funding was being provided, the organisations would be subject to conditions applicable under the relevant fund/grant that they were receiving from the Council.

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Members expressed concern about the complexity of the current arrangements and the concerns that the work of the different groups under the Redditch Partnership and Redditch District Collaborative umbrella could be detached from residents. Some Members expressed the opinion that information on these arrangements should be simplified as to enable elected members to better understand how to refer residents to appropriate help offered by the individual partners.

Members expressed the opinion that more detail was required in the report on the work and aims of each partnership/group named in the report together with applicable examples of work or outcomes that had been achieved. It was requested that case studies of work of the Redditch Mental Health and Housing Group be circulated to Members.

The diagram of the governance arrangements of the different partnerships and groups forming around the Redditch Partnership was also requested by Members.

A report was requested to be provided on the work and impact of the Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN). It was suggested by some Members that this would be best addressed through a report to Performance Scrutiny Working Group.

## **RESOLVED that**

**the annual update report be noted.**

*[Following consideration of this item, the meeting was adjourned from 7.46pm to 7.52pm].*

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

The Housing Development and Strategy Manager presented a report on the Shared Homelessness Strategy for 2026-2031.

The Committee was informed that Redditch Borough Council had worked in partnership with Bromsgrove District Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Wychavon District Council and Wyre Forest District Council to develop the strategy. It was noted that the Homelessness Act 2002 required all housing authorities to have a homelessness and rough sleeping strategy in place, based on a review of all forms of homelessness within their area. This was

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alongside compliance with the Homelessness Reduction Act, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the Renters Right Act 2025.

Members were advised that a consultation had been undertaken and that the responses received had been considered and incorporated where appropriate.

In relation to measurable outcomes, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was informed that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had provided the required metrics for the Local Outcomes Framework. The core outcome measures on which local authorities were assessed were outlined as:

- The rate of households with children in temporary accommodation (per 1,000 households)
- The number of families in Bed & Breakfast accommodation for over six weeks
- The percentage of duties owed where homelessness was prevented or relieved
- The number of people sleeping rough on a single night
- The number of people sleeping rough over the month who were long-term rough sleepers

The financial implications of the strategy were outlined and it was explained that the new Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant would provide funding to support delivery. The Committee was advised that a separate report had already been presented to Members detailing spending priorities for the subsequent three years.

In considering the context of Local Government Reorganisation, Members were reassured that the strategy had been developed to be adaptable for incorporation into either one or two unitary authorities, pending the development of a new single strategy based on a fresh homelessness review as required by the Homelessness Code of Guidance.

Members made further comments in relation to these areas:

- New duties on the Council as a result of Renters' Rights Act 2025 – It was reported that additional £60,000 in funding had been awarded through Government funding to the Council's Private Sector Housing Team. This was used to employ additional staff in that team to help with ensuring the Council

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could meet additional workload and duties arising from Renters' Rights Act 2025.

- Domestic Abuse Victims– It was explained that often in cases of domestic abuse, a victim would be relocated to a confidential refuge accommodation via the Council's sanctuary scheme as it was necessary to escape from the perpetrator. Members observed that in such cases it remained the victim and their children who suffered more disruption by having to move out of their house. It was noted that often this was a necessary step to avoid the perpetrators finding out the location of the victim.
- Officers reported that under the Social Housing Bill (which currently passed the second reading in the House of Lords) social landlords and courts would be able to evict perpetrators of domestic abuse from social housing, without the victim having to leave first. It was noted that currently, landlords could only evict a domestic abuse perpetrator after the victim has already left the home, and in joint tenancies, the only option for the victim was to end the tenancy entirely.
- Care leavers and social housing – Officers explained that the Council worked to strengthen partnership working with the County Council's Children's Services and the Care Leavers Team, which was to prevent homelessness legislation from being used as a pathway to house care leavers following the end of a Looked After Child Placement. Instead, the Council and the County Council worked to ensure more support is provided to care leavers in their transition to adulthood and independent living.
- Housing with respect to veterans, refugees and 'sofa surfers' – It was noted in respect of former armed forces personnel that the Council had a favourable housing allocation policy. It was reiterated that a social housing application had to be submitted before the Council could consider a person's circumstances for social housing. With respect to 'sofa surfers' (i.e. people who stayed informally with friends or family but who had no fixed address), the Council would not normally be able to identify unless a person in such situation presented as homeless to the Council. It was noted in respect of refugees the numbers of refugees who presented as homeless in the County were low.
- Temporary Accommodation properties with disability adaptations – Officers reported that there had been an increase in the numbers of people being discharged from hospital directly to temporary accommodation, who required properties with disability adaptations. Officers were investigating provision of adaptations such as walk-in

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showers and ramps in more temporary accommodation and council housing units to cater to the growing demand.

The Committee endorsed the approval of the Strategy.

## **RECOMMENDED that**

**the Shared Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031 be approved.**

### **9. Q4 2025-26 HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE - PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

The Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services presented the Quarter 4 Update and 2026/27 Housing Improvement Plan (HIP) report.

The Committee was reminded that, following an inspection in July 2025, the Regulator of Social Housing had identified that Redditch Borough Council required significant improvements in several areas, including repairs, maintenance, fire safety, tenant engagement and stock condition surveys.

The report demonstrated the progress made since that inspection judgement, with eighteen actions having now been completed. It was noted that work had also been undertaken in collaboration with the Regulator across the consumer standards, with relevant actions having now been completed.

The revised HIP aimed to improve gap analysis and ensure that the Council moved towards embedding compliance with the Consumer Standards.

The main issues highlighted for Members' consideration within HIP included the delay experienced in receiving a formal proposal for the independent review the Council's delivery programme for fire safety and the introduction of a tenant portal which was intended to support residents by providing access to self-service options.

It was also noted that the Housing Annual Report for 2025/26 would be shared with tenants and leaseholders by the end of July. As part of this, opportunity would be taken to seek interest from tenants for participation in an array of tenant scrutiny and engagement opportunities.

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The Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services acknowledged that the formatting of the Housing Improvement Plan had been difficult to read due to the small font size and advised that this would be improved in future reports.

Members discussed the report. Comments were made about the Regulator of Social Housing judgment with the opinion expressed by some Members that the Council had responded well following the inspection results published in July 2025, with progress having been made across many of the areas highlighted by the Regulator as needing significant improvement. Members also commented that internal governance arrangements and regular meetings with the Regulator of Social Housing had also helped the Council to progress improvements required.

With respect to the delivery programme for fire safety, it was explained that the major area of the Fire Risk Assessments (FRA) programme and major area of backlog in fire remedial actions, related to the replacement of fire doors. It was clarified that properties in the affected blocks already had fire doors installed but many of these had become non-compliant in the last three years following the publication of the latest fire door regulations and therefore needed to be replaced to comply with the new regulations.

In relation to the ongoing fire safety checks it was noted that this would be reported in full detail under Housing Performance report but it was clarified that an external company undertook fire safety checks in Council tenanted properties and they had experienced staffing resource issue at Q4 resulting in the drop in performance from 100 per cent at Q3 2025/26 to 88 per cent at Q4 2025/26.

Report recommendations were endorsed by the Committee although it was requested by the Chair that any revisions to the Housing Improvement Plan for 2026/27, as recommended in the report for delegated authority to officers, be reported back to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and that the quarterly Housing Performance reports continue to be scrutinised by Overview and Scrutiny.

## **RECOMMENDED that**

- 1) The Housing Improvement Plan Quarter 4 2025/26 Update, which includes actions to address areas for improvement, confirmed as part of the Regulator of Social Housing inspection process, be noted.**

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- 2) The 2026/27 Housing Improvement Plan, which includes actions to address areas for improvement identified across the Consumer Standards be approved.
- 3) Delegation be given to the Assistant Director Environment & Housing Property and Assistant Director Community and Housing, following consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder, to revise the 2026/27 Housing Improvement Plan, in response to requirements raised by the Regulator for Social Housing, as part of their Provider Improvement Process, and in response to legislative changes.

## 10. Q4 2025-26 HOUSING PERFORMANCE INCORPORATING TENANT SATISFACTION MEASURES RESULTS - PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

The Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services presented a report on Quarter Four 2025/2026 Housing Performance incorporating Tenant Satisfaction Measures Results.

The Committee was informed that the Regulator of Social Housing had established the 'Tenant Satisfaction Measures' (TSM) which placed a responsibility on all social housing landlords in England to return performance information so that each provider could be assessed for how well they were providing good quality homes and services.

It was reported that performance during Quarter Four had been positive although there were a number of a number of key areas remained below target. This included the repairs completed within target timescales for non-emergency and emergency repairs (measures RP02.1 and RP02.2) where performance had been improving but remained below the required target at 77.6 and 93.1 per cent for non-emergency and emergency repairs respectively. Members were advised that proposals were in place to address this.

Other key areas where performance remained below target included the Homes that do not meet the Decent Homes Standards (measure RP01) and fire safety checks (measure BS02). In relation to anti-social behaviour, it was reported that there had been an increase in hate-related crime; however, this was attributed to improved reporting as such incidents had historically not been recorded under a separate category.

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Members were advised that a separate annual housing complaints report was also being reported to the Executive Committee.

In relation to the Tenant Satisfaction Measures, it was noted that the Tenant Perception Survey showed year-on-year improvements with increased tenant satisfaction recorded across the twelve measures. There was a 35 per cent increase in the response rate to the 2025/26 Tenant Perception Survey compared with the previous year.

A Member raised a query regarding gas safety checks, noting that the report referred to 134 tenanted properties where the gas supply had been capped. Officers explained that this figure included a combination of void properties, properties where tenants had refused access for gas safety inspections and properties where tenants had chosen not to have a gas supply. It was highlighted that the Council's Tenancy Team undertook visits to tenanted properties with capped gas supply to understand the reasons for the tenant having a capped gas supply, and take actions if possible to resolve the situation.

In relation to the measures, a question was asked in relation to the action which the Council could take in cases where tenants had damaged the property. It was responded that this area would be addressed through a new recharging policy which would detail how tenants could be charged for any damage. This policy would be presented for Members' consideration.

Members discussed the Total Mobile system implementation. It was noted that the project suffered from issues with initial consultant assigned to work with the Council that were now being resolved. It was explained that the Total Mobile system would automate the scheduling of repair and maintenance jobs and enable an electronic audit trail of job completion. The rollout of the system was now expected in July 2026.

The report recommendations were endorsed by the Committee as printed.

## **RECOMMENDED that**

- 1) The Council's Quarter 4 2025/26 Housing Performance in respect of the Tenant Satisfaction Measures (Landlord) are noted.**

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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2) The results of the Tenant Participation Surveys covering 2025/26 are noted.

## 11. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme was considered, as well as the items and topics suggested by Members at the Overview and Scrutiny Training and Work Programme Event on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026. The document detailing Members' suggested additions to the Overview and Scrutiny work programme, as made at the Work Programme Event, were tabled at the meeting.

The Committee agreed to add the items as set out in the document referred above to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. These items are:

- Introduction of Food Waste Collections
- Town Centre Strategy
- Community Investment Fund
- Housing – Housing Strategy Review
- Community Cohesion and Engagement Strategy
- Parking (parking violations and enforcement)
- Play Strategy (incl. progress within specific wards)
- Mental Health in the Community (including investigation of potential issues such as lack of mental health crisis support)
- Homelessness Strategy – considered at tonight's meeting but to include any future updates
- Post-16 Education including NEETs (Not in Education, Employment, Training)– and following up from the Task Group review that was being undertaken.
- Parks – including specific updates on Arrow Valley Lake and Morton Stanley Park.
- Review of Community / Neighbourhood Warden enforcement powers
- Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN) – information report including on impact of the network

The dates for consideration and the type of scrutiny format for each of these topics would be determined by Members of Overview and Scrutiny and relevant Working Groups in due course.

**RESOLVED that**

**the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be updated as per the pre-amble above.**

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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## 12. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME - SELECTING ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY

Overview and Scrutiny requested that of the items considered for addition under the previous item, for which there would be Executive reports, be added for pre-decision scrutiny at meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This included the addition of:

- Introduction of Food Waste Collections
- Town Centre Strategy
- Community Investment Fund

to the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2026 Overview and Scrutiny meeting agenda.

This is in addition to adding the Executive reports pertaining to updates on the Housing Improvement Plan and Housing Performance as discussed under the relevant agenda items at this meeting.

### **RESOLVED that**

**items from the Executive Committee Work Programme be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme as per the pre-ambles above.**

## 13. BUDGET SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP - APPOINTMENTS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered appointing Members to the Budget Scrutiny Working Group. Nominations were proposed and seconded for Councillors Sharon Harvey, Joanna Kane, Nicola Lloyd, Nic Pioli, and Rita Rogers.

On the nominations being put to the vote it was

### **RESOLVED that**

**Councillors Sharon Harvey, Joanna Kane, Nicola Lloyd, Nic Pioli, and Rita Rogers be appointed to the Budget Scrutiny Working Group.**

## 14. PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP - APPOINTMENTS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered appointing Members to the Performance Scrutiny Working Group. Nominations

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were proposed and seconded for Councillors Sharon Harvey, Joanna Kane, Nicola Lloyd, Nic Pioli, and Rita Rogers.

On the nominations being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED that**

**Councillors Sharon Harvey, Joanna Kane, Nicola Lloyd, Nic Pioli, and Rita Rogers be appointed to the Performance Scrutiny Working Group.**

## **15. POST-16 EDUCATION TASK GROUP**

Members considered whether the Post-16 Education Task Group should continue in the new municipal year and, if so, to appoint Councillors to sit on the Task Group.

It was highlighted by the Member proposing this Task Group review in 2024, Councillor Jane Spilsbury, that the proposal for the review had as its primary aim, to look at the training and course provision of the local further education college. It was confirmed that the Task Group had discussed the further education college post-16 course and training provision at one of its previous meetings.

It was commented that the Heart of Worcestershire (HoW) College in Redditch had responded well in this respect and had recently expanded its post-16 offer within Redditch as well as enhanced its special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision in Redditch. Members further discussed that the Task Group would aim to look at how to reduce the number of young people in the Borough who were 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET).

During the discussion it was agreed that the Task Group should continue with new Councillors and brought to a conclusion in a timely manner. Further, nominations were proposed and seconded for Councillors Sharon Harvey, Nicola Lloyd, Rita Rogers, and Jane Spilsbury to be appointed to the Post-16 Education Task Group. On being put to the vote it was:

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) The Post-16 Education Task Group continue in the 2026/27 municipal year.**

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- 2) Councillors Sharon Harvey, Nicola Lloyd, Rita Rogers, and Jane Spilsbury be appointed to the Post-16 Education Task Group.

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm  
and closed at 9.00 pm

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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## **Executive Committee**

**Tuesday, 9th June, 2026**

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### **MINUTES**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Matthew Dormer (Chair), Councillor Craig Warhurst (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Brandon Clayton, Gemma Monaco and Ashley Monk

#### **Officers:**

Neil Batt, Jess Bayley-Hill, Amanda Delahunty, Rachel Egan, Jonathan Elger, Georgina Harris, John Leach, Helen Mole, Katie Sharp-Fisher and Judith Willis

#### **Democratic Services Officers:**

Eve Davies

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Wanda King.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader asked Members to note that at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026, Members had pre-scrutinised the following items:

- Minute Item no. 7 - Shared Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2031
- Minute Item no. 14 - Quarter 4 Update and 2026/27 Housing Improvement Plan
- Minute Item no. 13 - Q4 2025-26 Housing Performance incorporating Tenant Satisfaction Measures Results
- Minute Item no. 17 - Construction of Redditch Innovation Centre

Following their discussions, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had endorsed the recommendations contained within the reports.

Chair

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In addition, amendments to the recommendations for the 'Construction of Redditch Innovation Centre' report had been proposed which were contained within the 'Additional Papers 2' pack.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Leader thanked the members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their hard work in pre-scrutinising the reports prior to the Executive Committee's consideration.

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

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

#### **5. SHAREHOLDERS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26**

The Principal Democratic Services Officer presented the Shareholders Committee Annual Report 2025/26.

The Committee was advised that it was a constitutional requirement for the Shareholders Committee, as a sub-committee of Executive Committee, to produce an annual report.

It was noted that a draft version of the report had been considered at a meeting of the Shareholders Committee in April 2026. Feedback had been provided at that meeting, with Members requesting additional information on work delivered by Rubicon Leisure during the previous year in line with the business plan, as well as the inclusion of further images. These amendments had been incorporated into the final version of the report presented.

The Principal Democratic Services Officer explained that, subject to any comments from the Committee, the report would be presented at the next Council meeting by the former Chair of the Shareholders Committee, Councillor Sharon Harvey.

In considering the report, a query was raised regarding the historical structure of the Shareholders Committee, which had previously been a cross-party Committee reporting to Council. Members were advised that, following a review of the governance structure and the seeking of external legal advice, it had been determined that the Shareholders Committee should operate as a sub-committee of the Executive Committee in line with best practice. Reassurance was provided that Group Leaders would

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continue to be invited to attend Shareholders Committee meetings and participate in debates if they so wished.

**RECOMMENDED that**

**the Shareholders Committee Annual Report 2025/26 be noted.**

**6. APPOINTMENTS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS COMMITTEE 2026/27**

The Principal Democratic Services Officer presented a report on appointments to the Shareholders Committee 2026/27.

The Committee was advised that, as the Shareholders Committee was a sub-committee of the Executive Committee, it was their responsibility to appoint Members to serve on the Committee, including the appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair. Only members of the Executive Committee could be appointed.

**RESOLVED that**

**1) The following Councillors be appointed to serve on the Shareholders Committee during the 2026/27 municipal year:**

- **Councillor Brandon Clayton**
- **Councillor Matthew Dormer**
- **Councillor Gemma Monaco**
- **Councillor Ashley Monk**
- **Councillor Craig Warhurst**

**2) Councillor Matthew Dormer be appointed as the Chair of the Shareholders Committee in the 2026/27 municipal year; and**

**3) Councillor Gemma Monaco be appointed as the Vice Chair of the Shareholders Committee in the 2026/27 municipal year.**

**7. SHARED HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2026-2031**

The Housing Development and Strategy Manager presented a report on the Shared Homelessness Strategy for 2026-2031.

It was highlighted that an earlier version of the Action Plan had been included in the report in error. Members were advised that the correct version of the Action Plan was also contained within the

## Executive Committee

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report and it was clarified which version they were being asked to approve.

The Committee was informed that Redditch Borough Council had worked in partnership with Bromsgrove District Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Wychavon District Council and Wyre Forest District Council to develop the strategy. It was noted that the Homelessness Act 2002 required all housing authorities to have a homelessness and rough sleeping strategy in place, based on a review of all forms of homelessness within their area.

Members were advised that a consultation had been undertaken and that the responses received had been considered and incorporated where appropriate.

In relation to measurable outcomes, the Committee was informed that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government had provided the required metrics for the Local Outcomes Framework. The core outcome measures were outlined as:

- The rate of households with children in temporary accommodation (per 1,000 households)
- The number of families in Bed & Breakfast accommodation for over six weeks
- The percentage of duties owed where homelessness was prevented or relieved
- The number of people sleeping rough on a single night
- The number of people sleeping rough over the month who were long-term rough sleepers

The financial implications of the strategy were outlined and it was explained that the new Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant would provide funding to support delivery. The Committee was advised that a separate report had already been presented to Members detailing spending priorities for the subsequent three years.

It was reiterated that the Council had a statutory duty under the Homelessness Act 2002 to produce a homelessness strategy, alongside compliance with the Homelessness Reduction Act, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the Renters Right Act 2025.

In considering the context of Local Government Reorganisation, Members were reassured that the strategy had been developed to be adaptable for incorporation into either one or two unitary

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authorities, pending the development of a new single strategy based on a fresh homelessness review as required by the Homelessness Code of Guidance.

An Equality Impact Assessment had been completed, which demonstrated a positive outcome, and it was reported that officers would continue to monitor impacts to ensure no adverse effects arose.

Members were advised that failure to approve the strategy would result in the Council not being legally compliant and could lead to potential increased use of bed and breakfast accommodation, higher levels of rough sleeping within the Borough, and negative impacts on physical and mental health, educational attainment and residents' ability to work.

**RECOMMENDED that**

**The Shared Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031 be approved.**

**8. QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Performance and Improvement Manager presented a report on Quarter Four performance.

The Committee was informed that a stable position had been reported for the quarter. The key highlights were outlined, including that one hundred per cent of major planning applications had been determined, there had been improvements in housing pressures and fly-tipping response rates had remained operationally stable. Areas identified for continued focus included recycling rates and complaints.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance welcomed the progress made and advised that, moving forward, there would be a greater focus on driving improvement in Council Tax collection and Business Rates. Concerns were raised that, whilst fly-tipping incidents had increased, enforcement activity had decreased, and it was noted that further work was required in relation to enforcement action.

In considering the report, Members also noted that it contained a typographical error, which referred to the previous Portfolio Holder as having been consulted.

**RESOLVED that**

# Executive Committee

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**The overview of Quarter 4 performance for the period January to March 2026 against the Council Plan priorities be noted.**

## **9. ENFORCEMENT AND CIVIL PENALTIES NOTICES POLICY**

The Private Sector Housing Manager presented a report on the Enforcement and Civil Penalty Notice Policy.

The Committee was advised that the aim of the policy was to improve housing standards across the Borough by establishing a proportionate and robust approach. It was noted that the policy applied solely to private sector housing and did not extend to housing stock owned by Redditch Borough Council.

Members were informed that the policy aligned with national best practice to ensure consistency with other local authorities across England and covered areas including housing standards, landlord behaviour, illegal eviction and harassment and the regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation. In line with the Regulator's expectations, the policy took into account risk, harm and tenant vulnerability, as well as evidential standards. The objective was to ensure consistency in officer decision-making, improve housing standards across the Borough and reduce health and safety risks, whilst ensuring that any enforcement action taken was legally robust and defensible.

Following presentation of the report, Members discussed a number of matters in detail:

- Members welcomed the use of civil penalties outlined in the policy.
- Queries were raised regarding capacity and resources for the collection of fines, including whether additional support would be required from the Finance Team. Officers advised that civil penalty processes were already established, as fines had been collected for a number of years, and that the policy extended the scope for issuing penalties. It was confirmed that legislation was in place to address unpaid fines through escalation procedures. Officers clarified that no additional resources were anticipated to be required.
- A typographical error relating to the named Portfolio Holder within the report was identified and noted for correction.
- Concerns were raised regarding the potential impact on the private rented sector, including whether the policy might

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discourage landlords and increase pressure on Council housing stock. Officers advised that this concern had been raised with central Government and reassured Members that enforcement would not be targeted at minor infractions, but rather at landlords who persistently failed to comply with legislation and placed tenants at risk.

- Members expressed concern that the service should not be perceived as being driven by income generation through fines. Officers confirmed that no targets would be set and that the Council would not be financially disadvantaged if no fines were issued. It was reiterated that the purpose of the policy was to ensure landlord compliance and to protect tenants. The Chief Executive added that the intention was to raise housing standards while supporting responsible landlords.
- The process for identifying non-compliant landlords. Officers advised that a national landlord database was being introduced, alongside proactive annual inspections, intelligence gathering and external referrals to identify landlords who were not registered. It was noted that it would be important to promote available support so that residents were aware of how to seek assistance where required.
- Members queried the level of funding expected from central Government. Officers explained that New Burdens Funding had been provided to support preparation for the new legislation, including computer system updates, staff training and administrative changes. It remained unclear whether any further funding would be made available; however, officers advised that income from civil penalties was expected to offset additional costs. It was further noted that, once teams were fully trained, no further funding would be required unless there was a significant and unanticipated increase in workload.

## **RESOLVED that**

- 1) The Private Sector Housing Enforcement and Civil Penalty Policy be approved and delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director Community & Housing Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to update the Policy in line with any legislative or government guidance updates.**

# Executive Committee

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## **RECOMMENDED that**

### **2) The Scheme of Delegations be amended to incorporate: -**

- a. Enforcement powers under the Renters Rights Act 2025 in accordance with the wording set out in Appendix 2**
- b. Enforcement powers under the Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Sector (England) Regulations 2020 and under Section 126 and Schedule 9 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 as set out in Appendix 3**

## **10. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION SERVICE DELIVERY**

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund Manager presented a report on Economic Development and Regeneration Service Delivery.

The Executive Committee was informed that business support and employment initiatives had previously been funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). However, the Council had received its final allocation for 2025/26 and no replacement funding had been forthcoming, resulting in a lack of external funding for economic development activities.

It was reported that the Council held an earmarked reserve for Economic Growth, with a balance of £841,000 as at 31st March 2026. Of this, £300,000 had already been allocated within the budget to continue delivery of the Innovation Lighthouse business support programme, leaving a balance of £541,000 available which could be used to support the continuation of business support and Youth Hub activity in Redditch.

Given the absence of replacement UKSPF funding, officers had been engaging with Worcestershire County Council and the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP) to explore options for the continued delivery of services.

Members were advised that officers were of the view that the proposed use of earmarked reserves to fund economic development and regeneration activity through Worcestershire Growth Hub and the Redditch Youth Hub represented good value for money. It was also noted that discussions with WLEP in relation to the Betaden programme were ongoing and subject to negotiation.

Following presentation of the report, Members had detailed discussion on a number of points:

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- It was queried how many businesses had accessed the Betaden programme. Officers advised that six businesses had used the service over the previous three years, with five of those businesses registering for the Incubate programme.
- Members questioned whether there were projections for the number of young people who would be supported by the Youth Hub. Officers reported that 493 young people had been supported since its launch in April 2024 and that numbers were expected to increase, particularly as an outreach programme was to be funded. It was noted that youth unemployment was rising, and additional resources were therefore being recommended. Discussion also took place regarding targeting support, with clarification that this related to the level of intervention required to support individuals into employment. Officers would ensure that the intended level of support would be clearly defined within funding agreements and reported back to Members.
- Members welcomed that the funding would be utilised within the Borough to support local residents.

## **RESOLVED that**

### **1) Earmarked reserves be released to fund economic development and regeneration activities as follows:**

- a. Worcestershire Growth Hub - £140,000**
- b. Redditch Youth Hub - £120,000**

### **2) Up to £70,000 of earmarked reserves be released to fund the Betaden programme with authority to agree the final contribution and associated outputs delegated to the Assistant Director for Regeneration and Property Services following consultation with the Leader of the Council.**

## **11. HOUSING TENANT ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

The Neighbourhood and Tenancy Manager presented a report on the Housing Tenant Engagement Policy.

The Committee was advised that the policy was intended for tenants and leaseholders of Redditch Borough Council. It was reported that a restructure within the Housing Team had taken place in the previous year, resulting in the establishment of a Tenant Experience Team. This team would work collaboratively with the wider housing service to facilitate constructive engagement, provide information to tenants and liaise with the Regulator of Social Housing.

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Members were informed that the aim of the policy was to increase tenant engagement. This would include enabling tenants to review policies, contribute to the development of strategies, consider the outcomes of significant complaints and participate in meetings. The approach sought to maximise opportunities for tenants to engage with the housing service, with proactive feedback being gathered to inform service improvement.

A focus on transparency and accountability was highlighted. It was noted that, whilst the Council already undertook a range of engagement activities, these had largely been ad hoc. The introduction of the policy would support a more structured approach and enable improved data collection regarding engagement activity and outcomes.

The Committee was informed that the policy represented a starting point for the development of a broader engagement strategy, which engaged tenants would help to shape. It was noted that tenant engagement was a regulatory requirement; however, the Council was also committed to this approach as a means of driving service improvement and positive change.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Local Services commented that the policy represented a positive step forward in strengthening tenant engagement.

The Chair requested that officers ensure efforts were made to engage with a representative cross-section of residents from across the Borough.

### **RECOMMENDED that**

**1) The Tenant Engagement Policy be approved and delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director Community & Housing Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to update the Policy in line with any recommendations arising from consultation with tenants and legislative or government guidance updates.**

### **12. ANNUAL HOUSING COMPLAINTS PERFORMANCE AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT**

The Neighbourhood and Tenancy Manager presented the Annual Housing Complaints Performance and Service Improvement Report.

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Members' attention was drawn to the self-assessment form submitted to the Housing Ombudsman, which was used to assess the Council's progress. It was explained that approval was being sought to amend the Complaints Policy in response to feedback received from the Housing Ombudsman.

The Committee was advised that all local authorities registered as providers of social housing were required to be members of the Housing Ombudsman Scheme and to maintain robust complaints handling systems. The Annual Complaints Performance and Service Improvement Report was a mandatory requirement to demonstrate compliance with the Housing Ombudsman's Complaint Handling Code. Officers emphasised the importance of being open and transparent with both tenants and the Housing Ombudsman, providing an honest self-assessment to ensure fairness, consistency and the appropriate handling of complaints.

Members were informed that officers were continually reviewing practices and embedding learning from complaint outcomes to improve service delivery. It was acknowledged that, where issues arose, these would be addressed to prevent recurrence. The Neighbourhood and Tenancy Manager noted that complaints could be viewed positively as they provided valuable feedback to inform service improvements.

The report outlined the number of complaints received during 2025/26 and provided a breakdown of these cases. It was noted that response times had improved, although further improvement was required. The report also detailed the learning outcomes from serious complaints and it was emphasised that complaints handling should operate in conjunction with tenant engagement activity.

Following presentation of the report, Members discussed a number of points:

- Concerns were raised regarding increases in several key complaint indicators, including Stage One complaints received, complaints escalated to Stage Two, Stage One complaints upheld and Housing Ombudsman requests. Officers advised that improvements had been made to the Council's website to support residents in submitting complaints and additional information on the complaints process was being included in correspondence. It was clarified that these changes had made it easier for tenants to raise complaints. It was also noted that there was now a

## Executive Committee

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clearer understanding of the distinction between service requests and formal complaints.

- A query was raised regarding benchmarking with other local authorities. Members requested information on the national median for Stage One complaints. Officers advised that this information would be provided following the meeting.
- The nature of complaints received was discussed. Members were informed that the highest proportion of complaints related to repairs and maintenance, followed by issues concerning anti-social behaviour and nuisance.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) The Annual Housing Complaints and Service Improvement Report be approved;**
- 2) The Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code Self Assessment be approved; and**
- 3) The Housing Complaints Policy be approved and;**

**NOTED that**

- 4) The reports referred to at resolutions 1 to 3 above, be published on the Council's website.**

**13. QUARTER 4 2025/2026 HOUSING PERFORMANCE INCORPORATING TENANT SATISFACTION MEASURES RESULTS**

The Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services presented a report on Quarter Four 2025/2026 Housing Performance incorporating Tenant Satisfaction Measures Results.

The Committee was informed that the Regulator of Social Housing had established the 'Tenant Satisfaction Measures' (TSM) which placed a responsibility on all social housing landlords in England to return performance information so that each provider could be assessed for how well they were providing good quality homes and services.

It was reported that performance during Quarter Four had been positive although a number of key areas remained below target. The highest volume of complaints continued to relate to repairs and maintenance. While performance in this area was improving, it remained below the required target at 77 per cent, Members were advised that proposals were in place to address this.

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Key statistics were highlighted, including safety compliance, with fire safety checks at 88 per cent. In relation to anti-social behaviour, it was reported that there had been an increase in hate-related crime; however, this was attributed to improved reporting as such incidents had historically not been recorded.

The TSM demonstrated year-on-year improvement, which was reflected in increased tenant confidence.

A Member raised a query regarding gas safety checks, noting that the report referred to 134 tenanted properties where the gas supply had been capped. Officers explained that this figure included a combination of void properties, properties where tenants had refused access for gas safety inspections and properties where tenants had chosen not to have a gas supply.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) The Council's Quarter 4 2025/6 Housing Performance in respect of the Tenant Satisfaction Measures (Landlord) be noted; and**
- 2) The results of the Tenant Participation Surveys covering 2025/6 be noted.**

**14. Q4 UPDATE AND 2026/27 HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services presented the Quarter 4 Update and 2026/27 Housing Improvement Plan report.

The Committee was reminded that, following an inspection in July 2025, the Regulator of Social Housing had identified that Redditch Borough Council required significant improvements in several areas, including repairs, maintenance, fire safety, tenant engagement and stock condition surveys.

The report demonstrated the progress made since that judgement, with eighteen actions having been completed. It was noted that work had also been undertaken in collaboration with the Regulator across the consumer standards, with relevant actions having now been completed.

Members were informed that the introduction of a tenant portal was intended to support residents by providing access to self-service options. It was also noted that the Housing Annual Report for 2026/27 would be shared with tenants and leaseholders by the end of July.

# **Executive Committee**

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The Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services acknowledged that the formatting of the Housing Improvement Plan (HIP) had been difficult to read due to the small font size and advised that this would be improved in future reports.

The revised HIP aimed to improve gap analysis and ensure that the Council could respond in a flexible and effective manner to ongoing and emerging priorities.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) The Housing Improvement Plan Quarter 4 2025/26 Update, which includes actions to address areas for improvement, confirmed as part of the Regulator of Social Housing inspection process, be noted.**
- 2) The 2026/27 Housing Improvement Plan, which includes actions to address areas for improvement identified across the Consumer Standards be approved.**
- 3) Delegation be given to the Assistant Director Environment & Housing Property and Assistant Director Community & Housing, following consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder, to revise the 2026/27 Housing Improvement Plan, in response to requirements raised by the Regulator for Social Housing, as part of their Provider Improvement Process, and in response to legislative changes.**

**15. MINUTES**

The Chair explained that there was a typographical error in the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting which took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026. Under 'Council Tax Resolutions 2026/27' item the minute should have stated recommended rather than resolved.

**RESOLVED that**

**Subject to the amendment detailed in the preamble above, the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.**

**16. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED that**

**Under S100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting**

# Executive Committee

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for the following matters on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the said act, as amended.

- **Minute Item No. 17 – Construction of Redditch Innovation Centre**

## **17. CONSTRUCTION OF REDDITCH INNOVATION CENTRE**

The Regeneration Project Manager presented a report on the Construction of Redditch Innovation Centre.

In relation to timescales, it was reported that construction was due to commence in Summer 2026 and that there was an anticipated seventy-week construction period with building works due to be completed by the end of 2027.

Speller-Metcalf had been appointed to work alongside the Design team to complete the stage four designs for the Innovation Centre. Members were informed that extensive value engineering had been undertaken.

The Chair informed Members that recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been proposed at a meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026. Details of the recommendations were tabled at this meeting.

Following presentation of the report, Members had detailed discussion and commented on several points:

- The impact any delays to the approval of the recommendations would have on the project.
- Members expressed that they would like to see the project progressed quickly.
- Members asked whether a number of contractors had been contacted for quotations.
- Members expressed that they were pleased with the service from Spellar-Metcalf and that they employed local residents.
- It was confirmed that the risk register was currently being updated and that Members would be given sight of the updated document.

# Executive Committee

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## RECOMMENDED that

1. The Council utilise all available underspend from within the Town Deal programme for construction of the Innovation Centre.
2. The Council accept the £2,425,000 Enterprise Zone funding from Birmingham City Council for the construction of the Innovation Centre and incorporate it into the Council's Capital Programme.
3. Subject to the agreement of recommendations 1 and 2, authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Regeneration & Property Services, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, and following consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, to enter into the necessary contracts and legal agreements required to implement the recommendations within this report.

(During the consideration of this item, Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to move to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

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

There was no urgent business for discussion at the meeting.

The Meeting commenced at 6.31 pm  
and closed at 8.00 pm

## APPENDIX 2

## Constitution – Part 4 – Table 4.04 – Community Services

## 2. Private Sector Housing

| Subject                                                                                                          | Detail                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Delegated by:       | Delegated to:                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Power of entry                                                                                                   | To exercise the powers of Authorised Officers in respect of entry, inspection and investigation in relation to housing conditions as specified in any legislation the enforcement of which is delegated to <u>the Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services</u> .                                                                                                                                                                                              | Executive Committee | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Services Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Manager] / [Housing Development & Strategy Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Officer] |
| General regulatory and enforcement activity for private sector housing (including Houses of Multiple Occupation) | 1. To exercise <u>all local authority regulatory and enforcement functions under the legislation listed below:-</u><br>Housing Act 1985<br>Housing Act 1988<br>Housing Act 2004<br>Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation Regulations 2006<br>Licensing & Management of HMO & other Houses (Miscellaneous Provisions) (England) Regulations 2006<br>Environmental Protection Act 1990 <u>section 79(1)(a)</u>                                                        |                     | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Services Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Manager] / [Housing Development & Strategy Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Officer] |
|                                                                                                                  | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Acts 1976, 1982<br>Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949<br>Public Health Act 1961<br>Licensing and Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (additional provisions) (England) Regulations 2007<br>Mobile Homes Act 2013<br>Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960<br><u>Housing and Planning Act 2016</u><br><u>Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector and Social Rented Sector (England)</u> |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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## APPENDIX 2

## Constitution – Part 4 – Table 4.04 – Community Services

## 2. Private Sector Housing

| Subject                          | Detail                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Delegated by:       | Delegated to:                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                  | <u>Regulations 2020</u><br><br><u>2. To institute legal proceedings for offences under the legislation listed above.</u><br><br><u>3. To impose a civil penalty for an offence as an alternative to bringing a prosecution.</u> |                     | <u>2 and 3 Strategic Housing Manager in consultation with Principal Solicitor</u>                                                                                           |
| Caravan Site Licences            | To approve a transfer or renewal of a Caravan Site Licence                                                                                                                                                                      | Executive           | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Services Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Manager] / [Housing Development & Strategy Manager] |
| Caravan Site Licences            | To approve licence for new site                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Council             | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Services Manager]                                                                               |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                     |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                     |                                                                                                                                                                             |
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|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                     |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                     |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Property Tribunal                | To make application to a Residential Property Tribunal in relation to enforcement or other provisions under the Housing Act 2004                                                                                                | Executive Committee | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Services Manager]                                                                               |
| Illegal evictions and harassment | <u>1.</u> To institute legal proceedings in respect of illegal evictions and harassment under provisions of the Protection From Eviction Act 1977 and Housing Act 1988 <u>(as</u>                                               | Executive Committee | <u>1 and 2</u> [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Services                                                                         |

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awareness and emergency action under the Housing Act 2004, sections 11,12,14,16, 20,21,23,25,28,29,40,41 &43 and undertake default work in respect of such notices where necessary.¶

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## APPENDIX 2

## Constitution – Part 4 – Table 4.04 – Community Services

| 2. Private Sector Housing                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Subject                                                                                                           | Detail                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Delegated by:              | Delegated to:                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                   | <p><u>amended by the Renters Right Act 2025).</u></p> <p>2. <u>To impose a financial penalty for an offence under section 1 of the Protection from Eviction Act (as amended) as an alternative to bringing a prosecution.</u></p>                                              |                            | <p>Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Manager] / [Housing Development &amp; Strategy Manager] <u>in consultation with the Principal Solicitor</u></p>                                                     |
| Renters Rights Act 2025 – investigatory powers<br><br>(Added following report on Renters Right Act in March 2026) | To exercise all powers in respect of entry, inspection, investigation, service of notices and other functions for the purposes of the following legislation: -<br>Renters Rights Act 2025 sections 114 to 132 (investigatory powers) and section 110 (reporting to government) | Executive Committee        | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Housing Strategy Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Team Leader] / [Housing Strategy & Enabling Team Leader] / [Private Sector Housing Officer] |
| Renters Rights Act 2025 Investigations<br>(Added following report on Renters Right Act in March 2026)             | To undertake investigations into potential offences under sections 33, 34, 39 and 56 of the Renters Rights Act 2025                                                                                                                                                            | Executive Committee        | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Housing Strategy Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Team Leader] / [Housing Strategy & Enabling Team Leader] / [Private Sector Housing Officer] |
| <u>Discrimination in the rental market</u>                                                                        | <u>To take enforcement action under Chapter 3 of the Renters Rights Act 2025, including the imposition of financial penalties in accordance with the Councils Enforcement and Civil Penalties Notice Policy</u>                                                                | <u>Executive Committee</u> | <u>Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services</u>                                                                                                                                               |
| <u>Stating the proposed rent and rental bidding</u>                                                               | <u>To take enforcement action under Chapter 6 of the Renters Rights Act 2025, including the imposition of financial penalties in</u>                                                                                                                                           | <u>Executive Committee</u> | <u>Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services</u>                                                                                                                                               |

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## APPENDIX 2

## Constitution – Part 4 – Table 4.04 – Community Services

| 2. Private Sector Housing                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Subject                                                            | Detail                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Delegated by:              | Delegated to:                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                    | <u>accordance with the Councils Enforcement and Civil Penalties Notice Policy</u>                                                                                                                                                |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <u>Private Sector Housing Enforcement and Civil Penalty Policy</u> | <u>To update the Policy in line with any legislative or government guidance updates</u>                                                                                                                                          | <u>Executive Committee</u> | <u>Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing</u>                                                                                       |
| Building Act notices                                               | To serve notices under the Building Act 1984, Sections 59, 63, 64, 70, 72(1)(a) 76 & 79 in relation to housing conditions, to undertake work in default and recover expenses.                                                    | Executive Committee        | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Services Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Manager] / [Housing Development & Strategy Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Officer] |
| Lifetime Grants - approval                                         | To approve applications for Lifetime Grants under the Housing Assistance Scheme and any subsequent schemes for works of repair, improvement, adaptation or thermal efficiency and applications for Landlord (HMO) Lifetime Grant | Executive Committee        | [Deputy Chief Executive] / [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Manager] / [Housing Development & Strategy Manager]                  |
| Disabled Facilities Grants                                         | To approve applications for mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant                                                                                                                                                                  | Executive Committee        | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Manager] / [Housing Development & Strategy Manager]                                             |
| Disabled Facilities Grant - Repayment                              | To waive the condition requiring repayment of a Disabled Facilities Grant in accordance with the Government's Criteria set out in Section 5.19(b) of the report to                                                               | Executive Committee        | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] following consultation with the relevant portfolio holder.                                                                                              |

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## APPENDIX 2

**Constitution – Part 4 – Table 4.04 – Community Services**

| <b>2. Private Sector Housing</b>                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                      |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b>                                       | <b>Detail</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Delegated by:</b> | <b>Delegated to:</b>                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                      | the Executive Committee on 7 <sup>th</sup> January 1999                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Lifetime Grants - cancellation                       | To cancel Lifetime Grant and recover interim payments for failure to complete eligible work within 12 months of approval date or to grant extensions of time for completion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Executive Committee  | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Manager] / [Housing Development & Strategy Manager]     |
| Council land and premises - dealing with Trespassers | To authorise the exercise of Local Authority powers under the Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994 relating to occupation of council land and premises by trespassers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Executive Committee  | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Manager] / [Housing Strategy and Enabling Team Leader]. |
| Proceedings for possession                           | To authorise the instigation of civil legal proceedings for possession of council land and premises occupied by trespassers without permission and further legal proceedings for their eviction from such land and premises.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Executive Committee  | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Manager] / [Private Sector Housing Manager] / [Housing Development & Strategy Manager].    |
| Council land - bunding                               | In connection with the construction of bunding to prevent trespass on council land or removal of bunding provided for such purpose the Executive Director of Leisure, Environmental & Community Services shall, before taking action, consult with relevant Ward Members and residents in the vicinity likely to be affected. The decision to construct or remove bunding shall be delegated to the Director of Leisure, Environment & Community Services following | Executive Committee  | [Deputy Chief Executive] / [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Manager] following consultation with Ward Members               |

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APPENDIX 2

Constitution – Part 4 – Table 4.04 – Community Services

|                                                                                  |                                                                                                                          |                     |                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                  | consultation with the relevant Ward Members                                                                              |                     |                                                                                                                     |
| Home Improvement Agency                                                          | To deal with day to day management of the Home Improvement Agency Service                                                | Executive Committee | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services] / [Strategic Housing Manager] / [Private Sector Team Leader] |
| Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015 | To implement enforcement powers under the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England & Wales) Regulations 2015 | Executive           | [Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services]                                                              |

- Deleted: Civil Penalty Notices
- Deleted: to approve the use of Civil Penalties in appropriate housing related offences as an alternative to prosecution¶¶
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APPENDIX 2

Constitution – Part 4 – Table 4.04 – Community Services

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## APPENDIX 3

| 4. Enforcement Powers – Private Sector Housing                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |               |                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Subject                                                                               | Detail                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Delegated by: | Delegated to:                                       |
| Electrical Safety Standards Enforcement Action                                        | To take enforcement action under the Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Sector (England) Regulations 2020                                                                                                                                    | Executive     | Assistant Director of Community and Housing Service |
| Housing Act 2004 – imposition of a financial penalty as an alternative to prosecution | To impose a financial penalty for breach of duties under the Housing Act 2004 (in accordance with Section 126 and Schedule 9 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016) such penalty set at £1000 for a first offence and £3000 for subsequent offence(s) | Executive     | Assistant Director of Community and Housing Service |
|                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |               |                                                     |

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