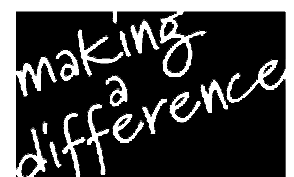


Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 7th April,
2010
7.00 pm

Committee Room Two
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

Access to Information - Your Rights

The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 widened the rights of press and public to attend Local Authority meetings and to see certain documents. Recently the Freedom of Information Act 2000, has further broadened these rights, and limited exemptions under the 1985 Act.

Your main rights are set out below:-

- Automatic right to attend all Council and Committee meetings unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Automatic right to inspect agenda and public reports at least five days before the date of the meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect minutes of the Council and its Committees (or summaries of business undertaken in private) for up to six years following a meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect lists of background papers used in the preparation of public reports.
- Access, upon request, to the background papers on which reports are based for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting.
- Access to a public register stating the names and addresses and electoral areas of all Councillors with details of the membership of all Committees etc.
- A reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports relating to items to be considered in public must be made available to the public attending meetings of the Council and its Committees etc.
- Access to a list specifying those powers which the Council has delegated to its Officers indicating also the titles of the Officers concerned.
- Access to a summary of the rights of the public to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees etc. and to inspect and copy documents.
- In addition, the public now has a right to be present when the Council determines “Key Decisions” unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Unless otherwise stated, all items of business before the Executive Committee are Key Decisions.
- (Copies of Agenda Lists are published in advance of the meetings on the Council’s Website:
www.redditchbc.gov.uk

If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact

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Minicom: 595528

Welcome to today's meeting.

Guidance for the Public

Agenda Papers

The **Agenda List** at the front of the Agenda summarises the issues to be discussed and is followed by the Officers' full supporting **Reports**.

Chair

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the Committee Support Officer who gives advice on the proper conduct of the meeting and ensures that the debate and the decisions are properly recorded. On the Chair's other side are the relevant Council Officers. The Councillors ("Members") of the Committee occupy the remaining seats around the table.

Running Order

Items will normally be taken in the order printed but, in particular circumstances, the Chair may agree to vary the order.

Refreshments : tea, coffee and water are normally available at meetings - please serve yourself.

Decisions

Decisions at the meeting will be taken by the **Councillors** who are the democratically elected representatives. They are advised by **Officers** who are paid professionals and do not have a vote.

Members of the Public

Members of the public may, by prior arrangement, speak at meetings of the Council or its Committees. Specific procedures exist for Appeals Hearings or for meetings involving Licence or Planning Applications. For further information on this point, please speak to the Committee Support Officer.

Special Arrangements

If you have any particular needs, please contact the Committee Support Officer.

Infra-red devices for the hearing impaired are available on request at the meeting. Other facilities may require prior arrangement.

Further Information

If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Support Officer (see foot of page opposite).

Fire/ Emergency instructions

If the alarm is sounded, please leave the building by the nearest available exit – these are clearly indicated within all the Committee Rooms.

If you discover a fire, inform a member of staff or operate the nearest alarm call point (wall mounted red rectangular box). In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately following the fire exit signs. Officers have been appointed with responsibility to ensure that all visitors are escorted from the building.

Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do Not use lifts.

Do Not re-enter the building until told to do so.

The emergency Assembly Area is on Walter Stranz Square.

Declaration of Interests: Guidance for Councillors

DO I HAVE A "PERSONAL INTEREST" ?

- Where the item relates or is likely to affect your **registered interests** (what you have declared on the formal Register of Interests)

OR

- Where a decision in relation to the item might reasonably be regarded as affecting **your own** well-being or financial position, or that of your **family**, or your **close associates** more than most other people affected by the issue,

you have a personal interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? **Declare the existence, and nature, of your interest and stay**

- The declaration must relate to specific business being decided - a general scattergun approach is not needed
- **Exception** - where interest arises only because of your membership of another **public body**, there is no need to declare unless you **speak** on the matter.
- You **can vote** on the matter.

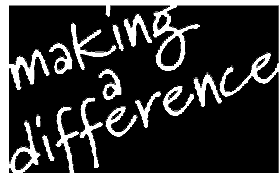
IS IT A "PREJUDICIAL INTEREST" ?

In general only if:-

- It is a personal interest **and**
 - The item affects your **financial position** (or conveys other benefits), or the position of your **family, close associates** or bodies through which you have a **registered interest** (or relates to the exercise of **regulatory functions** in relation to these groups)
- and**
- A member of public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably believe the interest was likely to **prejudice** your judgement of the public interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? **Declare and Withdraw**

BUT you may make representations to the meeting before withdrawing, **if** the public have similar rights (such as the right to speak at Planning Committee).



Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

7th April 2010

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	P Mould (Chair)	W Norton
	D Smith (Vice-Chair)	J Pearce
	K Banks	D Taylor
	G Chance	D Thomas
	R King	

<p>1. Apologies and named substitutes</p>	<p>To receive apologies for absence and details of any Councillor (or co-optee substitute) nominated to attend this meeting in place of a member of this Committee.</p>
<p>2. Declarations of interest and of Party Whip</p>	<p>To invite Councillors to declare any interest they may have in items on the Agenda and any Party Whip.</p>
<p>3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 14)</p>	<p>To confirm the minutes of the most recent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a correct record.</p> <p>(Minutes attached)</p>
<p>4. Actions List (Pages 15 - 18)</p>	<p>To note the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Actions List.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>5. Call-in and Pre-Scrutiny</p>	<p>To consider whether any Key Decisions of the Executive Committee's most recent meeting(s) should be subject to call-in and also to consider whether any items on the Forward Plan require pre-scrutiny.</p> <p>(No separate report).</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>6. Task & Finish Reviews - Draft Scoping Documents</p>	<p>To consider any scoping documents provided for possible Overview and Scrutiny review.</p> <p>(No reports attached)</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

7th April 2010

<p>7. Task and Finish Groups - Progress Reports</p>	<p>To consider progress to date on the current reviews against the terms set by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>The current reviews in progress are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Local Strategic Partnership – Chair, Councillor W Norton; and2. Joint Worcestershire Hub – Redditch representative, Councillor J Pearce. <p>(Oral reports)</p> <p>(All Wards)</p>
<p>8. Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel - Chair's Update</p>	<p>To receive a report from the Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel on any further developments in the work of the Panel that may have occurred since the previous meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>(Oral report).</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>9. Bus Pass Scheme: County Provision - Update</p>	<p>To receive an update on progress to date regarding the bus pass scheme for the County.</p> <p>(Oral report).</p> <p>(All Wards)</p>
<p>10. Good Scrutiny Awards Submission</p>	<p>To consider the contents of the Council's submission to the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Good Scrutiny Awards 2010.</p> <p>(Report under separate cover)</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>
<p>11. Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership (Pages 19 - 22)</p>	<p>To consider the Annual Report from the Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>(All Wards)</p>
<p>12. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report</p>	<p>To consider and approve the contents of the draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.</p> <p>(Report circulated separately).</p> <p>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

7th April 2010

13. Overview and Scrutiny: Work Programme Planning Event	To consider appropriate arrangements for an Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Planning event in 2010. (Oral report) (No Specific Ward Relevance)
14. Worcestershire Joint Scrutiny Meeting	To note the outcomes of the Joint Scrutiny Chairs, Vice Chairs and Officers meeting in March 2010. (Oral report). (No Specific Ward Relevance)
15. Referrals	To consider any referrals to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee direct, or arising from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Executive Committee or full Council• Other sources. (No separate report). (No Specific Ward Relevance)
16. Work Programme (Pages 23 - 28)	To consider the Committee's current Work Programme, and potential items for addition to the list arising from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Forward Plan / Committee agendas• External publications• Other sources. (Report attached) (No Specific Ward Relevance)
17. Exclusion of the Press and Public	Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Borough Director, 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".

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

7th April 2010



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17th March 2010

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Phil Mould (Chair), and Councillors K Banks, G Chance, R King, J Pearce, D Taylor and D Thomas

Also Present:

Councillor J Brunner (Portfolio Holder for Community Safety)

Officers:

M Bough, R Griffin, A Heighway, S Horrobin, D Kesterton, S Lacey, S Morgan, G Revans and L Tompkin

Committee Services Officer:

J Bayley, J Divala and I Westmore

192. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Smith and Fry.

193. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor of any Party Whip.

194. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd and 24th February 2010 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

195. ACTIONS LIST

The Committee considered the latest version of the Actions List and specific mention was made of the following matter:

Action 5 – The Civil Parking Enforcement Scheme

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Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17th March 2010

The majority of the actions listed had been completed. However, it was noted that the tour of those areas of Central Ward where the Civil Parking Scheme was in operation had still to be organised.

RESOLVED that

the Actions List be noted.

196. CALL-IN AND PRE-SCRUTINY

Councillors Thomas, Pearce and Banks informed the Committee that they had concerns about the decisions taken by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 10th March 2010 regarding the Voluntary Sector Grants Applications 2010/11 (Minute 269). These Members indicated that they wished this matter to be called-in for the reasons set out in written submissions that were tabled at the meeting.

A further meeting of the Committee was arranged at which the call-in was to be considered. It was agreed that the Committee should meet on Monday 22nd March 2010. The role at this subsequent meeting of Councillor Chance, a member of the Committee and, coincidentally, the Chair of the Grants Panel was clarified for the benefit of those present.

RESOLVED that

a meeting be convened on 22nd March 2010 at which the decisions of the Executive Committee in respect of the Voluntary Sector Grants Applications 2010/11 (Minute 269) would be considered by the Committee.

197. TASK & FINISH REVIEWS - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENTS

There were no scoping documents for the Committee to review.

198. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS - PROGRESS REPORTS

The Committee received reports in relation to current reviews:

a) Local Strategic Partnership – Chair, Councillor W Norton

The meeting was informed that the Group had produced a report detailing a number of interim recommendations arising from the work that had been undertaken to date. Councillor Norton explained that these initial recommendations focused on those matters that could be most easily addressed by the Council and Partnership.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17th March 2010

It was acknowledged that performance management would prove a more difficult area on which to make recommendations for improvement. The role of the Group was seen as primarily in devising a structure for performance management but there was uncertainty as to what aspects of the Partnership's activities might most usefully be monitored.

The Committee commended the Group on its work and noted that other authorities had uncovered similar issues in respect of their Local Strategic Partnerships. A final report from the Group was expected to be completed by June 2010.

b) Joint Worcestershire Hub – Redditch representative,
Councillor J Pearce

It was reported that no further meetings had been held since the initial meeting of the Group. However, members of the Group had visited both the main Hub facility and various district Hub facilities as part of an evidence gathering exercise.

Local Strategic Partnership

RECOMMENDED that

Engagement recommendations: ensuring that the Redditch Partnership involves the public in its work:

- 1) following pre-scrutiny by the LSP Task and Finish Group, the proposed format and content of the Redditch Partnership's revamped website coverage, to be hosted by Redditch Borough Council, be endorsed;
- 2) an event, along the lines of the We are Redditch exhibition, be held every year in a form determined appropriate by Officers;
- 3) the Redditch Partnership and appropriate partners should publicise their work and invite public reaction by providing regular updates in Redditch Matters;
- 4) the Redditch Partnership should hold and advertise an Annual Meeting, as required by the terms of the Partnership's protocol, which

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17th March 2010

partners, potential partners and members of the public could attend;

Accountability recommendations: ensuring the transparency and openness of the partnership:

- 5) a new item be added to the full Council agenda requiring the Leader of the Council to deliver regular updates on the work of the Redditch Partnership since the previous meeting of the Council;
- 6) the Leader of the Council formally deliver an Annual Report to the last scheduled full Council meeting of the municipal year covering the work of the Redditch Partnership by formalising the current practice of delivering an annual “State of the Borough” address;
- 7) information about the Redditch Partnership and LSPs should be provided for Members’ consideration as part of the Member induction process;
- 8) a training event focusing on LSPs should be provided as a standard part of the Member training programme each year; and

RESOLVED that

- 9) the Changing Places report should be considered as part of the subsequent Local Area Agreement Task and Finish review;
- 10) the membership of the Local Area Agreement Task and Finish Group should be drawn from the membership of the LSP Task and Finish Group; and

Task and Finish Group – Progress Reports

- 11) the progress reports be noted.

199. CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY PANEL - CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Chance, gave a brief update report on the work of the Panel. Councillor Chance reported that the Panel was in process of

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17th March 2010

working on a draft protocol and also that the Panel had agreed to co-opt a member of the Police Authority but that such a co-opted member would not be one who was currently sitting on the Executive Committee. The Chair also reported that the Panel had agreed on the work items and that the members were in process of identifying their first piece of work.

However, the Members of the Committee observed that the Community Safety Advisory Panel had a similar remit to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel and therefore agreed that this duplication was unnecessary and recommended that the Panel be discontinued.

RECOMMENDED that

the Community Safety Advisory Panel be discontinued; and

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

200. BUS PASS SCHEME - COUNTY PROVISION

Officers reported that Government was in process of introducing some changes surrounding the concessionary bus pass scheme, the major implication being that the County would take over administration of the scheme from the Districts. Officers also stated that a lot of consultation had taken place at County level on how the concessionary fares were administered. The members therefore agreed that it would be appropriate for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to continue to monitor developments with regards to County provision of the Bus Pass Scheme.

RESOLVED that

- 1) regular updates be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding developments on the Bus Pass Scheme, and**
- 2) the report be noted.**

201. COUNCIL FLAT COMMUNAL CLEANING - CONSULTATION REPORT

Members discussed the outcome of the consultation process following the Council Flat Communal Cleaning review and expressed disappointment at the low response rate. Members then

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17th March 2010

noted that a further and more targeted consultation work involving other stakeholders should take place on the issue.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

202. QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT - THIRD QUARTER 2009/10

Officers presented a Quarterly Budget Report for the Third Quarter 2009/10. The report highlighted that there had been some savings for the period arising from vacancies across the authority.

RESOLVED that

the Quarterly report be noted.

203. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT - THIRD QUARTER 2009/10

Officers informed the Committee that a structure called The Performance Management Group had been established to review performance against performance indicators (PI's) across the Council and to escalate concerns regarding underperformance to Senior Management Team. Officers also reported that the system of measuring performance had changed and that Council was now increasingly using neighbouring authorities to measure its performance, whereas previously Redditch had been part of a national "family group" of authorities.

Overall, officers reported that there had been positive improvement in most of the National Indicators. However, in areas where there was underperformance, officers stated that there were recovery plans whose specific details could be made available to the Members if requested.

RESOLVED that

the Performance report be noted.

204. UPDATE ON FLY TIPPING AND THE PROGRESS OF THE "WORTH IT" CAMPAIGN

Members received a presentation regarding recent performance in relation to tackling fly tipping and considered details that might be included in an Improvement Action Plan to address the problem.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17th March 2010

Members also questioned what impact the installation of security access systems to locations such as Woodrow flats had had on rates of fly tipping in those areas. Officers undertook to provide further information for the Committee following the meeting.

Overall, the Committee commended the officers for the improvements made in this area but also advised that more needed to be done in enforcement, raising of public awareness and increasing Community involvement, for example, by talking to schools.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the draft Improvement Action Plan be endorsed.**
- 2) **updates be provided on progress in relation to tackling fly tipping in the Borough at subsequent meetings of the Committee.**
- 3) **the report be noted.**

205. PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY - ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received an annual report from Councillor Brunner, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety.

A number of issues were highlighted during the report, some of which were:

- 1) The Committee observed that the Community Safety Panel did not hold any meetings in the previous year and wanted to know why this had happened.
- 2) The Committee also noted that Redditch Fire Authority as a member of the Community Safety Partnership had its crewing levels reduced and wanted to know if this crewing reduction was having an impact on community safety.

Councillor Brunner reported that the Community Safety Panel did not hold any meeting because Members did not request such a meeting. As regards the operational problems being faced by the Fire Authority, Councillor Brunner reported that she felt it was outside her remit to comment on another Partner's internal management. However, the Portfolio Holder stated that there were no safety incidents or concerns reported as a result of the issues stated above.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17th March 2010

The Committee reiterated that it was the responsibility of the Portfolio Holder to call for Community Safety Panel meetings and advised that it would be best to establish communication between the Fire Authority and the Portfolio Holder to share on the effects that operational problems were likely to have on Community Safety.

The Portfolio Holder also reported on a number of areas where progress had been achieved. The Committee commended the officers for job well done. Some of the areas were:

Licensing operations

It was reported licensing operations had been boosted in areas such as door security at night clubs; audit of licensed premises; licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire taxis where a Handbook containing details of taxi drivers had been introduced; and deployment of a Project Liaison and Enforcement officer who carried out random checks on areas where private hire taxis operated.

Bus Shelter

It was reported that old bus shelters had been removed and replaced with new ones resulting in less anti social behaviours in areas around the shelters.

Other Bespoke Projects

It was reported that one of the projects, the 5 aside football pitches, proved extremely popular among young people and the first phase had been completed. As a result of this project's success in the Borough, it was reported that the project was being rolled out Countywide as best practice. The Portfolio Holder also reported that there was an improvement in Hate Crime reporting as a result of introduction of some leaflets such as "See no evil, Hear no evil and Speak no evil"

Underpass Project

It was reported that a lot of young people were involved in this project and it had proved very successful.

Home Security Project

It was reported that this project had been advertised in Redditch Matters. The Portfolio Holder stated that prototype gates were installed in alleyways and as a result there had been reduction in anti social behaviour.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17th March 2010

CCTV

The Portfolio Holder reported that there were no immediate plans to expand the service but that the merger of two existing control centres was ongoing. The team had digital covert surveillance that could be deployed as a last resort but the Council was looking to employ mobile overt systems in addition to the present fixed overt cameras as this represented a more effective use of the Council's assets.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

206. QUESTIONS FOR THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP

Members considered the questions to be put to the Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership, Councillor Carole Gandy, to address in her Annual Report. The following questions were agreed:

- 1) What was your view of the LSP Task and Finish Group's recommendations?
- 2) What do you feel should be the priority of your Portfolio?
- 3) What do you believe are the:
 - a) strengths;
 - b) weaknesses;
 - c) opportunities; and
 - d) threats

of working in partnership?

- 4) What approach do you intend to take to disseminate information about and performance details for the Local Area Agreement (LAA)?
- 5) What has been most challenging about your role as Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership?

207. CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY - GOOD SCRUTINY AWARDS

Members received a brief update on the submission from the Council for the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Good Scrutiny Awards.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17th March 2010

Councillors R King and Thomas were due to attend the Conference and Awards Ceremony.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

208. REFERRALS

There were no referrals.

209. WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer reported a change to the current Work Programme, this being that the pre- scrutiny of the Business Centre Review which was previously postponed to the meeting of the Committee on 7th April 2010 had been further postponed to the Committee's meeting in June 2010.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Work Programme be noted; and**
- 2) the changes stated in the preamble above be incorporated into the current Programme.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 9.00 pm

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Chair



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22nd March 2010

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Phil Mould (Chair), and Councillors K Banks, G Chance, W Norton, J Pearce, D Taylor and D Thomas

Also Present:

Councillors M Braley, C Gandy, N Hicks and M Shurmer and M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

A Heighway, M Bough, C Felton and S Hanley

Committee Services Officer:

J Bayley, J Divala and I Westmore

210. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors R King and Smith.

211. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

Councillor Thomas declared a personal interest in Item 3 (Voluntary Sector Grant Applications 2010/11 – Call-in) as detailed separately at Minute 212 below.

212. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS APPLICATIONS 2010/11 - CALL-IN

The Committee considered the call-in of the decisions taken by the Executive Committee at its meeting of 10th March 2010 in approving the recommendations of the Grants Panel in respect of the Voluntary Sector Grants Applications 2010/11. The call-in had been instigated by Councillors Thomas, Banks and Pearce.

Councillors Thomas and Pearce had detailed a number of concerns prior to the meeting and these were outlined within the report attached to the agenda. To assist the Committee in its deliberations Officers circulated a timeline for the adoption process for the

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Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22nd March 2010

revised Grants Policy and correspondence between the Grants Panel and Third Sector organisations outlining these new arrangements.

Councillor Thomas expressed her disappointment at the apparent delay in implementing the new Shopping, Investing and Giving Policy as recommended by the Third Sector Task and Finish Group in 2008, of which she had been the Chair. In particular, there was concern that the Shopping element had not been brought into effect as this potentially represented the most significant proportion of the funding available to the Third Sector. The five organisations which had previously been core-funded by the Council had been provided with written notice that their funding was not guaranteed from April 2010 onwards.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gandy, referred to the timescales within which the Policy had been adopted and whether any unreasonable delay had occurred. It was noted that the Shopping element had been subject to further consideration during the second half of 2009 following proposals to revise the Policy that had been made by the relevant Portfolio Holder. Under these circumstances, Officers were not in a position to implement the Policy until it had been fully approved. Capacity issues in terms of Officer support had been recognised, leading to measures being taken to provide additional support, but this had not been a significant issue in respect of the Shopping element of the Policy.

The scoring criteria upon which the individual grants applications had been assessed was discussed. There was a degree of confusion as to the content of the agreed Policy in this regard and Officers apologised for an error in both the application guidance and in the Executive Committee report which suggested that only new projects not previously funded by the Council had been considered for funding. Officers clarified that the Council's adoption of the Shopping, Investing and Giving model provided the latitude for the authority to shop, invest or give without a commitment to do all three and with no particular allocation to the three strands. Without the prioritisation to or allocation of money for the three strands the Council had chosen not to shop for 2010/11.

Councillor Pearce raised the issue of the correspondence between the Council and the five previously core-funded organisations, the expectations that could have arisen as a result of this communication and the requirement to treat Third Sector organisations equitably. Representatives of the Grants Panel explained that its communication with the five organisations had the intention of mitigating the risk to those organisations and the Council, but that they had been scored against the same criteria as

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22nd March 2010

all other applicants for funding and had achieved the five best scores overall. Properly audited accounts had been provided for each of these organisations and it was made clear that Officers had made every effort to encourage local third sector organisations to apply for funding. It was confirmed that the proper policy, as it existed at the time, had been applied, although it was conceded that the policy required review to ensure that it might better assist the process and those applying for grant funding.

It was noted that no concerns had been raised in December 2009 / January 2010 when the intention to not undertake the Shopping element of the overall Policy had been agreed. It was also noted that none of the specific grants agreed at the meeting on 10th March could reasonably be questioned given the explanation provided by Officers and Members involved in the Grants allocation process. However, it was accepted that there were issues around the grants process that required further consideration outside of the present meeting. It was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had an important role to play in monitoring the implementation of recommendations that it made to the Executive. It was also requested that Members receive additional training on the call-in process and the conduct of meetings convened to consider matters that were the subject of call-in.

RESOLVED that

no further action be taken in respect of the call-in of the decisions taken on Voluntary Sector Grants Applications 2010/11 by the Executive Committee on 10th March 2010.

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillor Thomas declared a personal interest in view of her employment by Redditch Carers' Careline.)

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 8.30pm

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Chair

Actions requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date Action Requested	Action to be Taken	Response
14th October 2009 1	Officers reported an item that had been raised by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety for the consideration of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel.	Members agreed that this item should be referred for consideration at the first meeting of the Panel. Lead Officer, Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer, estimated completion date, not specified. (TO BE DONE).
25th November 2009 2	Members discussed NI 192: the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting. They questioned why the figures for September had not yet been provided by Worcestershire County Council.	Officers were asked to investigate the reasons for the delay in obtaining these figures. Lead Officer, Head of Strategy and Partnerships, estimated completion date not specified. (TO BE DONE).
3rd February 2010 3	Members requested further information regarding the convergence between Council rents and RSL rents, in particular the differences between these rents at the present time.	Officers to provide the information requested by Members. Officers have reported that this information should have been circulated for Members' consideration by 19/02/10. Lead Officer, Financial Services Manager and estimated completion date, 19/02/10. TO BE DONE.
24th February 2010 4	Members discussed their concerns about the civil parking enforcement scheme. Officers were asked to arrange and to accompany the Borough and County Councillors for the Central ward on a tour of the areas where the civil parking scheme was in operation.	This action remains to be completed. TO BE DONE. Lead Officer GIS/Design Officer.

<p>17th March 2010</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Members received a presentation on the subject of county provision of the bus pass scheme. They agreed that this subject was suitable for further scrutiny and regular updates should be provided for the consideration of the Committee.</p>	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme has been altered accordingly to enable the Committee to receive regular updates. DONE.</p>
<p>17th March 2010</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Members were disappointed to learn that there had been a low response level to the consultation process that had been undertaken regarding the communal cleaning contract for Council properties.</p>	<p>Officers to undertake further consultation work with a more localised focus, starting with Winyates and Exhall Close. TO BE DONE. Lead Officer, Head of Housing and estimated completion date, not specified.</p>
<p>17th March 2010</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Officers delivered a presentation on the subject of the Council's work to tackle fly tipping and progress with the implementation of the Worth It campaign. Offices were asked to deliver further updates at following meetings of the Committee.</p>	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme has been altered accordingly. DONE.</p>
<p>17th March 2010</p> <p>8</p>	<p>Members questioned what impact the installation of security access systems in areas such as Woodrow had had on the levels of fly tipping in those areas.</p>	<p>Officers to circulate this information for Members' consideration. TO BE DONE. Lead Officer Waste Management Manager, estimated completion date not specified.</p>

<p>17th March 2010</p> <p>9</p>	<p>Members received an Annual Report from the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety. They requested that the information relating to the performance of the Fire Authority, which was presented at meetings of the Redditch Community Safety Partnership's Tasking Group, be incorporated into the performance reports that were regularly presented for Members' consideration.</p>	<p>Officers to ensure that details about the Fire Authority's performance be incorporated into the performance reports considered by the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Committee from 2010/11 onwards. TO BE DONE. 27th July for the 8th September meeting of the Executive Committee when the first performance report for 2010/11 is due to be considered.</p>
<p>17th March 2010</p> <p>10</p>	<p>Members discussed the Centre For Public Scrutiny's Annual Conference which was due to take place in June/July 2010. Officers were asked to book a place for Councillor D Thomas to attend the conference.</p>	<p>Officers are working to book a place to secure Councillor Thomas's attendance at the conference. WILL BE DONE SOON.</p>



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Overview & Scrutiny

No Direct Ward Relevance

Committee

7th April 2010

PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNUAL REPORTS: QUESTIONS AND SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION WITH COUNCILLOR GANDY, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP

The following questions have been suggested by members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These questions will be posed to Councillor Gandy, Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership, at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on Wednesday 7th April 2010.

- 1) What was your view of the LSP Task and Finish Group's recommendations?
- 2) What do you feel should be the priority of your Portfolio?
- 3) What do you believe are the:
 - a) strengths;
 - b) weaknesses;
 - c) opportunities; and
 - d) threats
 of working in partnership?
- 4) What approach do you intend to take to disseminate information about and performance details for the Local Area Agreement (LAA)?
- 5) What has been most challenging about your role as Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership?

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

7th April 2010

PORTFOLIO HOLDER / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ROLES

The following role description for Portfolio Holders at Redditch Borough Council was adopted at full Council on 14th September 2009. This description outlines the role and responsibilities of a Portfolio Holder in detail. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may find it useful to refer to this role description when considering the Annual Report from the Portfolio Holder.

Executive duties

- To work at meeting the Council's corporate objectives, as set out in the Corporate Plan.
- To encourage performance improvement in all services, consistent with Value for Money principles and within the policy and budgetary framework agreed by the Council. This includes responding appropriately to statutory reports on external inspections and service reviews.
- To facilitate and encourage public participation in the Council's activities by engaging key stakeholders in the Council's decision-making processes.
- To oversee the publication of consultation papers on key issues and ensure that there is appropriate public consultation.
- To consider budget priorities and actions on the delivery of Council services within the overall policy and budgetary framework agreed by the Council.
- To consult with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on matters relating to the development and formulation of policy.
- To consult with local Ward Members about policy developments or service initiatives which have a specific relevance to their areas.
- To support positive relationships and practices through co-operative working with Officers and Trade Unions.
- To oversee the investigation of and responses to all Local Authority Ombudsman reports, including any findings of maladministration.
- To commission research, studies or the collection of information relating to policy issues or service delivery.

Portfolio Holder duties

- To provide pro-active political leadership and to be the principal political spokesperson for the designated function / service of the Council set out in the allocated Portfolio.
- To initiate (***subject to any necessary Executive Committee/ Council approvals***) and/or promote policies and programmes in the allocated Portfolio within the Council and externally.
- To provide political leadership in ensuring that service strategies, plans, objectives and targets within his/her area of responsibility are monitored, implemented and achieved.
- To present and consult on the Council's policies in the allocated Portfolio with the public, directly and through appropriate media.

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

7th April 2010

- To engage actively and represent the Council in appropriate local, regional and national groupings involved with the service areas set out in the allocated Portfolio.
- To make recommendations about the implementation of policies within the allocated Portfolio.
- To report to the Council on decisions made, actions taken and progress achieved within the allocated Portfolio.
- To consult with and report as required to the Executive Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- To commission and consider reports from appropriate Officers as required for the efficient discharge of the Portfolio Holder's duties / responsibilities.
- To keep abreast of national best practice / new initiatives in the areas covered by the Portfolio to help ensure high local service standards and provision.
- To consider and act on performance data and reports from the Executive Committee and the Scrutiny Committee.
- To contribute to the corporate development of the Council's policies and objectives through active engagement of the Executive Committee.
- To work closely with relevant Senior Officers of the Council to support the efficient management of the Council and to uphold high standards of performance and conduct and in enabling Officers to exercise any powers delegated to them.
- To attend meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as and when required.
- At meetings of the Executive, normally to present / speak to and to move any necessary motions in relation to his/her areas of responsibility.
- To advise the Executive on how to respond to a scrutiny report relating to his/her area of responsibility.

The above activities are in addition to the responsibilities set out in the Core Councillor Role.



Overview and Scrutiny

No Direct Ward Relevance

Committee

7th April 2010

WORK PROGRAMME

(Report of the Chief Executive)

Date of Meeting	Subject Matter	Officer(s) Responsible for report
ALL MEETINGS	REGULAR ITEMS	(CHIEF EXECUTIVE)
	Minutes of previous meeting Consideration of the Forward Plan Consideration of Executive Committee key decisions Call-ins (if any) Pre-scrutiny (if any) Consideration of Overview and Scrutiny Actions List Referrals from Council or Executive Committee, etc. (if any) Task & Finish Groups - feedback Committee Work Programme	Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive
	REGULAR ITEMS Quarterly Performance Report Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report Review of Service Plans 2010 / 13 Annual Update on the Implementation of the Civil Parking Enforcement Scheme	Chief Executive Chief Executive Relevant Lead Heads of Service Relevant Lead Heads of Service

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

7th April 2010

	<p>REGULAR ITEMS</p> <p>Update on fly tipping and progress with the Worth It campaign</p> <p>Update on the work of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel.</p>	<p>Relevant Lead Heads of Service</p> <p>Relevant Lead Heads of Service</p>
	<p>REGULAR ITEMS</p> <p>Oral updates on the progress of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Dial-A-Ride Task and Finish Group; 2. the Local Strategic Partnership Task and Finish Group; 3. Joint Worcestershire Hub Scrutiny; and 4. Bus Pass Scheme County Provision. 	
OTHER ITEMS - DATE FIXED		
7th April 2010	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report – Finalising Content	Relevant Lead Head of Service
7th April 2010	Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership – Annual Report	
7th April 2010	Sub-Regional Choice Based Lettings Scheme – Pre-Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head of Service

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

7th April 2010

7th April 2010	Work Programme Planning Event – consideration of items to be addressed during the event	Relevant Lead Head of Service
28th April 2010	Fees and Charges Task and Finish Group – Update on Implementation of the Charging Policy	Relevant Lead Head of Service
28th April 2010	Gender Equalities – Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
28th April 2010	Medium Term Financial Plan – consideration of best practice	Relevant Lead Head of Service
28th April 2010	Youth Employment at Redditch Borough Council - Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
2nd June 2010	Business Centre Review – Pre-Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
23rd June 2010	Performance Outturn Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
14th July 2010	Disabled Facilities Grants and the Lifetime Grant – scrutiny of the Countywide Scheme	Relevant Lead Head of Service
19th August 2010	Neighbourhood Groups Task and Finish Group – Monitoring Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
19th August 2010	Review of Ditches – Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

7th April 2010

15th September 2010	Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report – First Quarter	Relevant Lead Head of Service
17th November 2010	Update on fly tipping and progress with the Worth It campaign	Relevant Lead Head of Service
8th December 2010	Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report – Second Quarter	Relevant Lead Head of Service
19th January 2011	National Angling Museum Task and Finish Group – Update on Actions	Relevant Lead Head of Service
19th January 2011	Local Strategic Partnership – Final Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
9th February 2011	Civil Parking Enforcement - Annual Monitoring Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
2nd March 2011	Council Flat Communal Cleaning Task and Finish Group – Update on Implementation of Recommendations Stage Two.	Relevant Lead Head of Service
13th April 2011	Update on fly tipping and progress with the Worth It campaign	Relevant Lead Head of Service
June 2011	Third Sector Task and Finish Group – Stage Two Update on Responses to the Group's Recommendations	Relevant Lead Head of Service
OTHER ITEMS – DATE NOT FIXED		

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

7th April 2010

	Church Green Improvements Report – Pre-Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Dial-a-Ride Task and Finish Review – Final Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Local Area Agreement Review – Consideration of Scoping Document.	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Overview and Scrutiny Member Training on Pre-Scrutiny.	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Private Sector Home Support Service – Pre-Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head of Service

