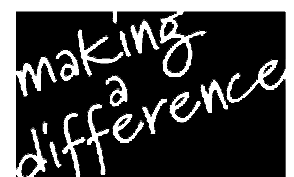


# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 25th August  
2010  
7.00 pm

Committee Room Two  
Town Hall  
Redditch



[www.redditchbc.gov.uk](http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk)

# Access to Information - Your Rights

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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.

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- 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](http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk)**

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**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

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### **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

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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

25th August 2010

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

### Agenda

#### Membership:

Cllrs: Diane Thomas (Chair) William Norton  
Anita Clayton (Vice-Chair) Brenda Quinney  
Kath Banks Mark Shurmer  
Bill Hartnett Graham Vickery  
Robin King

<b>1. Apologies and named substitutes</b>	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.
<b>2. Declarations of interest and of Party Whip</b>	To invite Councillors to declare any interest they may have in items on the Agenda and any Party Whip.
<b>3. Minutes</b> (Pages 1 - 16)	To confirm the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 22nd July and Wednesday 4th August as a correct record.  (Minutes attached)
<b>4. Actions List</b> (Pages 17 - 20)  C Felton - Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services	To note the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Actions List.  (Report attached)  <b>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</b>
<b>5. Scrutiny of the Forward Plan</b>	To consider whether any items on the Forward Plan are suitable for further scrutiny.  (No separate report).  <b>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</b>

# Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

25th August 2010

<p><b>6. Task &amp; Finish Reviews - Draft Scoping Documents</b></p> <p>(Pages 21 - 22)</p> <p>Councillor Graham Vickery</p>	<p>To consider any scoping documents provided for possible Overview and Scrutiny review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental Standards on Local Estates Task and Finish – Proposed by Councillor Graham Vickery.</li></ul> <p>(No report – checklist attached)</p> <p><b>(Greenlands Ward)</b></p>
<p><b>7. Task and Finish Groups - Progress Reports</b></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"><li>1. Joint Worcestershire Hub – Redditch representative, to be confirmed.</li></ol> <p>(Oral reports)</p> <p><b>(All Wards)</b></p>
<p><b>8. Climate Change Strategy</b></p> <p>(Pages 23 - 104)</p> <p>C John, Climate Change Manager</p>	<p>To scrutinise the contents of the draft Joint Climate Change Strategy.</p> <p>(Strategy attached)</p> <p><b>(All Wards)</b></p>
<p><b>9. Neighbourhood Groups Task and Finish Group - Monitoring Report</b></p> <p>(Pages 105 - 128)</p> <p>S Skinner, Democratic Services Manager</p>	<p>To monitor progress with regards to implementing the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Groups Task and Finish Group.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p><b>(All Wards)</b></p>
<p><b>10. Drainage - Update Report</b></p> <p>(Pages 129 - 166)</p> <p>C Wilson, Operations Manager, Asset Maintenance</p>	<p>To receive an update on drainage issues in the Borough.</p> <p>(Report attached and verbal presentation to follow).</p> <p><b>(All Wards)</b></p>

# Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

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<p><b>11. Budget Scrutiny - Feedback from Meeting</b></p> <p>J Pickering - Exec Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</p>	<p>To receive feedback from the chair of the Committee on the outcome of a meeting with relevant Officers to discuss budget scrutiny arrangements for the year.</p> <p>(Oral report).</p> <p><b>(All Wards)</b></p>
<p><b>12. Referrals</b></p>	<p>To consider any referrals to the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee direct, or arising from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Executive Committee or full Council</li><li>• Other sources.</li></ul> <p>(No separate report).</p>
<p><b>13. Work Programme</b></p> <p>(Pages 167 - 172)</p> <p>C Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services</p>	<p>To consider the Committee's current Work Programme, and potential items for addition to the list arising from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Forward Plan / Committee agendas</li><li>• External publications</li><li>• Other sources.</li></ul> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p><b>(All Wards)</b></p>
<p><b>14. Exclusion of the Press and Public</b></p>	<p>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:</p> <p>"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".</p>







# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22nd July 2010

## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillor Diane Thomas (Chair), Councillor Anita Clayton (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Kath Banks, Bill Hartnett, Robin King, William Norton, Brenda Quinney, Mark Shurmer and Graham Vickery

### Also Present:

Councillors Michael Braley, Brandon Clayton and Derek Taylor

### Officers:

A de Warr, L Tompkin, J Bough, J Staniland, C Felton and S Powell  
W Arthur and A Baker (Worcestershire County Council)

### Committee Services Officer:

J Bayley, Denise Sunman

#### 41. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor D Prodger, Worcestershire County Council.

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

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

#### 43. ACTIONS LIST

The Committee considered the Overview and Scrutiny Actions List.

- a) Referrals to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel – Actions 1 and 4

Officers reported that Items 1 and 4, relating to actions which the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel had been asked to consider, had been completed during a meeting of the Panel on 15th July 2010. A further report on the work of the Panel to address these issues would be provided at the following meeting of the Committee on 4th August.

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Chair

# Overview and Scrutiny

## Committee

22nd July 2010

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b) REDI Centre – Action 10

The Committee was advised that copies of the presentation that had been delivered on the subject of the REDI Centre had been circulated for consideration as requested.

c) Budget Scrutiny – Action 12

As outlined in item 12 Members were informed that a meeting had been arranged for the Chair to meet with the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources and the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services on 16th August to discuss budget scrutiny.

**RESOLVED that**

**the report be noted.**

**44. CONSIDERATION OF THE FORWARD PLAN**

Members considered whether any items on the Forward Plan, 1st August to 30th November 2010, were suitable for further scrutiny.

**RESOLVED that**

**the following reports be subject to further scrutiny:**

- 1) **Council Plan (Part 1)**
- 2) **Climate Change Strategy**
- 3) **Pitcheroak Golf Course – Operational Options.**

**45. TASK & FINISH REVIEWS - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENTS**

There were no draft scoping documents for the Committee to review.

**46. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS - PROGRESS REPORTS**

The Committee received oral reports in relation to current reviews, namely:

a) Local Strategic Partnership

Members were informed that a report would be presented at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4th

# Overview and Scrutiny

## Committee

22nd July 2010

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August 2010.

b) Worcestershire Hub Review

Members were informed that no further meetings had taken place regarding this review.

**RESOLVED that**

**the updates be noted.**

**47. BUS PASS SCHEME: COUNTY PROVISION - UPDATE**

The Chair welcomed Officers from Worcestershire County Council (WCC) to the meeting.

The County Officers reported that WCC's strategic aim was to promote sustainable travel throughout the County. Members were informed that little information on future funding had been received from the Department for Transport (DfT). He confirmed that, although there was awareness that concessionary fares were more of an issue for parts of the County, the County Council would be looking for a consistent approach across all districts. IT was further reported that different enhancement levels would be investigated across the districts but assistance with funding for these would be required at district level.

Members highlighted their concerns that any changes to the concessionary fares scheme, particularly removing availability for travel before 9.30am, would have a greater effect on Redditch residents than those living in the more rural areas of the County. They asked whether any investigations had been carried out to identify the effect of removing concessionary fares prior to 9.30am on the provision of public transport.

Members were informed that the County would provide a scheme that was in line with national requirements. Any discretionary enhancements to the scheme would need to be funded by each district. The County Council would be required to publish the scheme by 1st December 2010.

**RECOMMENDED that**

- 1) **a motion be put to full Council on 9th August 2010 asking that a letter be sent to the Department of Transport expressing concern about the lack of detailed information regarding funding for concessionary fares in**

# Overview and Scrutiny

## Committee

22nd July 2010

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2011; and

- 2) **the Executive Committee request that the Member of Parliament for Redditch be requested to make representations on behalf of the Council to the Department of Transport regarding funding for concessionary fares in 2011.**

### 48. OLDER PERSONS HOUSING STRATEGY

Members received further information and a verbal presentation regarding the Older Persons Housing Strategy for pre-scrutiny by this Committee.

Members were informed that three Categories were being proposed:

- 1) Category A
  - a) Older Persons Supported Housing:  
Suitable for persons aged 65 years old and over and who have an assessed support need.
  - b) Older Persons Housing (60 and over) – Bungalows:  
Suitable for persons aged 60 years old and over with preference to be given where there is an assessed support need or to a wheelchair user.
- 2) Category B

Older Persons Housing (60 and over):  
Suitable for persons aged 60 years old and over with or without an assessed support need.
- 3) Category C

Over 50's Housing:  
Suitable for persons aged 50 years old and over with or without an assessed support need.

Members were informed which properties were included in each category.

# Overview and Scrutiny

## Committee

22nd July 2010

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### **RECOMMENDED that**

- 1) **a further period of consultation on the options be carried out prior to any decision by full Council; and**
- 2) **the Council ensure that as a minimum standard, the same number of properties in each category be maintained for each area of the Borough.**

### **49. COUNCIL FLAT COMMUNAL CLEANING TASK AND FINISH REVIEW- MONITORING - CONSULTATION UPDATE REPORT**

Members considered a report on the outcome of focused consultation in Exhall Close and Winyates regarding communal cleaning arrangements in Council properties as suggested by the Council Flat Communal Cleaning Task and Finish Group in June 2009.

This further consultation work had been commissioned following consideration of the outcome of a wider consultation process with a larger number of local residents in February 2010 which had received a low response rate. During a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March it had been agreed that this response had been disappointing and that a more focussed approach to consultation might generate a larger response rate.

The Committee was advised that whilst the response rate had risen, particularly in Winyates, the number of residents who had participated in the more recent, focussed consultation exercise had remained low. Furthermore, whilst a number of respondents had been in favour of receiving a communal cleaning service there had been little support amongst residents regarding payment for this service.

The Committee concluded that the consultation process had revealed a lack of interest amongst residents in progressing the application of a communal cleaning service in all Council properties. Therefore, they agreed that no further consultation was required from Officers. However, members noted that residents could still collectively ask for a chargeable communal cleaning service to be introduced for specific Council properties where required.

### **RECOMMENDED that**

**no further action on consultation regarding cleaning of communal areas in Council properties take place unless**

# Overview and Scrutiny

## Committee

22nd July 2010

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groups of residents in properties, not currently included in the cleaning contract, approach the Council for a cleaning service.

### 50. REFERRALS

There were no referrals to the meeting.

### 51. WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the Committee's current Work Programme and noted that the following items would be considered during the meeting on 4th August 2010.

- 1) Local Strategic Partnership Task and Finish Group – Final Report;
- 2) Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel – Report from meeting on 15th July 2010; and
- 3) Petition – Winyates Ward.

Members were reminded that a Scrutiny Work Programme Planning Event, to which all members had been invited, would take place on Monday, 26th July 2010 in the Council Chamber commencing at 6pm.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00p.m.  
and closed at 9.12p.m.

.....  
Chair



# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4th August 2010

## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillor Diane Thomas (Chair), Councillor Anita Clayton (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Kath Banks, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett, Robin King, William Norton, Brenda Quinney and Graham Vickery

### Also Present:

Councillors Andrew Brazier, Jack Cookson, Carole Gandy, Adam Griffin, Malcolm Hall and Nigel Hicks

PC P Kennedy

### Officers:

H Bennett, R Cooke, C Felton, S Hanley and A Heighway

### Committee Services Officers:

J Bayley and J Smyth

## 52. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Mark Shurmer.

An apology for absence was also received on behalf of Councillor Juliet Brunner, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services.

## 53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor of any party whip.

## 54. MINUTES

### RESOLVED that

**the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14th July 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

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Chair

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4th August 2010

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## 55. ACTIONS LIST

The Committee considered the latest version of the Actions List. Specific mention was made of Action 2, the Joint Worcestershire Flooding Scrutiny Group's recommendations. It was noted that the recommendations were scheduled to be considered by the Council's Executive Committee on 29th September 2010.

### **RESOLVED that**

**the report be noted.**

## 56. CALL-IN AND SCRUTINY OF THE FORWARD PLAN

There were no specific call-ins relating to the Decision Notice of the Executive Committee meeting held on 28th July 2010.

It was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations on the REDI Centre Options (Min.44) and review of Redditch Borough Council's Sheltered Housing Stock (Min.46) had not been accepted. Members were informed that, if they wished, they would have further opportunities to raise the matters again when the Decision Notice recommendations were considered at the following meeting of the Council on the 9th August.

There were no pre-scrutiny requests in relation to items scheduled on the Forward Plan for consideration by the Executive Committee.

## 57. TASK & FINISH REVIEWS - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENTS

There were no draft scoping documents for the Committee to consider at the meeting.

## 58. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS - PROGRESS REPORTS

It was noted that the Local Strategic Partnership Task and Finish Group's final report was to be presented later in the meeting under Item 10 on the agenda.

The Committee received an oral update, supported by a written update sheet tabled at the meeting, in relation to the latest meeting of the Joint Worcestershire Hub Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on 27th July 2010. It was noted that, as the Council's representative, Councillor Hopkins, had not been able to attend the last meeting of the Task and Finish Group, the tabled written update had been provided by the County Council's Scrutiny Officers.



# **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**4th August 2010**

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The Committee noted the update which reported that the evidence gathering process for the review had concluded with recommendations being possibly discussed at the following meeting in September. Members were also informed that draft proposals were to be discussed with the relevant Portfolio Holder and Director at Worcestershire County Council in early October.

Members expressed their desire for further information about the matter and asked to be provided with a copy of minutes of the Task and Finish Group's meeting as soon as practicable.

**RESOLVED that**

**the update be noted.**

**59. PETITION - AGAINST ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN  
LOWLANDS LANE PARK**

(The organisers of the petition regarding anti-social behaviour in Lowlands Lane Park, Mr and Mrs Wall, were in attendance and spoke during the course of the meeting).

Under the Council's new procedures for the consideration of Petitions, the Committee received a Petition in relation to anti-social behaviour in Lowlands Lane Park. The Petition organisers, Mr and Mrs Wall, were invited to speak to the Committee on the matter and Members were informed in some detail about the problems being experienced by residents with noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour (drinking and use of motor cycles). This was particularly occurring after midnight, often in the early hours of the morning, and was affecting nearby residents' sleep and their quality of life.

The Council's three local Ward Councillors for the area were also invited to speak to the Committee on the matter and concurred that the issue had been discussed at both the June and July local PACT meetings in some detail, when a number of suggestions to resolve the problem were made, including securing the park at night and removing it altogether.

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4th August 2010

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The Local Police Officer for the area also addressed the Committee and confirmed that the matter had been designated a PACT priority which had resulted in a joint operation to target the area. A high visibility presence had been organised and daily patrols had also been undertaken during which no specific evidence of anti social behaviour (such as broken bottles) had been found. Members were informed, on request, that eleven calls on noise nuisance had been made in June, eight from the same person with a similar number in July, to which the Police had responded.

Members were informed that the park was multi-functioning and catered predominantly for younger children during the day with facilities in the evening for young people such as basketball. Officers reported that, for a second year, Play Ranger sessions were being held in the park, where work was undertaken with a targeted age range of 8 to 14 year olds from which there had been very positive feedback.

The Petitioners advised that the comments and work of the Police and Council Officers had been appreciated. However, residents had collected evidence which showed that anti-social behaviour was occurring and they suggested that relevant Officers should visit the park in the early hours of the morning to best assess the scale of the problem.

The Committee agreed that removing the park was not an option, particularly as it was the only park facility in the area. However, it was agreed that further work could be undertaken to resolve the matter and that a multi-agency approach would be the most suitable way to tackle any anti-social behaviour.

## **RECOMMENDED that**

**a multi-agency approach be adopted to discourage drinking and anti-social behaviour in Lowlands Lane Park.**

## **60. CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY PANEL - CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel's report on the work of the Panel was noted without comment.

## **RESOLVED that**

**the report be noted.**

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4th August 2010

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## 61. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TASK AND FINISH GROUP - FINAL REPORT

The Committee received for consideration, the final report of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Task and Finish Group Review from the Chair of the Review Group, Councillor William Norton.

Councillor Norton also provided an oral presentation and slide show, outlining the background to the review, the issues that had prompted the review, its objectives, initial findings, the actions that had already been taken to implement the Group's interim recommendations together with details and proposals relating to the areas still to be addressed.

The effectiveness of the LSP within the Borough and the County was discussed. It was acknowledged that whilst the LSP had lost its focus in recent years and was not perfect, it had, following its re-launch in 2009, improved and regained momentum.

Members also considered the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's role of monitoring the LSP on an ongoing basis to ensure it provided a focused and valuable service that was fit for purpose. There were some concerns about the Committee's capacity, given current the workload, to undertake regular reviews. It was suggested however, that the Committee could commit to six monthly review sessions for the LSP to scrutinising the Sustainable Community Strategy, both in draft form and at the end of the three year process, once every three years.

Members were reminded that eight interim recommendations had previously been considered and endorsed by the Committee on 17th March 2010 and subsequently approved by both the Executive Committee and the Redditch Partnership Management Board. The Committee was asked to consider a further seven recommendations.

### **RESOLVED that**

- 1) Recommendations 1 to 8, as detailed in the Group's interim report, previously considered and endorsed by Members at the 17th March 2010 Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting and subsequently approved by both the Executive Committee and the Redditch Partnership Management Board, be noted; and**

### **RECOMMENDED that**

# **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

4th August 2010

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the recommendations listed below be referred to the next meetings of both the Executive Committee and the Local Strategic Partnership Management Board for consideration:

**Monitoring: ensuring that the Redditch Partnership is subject to regular overview and scrutiny by Councillors:**

- 9) there be pre-scrutiny of each new Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- 10) there be a full review and audit of each completed SCS by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- 11) the Redditch Partnership and SCS be subject to six-monthly monitoring sessions by the Committee;

**Operational: suggestions for improving the future work of the Redditch Partnership and the next SCS:**

- 12) the next SCS have fewer, more focussed targets (four to six) which are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timebound;
- 13) for the foreseeable future, the SCS contain targets relating to health and education inequalities in Redditch;
- 14) the priorities within the SCS should reflect residents' priorities (as identified through consultation) and also dovetail with those of the Worcestershire Partnership; and
- 15) the Local Strategic Partnership be supported by a full-time permanent Partnership Manager reporting directly to the Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships.

## **62. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME PLANNING EVENT - OUTCOMES**

The Committee considered a report which summarised the main proposals that had been made by the Councillors who had attended the Scrutiny Work Programme Planning Event on 26th July 2010.

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4th August 2010

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Specific reference was made to suggestions regarding: the delivery of Portfolio Holder Annual Reports at meetings of the Committee; public engagement with scrutiny; and suitable topics for review in 2010/11.

In relation to Portfolio Holder Annual Reports, four potential options (as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report) for the delivery of the annual reports were considered for implementation in 2010/11. A suggestion that the Annual Reports be presented at Council meetings was considered. It was agreed, however, that Overview and Scrutiny was still the most suitable arena for the Portfolio Holder annual Reports to be considered for both scrutiny and practical purposes. It was instead therefore agreed that a combination of suggestions 1 and 2 would be more suitable. (Please view Appendix 1).

In relation to public engagement with scrutiny, the suggestions detailed in Appendix 3 to the report were discussed. Members considered that more should be done to raise awareness of scrutiny with the public. It was suggested that residents be provided with opportunities for public speaking at meetings on specific issues of local interest. It was also considered that, subject to looking into the practicalities of arrangements, residents might be more interested in scrutiny if the Committee were to hold external scrutiny meetings across the Borough on appropriate local issues of public interest.

In relation to future proposed topics for scrutiny, a list of issues (detailed in Appendix 4 to the report) were discussed. The Committee agreed that budget scrutiny (Item 2) should be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the course of the year. Members further agreed that scoping documents be submitted for the Committee's consideration on potential Task and Finish review work on Promoting Redditch (Item 14) and Work Experience Opportunities for Young People (Item 17).

A proposal that the "red flag" issues be considered for scrutiny was discussed. Officers advised that the LSP would be focusing on a number of the suggested topics, including the red flag items on health and education inequalities, during the course of the year and there was therefore the potential for work to be duplicated if the Committee agreed to undertake further scrutiny work itself. Members would be provided with and have an opportunity to scrutinise individual updates on the various areas of focus through the proposed six monthly reports to the Committee and key Officers could be asked to provide reports on specific areas to the Committee if necessary.

# **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

4th August 2010

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## **RESOLVED that**

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) a combination of Options 1 and 2 in respect of Portfolio Holder reports, be implemented by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2010/11 (see attached appendix for details);
- 3) the suggestions regarding public engagement made during the course of the Scrutiny Work Programme Planning Event, be noted;
- 4) relevant Officers be requested to scope options for public speaking at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings and look at the practicalities of holding Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings at various venues across the Borough on single issues as and when appropriate and report back to a future meeting of the Committee; and
- 5) the following topics be added to the Committee's Work Programme, if not already listed, for further scrutiny work, namely:
  - a) Budget Scrutiny - to implement appropriate arrangements for budget scrutiny during the year;
  - b) Promoting Redditch – locally, regionally and nationally; and
  - c) Work Experience Opportunities for Young People – to assess current opportunities and how they could be improved.

## **63. REFERRALS**

There were no referrals.

## **64. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee was informed that the agenda for the scheduled 15th September meeting was particularly busy. The Chair proposed that an additional meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be convened. Tuesday 21st September was suggested

# **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**4th August 2010**

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for this meeting, though this was subject to confirmation that there would be no clashes with other appointments in the Council's Committee calendar.

Members were informed that the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) would be hosting a Conference on "The Future of Overview and Scrutiny 2010" in London on 5th October. This conference was responding to legislative changes and would provide further information about effective scrutiny of partnerships. Members agreed that it would be beneficial if a member of the Committee could attend the Conference and Councillor King indicated that he would be interested in attending.

## **RESOLVED that**

- 1. Officers be asked to investigate the potential for having an additional meeting of the Committee on Tuesday 21st September and clarify that there would be no clash with other Council meetings;**
- 2. subject to the interested Members' availability being clarified, the Committee send a representative of the Committee to "The Future of Overview and Scrutiny 2010" Conference on 5th October 2010; and**
- 3. subject to any updates previously agreed during the course of the meeting, the Committee Work Programme be noted.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm  
and closed at 9.35 pm

.....  
CHAIR





**Actions requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

<b>Date Action Requested</b>	<b>Action to be Taken</b>	<b>Response</b>
14th July 2010  <b>1</b>	Members questioned what courses would not be provided if the REDI Centre were to be closed.	Officers were asked to provide this information in due course. Lead Officer, Project Development Manager, estimated completion date, not specified. TO BE DONE.
14th July 2010  <b>2</b>	The Chair reported that she had been impressed by an example of budget scrutiny which had been undertaken by Hertfordshire County Council and which had won the overall outstanding scrutiny award at the CfPS Good Scrutiny Awards 2010.	The Chair and Vice Chair attended a meeting on 16th August 2010 with relevant Officers to discuss the matter further. Lead Officer, Director of Finance and Corporate Resources. DONE.
22nd July 2010  <b>3</b>	<p>Members approved two recommendations relating to concessionary bus travel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) a notice of motion be put to full Council on 9th August 2010 asking that a letter be sent to the Department of Transport expressing concern about the lack of detailed information regarding funding for concessionary fares in 2011; and</li> <li>2) the Executive Committee request that the Member of Parliament for Redditch make representations on behalf of the Council to the Department of Transport regarding funding for concessionary fares in 2011.</li> </ol>	<p>These recommendations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The following actions have occurred:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The notice of motion was withdrawn by the Councillor proposing the item on 9th August. It is understood that the notice of motion will be resubmitted in September. TO BE DONE.</li> <li>2) The recommendation has been recorded in the minutes of the meeting accordingly. DONE.</li> </ol>

<p>22nd July 2010</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p>	<p>Members recommended that, based on the feedback from Officers, further consultation on the subject of introducing a chargeable cleaning service in the communal areas of all Council properties be discontinued.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been recorded in the minutes of the meeting and will be reported to the Executive Committee on 8th September 2010. DONE.</p>
<p>4th August 2010</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p>	<p>Members considered a petition on the subject of antisocial behaviour in Lowland Lane Park. They recommended that a multi-agency approach should be adopted to resolve the problem.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been recorded in the minutes of the meeting and will be reported to the Executive Committee on 8th September 2010. DONE.</p>
<p>4th August 2010</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b></p>	<p>Members agreed to adopt a combination of two of the models for Portfolio Holder Annual Reports that had been proposed during the Scrutiny Work Programme Planning Event.</p>	<p>Officers to contact the Portfolio holders to organise for their attendance at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to advise them about the new Portfolio holder procedures. Lead Officer, Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer, estimated completion date, not specified. TO BE DONE.</p>
<p>4th August 2010</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b></p>	<p>Members discussed the points that had been raised during the course of the Scrutiny Work Programme Planning Event concerning public engagement. With scrutiny.</p>	<p>Officers to scope options for public speaking at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings and the practicalities involved in convening Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings at various locations across the borough and to report back for the consideration of the Committee at a later date. Lead Officer, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, Estimated completion date not specified. TO BE DONE.</p>

<p>4th August 2010</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p>Members agreed to add the following items to the Committee's Work Programme, based on the issues that had been raised during the Scrutiny Work Programme Planning Event:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) budget scrutiny – for the committee to review;</li> <li>2) promoting Redditch – for a Task and Finish review exercise; and</li> <li>3) Work Experience Opportunities for young people in Redditch – for a Task and Finish exercise.</li> </ol>	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme has been amended to incorporate all of these suggested items. DONE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) an update will be provided by the Chair on this matter at this meeting. WILL BE DONE AT THIS MEETING.</li> <li>2) the Councillor who proposed the item, Councillor Vickery, has been contacted regarding completion of a scoping document for the proposed review. TO BE DONE.</li> <li>3) the Councillor who proposed this item, Councillor Gandy, has been contacted regarding completion of a scoping document for the proposed review. TO BE DONE.</li> </ol>
<p>4th August 2010</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p>Members agreed that a Councillor should arrange to attend the Future of Overview and Scrutiny Conference on 5th October 2010.</p>	<p>Officers to book a place to enable a member to attend the conference on 5th October. Lead Officer, Members' Services Officer, estimated completion date, end of August. TO BE DONE.</p>





## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Scoping Check List

When scoping a review, the Committee will need to consider the following questions:

1. Is there a clear objective for scrutinising this topic?
2. Are you likely to achieve a desired outcome?
3. What resources are available and what timetable do you need to comply with?
4. What are the potential risks?
5. Is this issue strategic and significant?
6. Is the scrutiny activity timely?
7. To what extent is this matter important for local people? For stakeholders? For the Electorate?
8. Does this issue correspond with the council's corporate priorities?
9. How long is it since this issue was last the subject of a review?
10. Is there evidence of real, perceived or imminent failure to a service or policy in this area?
11. What are likely to be the benefits to the council and its customers of this review?
12. What do other members think about this issue?
13. Is there media interest in the issue?

### Criteria to reject Items for Scrutiny

Items which have been suggested for review can be rejected if:

1. the issue was dealt with less than two years ago;
2. the issue is already being examined elsewhere in the council (e.g. by full council);
3. new legislation relevant to this issue is expected within the year;
4. there is no scope for scrutiny to add value, or to make any real difference to the service; or
5. policy that is being reviewed; and the objective(s) of the review are unlikely to be achieved in the specified timescale.



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**REPORT TITLE**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Brandon Clayton
Relevant Head of Service	Hugh Bennett, Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision - Not a key decision at this stage.	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

The report contains further information about the Joint Climate Change Strategy for Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that**

**Council adopt the Joint Climate Change Strategy; and**

**to RESOLVE that**

**the report be noted.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

The issues of Climate Change are not geographically specific. Therefore a joint strategy for reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change is proposed.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Council needs to bring down its own carbon emissions and influence the reduction of emissions arising from residents' homes, local businesses and transport.
- 4.2 The Council needs to prepare itself for increasing occurrences of severe weather which may put service delivery at risk.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is currently no specific budget for climate change activity. This strategy does not ask for additional funding, however, it does require acceptance of potential spend to save activity. Should funding be required,

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separate capital bids would be submitted. In addition, external funding will be sought wherever possible. A key proposal for funding activity is to identify efficiency savings, and then receive a proportion of those savings for climate change work, with the remainder returning to the Council's overall funding.

**6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Climate Change Act 2008 places the Secretary of State under a duty to ensure that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline.

**7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This strategy will set out the strategic framework in which the Council will tackle one of its corporate priorities of climate change.

**8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

As above, Climate Change is a corporate priority.

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY  
CONSIDERATIONS**

There is a risk that without a strategy the Council will not hit relevant National Indicator nor Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets.

**10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no implications for the Council's customers.

**11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

The strategy has implications for reducing fuel poverty and health inequality.

**12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET  
MANAGEMENT**

A large section of this strategy describes how we need to manage our assets in a more efficient way, saving both money and carbon emissions.



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**13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

This strategy has significant implications to improve the Council's performance in the areas of climate change, carbon management and biodiversity.

**14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

One of the strategy's actions is to review the mileage reimbursement rate as part of the Harmonisation of Terms and Conditions, with a view to reducing overall business mileage.

**15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The Climate Change action plan will be monitored quarterly.

**16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF  
CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

There are no community safety implications.

**17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The strategy aims to consider how it can reduce health inequality.

**18. LESSONS LEARNT**

No lessons have been learnt in the production of this report.

**19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

A consultation on this strategy will be carried out with key stakeholders across the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

**20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	No

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Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	Yes
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes
Head of Service	All
Head of Resources	
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	
Corporate Procurement Team	No

**21. WARDS AFFECTED**

All wards

**22. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Draft Climate Change Strategy

**23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Climate Change Act 2008.

**24. KEY**

LAA - Local Area Agreement  
LSP - Local Strategic Partnership

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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E Mail: ceridwen.john@redditchbc.g.gov.uk  
Tel: (01527) 64252 x3046

# Joint Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils (2010-2013)

“We face only one truly existential threat: that is climate change, the great moral imperative of our era”.

(Ban Ki-Moon, January 2009)

(insert Executive Summary – 1 page)

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**Foreword:**

This strategy has been jointly produced and demonstrates the importance of the issue to both our organisations and the commitment of our staff to ensuring that we act now to tackle climate change. The UK Government has committed to take action now and has introduced the Climate Change Act with a target to cut carbon emissions by at least 80% by 2050, with a minimum reduction of 26% by 2020 across the UK. We are keen to support and contribute to these targets and ensure our area is doing enough to tackle the issues and take advantage of the opportunities climate change will bring. We therefore welcome this Climate Change Strategy and hope that we can demonstrate that by working together, we can show leadership in this area and ensure our organisations are run sustainably and in a low-carbon way and that our communities are empowered to embrace this agenda alongside us.



Councillor Peter Whittaker



Councillor Brandon Clayton

Portfolio Holder for Climate Change  
Bromsgrove District Council

Portfolio Holder for Climate Change  
Redditch Borough Council

## 2. Vision and Objectives

**2.1. VISION - the Strategy's vision is to provide a policy framework in which the two Authorities can reduce both their own and their communities carbon footprints, mitigate against future climate change and identify how best to adapt for the risks and opportunities that future climate change will bring.**

- 2.2. This joint strategy is aligned to the Worcestershire Partnership Climate Change Strategy and both the Bromsgrove and Redditch Sustainable Community Strategies (2010-13) and is broadly grouped into three areas:
- **Mitigation** - which means taking action to tackle the causes of climate change - reducing emissions of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere arising from Bromsgrove and Redditch.
  - **Adaptation** – which means taking action to deal with the consequences of a changing climate, resulting from already emitted and increased levels of greenhouse gases.
  - **Raising awareness** of climate change related issues to our residents and businesses.



- 2.3. This strategy will allow us to play our part in delivering:
- on our National Indicator targets;
  - on our LAA obligations and recognises that a partnership approach is key to delivering proportionally big enough change;
  - it will ensure that we learn from each others though best practice;
  - but also allows us to deliver on locally important priorities relating to climate change and incorporate flexibility in our approach to dealing with climate change.

#### **2.4. Objectives**

- Establish our current carbon emissions baseline as organisations and communities and set targets to reduce them
- Identify the likely changes in climate locally and risk assess against them
- Communicate with all communities and promote active engagement; support innovative change and development of a greener economy locally
- Embed climate change activity across the Council and its partners
- Monitor and evaluate progress

### **3. Background**

#### **3.1. What is climate change?**

This strategy does not aim to explain the science of climatic change nor to persuade the reader that climate change is happening\*. Both Councils have acknowledged that climate change is real and intend to try and reduce our impact on future climate change.

Climate refers to weather patterns experienced over a long period of time, around 30 years, whereas weather refers to what we see on a daily basis. Climate change generally refers to weather patterns since the 1900's (UKCIP, 2010). Variations in the Earth's climate are normal, however the changes we are currently seeing are happening much faster than any natural variance would cause. The IPCC (2007) concludes that this is as a result of increasing human-caused emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>). If we want to try and pollute the atmosphere less with these emissions, we try to '**mitigate**' **climate change**.

#### **3.2. Why is climate change important?**

The effects of climate change will differ across the globe and inevitably will affect those who are least able to deal with the consequences disproportionately. The UK Climate Impact Profile (UKCIP) projected in 2009 that the following changes are likely to occur in the West Midlands under a medium emissions scenario – acknowledging these changes and aiming to reduce their impact is known as '**adapting**' to **climate change**, please note these are average predictions:

\*If required, more detailed information regarding the science of climate change is available from the Met Office (<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climatechange/guide/>) or Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch))

Table x: Predicted changes to climate

Impact	By 2020's	By 2050's	By 2080's
Hotter, drier summers	Average mean summer temperature rises between 1.5 °C	Average mean summer temperature rises by 2.6 °C	Average mean summer temperature increases by 3.7 °C
	Average summer precipitation reduces by 7%	Average summer precipitation reduces by 17%	Average summer precipitation reduces by 30%
Milder, wetter winters	Average winter temperature rises by 1.3 °C	Average winter temperature increases by 2.1 °C	Average winter temperature increases by 2.9 °C
	Average precipitation increases by 5%	Average precipitation changes by 13%	Average precipitation changes by 17%

(Source: UKCIP 09)

According to the prominent economist, Sir Nicholas Stern (2006), “the price of inaction would be extraordinary and the cost of action modest” – suggesting that investment of 2% of UK GDP would be appropriate funding for the climate change agenda. This strategy therefore requires the acceptance of the ‘**spend to save**’ concept.

The Earth's changing climate was shown to be an important concern for Worcestershire residents – in a recent survey only 7% of respondents were not at all concerned about climate change (Citizens Panel, 2009). This high awareness of the importance of Climate Change will hopefully mean that residents will be receptive to change and will embrace the opportunity to influence this agenda on a personal basis.

Worcestershire Partnership's (2006) study illustrates a changing climate in the County; Worcestershire's annual temperature has risen by 0.6°C since the 1900s coupled with an increased intensity of rainfall events. This is predicted to continue, and will also include increased frequency of extreme weather events, such as storms and floods. The effects of this can be devastating, e.g. the 2007 floods cost Worcestershire over £150 million, and affected both households and businesses. Although a single such event cannot be singly attributed to climate change, the increased frequency of flooding, (both fluvial and pluvial events) is clearly being seen within the County.

The extent of how serious the impact of climate change is, will ultimately depend on how we react now. Historic GHG emissions emitted will continue to exist in the atmosphere for some time. However, continuing with this trend will only amplify the impact of climate change, which is why it is very important that we begin to reduce emissions right away. Taking action to tackle climate change can provide numerous benefits. For example, improving the energy efficiency of our homes can help combat rising fuel costs and tackle cold and damp associated health problems as well as reducing emissions. For the business sector, climate change may provide opportunities, for example in the environmental technologies sector and the development of green collar economies. For the Councils internally, we can combine reducing emissions with reducing ongoing revenue costs.

### **3.3. Other reasons to act**

- Security of supply – we need to ensure we have access to secure, clean and affordable energy sources
- Health Issues – e.g. reduced emissions will result in better air quality, increased cycling/walking and healthier living may impact on obesity and fitness levels; and

- Social – increased summer temperatures can lead to increased summer deaths, illness (e.g. food poisoning) but milder winters may reduce excess winter deaths, a particular area of concern in Bromsgrove.
- Economic issues – increased severe weather events can cause disruption to the point where it affects the economy, for example the transport network is vulnerable to roads melting, rail tracks buckling, drainage issues leading to flooding etc.
- Other factors, will, in time, also influence activity, for example Peak Oil (when the fossil fuel generation of oil production peaks and begins to decline, prices will increase; although global demand will likely be sustained or be increasing). A number of scientists predict we are very close to peak oil, and although this will have a massive impact on global travel, food supplies and energy security, until recently, little attention has been given to the issue. Reducing our reliance on oil and other non-renewable fossil fuels now, can therefore only increase our resilience to future changes in production.

### 3.4. How can we respond?

There are significant economic and social drivers which push LA's towards leadership on these issues including maintenance and improvement of quality of life for our residents, ensuring sustainable and green economic development and sensible consumption of resources.

This strategy aims to tackle the issue of climate change in a more coordinated manner, to ensure that our objectives are met in the most efficient way possible, with the most far ranging benefits for all, bearing in mind the severe financial restrictions being placed on local government for the foreseeable future. Essentially, we need to lead on and influence community wide carbon emissions reductions and increase the resilience of Bromsgrove and Redditch to inevitable changes that climate change will bring.

We recognise that there are some tough decisions to be made if we are to ensure the future viability and sustainability of the Redditch and Bromsgrove areas and we believe that this strategy provides a platform for us to begin to do this.

## **4. Strategic context**

The Climate Change Act (2008) resulted in a legally binding obligation on the UK to reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80% from 1990 levels. In 2007, total UK emissions were 532 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e/yr tonnes (532'000'000 tonnes). In addition, the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) means that large energy users can no longer ignore the issue.

There is also an interim target in the Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009) of reducing UK carbon emissions by 34% by 2020.

Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) also requires the UK to source 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 (2008 level was 5.4%)

National Indicators relating to Climate Change were introduced in 2008/9.

Climate Change is one of the few issues that political parties have a consensus on...

- Conservatives (2010)“A Conservative Government will make developing renewable and low carbon energy sources a priority”
- Liberal Democrats (2010) “We believe achieving sustainability cannot be done by one government department alone. Damage to our environment damages personal health, impoverishes economies and weakens communities”
- Labour (2010) “Climate change is the greatest long term threat facing the world today. We all need to make changes to help our environment and avoid the terrible consequences of climate change” .

**The new Coalition Government have stated: “this will be the greenest Government ever” and have pledged to reduce their own emissions by 10% by May 2011 (David Cameron, May 2010)**

At the County level, the Worcestershire Partnership has made tackling climate change a key crosscutting issue throughout its Sustainable Community Strategy and the Worcestershire Partnership Environment Group, along with the Worcestershire Climate Change Task Group has developed the Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy and Pledge, which both Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council have signed. In addition, the Worcestershire Local Area Agreement (LAA) includes a number of targets to help tackle climate change.

Both Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) and Redditch Borough Council (RBC) are signatories of the Nottingham Declaration and key partners in the delivery of the LAA. The Bromsgrove Partnership, in which BDC is a key partner agency, has prioritised climate change mitigation and adaptation in 2009/10 as their key environmental objectives for the next few years. Redditch Partnership of which RBC is a key partner agency has climate change as ‘golden thread’ running through its Sustainable Community Strategy. Both Councils have included climate change as key corporate priorities in their corporate plans and both have signed up to the 10:10 commitment, pledging to aim to cut emissions by 10% in 2010, in addition to existing commitments to the Nottingham Declaration and Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge.

#### **What and where are our current emissions, and what might future emissions be?**

The maps below show the main sources of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Bromsgrove and Redditch district. The highest concentrations of emissions are from our towns, main roads and industrial estates. Central government now provide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions data for each Local Authority area and 2005 data was used as the baseline for Worcestershire’s emissions reduction targets (NI 186), being the first year of detailed CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring activity.

Figure x: 2007 split of emissions by area

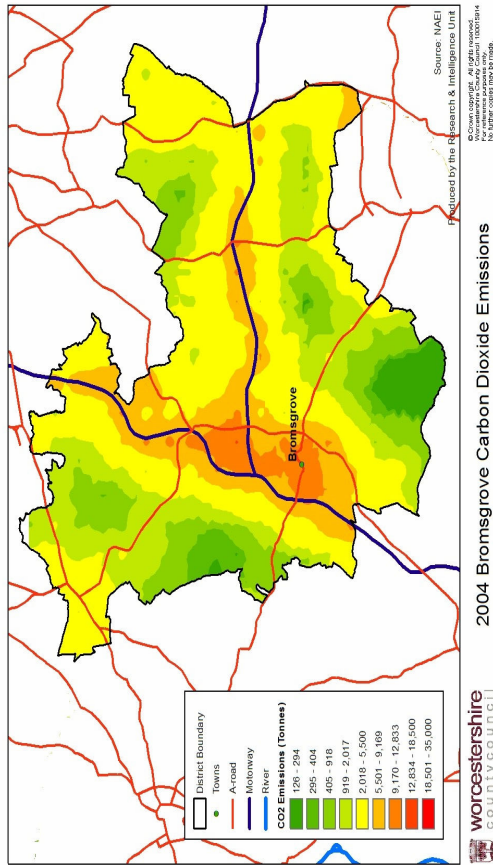
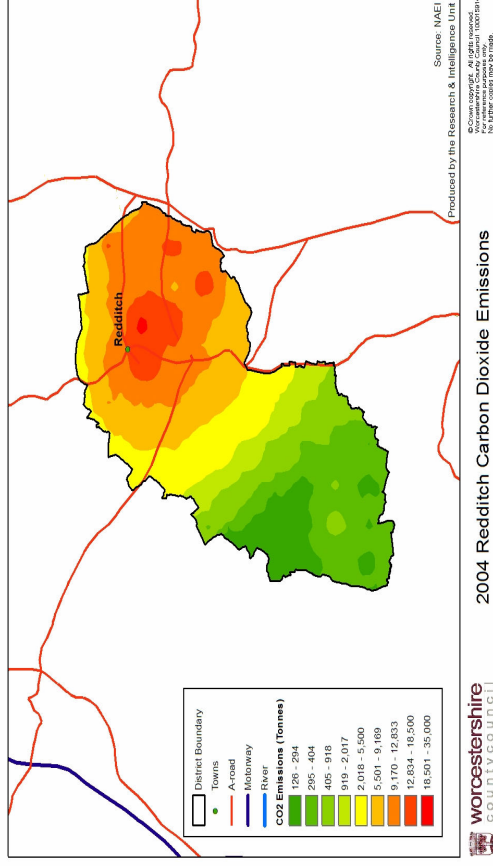
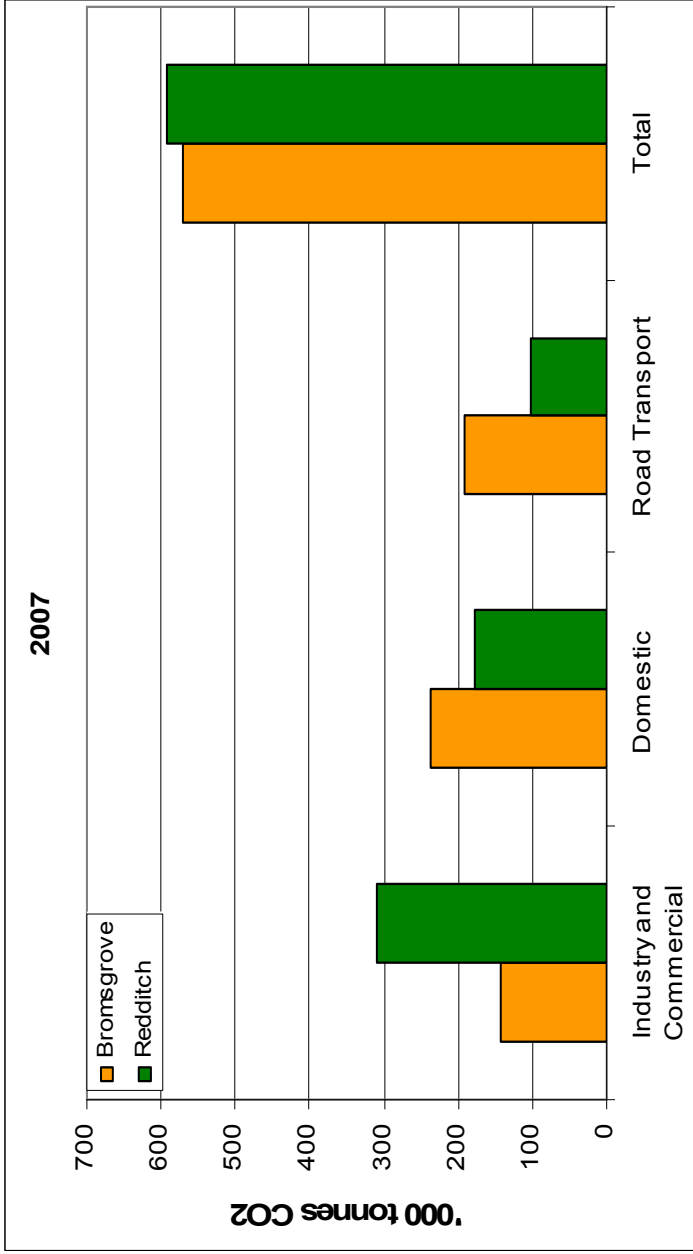


Figure x illustrates differences between the two areas, notably that Redditch has far higher industrial emissions, but much lower transport emissions. The older housing stock and potential income-based factors in Bromsgrove probably influences for the higher domestic emission results.





**What might future emissions be?**

Emissions in both areas rose between 2005 and 2006 but reduced slightly in 2007. It is anticipated that emissions will also reduce in 2008-10 as a result of the economic situation.

## 5. Performance management – Indicators and data quality

Central Government announced new climate change performance national indicators (Nis) in 2008. Three of the following indicators are also LAA indicators (NI186, NI187, NI188).

### NI185 – CO2 reduction from local authority (LA) operations

**Rationale:** Action by local authorities is likely to be critical to the achievement of Government's climate change objectives. The public sector is in a key position to lead on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction by setting a behavioural and strategic example to the private sector and the communities they serve. The manner in which the local authority delivers its functions can achieve CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions.

The aim of this indicator is to measure the progress of local authorities to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the relevant buildings and transport used to deliver its functions and to encourage them to demonstrate leadership on tackling climate change.

Measurement against this indicator will require each local authority to calculate their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from analysis of the energy and fuel use in their relevant buildings and transport, including where these services have been outsourced.

**Definition:** Percentage CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from LA operations:

The indicator being assessed will be a year on year measured reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: is the total amount of direct and indirect CO<sub>2</sub> emitted as a result of LA operations.

Direct emissions are emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the local authority, e.g. emissions from the combustion in owned or controlled boilers and vehicles.

Indirect emissions are emissions that are a consequence of the activities of the local authority, but occur at sources owned or controlled by another entity, i.e. emissions from consumption of purchased electricity or heat, transport-related activities in vehicles not owned or controlled by the local authority and outsourced activities.

**LA Operations:** The delivery of the relevant functions of a local authority which result (either directly or indirectly) in the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Functions of an authority covers all their own operations and outsourced services. Even if the services are being provided by an external body (e.g. a private company) they remain the function of the authority. This includes schools, but excludes social housing.

**Good performance:** Year on Year reductions

**Baseline Year (2008/9):** Bromsgrove DC (349 employees) – **2414** tonnes; Redditch BC (997 employees) – **3788** tonnes

**Current position** – 2009/10 estimated out-turns are:

Bromsgrove – 2515 tonnes (5% increase) – buildings emissions have gone up 10%, staff and Councillor mileage up 18%, but a reduction in operational fleet emissions.

**Redditch – tbc** – anticipate approx 3% reduction

**Three year target (2013)** – 6% overall reduction from baseline for both Authorities

**Long term target** – by 2020 – anticipate 12% overall reduction from baseline for both Authorities

### NI186 - Per capita reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the LA area

**Rationale:** Action by local authorities is likely to be critical to the achievement of Government's climate change objectives. Local authorities are uniquely placed to provide vision and leadership to local communities by raising awareness and to influence behaviours. In addition, through their powers and responsibilities (housing, planning, local transport and powers to promote well-being) and by working with their Local Strategic Partnership they can have significant influence over emissions in their local areas.

This indicator relies on centrally produced statistics to measure end user CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the local area from:

- Business and Public Sector,
- Domestic housing, and
- Road transport

This data is already captured and analysed to produce area by area carbon emissions per capita. It is sufficiently robust with relatively low levels of uncertainty.

The percentage reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> per capita in each local authority area will be reported annually. The statistics for 2005 will be used as the baseline.

**Definition: Percentage reduction of the per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the local authority area:** The indicator comprises of an annual amount of end user CO<sub>2</sub> emissions across an agreed set of sectors (housing, road transport and business) measured as a percentage reduction (or increase) of the per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emission from the 2005 baseline year.

**End user:** calculations allocate emissions from fuel producers to fuel users. The end user calculation therefore allows estimates to be made of emissions for a consumer of fuel, which also include the emissions from producing the fuel the consumer has used.

**Domestic Housing:** All housing in the local authority area, including Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMOs), privately owned and leased housing

**Business:** Industry and commercial emissions, including public sector, but not those included in the EU Emissions trading scheme

**Road Traffic:** All road traffic, (but excluding motorways)

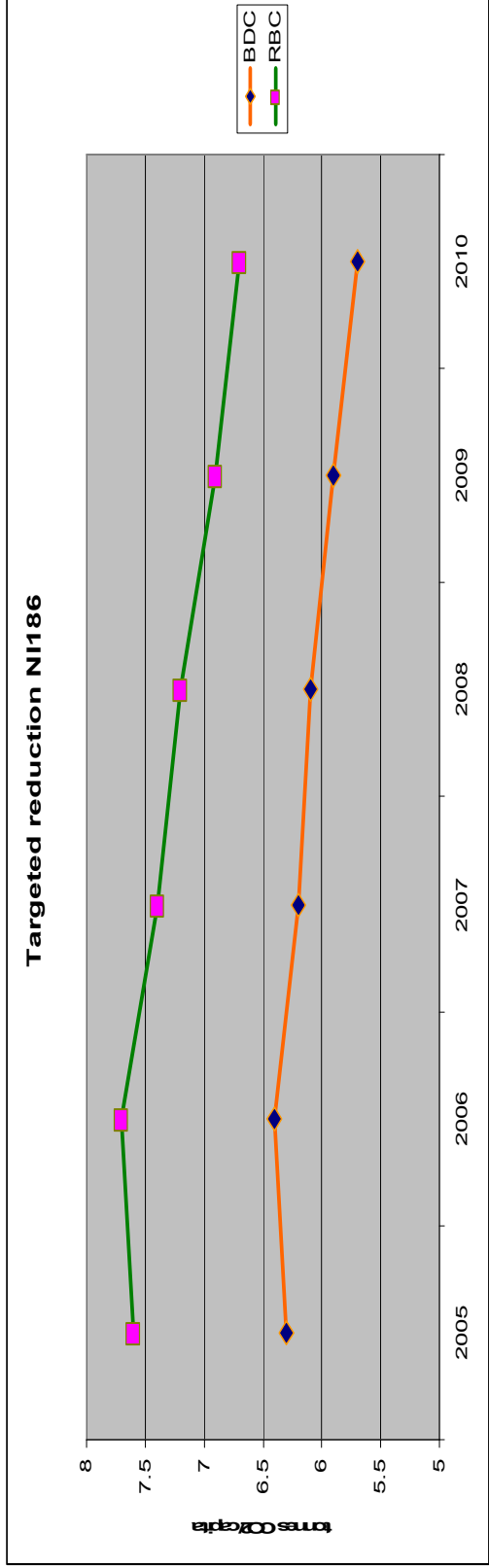
**Good performance:** Year on Year reductions and demonstrable activity that would likely result in the required reductions, for example, the Warner Worcestershire project.

**Baseline Year (2005)** – there is a 2 year time lag from which data is available.

(Bracketed figures indicate the reduction required to meet the target set)

	2005	2006	2007	3% reduction	3% reduction	3% reduction
Bromsgrove	6.3	6.4	6.2	(6.1)	(5.9)	(5.7)
Redditch	7.4	7.7	7.4	(7.2)	(6.9)	(6.7)

**Or**



**Current position** – 2008 data should be available in Autumn 2010. We believe we are on target for this indicator.

**Three year Target (2013)** – 9% reduction from 2005 baseline (3% from local measures).

The yearly changes may not seem very important, but multiplied across combined populations of 92'300 in Bromsgrove and 79'600 in Redditch, the difference between 2005 and 2010 to meet our 9% reduction target is 51'390 tonnes in Bromsgrove and 54'450 tonnes in Redditch.

**Long term target (2020)** – not confirmed locally, but nationally, the Climate Change Act (2009)'s target is to achieve an 80% reduction by 2050 with an interim target of 34% reduction by 2020 (from 1990 levels).

## NI187 Tackling fuel poverty - % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low and high energy efficiency rating

**Rationale:** To measure progress in tackling fuel poverty through the improved energy efficiency of households inhabited by people claiming income based benefits.

**Definition:** The indicator measures the proportion of households on income related benefits for whom an energy assessment of their housing has been carried out, living in homes with:

1. Low energy efficiency
2. High energy efficiency

The energy efficiency of a house can be measured using the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP). The procedure calculates a number between 1 and 100, low numbers generally indicate a house that has low levels of insulation and an inefficient heating system where as numbers closer to 100 indicate a very energy efficient house. SAP is the Government's recommended system for energy rating of dwellings.

SAP is being used as a proxy for fuel poverty in households of people claiming income based benefits, given the link between income poverty and fuel poverty.

- Low energy efficiency - A SAP rating of less than 35
- High energy efficiency - A SAP rating of 65 or more

Fuel poverty is the requirement to spend more than 10% of household income to maintain an adequate level of warmth and includes non-heating fuel use.

Adequate level of warmth follows World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines of 21°C in main living areas and 18°C in other areas. A full definition of fuel poverty is available in the [Department of Energy and Climate Change's fuel poverty strategy \(external link\)](#).

Income based benefits - the sub-population claiming income related benefits includes all people claiming at least one of the following; Income Support, Council Tax Benefit, Housing Benefit, income based Job Seekers Allowance, Pension Credit or tax credits (with an income below a certain threshold). Include all households which include someone claiming one of the above.

Housing - all households in both private and social sectors.

The survey is based on an annual, random sample SAP survey of households, inhabited by people claiming income based benefits.

**Good performance:** Reducing number of homes with SAP <35 and increasing number of homes with SAP>65

**Baseline Year: 2008** – and target reduction is shared County-wide.

**Current position**

Bromsgrove

Progress from baseline		
year	%<SAP35	%>=SAP65
2008-09	8.89%	36.51%
2009-10	7.55%	42.32%
<b>Change</b>	<b>-1.34%</b>	<b>5.81%</b>

Redditch

Progress from baseline		
year	%<SAP35	%>=SAP65
2008-09	5.93%	49.70%
2009-10	3.79%	53.73%
<b>Change</b>	<b>-2.14%</b>	<b>4.03%</b>

**Future targets - subject to national targets: not yet set**



**Rationale:** To ensure local authority preparedness to manage risks to service delivery, the public, local communities, local infrastructure, businesses and the natural environment from a changing climate, and to make the most of new opportunities. The indicator measures progress on assessing and managing climate risks and opportunities, and incorporating appropriate action into local authority and partners' strategic planning.

The impacts might include increases in flooding, temperature, drought and extreme weather events. These could create risks and opportunities such as: impacts to transport infrastructure from melting roads or buckling rails, increases in tourism, increased damage to buildings from storms, impacts on local ecosystems and biodiversity, scope to grow new crops, changing patterns of disease, impacts on planning and the local economy and public health.

Examples of the processes, tools and evidence that could be used to reach the various levels have been included. However, this list is not exhaustive and any appropriate methodology can be used.

**Definition:** Local authorities should report the level of preparedness they have reached against the 5 levels of performance, graded 0 to 4. The higher the number, the better the performance.

The criteria for achievement of each of the levels is detailed below.

**Level 1: Public commitment and prioritised risk-based assessment**

The Authority has made a public commitment to identify and manage climate related risk. It has undertaken a local risk-based assessment of significant vulnerabilities and opportunities to weather and climate, both now and in the future. It can demonstrate a sound understanding of those not yet addressed in existing strategies and actions (i.e. in land use planning documents, service delivery plans, flood and coastal resilience plans, emergency planning, community risk registers/strategies etc ). It has communicated these potential vulnerabilities and opportunities to department/service heads and other local partners and has set out the next steps in addressing them.

Examples of evidence:

- the authority and partners have made a public commitment to manage climate risks, e.g. signed up to the Nottingham Declaration or an equivalent
- a Local Climate Impacts Profile or equivalent process is ongoing
- initial assessment produced using the UKCIP scenarios
- department/service heads facing significant vulnerabilities and opportunities have an understanding of the issues, with evidence of actions already in place to address these
- evidence of working in partnership and pooling of resources and expertise across sectors, areas and council tiers where applicable

## **Level 2: Comprehensive risk-based assessment and prioritised action in some areas**

The Authority has undertaken a comprehensive risk based assessment of vulnerabilities to weather and climate, both now and in the future, and has identified priority risks for its services. It has identified the most effective adaptive responses and has started incorporating these in council strategies, plans, partnerships and operations (such as planning, flood management, economic development, social care, services for children, transport etc). It has begun implementing appropriate adaptive responses in some priority areas. In its role as a community leader the council has started working with its LSP encouraging identification of major weather and climate vulnerabilities and opportunities that affect the delivery of the LSP's objectives.

Examples of evidence:

- comprehensive risk assessment produced (for example using the UKCIP method)
- Nottingham Declaration accreditation
- Council Members and department and service heads have a detailed understanding of weather and climate risk in all vulnerable areas identified in risk assessment and actions taken in priority areas.
- documents like Local Development Frameworks include climate change adaptation
- local adaptation partnership established

- LSP partners are aware of actions being taken by the council, feel engaged in the process and confirm they have started to identify weather and climate risk that affect the delivery of their own objectives

**Good performance:** Progression through the levels

**Baseline Year – 2008/9 – Level 0** for both Authorities

**Current position – Level 1 for both Authorities**

**Three year Target (2013)** Not agreed Nationally. Level 2 to be reached by 2011/12 by both Authorities.

**Long term target (2020)** Not agreed Nationally.

There are also two other relevant indicators for this strategy, namely:  
(NI189) Flood and Coastal Erosion risk management  
(NI194) Air quality – % reduction in NOx and primary PM10 emissions through local authority's estate and operations

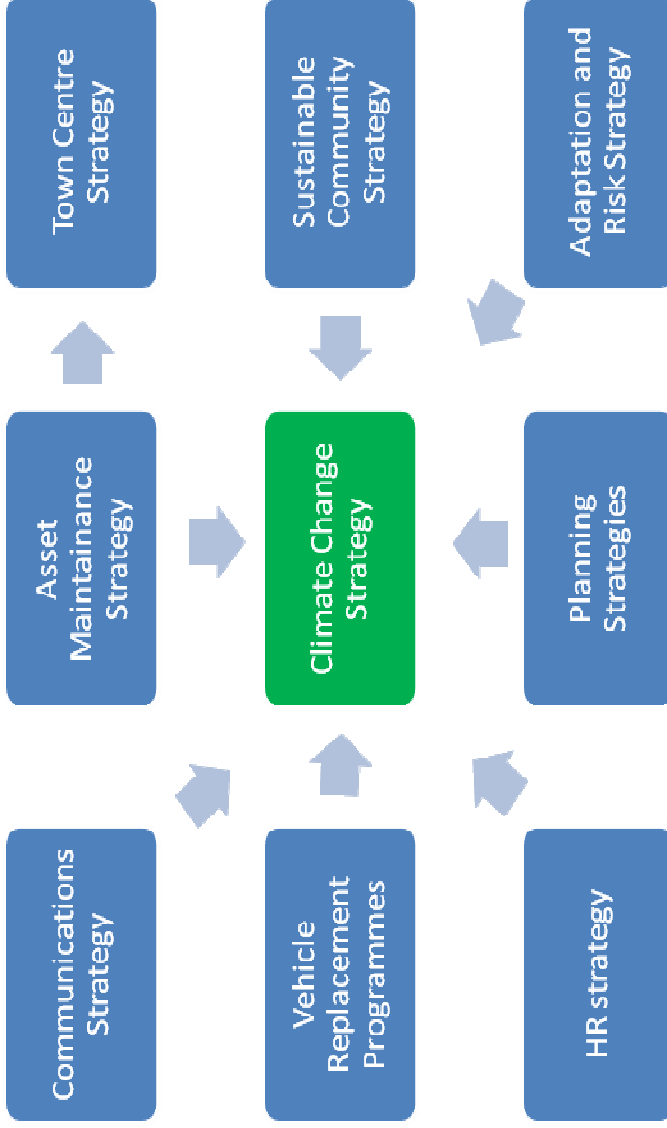
### **Data quality**

The method of calculating carbon emissions is relatively new and also complex, involving gathering data from a number of sources.

- For NI185, data quality issues are internal and as such a method of auditing this has been developed by Policy Officers.
- NI186 data is externally calculated and is usually 'tweaked' as issues are identified, therefore published figures can be subject to change.
- NI187 data is supplied by homeowners and is therefore subject to data quality issues as the responses cannot be fully verified.
- NI188 is a process based indicator.
- Each indicator is subject to national definitions.
- Locally calculated indicators must produce a performance certificate and procedure note.
- As part of the Councils Data Quality Strategy the indicators are also subject to an internal quality check.
- NI185 has been selected to go through this process in 2010/11,

## 6. Strategic Management

Climate change is a cross cutting theme involving a number of different strategies/work programmes:



**In addition, during the budget setting process, proposals will be impact-assessed against their contribution to reduce or increase our energy costs and carbon emissions.**

**The role of the Climate Change Manager:**

1. The Climate Change Manager is responsible for leading the delivery of both Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils' commitments to Climate Change, with a particular focus on developing and implementing a Climate Change Strategy and associated Action Plan which will relate to departmental activity in this area, and monitoring/reviewing progress.
2. To lead on the establishment and on-going management of corporate and associated environmental management initiatives relating to natural resource use across all departments of both Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils.
3. Lead or co-ordinate delivery of National Indicators relating to the mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change for both Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils.
4. To be the climate change conscience of both Organisations.

**The role of others in the organisation:**

Corporate Management Team has a significant role to play in delivering the aims of this strategy and as such are required to incorporate climate change activity in their business plans. Climate Change is a priority for both Councils and is a 'golden thread' running through both Sustainable Community Strategies. Clearly, delivery of this priority requires significant input from all employees and all Services are required to contribute to the climate change agenda, with directive support and coordination from the Climate Change Manager.

**Governance:**

Bromsgrove

Governance in Bromsgrove in relation to Climate Change is through the established LSP Better Environment Theme Group, whose two priorities are mitigating and adapting to Climate Change. Activity is monitored through the LSP board. In addition, internal activity is monitored through the Corporate Performance Management Process.

**Recommendation: Continue with existing arrangements.**

### Redditch

Internal activity is monitored through the Corporate Performance Management Process.

Redditch BC has an established Climate Change Advisory Panel, made up of Councillors, whose purpose is to:

- Influence positive change and raise the profile of climate change and sustainable development;
- Champion environmental issues in decision-making to improve the quality of life of local residents and ensure the borough is resilient to change;
- Ensure that all Council services are run sustainably and that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions resulting from the organisations activity is reduced on an ongoing basis;
- Support appropriate funding applications for implementing action and develop projects to mitigate or adapt to climate change;
- Encourage our communities, visitors and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint.

**Recommendation: Redditch LSP needs to increase activity on this Theme. Because Partner organisations, as well as the joint objectives of this strategy do not take into account the area boundaries, it is recommended that a joint Better Environment Group be set up with BDC to avoid duplication and drive the agenda forwards.**

## **7. Climate Change Strategic Themes:**

### **7.1. Energy**

#### **Community Energy Issues**

##### **Statistics and Key Information:**

Contextually, there are 39'048 households in Bromsgrove and 34'955 households in Redditch and these account for 25% in Bromsgrove and 29% in Redditch of local CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Most of these emissions come from the energy used to heat and power our homes. Because the cost of fuel is volatile and generally increasing, more people are likely to suffer fuel poverty and this has important social and health inequality impacts. There is great potential to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and tackle fuel poverty, as well as the associated health problems, by improving the energy efficiency of the housing stock. In addition, Redditch Borough Council still maintains around 6000 social housing properties while Bromsgrove has a number of partnerships with housing associations, most notably BDHT.

The cheapest and most effective option to reduce emissions would be widespread loft/cavity insulation, but there are limits to this, especially in Redditch as there are very few uninsulated properties left, as current fuel price increases have been enough of a financial incentive for owner-occupiers to insulate their homes, and Councils own schemes have been running for several years. Taking Headless Cross and Oakenshaw ward as an example, approximately only 7% of homes have no loft insulation and 22% have unfilled cavity walls (404 homes).



Inequality, poverty and climate change issues are closely connected. According to Oxfam (2010) people in poverty are most vulnerable to negative climate change impacts, as they tend to have lower levels of physical and mental health, live in worse housing with less access to insurance and have fewer resources to cope with rising costs.

### **What is the current housing situation?**

A large proportion of Bromsgrove district's existing, older housing stock is in need of improvement in terms of adequate insulation & energy efficient heating and lighting systems, whereas a large proportion of homes in Redditch were built during the new Town Corporation Development (1964) and as such were built to 1970's and early 1980's building standards. The Home Energy Conservation Act 1996 (HECA) requires District/Borough Councils to work to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes in their area by 30% by 2012.

#### The Councils' existing policy on home energy efficiency.

Various grant and subsidised insulation schemes are in operation the district and free low energy light bulbs are distributed – for example, over 10'000 bulbs were distributed in the Redditch area by the Council alone in 2008-10, many others will have been obtained by households.

There is still plenty of potential to further improve the energy efficiency of the district/borough's housing and to encourage more energy efficient behaviour amongst our householders, ranging from how appliances are used e.g. washing clothes at 30.C.

Free insulation for over 60's in Bromsgrove: In 2008 Bromsgrove Council launched a scheme to encourage the over 60's (in Council tax bands A-E) to have their lofts and cavity walls insulated for free. The scheme is administered by Act on Energy and has been extremely popular, with over 185 homes being insulated each year, and the fund (£50,000) was fully subscribed. Based on average figures, these loft/cavity wall insulations have saved 116 tonnes of CO emissions each year.

### **What do we need to achieve over the life of this strategy?**

- Deliver our targets under LAA and National Indicator 186 (per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions). In Bromsgrove and Redditch, this equates to a reduction of 9% from 2005 levels, through a combination of National (7.1%) and Local (1.9%) measures, of 51'390 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/annum in Bromsgrove and 54,450 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/annum in Redditch by 2011.
- Contribute to the delivery of National Indicator 187 (Tackling fuel poverty) by improving the energy efficiency of households in receipt of means tested benefits.

### **Business, Public and Voluntary Sector Energy Issues**

#### **Analysis of Statistics and Information**

This sector accounted in 2005 for 147'000 tonnes in Bromsgrove and 320'000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in Redditch and includes emissions from our own assets, and all other non-domestic premises in the localities. The main sources of emissions are from the use of gas and electricity to provide heating and lighting and to power equipment, although in Redditch there are a number of manufacturing and food based, power-hungry industries whereas in Bromsgrove light industrial and technology activity is the main sector. This sector, in line with the domestic sector, has seen energy bills increase significantly in recent years (e.g. the combined energy bill for both Councils is over £750'000 per annum). Good energy management makes good economic, as well as environmental, sense. For private businesses, reducing energy bills by 20% can add the same amount to profits as a 5% increase in sales (*source: Carbon Trust*). For the public and voluntary sectors, improving energy efficiency should mean more money available to spend on service provision.

#### **What is available for businesses?**

There are various sources of assistance to help organisations improve their energy efficiency and their bottom line, examples of which include the following:

- The Carbon Trust works with organisations to help them reduce their carbon emissions.
- Envirowise provides advice to business to improve resource efficiency.
- The Chamber of Commerce is a partner in the Worcestershire Partnership Environment Group.
- Economic Development staff at Bromsgrove and Redditch run seminars and events to promote business continuity and efficiency.

#### **Case study: Leading by example at Redditch Town Hall**

Redditch Borough Council were early adopters of detailed monitoring of energy consumption and invested in remote logging equipment in 2004. This equipment paid for itself in less than a year due to the ability to be able to identify wasteful activity, such as out of hours electricity use. The equipment also means that energy saving activity, for example installing sensor lighting, can be fully evaluated and proves value for money.

#### **What do we need to achieve?**

Contribute to the local delivery of NI186 (per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions). In Bromsgrove and Redditch, this equates to a reduction, as a result of local measures, of at least 2'940 and 6'400 respectively tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from the business, public and voluntary sectors by 2011. The longer term aim is to achieve the transition to a low carbon economy, as described in the Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009).

#### **Internal Council Energy Issues**

In 2008/9 for the first time we were required by Government to make a detailed calculation of emissions arising as a result of running our business and services. The main areas of focus include looking at our buildings; our fleet transport and business mileage undertaken by staff. Our baseline CO<sub>2</sub> footprints were as follows:

Bromsgrove (349 employees) – 2440 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>

Redditch (997 employees) – 3637 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>

**Both organisations have committed to a 2% year on year reduction in our carbon footprint.**

BDC have committed to moving out of the current Council house which is currently very energy inefficient – as demonstrated by a thermal image taken in winter 2009: moving to new premises would have a significant impact on the organisations corporate carbon footprint.

Redditch Council has an agreed Energy Strategy and Action Plan (2009) to deliver CO<sub>2</sub> savings largely based around Salix funding to make physical improvements to assets.

Figure x: Thermal Image of Bromsgrove Council House

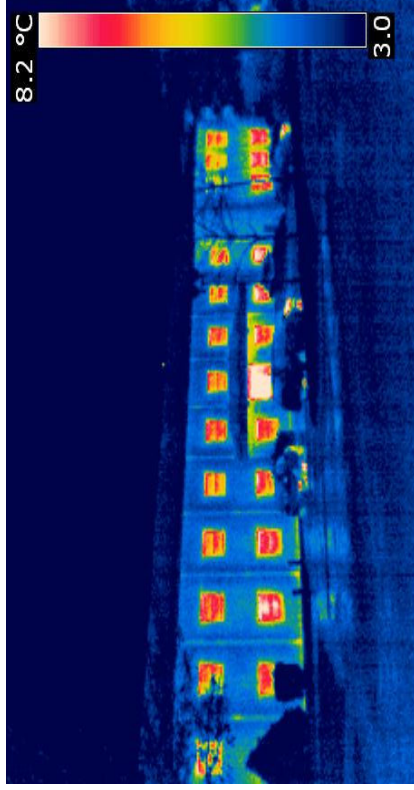


Figure x – Bromsgrove Council target reductions  
34

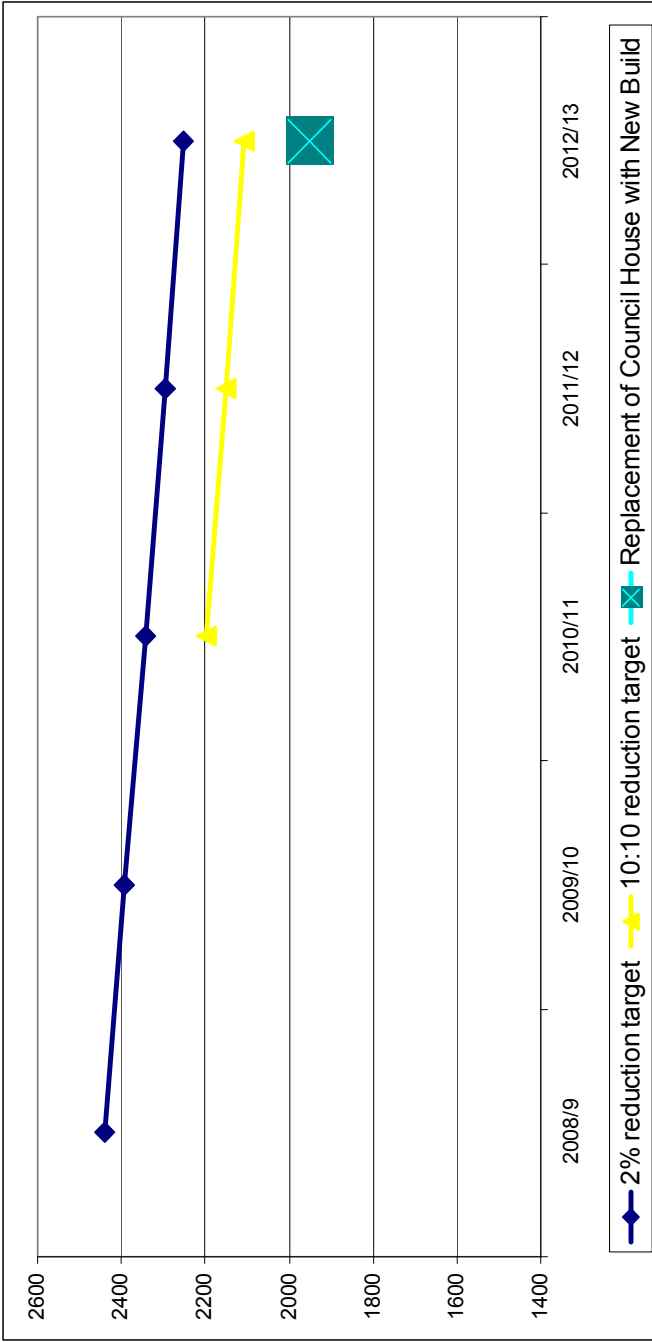
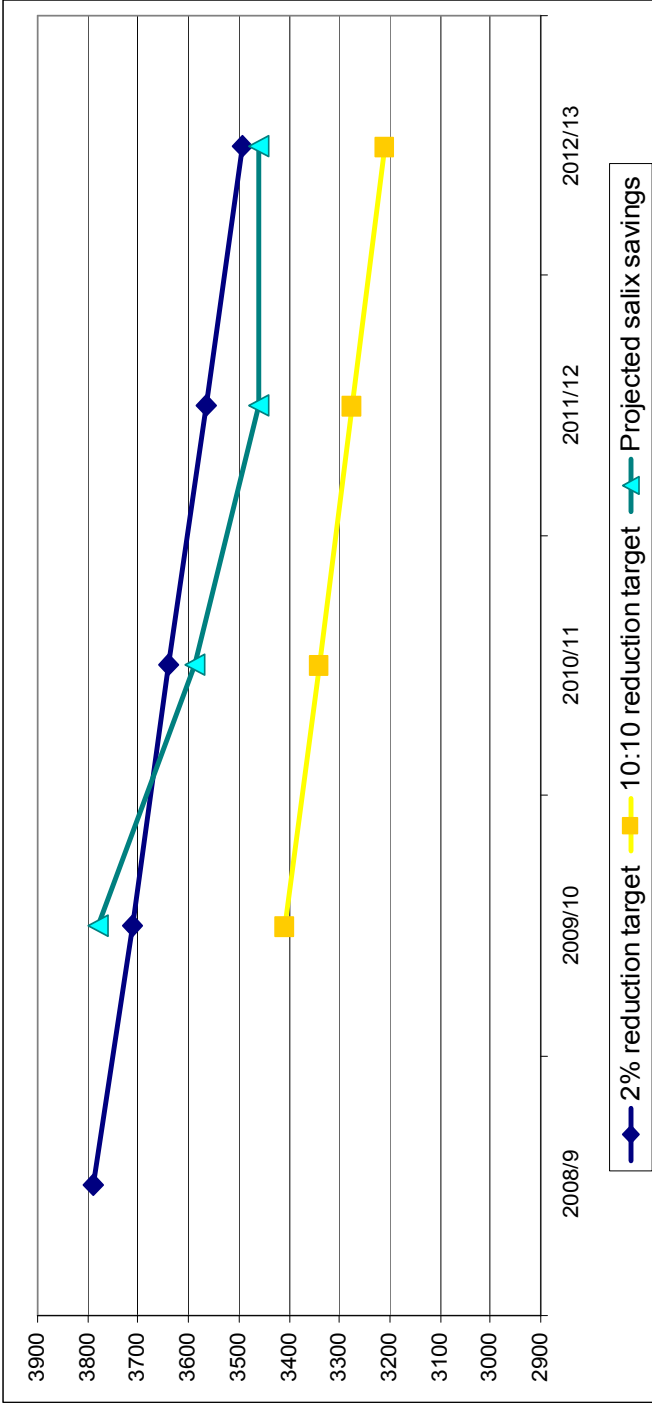


Figure x: Redditch Council target reductions



**What do we need to do?**

1. Reduce energy consumption in our buildings through the Asset Management Strategy and staff communications
2. Reduce emissions from our fleet transport i.e. use the most efficient vehicles and travel only essential miles.
3. Reduce staff mileage and ensure only essential travel is undertaken.

### **Strategic Actions Arising**

- **Continue schemes to promote loft/cavity wall insulation, improve RBC housing stock and work with Housing Associations to increase domestic energy efficiency.**
- **Reduce internal energy consumption including transport fuel**
- **Work with LSP partners (e.g. PCT, New College) to improve their own performance in relation to energy efficiency**
- **Make available good practice to others in the business community**

## **7.2 Renewable Energy**

**This is important because...**

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The demand for energy is increasing, and where financially feasible, should be sourced from clean renewable (e.g. solar, wind, hydro, biomass) and low carbon sources (e.g. Combined Heat and Power). The potential to increase renewables locally are two-fold:

- large scale projects and
- smaller installations, for example micro-renewables such as solar panels on individual homes.

### **What is the current situation?**

There are several planning applications for industrial sized wind turbines in the Bromsgrove area. We do not have an established list of micro-generating properties in the area although a number of homeowners have installed solar hot water panels (historically the most viable option) and these can be seen when driving/walking around the areas. Solar hot water systems have historically been the most viable option.

### **Actions which will contribute to achieving our aim**

#### **Increase Domestic renewables**

Both Bromsgrove District (up to £1000) and Redditch Borough Councils (up to £600) offer a grant scheme to help residents meet the cost of installing renewable energy systems at home. Combined with the new electrical renewable incentive, or Feed-in-Tariff scheme, this makes renewables more economically viable than ever – for example, in Redditch, 3 residents have installed solar PV systems between April-June 2010. In terms of renewable heat, it is unclear whether or not the renewable heat incentive will go ahead.

**Increase in the amount of renewable energy capacity, specifically large scale wind power in the Bromsgrove area.**



A WCC (2008) study concluded that there is only potential in the Bromsgrove area only to support large scale renewable energy generation, and not in the Redditch area:

District	Potential number of large-scale renewable energy installations*		
	WIND TURBINES†	BIOMASS PLANTS	HYDROPOWER PLANTS
Bromsgrove	19	1	0
Malvern Hills	20	1	3
Redditch	0	0	0
Worcester	0	1	1
Wychavon	83	5	3
Wyre Forest	21	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>

Bromsgrove's contribution could range between 1-73 MWh capacity, depending on how much investment is available.

**Strategic actions arising:**

- Continue to promote and provide grants for domestic renewable installations
- Increase internal renewable capacity and also encourage partners to do so

- **Support development of large scale renewable projects in Bromsgrove where appropriate**

## 7.3 Water

Although the UK is perceived as a rainy area, because population density is high and geographical and seasonal variance of available water is variable, there is relatively little water available per person. This situation is likely to worsen as the climate

changes, especially during summer months – our plan for adaptation will consider these issues – for example how to ensure service delivery (e.g. maintaining open spaces) and how we can reduce this (e.g. using drought resistant plants). Using water efficiently is important, because heating hot water, and processing all water uses a large amount of energy, resulting in carbon emissions. Wasting water is also a waste of money for the majority of local residents, public bodies and businesses who are on meters.

### **Analysis of Statistics and Information,**

- Water consumption is at its highest for both Authorities in its swimming pools at leisure centre's, the street sweeping process and at Depot vehicle washing facilities. When improvements are carried out to these, and other buildings, water conservation/reuse should be considered.
- The UK average water consumption per person per day is about 150 litres. The Government's Water Strategy aims to reduce this to 130 litres per person/day by 2020 and this strategy supports this aim. Bromsgrove's Draft Core Strategy is considering using 105 litres/person/day for new developments.
- However, these figures are not a true representation of our water usage, these figures represent how much clean drinking water we use via taps, toilets, bathing and using the washing machine for example.
- Realistically, we each use about 4645 litres per day, that's the same as 50 baths of water. Water is embedded in the products that we drink and consume and it is this much higher figure that tells us our water footprint.
- We each on average use 3400 litres through agricultural crops, 1095 litres through manufactured products and 150 litres in the home.
- It takes 10 litres of water to produce one A4 sheet of paper, 70 litres of water to produce just one apple, 140 litres to produce one cup of coffee, 2700 litres to produce one cotton shirt and a staggering 15,500 litres to produce 1kg of beef.

### **Strategic Actions Arising**

- **Communicate water issues**
- **Ensure water efficiency/harvesting wherever possible, including at heavy user sites e.g. Depot, Leisure Centres etc.**
- **Ensure drainage systems are maintained and appropriate**
- **Work with the Environment Agency to develop local flood plans.**
- **Encourage green roof installations**

## **7.4 Waste**

Disposal of waste adds to the climate change problem by releasing greenhouse gases such as methane and CO<sub>2</sub> as it breaks down in landfill sites. Energy is also used to collect, transport, manage, process and dispose of waste, including recycling, creating further emissions. However, in general, less energy is needed to make items from recycled materials than from raw materials,

which often require energy-intensive processes such as mining, to release them. This is why it is critical that all types of waste is minimised, and that as much as possible of created waste is recycled. Landfill space is decreasing and will eventually run out (by 2016), leading to the need to create new ways of dealing with residual waste, such as incineration (Energy from Waste).

### **Analysis of Statistics and Information:**

Recycling rates are currently:

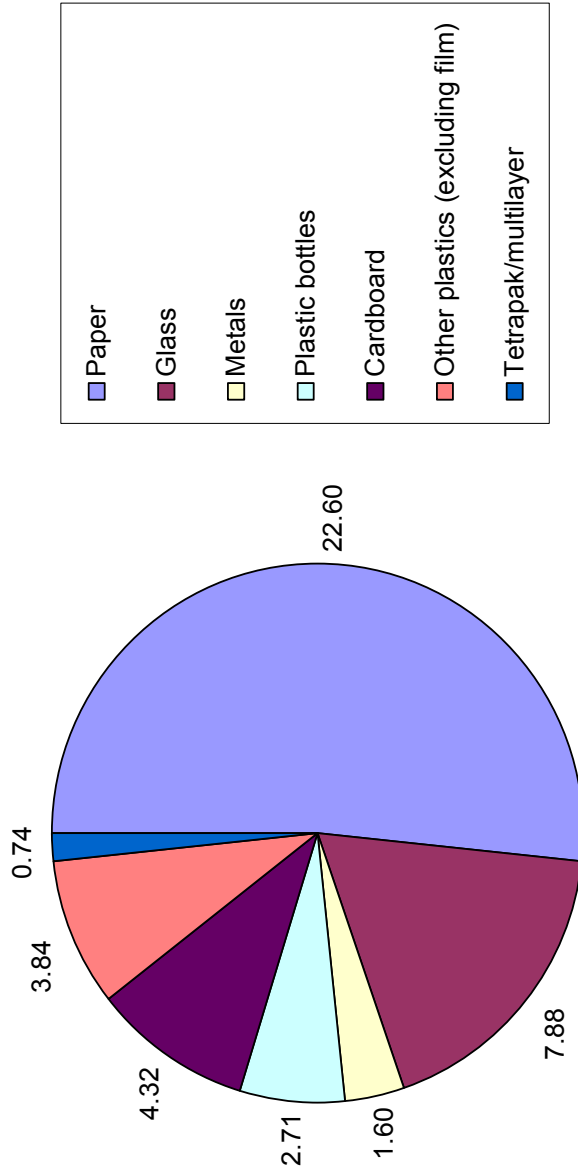
Bromsgrove – 21% (dry) 16% (garden waste) - 37% total

Redditch – 28.3% (dry) – note a garden waste trial begun in early 2010.

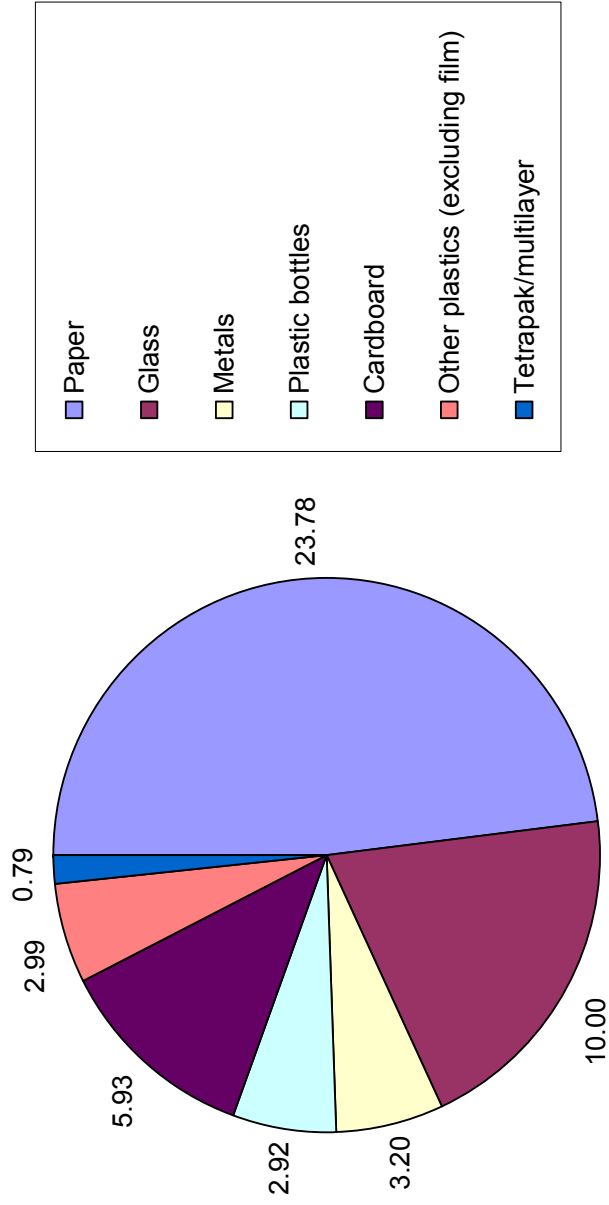
The majority of residual (grey bin) waste is sent to Energy from Waste plants.

We need to encourage residents to minimise the waste they generate, and also reuse and recycle more. A waste analysis study conducted indicates the average household in Bromsgrove and Redditch could be recycling more, 44% and 50% respectively.

**Bromsgrove 43.69% of all waste can go in green bin**



**Redditch - 49.61% of all waste can go in green bin**



**Strategic Actions Arising**

- 1. Participate in waste minimisation programmes such as Love Food, Hate Waste.**

2. **Work with Worcestershire County Council to increase recycling rate**
3. **Ensure non-recycled waste is used as a resource e.g. as feedstock for EfW plants.**
4. **During periods of very hot weather, the Councils should consider the need to move collection times to cooler times of day to ensure staff safety.**
5. **The Councils need to risk assess for prolonged periods of cold weather/snow to ensure service delivery resilience.**
6. **Reduce our own waste and recycle more internal waste.**
7. **Ensure waste collection and disposal options are considered in relation to carbon emissions as per the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.**



## 7.5 Transport

This is a prime example of a situation which requires completely different approaches between Bromsgrove and Redditch areas. The Citizens Panel results showed that 70% of Redditch residents felt that using an alternative to a car for transport was a good way of tackling climate change, which was the highest in the County. However, Redditch New Town was designed for the easy use of a car, and therefore, although regular public transport is readily available for the majority of residents, there is little incentive to use it.

In Bromsgrove however, being a more rural and larger district, solutions are more difficult to find. The price of fuel on one hand may reduce unnecessary mileage (Petrol is currently at £1.20 litre - a 17% rise from Feb 2010 to March 2010), but this may cause a real problem for those who have no alternative but than to drive – and can limit access to services and employment. Road transport accounts for approximately 57% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Bromsgrove. Traffic congestion is an issue within Bromsgrove Town; which can cause air quality problems, health impacts and may limit economic development in the town. One of the county's four Air Quality Management Areas is within Bromsgrove District, near the M42 (Lickey End), although there is a possibility that Bromsgrove Town will also need to be declared a Management Area in 2010. Future development must include the provision of a sustainable transport network if these issues are to be improved.

### **What is the current situation?**

Proposals to reduce transport emissions and promote more sustainable travel are included in several key district and county strategies. The Worcestershire Local Transport Plan (2006-11) includes several Bromsgrove District specific policies mainly related to the Train Station improvements.

Bromsgrove LSP Transport group will be responsible for achieving transport related CO<sub>2</sub> reductions in Bromsgrove. However, it is acknowledged that responsibility for achieving reductions in the transport sector is largely based at Worcestershire County Level.

### **Council-specific fleet transport**

Both Councils are participating in the Energy Saving Trust green fleet review which will form the basis of both Councils strategy to reduce emissions from transport.

#### **Strategic Actions Arising**

- **Encourage partner organisations to ensure that key services are accessible to everyone via public transport.**
- **Planning Departments to influence sustainable travel options in new developments.**
- **Identify vulnerabilities relating to transport in a changing climate, e.g. the impact of melt point of tarmac during heatwaves.**
- **Encourage use of walking and cycling – to achieve significant health benefits.**
- **Establish a Council Travel Plan/s for our own business miles**
- **Review staff mileage reimbursement rates**

## **7.6 Green economy**

This is a relatively new policy area but it is imperative that Bromsgrove and Redditch take full advantage of this opportunity. According to the then Government's 2009 Low Carbon Transition Plan, *“Many more of us will find ourselves working in a growing low carbon industry. Already 880,000 people in the UK work in the low carbon and environmental sector, a rapidly growing worldwide market worth £3 trillion per year and £106 billion per year in the UK. By 2020, this could rise to more than a million people if we seize the opportunity to establish the UK as a global centre of low carbon industries and green manufacturing. Around 200,000 of these new jobs by 2015 are expected to be in renewable energy, which could grow by a further 300,000 additional renewables jobs by 2020 as set out in the UK Renewable Energy Strategy, a total of half a million additional UK jobs in the renewable energy industry to 2020.2 In doing this, the UK will need to focus on low carbon sectors where we are likely to have a competitive advantage such as offshore wind, marine energy, civil nuclear power, carbon capture and storage, renewable chemicals, low carbon construction and ultra-low carbon vehicles, and specialist financial and business services”*.

### **Strategic Actions Arising**

- **Ensure the Economic Development Team are encouraging a local green economy**

## **7.7 Open spaces, land use and biodiversity**

Land use and management can impact upon the levels of carbon emissions released and stored in the environment. Different types of habitats and agricultural crops emit and retain different levels of carbon - the Forestry Commission estimate that semi-natural woodland stores on average 1588 tonnes of carbon per hectare. Carbon emissions are also influenced by land management practises, such as the cutting or burning of vegetation.

Redditch is noted for its high amount of trees and ancient forests, and how these are managed could affect climate change emissions, much of which is in Council ownership. Bromsgrove District has extensive areas of significant landscape value, particularly the uplands of Clent, Waseley, Beacon, Lickey and Weatheroak Hills which are of regional importance and are more generally owned by other bodies, for example the National Trust, Worcestershire County Council/Birmingham City Council. There are a number of specially designated sites across both Authority areas.

It is important to take into account emission levels from changing land use (e.g. development) and management practices (e.g. drainage). In the urban landscape, green infrastructure (trees and green spaces in urban settings) can also play a role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, for example by increasing the floodwater storage capacity of the land. The Councils, as major landowners, are well placed to positively influence this.

Climate changes will affect biodiversity and wildlife because natural ecosystems are very sensitive to climatic changes, and extreme weather events such as flooding and heat waves can also affect local populations. The Councils have a duty to have regard for biodiversity through the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) which aims to ensure all public authorities have to conserve biodiversity. Both Councils are also signatories to the West Midlands Biodiversity Pledge.

### **What is the current situation?**

Land use management and climate change is a new area of work in Worcestershire and further research is needed on this topic. There is much to do to raise awareness about how land use and land management practices contribute to carbon emissions and

Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils will need to work with the Worcestershire Partnership, including key partners such as English Nature, Forestry Commission and Environment Agency on this topic.

### **What do we need to achieve?**

Gain a better understanding of how land use contributes to total carbon emissions in the district/borough.

Seek to influence land use decisions in a way that helps reduce emissions and store carbon.

### **Strategic Actions Arising**

- 1. Actively participate in countywide work to increase and share knowledge and understanding of this issue.**
- 2. Green spaces such as parks should be planted with more climate change tolerant species and there will be more opportunities for shade. This will be achieved through a mixture of planting different species, installing benches in shadier spots and setting up permanent shades for public use. Green space is extremely valuable for providing cooler spaces which also help to mitigate the urban heat island effect. Overheating is likely to become a major health risk, particularly affecting vulnerable residents on hot summer nights.**
- 3. Green spaces are important for both areas, but especially more urban Redditch, and are a very effective form of 'soft' flood management options which reduce total flow, reduce peak runoff rates and allow water to drain away into the ground; unlike hard surfaces such as concrete and tarmac.**
- 4. The Council should consider planting fruit trees in community gardens as part of local food growing initiatives.**
- 5. There are separate Biodiversity strategies which should be read in conjunction with this one.**

**7.8 Sustainable New development**

Buildings contribute almost half of the UK's carbon emissions. By looking at where and how new developments are built, and the way that existing buildings are refurbished, it is possible to reduce these emissions. The new Coalition Government has yet to announce the formal plans for new development locally but the general principle, such as ensuring sustainable development is achieved is encouraged to reduce emissions and adapt for a changing climate.

**What is the current situation?**

All new development in Bromsgrove and Redditch meets, but does not necessarily exceed, the energy efficiency standards required by the UK Building Regulations. The Code for Sustainable Homes sets six target levels for emissions from new homes and will provide a stepped progression in standards, leading to the overall target for all new homes to be zero-carbon by 2016. Housing Associations are already required to meet Level 3 of the Code, a 25% improvement on the energy standards in the 2006 Building Regulations. Standards similar to those in the Code are provided for non-domestic buildings through the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM).



**Redditch Borough Council was a partner with Redditch Cooperative Homes project to build the country's first Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 eco-home, timber framed development in Sillins Avenue and Farm Road, which have been very successful and have an average SAP rating of 83. Further developments are planned e.g. Walton Close.**

**What do we need to achieve?**

Construction of new buildings that reduces environmental impacts, for example by encouraging implementation of the Code for Sustainable Homes ahead of the government's timetable.

### **Strategic Actions Arising**

- **Lead by example** - ensure that sustainable construction techniques are used in Partners new build and refurbishment projects and adopt planning policies that set higher energy efficiency standards than national guidelines.
- **Promote more sustainable, energy efficient construction, utilising the planning system to promote sustainable development where possible, e.g. through the Local Development Framework and Core Strategy and also consider future adaptive techniques such as shuttering for shading.**
- **Smart metering and energy monitors to encourage behavioural change towards efficient use of energy in the home.**
- **Encourage the use of green roofs for improved insulation, reduced surface water run off and biodiversity.**
- **Ensure that any extensions to existing properties result in improved energy efficiency**
- **Consider combined heat and power/district/community heating systems for new properties built, including non-residential development.**
- **Ensure planning policy takes into account measures to tackle future water stress issues such as grey water recycling/storage in new homes.**
- **Ensure planning policy encourages water efficiency in new dwellings, and that sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) are in place.**
- **Encourage electric charging points to facilitate electric vehicles in new developments.**



## 7.9 Adaptation to Climate Change

### What is adaptation?

We need to reduce our vulnerability to the effects of climate change, build adaptive capacity in our organisations and make plans to capitalise on the opportunities they bring. We need to “climate change-proof” ourselves and our communities because even if we drastically reduce emissions now, we are still facing years of unavoidable change. A key area of work in these early years of adaptive activity is to anticipate and prepare for key impacts of climate change across the complete range of Council services and infrastructure through the existing risk management process.

### What are the likely changes in climate?

This depends on the ongoing rate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (mitigation) into the future. UKCIP (2009) – has concluded that the ‘medium-emissions’ scenario is the most likely, and will likely lead to local changes:

Key findings for the West Midlands, 2080s

- the central estimate of increase in **winter mean temperature** is 2.9°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.6°C and is very unlikely to be more than 4.4°C. By 2020, on average, winter mean temperature will be warmer than we are used to.
- the central estimate of increase in **summer mean temperature** is 3.7°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 2°C and is very unlikely to be more than 6.1°C. By 2020, on average, mean summer temperature will be 1.60C higher than we are used to. On paper, this sounds like a good thing, but there are a number of problems associated with this.
- the central estimate of change in **winter mean precipitation** is 18%; it is very unlikely to be less than 3% and is very unlikely to be more than 39%. By 2020, on average, there will be 6% more winter precipitation than we are used to.
- the central estimate of change in **summer mean precipitation** is –20%; it is very unlikely to be less than –43% and is very unlikely to be more than 6%. By 2020, it is estimated that there will be 7% less summer precipitation than we are used to.

### Impacts and Vulnerability

We know that our current climate has impacts on our economy, health and environment, and that the changing climate of the UK will pose increased risk in future due to higher temperatures and a greater frequency of extreme events such as heatwaves, flooding, extreme cold weather and drought.

Although we cannot say with certainty exactly what will happen in our local areas, UKCP 09 allows us to make assumptions based on previous events and can mean we are better prepared for whatever does happen, for example:

- There were about 35,000 premature deaths across Northern Europe in the intense heatwave of 2003 with around 2000 premature deaths in the UK. The heatwave in 2003 occurred during a summer in which average summer temperatures were 2°C above the 1961-1990 average in the UK. However it was the high daily maximum temperatures, combined with a lack of effective plans to deal with these that created casualties. As average temperatures increase, so do the number of hot days, although this relationship is not necessarily linear. A study undertaken by the Met Office suggests that such heatwaves are expected to become more frequent in coming decades, as summers as warm as this will be 'normal' by the 2040s.
- In its 2004 report, 'A Changing Climate for Insurance', the Association of British Insurers notes that claims from storm and flood damages in the UK doubled to over £6 billion over the period 1998-2003 with the prospect of a further tripling by 2050 (UKCIP 09).
- In the 2007 floods, 10,000 motorists were trapped in vehicles on the M5 and surrounding roads and residents in Bromsgrove and Redditch were affected by the transport disruption.

Looking ahead, the impacts of the changing climate will depend significantly on how well central Government, local councils, businesses, voluntary organisations and individuals plan for and adapt to these changes. As with mitigation, our response to climate change adaptation affects all of our departments and the majority of our partners too.

The effects on our health during a heatwave can be reduced through effective planning by the NHS and social services, and by individuals knowing what to do. Similarly, the effects of flooding can be reduced by investment in flood defences and sensible long-term planning.

## **How this will affect The Council and its Departments (Service Provision), Partners and the Public**

In Bromsgrove and Redditch, the most significant problems will be more serious water stress and overheating. Rainfall is projected to decrease during the summer and increase during the winter months, with an increased risk of more intense events which will increase the risk of fluvial and surface water flooding and parts of the drainage system is prone to being over-whelmed during heavy rainfall. How we deal with this will form part of our work under the risk management process for NI188 and is a developing area of work.

**The following are examples of how adaptation could filter down through our organisations.**

### **Buildings**

Offices are more likely to overheat as a result of warmer summer temperatures.

- Methods of passive cooling, such as the use of blinds and external shading, will be needed so as not to increase the reliance on air conditioning/desk fans, which will increase energy consumption.
- Our buildings may be exposed to increased risk of flooding due to higher winter rainfall levels and an increased frequency of extreme weather.
- There will be increased risk of subsidence.

### **Economy and society**

We need to think about how severe weather and longer term climate changes affect the economy and local people:

- Climate change may affect food supply chains, for example, where our food comes from/availability.

- There may be opportunities for new markets and new jobs; for example in tourism or from making new products to help us cope with these changes.

### **Agriculture**

There is likely to be:

- Risks to agriculture from changes to the growing season, droughts and floods, increased heat stress in livestock, more storm damage and increased risks from pests and diseases.
- Agriculture may, however, also see increased yields in some crops with higher temperatures, and the opportunity to grow new crops.

### **The natural environment**

The natural environment is likely to suffer from:

- Fire risks on heathlands (especially in the Clent/Lickey Hills) could increase as a result of higher summer temperatures and lower rainfall.
- Spring is already happening earlier in the year. Some key trees are leafing and some butterflies arriving 10 days earlier than was the case 30 years ago due to increases in temperature in March and April.

### **Transport infrastructure**

- Road surfaces will need to be more heat resilient to cope with higher projected summer temperatures.
- Rail lines could be prone to buckling in high temperatures
- Alternative routes may need to be found or existing routes protected for road and rail infrastructure.

### **Why do we need to adapt?**

1. Our organisation is affected by changes in weather and climate in a number of ways, including disruptions to movement of people and goods, and many of our services are reliant on power, safe premises to work in, and transport; all of which may be affected.
2. Our organisation takes decisions and makes investments which have long term life spans. These investments often have high values at stake including the safeguarding of human life and the natural environment.
3. Our organisation provides support in emergencies and have a duty of care for vulnerable groups.

### **Strategic actions arising:**

- **Ensure CMT fully considers adaptation for their service area, and develop adaptive capacity through/with LSP organisations**

## 7.10 Public Health, Health Inequality and Climate Change

Health inequality is a key issue locally in Redditch (although there are pockets of areas in Bromsgrove which also experience similar issues), as are above average incidences of excess winter deaths in Bromsgrove and there is a clear policy agenda link between climate change, health and wellbeing. According to the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), health impact include possible increased infectious and vector-borne diseases (e.g. malaria), deaths from prolonged heat/cold exposure, skin cancers, food poisoning etc.

A recent report, Health Effects of Climate Change in the West Midlands found that deprived communities face greater impacts because:

1. They have the smallest potential to adapt (e.g. cannot move, afford more expensive food, buy air-cooling systems)
2. Generally they are less healthy and therefore would be more susceptible

### **Strategic actions arising:**

- **This issue can only be tackled through a partnership approach with LSP members but ensure that the Councils actively participate in this agenda.**

## 8. Community Engagement and Communications

Whilst surveys have shown a high level of concern about climate change in Worcestershire, a significant decrease in CO2 emissions has yet to occur. Increased awareness of the urgent need to take action is needed, together with clear, consistent, practical advice to help people actually make the necessary changes.

We also need to raise awareness about the issue of climate change with Partnership Organisations and Businesses - there are good opportunities to do this throughout the existing LSP network. However, more needs to be done to support Businesses locally, including SME's. However, financial resources are currently strained therefore all activity will need to demonstrate good value for money.

### **This is important because...**

All sectors of the community will need to take action to tackle climate change; no one group (including the two Councils alone) can solve the issues alone. Effective awareness raising can help individuals understand the positive changes they can make in different aspects of their lives. The public also expect community, public and private sector organisations to demonstrate leadership on this issue.

### **What is the current situation?**

Research carried out in 2007 shows that there is a high awareness of the issue of Climate Change throughout the county, including in Bromsgrove and Redditch areas. Therefore, we now need to shift our attention from raising awareness of the general issue i.e. we no longer need to persuade residents to "believe in climate change" - to motivating physical action and behavioural change leading to physical reductions in emissions: being mindful of "greenwash"/ "green fatigue".

### **What do we need to achieve?**

To move on from raising awareness of climate change, to delivering real action in homes, organisations and businesses. We need to ensure that messages are clear and consistent, including county wide and national messages.

### **Strategic Actions Arising**

- **Encourage staff and members of the Councils and our partner organisations to tackle climate change at home and at work and actively promote the issues as part of their work (where appropriate)**
- **Introduce a green office policy and encourage take up of this across both areas in other organisations and businesses. Set up a climate change champion network to share best practice.**
- **Use the Warmer Worcestershire project as a key vehicle to capture residents attention, using the information from the aerial thermal imaging survey (2009) to help raise awareness about heat loss from properties in the district and to help deliver targeted energy efficiency improvement measures.**
- **Actively participate in county-wide awareness programmes and activities, such as the annual Switch It Off campaign.**
- **Focus communications on the basis that saving energy saves money as well as carbon emissions.**
- **Develop a low carbon communication strategy and investigate opportunity for county wide branding to increase recognition**

Yearly Communications Planner



<b>Topic / event</b>	<b>Key Message/background</b>	<b>Event date</b>	<b>Risk and Implication</b>	<b>How we will respond</b>	<b>When</b>
Fair Trade Fortnight	Supporting the fair trade movement locally	February 2011	Reputation	Increase staff awareness	February 2011
Earth Hour (WWF)	Global switch off of lights to highlight climate change issues	March 2011	Reputation	Investigate if possible to switch off our buildings lights	Start work Jan 2011
World Environment Day	Global celebration of Environmental issues	June 2011	Reputation	Increase staff awareness	May 2011
10/10/10	Global event to highlight the recent 10:10 campaign, which both Councils have signed up to.	10/10/10	Reputation	Tbc – some sort of event	September 2011
Switch it Off Week	County wide event to promote energy efficiency	November 2011	Reputation	Tbc – county wide promotions. Would like to run a Council meeting by candlelight...	September 2011.
Launch of Climate Change Strategy	New strategy for both Councils agreed	Tbc	Reputation	Publish on website. Press releases.	tbc

Topic / event	Key Message/background	Event date	Risk and Implication	How we will respond	When
Other events as they happen e.g. procurement of electric vehicles, launch of solar panels at Sanders Park etc.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

## 9. Consultation

This strategy has been consulted upon by the following key partners:

WPEG, Bromsgrove Better Environment LSP Group, Members of the Public who have expressed an interest via the webpage, Internal Staff at both Councils (including Waste Management, Planning, EDU, Communications, Biodiversity, Overview and Scrutiny Panels, Climate Change Advisory Panel.

Once the strategy has been in place for at least 1 year, and we are clearer about the carbon emission data locally, it is intended that there will be a wider community consultation.

## **10. Delivery Partners**

Worcestershire County Council, Worcestershire LSP, Environment Agency, Bromsgrove LSP members, Redditch LSP members.

## **11. Equality and Diversity**

Equalities Impact Assessments will be undertaken on a case by case basis.

## **12. Conclusions**

As Local Authorities, we have a moral and legal obligation to tackle climate change and to demonstrate leadership in this area. We need to reduce carbon emissions from our own and other buildings, our homes and our transport, and this needs to be tackled at a personal, community, business and organisational levels. We need to be ready for the challenges and opportunities that a changing climate, and associated increase in severe weather events will bring. Finally, we need to move beyond awareness raising and communicate the need to take action to our own staff and residents.

Dealing with climate change is challenging, but a sustained focus on the broad issues involved will mean that we can achieve our objectives.

## **13. Date of Review**

This strategy is due for review by 2014 at the latest. The action plan will be continually reviewed and added to, and will be monitored quarterly.

## **14. Contact Information**

The author of this strategy is Ceridwen John, Climate Change Manager for Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils who is contactable on (01527) 64252 x3046 or ceridwen.john@redditchbc.gov.uk

## APPENDIX 1 - Action Plan

<b>Strategic Priority 1:</b>	<b>Mitigating against climate change by reducing carbon emissions</b>		
<b>LAA Link:</b>	<b>NI186, NI187</b>		

Strategic Outcome Measures	Baseline (2005)	2009/10 Outturn	2013/14 Target	2049/50 Target
e.g. NI 186 – reducing per capita CO emissions	BDC – 6.3 tonnes/capita RBC – 7.4 tonnes/capita	6% reduction	Aspire to 12%	Aspire to 40%

1.1 Strategic Action <b>Improve Home Energy Efficiency</b>						
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
1.1.2	Provide home energy advice to residents	2004/5	Ongoing	SLA c.£6000 per annum	L	Act on Energy

1.1.3	Provide and promote grants for domestic loft and cavity wall insulation. Set targets for completions.	2004/5	Ongoing	BDC £46'000	M	Action on Energy/BDC LSP
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1.2 Strategic Action <b>Improve Business Energy Efficiency</b>						
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
1.2.1	Engage with LSP organisations and other large local employers to reduce their energy use, as well as reducing the Councils emissions – including identification of the most inefficient buildings (pareto principle).	2008/9	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Climate Change Manager WCC Property Service Economic Development Team
1.2.2	Signpost businesses towards available information and funding sources. Explore opportunities to green the local economies.	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	L	LSP Climate Change Manager

1.3		Reduce fuel poverty					
Strategic Action							
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer	
1.3.1	Use the warmer Worcestershire project to target vulnerable households	2008/9	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Katie Sharp-Fisher CCM	
1.3.2.	Area based programmes and landlord programme for home insulation. Consider specific programme for Areas of Highest Need.	2009/10 Redditch only	Ongoing		M	Andy Coel Don Wright	
1.2.2	Develop and deliver Affordable Warmth Programme	Ongoing	Ongoing		L	Andy Coel Don Wright	

1.4		Increase renewable energy capacity				
Strategic Action						
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer

	Promote incentives and grants available for home and SME micro-generation of energy, as well as funding for public buildings. Set targets for completed installations.	2008/9	Ongoing	BDC - £18000p.a. RBC - £6000 p.a.	H	Strategic Housing
	Monitor take up of commercial renewable planning applications including potential decentralised schemes in new developments	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Planning
	Consider viability of solar PV for our own buildings	September 2010	Ongoing	A business case will be required as upfront investment will be needed, although payback approx 7 years followed by 19 years of income generation	H	Climate Change Manager

1.5	Strategic Action	<b>Strategic corporate actions relating to this strategy</b>
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Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
	Ensure all Service Business plans address this strategies objectives	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	H	Hugh Bennett/ Ceridwen John
	Reduce the amount of paper sent out as part of the committee process. Set target for print cost savings at 10%.	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	L	Ivor Westmore
	Office space to be re-planned to avoid heating and lighting unused spaces. Consider impact of shared services on energy consumption.	2009/10	Ongoing	Property Services SLA may not cover this, therefore costs involved	M	Teresa Kristunas
	Deliver on 10:10, Nottingham Declaration and Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge Commitments	2008/9	Ongoing	Staff Time	H	
	Disposal of Assets -Council House BDC and move to more efficient building. -Hewell Road demolition/Abbey Stadium				H	



development									
Asset Maintenance – The main emitters are: BDC – Council House, Dolphin Centre, Depot and Car Park. RBC – Town Hall, Abbey Stadium, Crematorium, Depot and Hewell Road. Reduce emissions from these buildings.	2009/10	Ongoing	No budget exists for improving energy efficiency – funds will be required if physical investments needed.	M	Property Services/ Teresa Kristunas				
Ensure all new policies/proposals are checked for climate change impacts.	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Committee Services/CCM				

1.6	Strategic Action	<b>Encourage efficient use of water</b>						
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer		
1.2.1	Investigate opportunity for water efficiency internally				L	Ceridwen John	Relevant	



Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
	As part of the harmonisation of Terms and Conditions, consider revision of mileage reimbursement rates and policy to ensure travel to Birmingham is undertaken on the train only.	2009/10	Tbc	Staff time	H	HR CCM
	Undertake green fleet review recommendations	2009/10 BDC 2008/9 RBC	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Guy Revans
	Reduce fleet emissions through vehicle replacement programme and reduced mileages undertaken – target of 4% reduction in 2010/11	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	H	Guy Revans
	Regeneration of Bromsgrove Train Station and the Longbridge Access Strategy				H	tbc
1.2.2	Introduce internal Travel Plan to reduce business mileage	2010/11	Ongoing	Unknown	L	CCM HR

1.9	Strategic Action	<b>Green Economy</b>
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Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
1.2.1	<b>Encourage a local green economy</b>	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	EDU/CCM

<b>Sustainable New Development</b>						
1.10	Strategic Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
1.2.1	Planning policy to support achievement of zero-carbon housing	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Ruth Bamford
	Adopt Planning policy towards renewable energy and more sustainable homes – go further than current building regulations	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	H	Ruth Bamford
	Providing advice and information – provide a detailed guide on how to improve domestic dwellings for climate change including RET/FIT.	2009/10	2010/11	Staff time	L	Ceridwen John

1.11	Strategic Action	<b>Open Spaces, Land use and Biodiversity</b>				
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Ref.	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
1.2.1	Develop skills and knowledge in the area of land use management and carbon emissions				M	JB/PG
	Ensure biodiversity strategies are implemented and considerate of climate change issues.				H	JB/PG

2.2 Communicating the Challenge						
Strategic Action	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
	Add to the communications planner at both Councils relevant events such as 10/10/10, and run awareness campaigns. Potential staff OWL monitor energy loan scheme.	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	CCM/Comms
	Explore viability of an area based approach delivery for insulation measures in Charford/Sidemoor and Winyates	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	H	CCM

	Work with Blackwell PC as a pilot project to increase solar PV	2010/11	2010/11	2010/11	Staff time	M	CCM
	Actively seek funding for communication initiatives e.g. eco-driving simulator	2009/10	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	H	CCM
	Encourage LSP partners to sign the Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge	2009/10	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	BDC LSP
	Encourage Transition Town initiative through LSP Better Environment Group	2009/10	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	BDC LSP CCM
1.2.1	Contribute to the Worcestershire LSP CC communications plan	2009/10	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	CCM

<b>2</b>	<b>Strategic Priority:</b>	<b>Adapting to climate change by increasing local resilience</b>					
	<b>LAA Link:</b>	<b>NI188</b>					
	Strategic Outcome Measures	Baseline	2009/10 Outturn	2013/14 Target	2049/50 Target		
e.g. NI 188		Level 0	Level 2	Level 3	Not set		

Strategic Action		Adapting to Climate Change				
2.1	Action	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource	Priority (H,M,L)	Lead Officer
	<p>Requirements for Level 2: The Authority has undertaken a comprehensive risk based assessment of vulnerabilities to weather and climate, both now and in the future, and has identified priority risks for its services.</p> <p>It has identified the most effective adaptive responses and has started incorporating these in council strategies, plans, partnerships and operations (such as planning, flood management, economic development, etc).</p> <p>It has begun implementing appropriate adaptive responses in some priority areas.</p> <p>In its role as a community leader the council has started working with its LSP encouraging identification of major weather</p>	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	H	HoS/ Ceridwen John  HoS/ Ceridwen John  HoS/ Ceridwen John

	and climate vulnerabilities and opportunities that affect the delivery of the LSP's objectives.					LSP	
	Climate Change to be included in Risk Management Plans	2009/10	Ongoing	Staff time	M	Heads of Service	



**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL****OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE****25th August 2010****Neighbourhood Groups Review – Implementation Monitoring Report**

Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Carole Gandy / Cllr Michael Braley
Relevant Head of Service	Hugh Bennett (Director of Policy, Performance & Partnerships)

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

One of the key roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to monitor the implementation of recommendations that have been reported through the Overview and Scrutiny process. This report contains further information about the action that has been taken to date to implement the Neighbourhood Groups Task and Finish Group's recommendations, which were approved in December 2009. A number of these actions are in the process of being implemented whilst other actions have already been completed.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee are asked to **RESOLVE** that,  
  
**subject to Members' comments, the report be noted.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Groups review was undertaken in 2009. There were four members of the Group: Councillor Kath Banks (Chair), and Councillors Enderby, Pearce and Thomas.
- 3.2 The review had been proposed by the Executive Committee owing to concerns about the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Groups as an informing and consultation mechanism. The Groups had been introduced in 1996 and by 2009/10 a budget of £62,210 was allocated by the Council to support the process. Attendance at these meetings had decreased steadily and by 2009 only a small number of highly dedicated residents were attending meetings of the thirteen Neighbourhood Groups.
- 3.3 The Councillors were tasked with reviewing the impact of the Neighbourhood Groups as a consultation mechanism and whether any alternative approaches to engagement and consultation might more effectively be implemented by the Council.

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**25th August 2010**

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- 3.4 Members consulted widely during the course of the review, both in writing and in person during the meetings of the Neighbourhood Groups in October 2009. By the end of the review information had been provided by local Borough Councillors, County Councillors, Council Officers, Student Councillors, Police Officers and local residents and the feedback provided informed the Group's final recommendations.
- 3.5 At the end of the review the Councillors concluded that the Neighbourhood Groups were no longer fit for purpose. The residents attending the meetings, though very dedicated, were not necessarily representative of the broader local population and the Councillors were concerned that this was providing a tiny proportion of the local population with a disproportionate amount of influence over local community action. Furthermore, frequently the issues that were raised during Neighbourhood Group meetings related to matters beyond the Council's direct control and required action from other public service organisations which could not be enforced through the Neighbourhood Groups.
- 3.6 The Councillors proposed that, instead, alternative mechanisms could be utilised by the Council to more effectively engage with local residents including arrangements that would involve a multi-agency approach to resolve complex problems. The Councillors were keen to propose a variety of different methods to meet the needs of different groups within society. They were also anxious to ensure that that traditionally hard to reach residents, such as young people, would be more effectively engaged by the Council as a result of any changes that might occur.
- 3.7 The Councillors reported their findings for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25th November and for the consideration of the Executive Committee on 2nd December 2009. Subject to a number of amendments the Councillors recommendations were approved and fully ratified during the Council meeting on 7th December 2009.
- 3.8 A total of eight recommendations were approved as well as thirteen subsidiary recommendations. Further information about progress with regards to implementing these recommendations is outlined below.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The following section outlines the Neighbourhood Groups Task and Finish Group's recommendations, as they were approved in December 2009, and the action that has been taken in response to each recommendation.

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**4.2 Recommendation 1: We recommend that the Neighbourhood Groups are not now fit for purpose and should be discontinued in their present form.**

4.2.1 The final meetings of the thirteen Neighbourhood Groups took place in February and March 2010. All residents on the Council's distribution list for the Neighbourhood Groups were advised in writing that this would be the final round of the Neighbourhood Group meetings (Appendix 1). Furthermore, it was announced at each Neighbourhood Group meeting in February and March 2010 that that would be the last meeting of the Group.

**4.3 Recommendation 2: We recommend that following consultation with the Police, the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) Group meetings should be re-launched and delivered as an equal partnership arrangement.**

4.3.1 Following the Council's decisions on the O&S recommendations, joint working with West Mercia Police led to further detailed recommendations, as detailed in Appendix 2. These indicated a far less rigid, more responsive local response to community needs, with no one single process to 're-launch' to replace the former structures. These arrangements are now being worked up in greater detail between local Borough, County Councillors and relevant local policing representatives. They are based on equal partnership between these bodies. However, the Police retain the prime co-ordinating role in terms of the remaining scheduled PACT meetings; and lead on the master PACT website which, for historical reasons, is theirs.

**4.4 Recommendation 2a: We recommend that Redditch Borough Council should work with the Police and other local agencies participating in Partners and Communities Together (PACT) to agree funding and administration for PACT meetings.**

4.4.1 This principle is agreed and practical arrangements are evolving as ideas about what is required in each area develop. Because of the Police lead on the formal scheduled PACT Meetings, they currently retain the administrative and financial responsibilities for these. Savings on the Neighbourhood Group budgets provide a fund for Borough Council assistance with other less formal PACT activity and meetings; and the County Council may similarly be able to contribute to this, but arrangements are still at an early stage of development and new patterns have yet to be set. Periodic review of progress with the Council's partners will be necessary, and corresponding adjustments made, as assessed at the time.

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- 4.5 **Recommendation 2b: We recommend that a protocol should be jointly developed outlining the roles and responsibilities of all agencies in the re-launched Partners and Communities Together Groups.**
- 4.5.1 The new arrangements have not yet reached this stage of development, as there is no 'one size fits all' solution. (This may not be quite as envisaged at the time of the Neighbourhood Group Review, but it is the agreed pattern now set by the partner agencies.)
- 4.6 **Recommendation 2c: We recommend that the Chairs of all Partners and Communities Together meetings should be independent members of the community.**
- 4.6.1 This principle is agreed by all partners and, where independent Chairs do not yet exist, 'capacity building' is encouraged to develop potential new Chairs.
- 4.7 **Recommendation 2d: We recommend that promotion of the re-launched Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings should be appropriately targeted towards clarifying the meaning of the new arrangements for residents living in areas where PACT and Neighbourhood Group meetings currently only take place on the same night.**
- 4.7.1 Again, given the state of development of the rather more complex arrangements, area by area, the need for this is accepted and will be rolled out and promoted area by area, as proposals develop.
- 4.8 **Recommendation 2e: We recommend that the existing Neighbourhood Groups Hire of Premises budget (0630 3551) be retained and made available for the re-launched Partners and Communities Together groups to be spent as considered appropriate for the arrangement of ad hoc meetings.**
- 4.8.1 This has been accepted / agreed.
- 4.9 **Recommendation 3: We recommend that to supplement the new arrangements a further variety of methods that will enable Redditch Borough Council to inform and consult more effectively with local residents should be considered.**

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- 4.9.1 A number of actions have been taken to implement recommendations 3a-h. This action is outlined in response to each of those subsidiary recommendations below.
- 4.10 **Recommendation 3a: We recommend that subject to a successful revenue bid, the Council should publish quarterly editions of Redditch Matters during the year to inform residents about local public services, activities and Council business.**
- 4.10.1 Redditch Matters is the Council's newspaper. A revenue bid was submitted to fund the publication of four editions of the newspaper per year during the 2009/10 budget setting process. This revenue bid was approved by Council on 22nd February 2010.
- 4.10.2 It was planned to produce four editions of the magazine in 2010 but unfortunately income generated for advertising for the summer edition was poor. This was partly caused by the World Cup, according to the advertising sales contractor (the Advertiser Group). Therefore, available funds in 2010/11 mean the Council needs to rationalise and produce three editions rather than four and hence the autumn and winter editions are being combined. This is unfortunate but does not mean that the Council will neglect to publicise key consultation developments with residents through the magazine.
- 4.11 **Recommendation 3b: We recommend that Redditch Borough Council should continue to host road shows throughout the Borough.**
- 4.11.1 The road shows initiative began in June 2009 in Headless Cross and these events are attended by Councillors and Officers. These events have continued to take place in the Borough since the Review Group delivered its final report. The Council is gradually working its way across all Wards in the Borough, with the support of Councillors, and has recently completed road shows in Abbeydale and Feckenham, with plans to cover Woodrow in September and Crabbs Cross in October. They are an important opportunity to meet residents face-to-face and gather views on the Council, its services and about living in Redditch.
- 4.12 **Recommendation 3c: We recommend that Redditch Borough Council should embrace the Worcestershire Viewpoint Citizens' Panel and use every opportunity to work with the Panel to consult with residents over local issues.**

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- 4.12.1 Members of the Worcestershire Viewpoint Citizens Panel, incorporating Redditch residents, were engaged in the Worcestershire Viewpoint Survey in November 2009 and May 2010. The Viewpoint Survey will be conducted again in November 2010.
- 4.13 **Recommendation 3d: We recommend that the Council should promote web based systems, such as the Worcestershire Hub and FixMyStreet, that can be utilised to resolve residents' individual issues.**
- 4.13.1 Promotion of FixMyStreet and the Worcestershire Hub form ongoing duties for members of staff.
- 4.13.2 During the course of the review a number of concerns were raised by residents about the quality of the Worcestershire Hub service. Similar concerns were raised by County Councillors in 2009. Following on from this Worcestershire County Council established a Task and Finish review of the Worcestershire Hub. Representatives from each of the district Councils, including Redditch Borough Council, were invited to participate in this event as co-opted members. It is anticipated that as a consequence of this review recommendations will be brought forward that could lead to improvements to the service.
- 4.14 **Recommendation 3e: We recommend that social networking should be used by the Council to inform and consult with residents in appropriate circumstances.**
- 4.14.1 The Council introduced corporate Facebook and Twitter sites during the spring and these have proved useful, additional communications tools. There are currently 43 people who 'like' the Council's Facebook site (i.e. active users) and 72 followers on Twitter. So far the Council has only used social media to inform. This has included publicising all the Council's press releases, highlighting community safety tips, procurement opportunities, and promoting major events. However, the Council has also used social media as a key part of the current 'Redditch Pride' campaign, spreading messages about the campaign but also asking residents for good photos of the town (via the Flickr photo-sharing website) and encouraging general thoughts on Redditch. Several services also have their own Facebook sites including for the Palace Youth Theatre, Action Sport and the Morton Stanley Festival.
- 4.14.2 This is still a fairly new area for the Council and more work needs to be done to settle new working protocols for staff and Members in this respect.

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- 4.15 **Recommendation 3f: We recommend that The use of Councillor Calls for Action be promoted in order to be used to resolve local neighbourhood issues.**
- 4.15.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 introduced a requirement for all local authorities to have a Councillor Calls for Action (CCfA) process from 2009. The CCfA is designed to enhance the role and responsibilities of local Councillors. The process provides Councillors with an opportunity to work with relevant local partner organisations to resolve long-term problems affecting a particular neighbourhood within their ward. In most cases it should be possible for a Councillor to resolve a CCfA without recourse to scrutiny. In fact, Overview and Scrutiny should only be involved in a CCfA as a last resort.
- 4.15.2 In Redditch a process for the operation of CCfAs was developed in 2009 by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a briefing, to which all members were invited, was delivered on this subject on 15th December. Further information about CCfAs was provided during the Introduction to Scrutiny Training that was delivered by Officers on 10th June 2010. Therefore, the process has been widely promoted for the consideration of all members of the Council.
- 4.15.3 To date, however, no CCfAs have been formally registered by a local Borough Councillor or reached a stage in Redditch where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been asked to review a local neighbourhood matter.
- 4.16 **Recommendation 3g: We recommend that more effort should be made by the Council to advertise the fact that residents should resolve individual issues through direct contact with Councillors, Officers and the One Stop Shops (now Customer Service Centres).**
- 4.16.1 This remains an ongoing responsibility for all Officers and Councillors at Redditch Borough Council to address.
- 4.16.2 In the summer edition of Redditch Matters details are published of the new Council with pictures and contact details for every Councillor. Every edition also includes full details for contacting the Council and the Customer Service Centres. When `Walk the Wards` are promoted over the next couple of months (Members and senior managers working together to identify issues in specific wards) the point will be made that Council

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- representatives need to hear from residents about any concerns they have in their local areas
- 4.17 Recommendation 3h: We recommend that the Council should work in equal partnership with the Police and other local agencies to advertise Street Briefings and Environment Visual Audits to local residents.**
- 4.17.1 Relevant Officers at Redditch Borough Council continue to work closely with West Mercia Police on Street Briefings and Environment Visual Audits. These processes are organised by Police Officers on an ad hoc basis in response to issues as and when they emerge. They now form part of the wider developments of the PACT processes mentioned earlier.
- 4.17.2 All PACT events, including formal meetings, Street Briefings and Environment Visual Audits, are advertised on the West Mercia Police website for each policing team in the Borough. Councillors are often invited to participate in these activities. Partner agencies recognise the need to link in, and increase, their own publicity and promotion activities to match / support those of the Police.
- 4.18 Recommendation 4: We recommend that Redditch Borough Council should continue to seek ways to better engage and consult with a more diverse range of residents.**
- 4.18.1 The Council remains committed to consulting with residents and other relevant stakeholders. There have been developments across different Council service areas which have led to some new approaches to consultation as well as the continuation of ongoing methods of engagement. A number of these approaches are detailed below, though this should not be regarded as an exhaustive list of all the consultation that is currently being undertaken by the Council.
- 4.18.2 Housing and Tenancy teams continue to consult with existing residents' bodies, such as the Borough Tenants' Panel, over developments impacting on local tenants. The Customer Services, Dial-a-Ride and Leisure Services teams also continue to produce customer satisfaction surveys. The feedback provided by customers in these surveys informs developments in the services and the actions taken in response to the consultation can now be broadcast using the screen in the reception area. Furthermore, the Redditch Community Forum continues to operate as a central network for consultation with statutory and community organisations.



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- 4.18.3 Following the completion of the Neighbourhood Groups review, some core consultation groups have been established and consultation events have taken place. Key examples have included consultation on the Council's governance model relating to the potential introduction of whole Council elections involving articles in Redditch Matters, consideration by the Community Forum, the provision of information about the process through the delivery of leaflets and publication of information on the Council's website. Meanwhile, the Housing and Tenancy teams have introduced a Working Group of local residents to monitor progress with introductory tenancies and held a public conference to consider the new Tenant Involvement Strategy.
- 4.18.4 Additional developments in consultation are likely to occur within service teams which already undertake some form of consultation, in order to contribute to continuous improvements. In this capacity, the Economic Development Team, which already organises consultation surveys and attends existing forums to consult local stakeholders, is aiming to build on existing consultation processes. Initially this will occur through building permanent links with businesses using electronic communications.
- 4.19 **Recommendation 5: We recommend that the Council should have a robust monitoring system in place to assess the effectiveness of each of the mechanisms used to inform, engage and consult with local residents.**
- 4.19.1 A variety of monitoring systems are in place across the Council's services to assess the effectiveness of the mechanisms used to inform, engage and consult with local residents. The type of monitoring arrangement varies from mechanism to mechanism.
- 4.19.2 The scrutiny monitoring process requires the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to monitor the impact of scrutiny recommendations. Under these circumstances this report provides Councillors with an opportunity to both assess the implementation of the recommendations and to review what impact this has had, if any, on service delivery.
- 4.19.3 Further reports in due course to the O&S Committee will help to keep Members updated both on further progress achieved and on any detailed monitoring / assessments.
- 4.20 **Recommendation 6: We recommend that the Community Forum and similar groups which engage and consult with local residents should report to the Executive Committee.**

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Feedback mechanisms to the Executive Committee / Council from outside bodies are not very robust at present and require more thought. At present the only approved route is to report to Executive Committee meetings periodically, though this does not yet happen routinely.

**4.21 Recommendation 7: We recommend that the Council should have a central electronic database which would be used for the purposes of consultation with key partners in the Borough.**

4.21.1 This has long been identified as a weakness in the Council's consultation arrangements. Officers preparing this report are not aware of any progress to date in this respect. Given recent major restructurings in the IT area and elsewhere, this proposal may require re-launching with new Service Teams and Service Leads.

**4.22 Recommendation 8: We recommend that the February round of Neighbourhood Groups be the last in their current format; and that the intention is to re-launch the revised Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings from the beginning of the new municipal year.**

4.22.1 The last round of Neighbourhood Group meetings took place in February and March 2010 as detailed above. Officers at Redditch Borough Council and Worcestershire County Council and Police Officers from the West Mercia Police have met on a number of occasions to consider appropriate arrangements for future PACT and other local consultation processes. These arrangements are again outlined in further detail above and in Appendix 2 attached.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 A total budget of £62,210 had been allocated to supporting the Neighbourhood Groups by 2009/10. The Task and Finish Group had concluded that, owing to the low number of residents attending the meetings and the limited ability to resolve local problems through the Groups, the Neighbourhood Groups did not represent value for money.

5.2 The cancellation of the Neighbourhood Group meetings did not necessarily remove this expenditure, the greater part of which comprised internal administrative recharges which would not necessarily all be recouped. However, some of the Neighbourhood Groups' spending budgets were reallocated to support the alternative consultation arrangements proposed by the Councillors.

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**6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications to this report. Though new legal duties to involve residents are relevant.

**7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct Policy implications.

**8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

Many of the Group's recommendations complement the Council's priority to be a well managed organisation.

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no direct risk management or health and safety considerations.

**10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

The Neighbourhood Groups Task and Finish Group made a number of recommendations which have implications for the local authority's customers, particularly with regards to the ways that service users are engaged and consulted with by the Council.

**11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct equality or diversity implications.

**12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

There are no direct value for money, procurement or asset management implications in this report, though deletion of the former Neighbourhood Groups was based in part on their poor value for money.

**13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

There are no direct climate change implications.

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**14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

The cancellation of the Neighbourhood Groups process will have had an impact on the work of various Officers who previously supported the Neighbourhood Groups process. New PACT processes specifically exclude routine Officer attendance/ involvement in scheduled PACT meetings.

**15. GOVERNANCE / PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct governance or performance management implications, though clearly better connection with local residents / communities should better inform all aspects of the Council's work.

**16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

Partners and Communities Together (PACT) arrangements remain in place across the Borough and will be enhanced to better address community safety issues.

**17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct health inequalities implications.

**18. LESSONS LEARNT**

Many lessons were learnt in the process of the Neighbourhood Groups Review, as detailed in the report of that review, including significant lessons around undertaking meaningful engagement with local residents, against the previous one-size-fits-all 'blanket' arrangements.

**19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

19.1 The Neighbourhood Groups Task and Finish Group undertook extensive consultation during the course of their review. This included face to face consultation with hundreds of residents by members of the Group who attended thirteen Neighbourhood Group / PACT meetings in October 2009. Hundreds of residents were also advised about the Group's proposals and invited to contribute to the review in writing. In total approximately 1,650 residents were consulted as part of the review.

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19.2 The response received from residents was overwhelmingly in favour of the Review Group's proposals. In particular, many residents recognised that the Neighbourhood Groups were no longer working effectively and they supported the Group's suggestion that these meetings should be discontinued and replaced with alternative mechanisms.

**20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	No
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	No
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

**21. WARDS AFFECTED**

All wards.

**22. APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1 - Letter to residents
- Appendix 2 - PACT combined notes and Action Plan – July 2010.

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**23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Executive Committee Minutes – 2nd December 2009  
 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007  
 Neighbourhood Groups Task and Finish Group – Executive Summary  
 Neighbourhood Groups Task and Finish Group – Final Report.  
 West Mercia Police Authority Website, ‘PACT – Agreeing Local Priorities’,  
 which can be accessed at <http://www.westmercia.police.uk/pact/>

**24. KEY / GLOSSARY**

CCfA	Councillor Calls for Action
PACT	Partners and Communities Together
Environment Visual Audits	Environment Visual Audits involve all relevant local public service organisations working together to address issues in a targeted area. This can involve the organisations responding to an issue that has been raised by local residents on a previous occasion or addressing issues that have been identified by one or more of those organisations. Environment Visual Audits are also known as ‘Estate Inspections’ and ‘Walkabouts’.
FixMyStreet	FixMyStreet is a website which helps people to view, discuss or report local problems to their Council. The resident reports the issue to the website which then forwards their report onto the relevant local Council. The Council responds to the report in the usual way that the Council would deal with any query or complaint.
Social Networking	Social Network services comprise communities of people working online to communicate and share interests or experiences. There are a number of social networking sites, including Bebo; Facebook; and MySpace.

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Members of these sites can keep in touch with friends and post information about themselves on their personal profiles. A number of organisations now engage with the public using group profiles on social networking sites.

Street Briefings

Street Briefings are more informal and are designed to be more proactive than Environment Visual Audits. Representatives of local organisations work together in particular streets to address local issues which are raised by residents on the day that they visit that street.

Twitter

Twitter is a web based method of communication. Individuals sign up to be members of Twitter. They can then view Twitter comments that have been posted by other users of Twitter and can submit 'tweets', or comments, in response to those original tweets.

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**CHURCH HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP  
/ PACT MEETING**

Contact: Ivor Westmore  
Extn. 3269

E.mail: [ivor.westmore@redditchbc.gov.uk](mailto:ivor.westmore@redditchbc.gov.uk)

7th January 2010

Dear Resident/Representative

The next meeting of the Church Hill Neighbourhood Group / PACT will take place on:-

**WEDNESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2010**  
**7.00 P.M. RESOURCES ROOM, CHURCH HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE, LOXLEY CLOSE**

If you would like to have an item included on the next list of items, please contact the person named at the top of this letter **by Friday 16th January 2010**. The notes from the October meeting are attached. The Programme for the meeting will be sent to you in due course.

Further to recent Council decisions, this will be the last Neighbourhood Group meeting, as such, as in future it is intended to combine Neighbourhood Groups and PACT more closely. Following the PACT model, there will be far less paperwork than you have been used to receiving for the Neighbourhood Groups. However, with your agreement and as this is for similar purposes, we shall continue to use the existing database for any exceptional correspondence. If you would prefer your details to be deleted from the list or if you would, instead, like to receive any communications in relation to PACT or to County Forum Meetings by email, please let us know by contacting Janice Smyth at [Janice.smyth@redditchbc.gov.uk](mailto:Janice.smyth@redditchbc.gov.uk), on (01527) 64252 extension 3266, or return the reply slip below.

We hope to see you at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

**TERRY HORNE - LEAD OFFICER  
CHURCH HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP**

✂-----

**NAME :** .....  
**ADDRESS :** .....

**\*PLEASE DELETE MY NAME FROM THE CHURCH HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP / PACT / COUNTY FORUM DATABASE**

**\*I WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING NOTIFICATIONS ON FUTURE PACT / COUNTY FORUMS BY EMAIL. MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS .....**

- **Delete as appropriate**

**RETURN TO:** Janice Smyth, Committee Services, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Alcester Street, Redditch, B98 8AH (or tel. / email as above).



**LIAISON MEETINGS RE PACT / NGS, ETC.**

**Redditch Town Hall**

<b><u>9th March 2010</u></b>	<b><u>1st July 2010</u></b>
<p><b><u>PRESENT:</u></b></p> <p>RBC: Cllr Carole Gandy (in the Chair)</p> <p>Sue Hanley, Angie Heighway, &amp; Steve Skinner (Officers)</p> <p>WM Police: Insp Ian Joseph &amp; PC Richard Waterhouse.</p>	<p><b><u>PRESENT:</u></b></p> <p>RBC: Cllrs Carole Gandy (in the Chair), Banks, Braley, Chance, Hall, Hartnett, Hicks, Hill, Pearce, Quinney &amp; Vickery.</p> <p>Sue Hanley &amp; Steve Skinner (Officers)</p> <p>WM Police: Insp Ian Joseph &amp; PC Richard Waterhouse.</p> <p>WCC: Hazel Robinson (Officer)</p>

The second of these two meetings had been set up to pass on to a wider audience the thoughts of the initial meeting of March 2010, and to discuss the way forward. The notes therefore remain largely relevant to both meetings, and the Action Plan at the rear of the notes details the final agreed plan of action arising from both.

The principal messages were that

A. the new 'relaunched' PACT arrangements were to be as simple and 'unbureaucratic' as possible, and largely a matter for agreement between local (ward- / community-level) partners: initially the Police, and local authority elected Members; and

B. that the Police remained the prime co-ordinating body, in partnership with local authorities.

1. **RBC LEAD OFFICER – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The meeting noted that under the new RBC / BDC Shared Management Structures, community involvement / consultation became the responsibility of Hugh Bennett, Director of Policy, Performance & Partnerships. Regrettably he had not been able to be present at the initial meetings.

2. **PACT – POLICE-LED MEETINGS**

It was noted that these would continue to operate, essentially as before, but only in terms of those areas where there was a need, in policing / Crime & Disorder terms.

In other areas there would be no equivalent routine meetings, i.e. in:

Astwood Bank & Feckenham	Crabbs Cross
Headless Cross & Oakenshaw	West / Webheath

and also in the Town Centre itself.

In existing areas where PACT meetings were to continue, there might be a change of frequency, e.g. in Abbey Ward which would become quarterly meeting (but not covering the Town Centre).

PACT meetings would continue where necessary, in appropriate locations, as currently. The Police would continue to make their arrangements and to use their website to advertise the meetings as before.

### 3. **PACT IN BROADER TERMS**

Inspector Joseph explained that PACT was never intended to be a meeting-based process. Rather it sought to engage local communities in a range of ways, targeted at the best solutions for each area. It also intended, through a range of means, to involve areas of communities which were hard to reach by current means / meetings etc. It needed to be challenging and innovative.

In this the meeting considered local authorities' new statutory 'duty to involve' and its relevance to the discussions.

Alternative approaches could involve:

- local 'roadshows', akin to what the Borough Council was rolling out area by area (including a quarterly Headless Cross Green event).
- periodic more formal events, annually / or as often it was felt necessary.
- existing events could be considered, such as at the Morton Stanley Festival, or events in the Arrow Valley Park, Forge Mill, Kingfisher Shopping Centre; 'Cool by the Pool' in Batchley, etc.
- 'State of the Borough Debates' (already provided for in the Council's constitutional arrangements)
- 'Street Audits' and other means by which Council representatives went out into communities to introduce themselves and gather views.
- 'Environmental Evaluation Assessments'.
- (Plus Councillor Ward Surgery arrangements, where existing).

For all of the above, it was acknowledged that an adequate 'Planner of Scheduled Events' was required (or better awareness and use of existing information systems) in order to maximise the available opportunities.

#### 4. **LSP / COUNTY COUNCIL ROLE / OTHER PARTNERS**

It was agreed that there might be a role for the Local Strategic Partnership in this, as well as for the Council's other partners.

It was noted that Borough and County Council rep's, with the Police, were generally well represented now at PACT meetings, but that this partnership needed to continue in the new ways of working together.

The County Council wished to review their County Contact Forum arrangements, and they were awaiting the outcomes of this present meeting in order to progress their ideas further.

Other organisations, such as health-related bodies, could be invited to participate as the scheme developed / as and when appropriate.

#### 5. **OUTCOMES / ACTIONS**

It was agreed that there was now a need for relevant partners: Police / County and Borough Councillors to get together to develop ideas appropriate to their areas.

That attached Action Plan picks up on the various actions now agreed at both meetings for implementation.

PACT (PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER)ACTION PLAN – JULY 2010

	Proposal	Action by	
1.	<i>PACT Meetings continue as at present, in those areas, and at the frequency, determined by Policing needs. In all other areas, and additionally in the areas where meetings still take place ...</i>	WM Police	
2.	Members liaise with local Police over best community engagement arrangements for their areas. County Members to be invited to participate (plus other partner bodies, as/when need dictates).	RBC Members / Local Police rep's / WCC Members.	
3.	Local Members / Police liaise with local PACT Panels, where these already exist or consider the need to set them up where they don't yet exist.	RBC Members / Local Police rep's / WCC Members.	
4.	The RBC Communications Team to be involved in monitoring the Events Planner to seek opportunities for community engagement; and to agree a joint press / media approach.. (other authorities' rep's to consider parallel activity)	RBC – Adrian Marklew	
5.	The Policy & Strategy (P&S) Team to increase their statistical analysis support to the new processes; to date there had been little analysis for example of the outcomes from the Neighbourhood Groups..	RBC – Sue Hanley to talk to Hugh Bennett / consider the resource implications re actions 4, 5 & 6.	
6.	Also P&S Team to look at the necessary linkages with the LSP.		
7.	Political Parties be asked to take this back to their Groups.	(Group Leaders all present at meeting.)	
8.	New PACT processes to be as 'unbureaucratic' as possible – <i>'mapped but not over-managed'</i> - no formal agenda / minutes or routine Officer attendance.	All	
9.	Where appropriate the PACT precedent of residents voting for their 'top three' priorities for action be maintained, with a view to keeping processes focussed / well targeted.	All	

10.	More information to be routinely shared between Partner bodies and posted on websites – County / RBC / Police (the Police site to be the prime one for this purpose, but ‘standard links’ to be posted if possible on others).	All	
11.	Where Roadshows / Stalls / Street Briefings / Environmental Audits / etc. are being undertaken as part of the new broader PACT processes, better advertising and branding is required (including better banners etc. so the public understand what is taking place)	Comms / All	
12.	RBC to consider hosting a Borough-wide Debate later in the municipal year 2010/11.	RBC - Sue Hanley / Cllr Gandy	
13.	Further consideration be given later to sharing of financial resources now ‘released’ from Neighbourhood Groups allocations. (Police to review needs and come back to other partners – <u>no immediate requirement for contributions</u> was made, however.)	S Skinner / Finance / WM Police	
14.	RBC Members be reminded of their decisions that spare funding is now available for re-allocation towards PACT activities / local meetings / hire of premises , etc.	SS/ Group Leaders	
15.	County Officer to communicate outcomes and consider similar potential re-allocation / pooling of funding if County Forum is deleted.	Hazel R.	
16.	All participating partners need to acknowledge their obligations and commitment to ‘New PACT’. (Report to RBC Exec?)	All / Steve Skinner	
17.	County Officer to seek WCC sign up to joining the new processes.	Hazel R. / WCC	
18.	WM Police to remain the organising / co-ordinating body for the time being, in consultation with other partners.	WM Police	

End.





**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL****OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
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**REPORT TITLE Ditches and other Land Drainage Matters**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Brandon Clayton
Relevant Head of Service	Guy Revans - Head Environmental Services
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

To update Members on progress with regard to the monitoring of ditches and other associated land drainage strategies, including an update on recent changes in legislation.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to **RECOMMEND** that:

- 1) the Council's policies on ditches be initially applied to Arterial Ditches only;
- 2) the Council should consider its position with regards to the implications of the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010;
- 3) a report being prepared by officers, as previously instructed by Members, setting out proposals for a joint, North-Worcestershire Land Drainage Partnership in accordance with the above guidance; and

to **RESOLVE** that the report be noted.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Council has taken a keen interest in flooding related matters particularly since the July 2007 Floods, and following the Joint Scrutiny Exercise into these events. Officers brought forward formal policies (where none previously existed) on 17th June 2009 for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which covered a range of Land Drainage topics these were subsequently passed forward to the Executive Committee (12th August 2009) and formally ratified by Full Council on 26th October 2009.

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3.2 Consequently, these policies have been rolled out internally to other relevant departments and changes in certain working practices have already occurred.

**4. KEY ISSUES**

4.1 The Council has obligations, both as a major riparian landowner and also as a LDA, to both comply with and enforce the Land Drainage Act 1991 as well as the new legislation listed in section 6.1 below.

4.2 We have developed close working relationships with our Land Drainage partners and have also seen the completion of some high-profile enforcement actions.

4.3 Attached are Appendices 1 - 6, which sets out progress in a more detailed fashion for Members to consider. Examples of relevant areas are included where appropriate. In addition, a PowerPoint presentation also illustrates the various points for Members to consider

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The current operational arrangements are already fully funded, subject to a limited amount of emergency responses. The bulk of the approved policies merely direct how these funds and efforts are best utilised. In addition, when working in conjunction with other Council service units, works can be planned on a joint basis for the proper delivery of these objectives in an efficient and timely fashion.

5.2 The Flood and Water Management Act sets out raising fees for consenting of works to Ordinary Watercourses, if so delegated by the LLFA (WCC). Typically, these fees do not reflect the actual direct costs of consenting – currently the EA charges £50.00 per application. However, where these works are consented, they would not have a detrimental affect upon flood risks and therefore the actual costs of ensuring compliance are more than offset by savings in potential revenue and other emergency costs associated with any unapproved installations.

5.3 Also there is an obligation to designate features in addition to our existing culvert and similar records. Defra has already stated that any new obligations will be fully funded as set out in their factsheets dated 28 July 2010 (Appendix 4).

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- 5.4 With respect to a possible collaboration with Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest District Councils, we initially recommend that we 'pool' existing funded resources in an endeavour to deliver enhanced services without initial increased costs (see Appendix). Once experience of working within the new legislation occurs, officers will be in a better position to more accurately forecast any medium or long term financial implications and so advise Members at a later date.

**6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Council has a duty to comply with:

- a) Environment Act 1990;
- b) Land Drainage Act 1991;
- c) Flood Risk Regulations 2009; and
- d) Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

**7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Land Drainage matters have been considered at previous committee meetings and Overview and Scrutiny has taken interest in scrutinising the issue in recent years. This has led to recommendations and decisions being made on the subject at the following meetings: -

- a) Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 18th March 2009;
- b) Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 17th June 2009;
- c) Executive Committee, 12th August 2009; and
- d) Council, 26th October 2009,

- 7.2 The conclusions reached by Members in relation to this report may form the basis of subsequent recommendations to both Executive Committee and Council for formal decisions.

**8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

This item closely interfaces with all Council Objectives as new environmental powers are to be imposed, in addition to existing and enhanced enforcement responsibilities by the new Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

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**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY  
CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 The recommendations outlined in this report should help the Council to maintain and improve flood risk for the area which includes working with the LLFA, and in particular the preparation of Multi-Agency Flood Plans and Surface Water Management Plans.
- 9.2 These actions would also enhance our capacity to respond to possible varied climatic effects by collaborating with appropriate neighbouring authorities.

**10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The suggested actions would improve flood risk management and minimise the impact of any future flooding events. Improved Emergency Planning procedures will offer better protection against major events such as 20th July 2007.
- 10.2 There is a National Emergency Exercise planned for early 2011. Councils and other authorities are open to Defra scrutiny to see if there have been any improvements in potential responses post-2007.

**11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no equalities or diversity implications.

**12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET  
MANAGEMENT**

- 12.1 Initially, as set out in section 9 above, it is suggested that we monitor what improvements can be achieved for policy and enforcement through collaborative working, initially through the use of existing budgets only.
- 12.2 For operational matters, where collaboration either formally or informally is necessary, it remains the responsibility of a district to fully fund such operations within its own area. Also, certain skills will now need to be required by all organisations and officers consider that by use of a shared resource, reduced impact will be possible.

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**13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

13.1 All current Land Drainage policies comply with Climate Change laws and regulations. We regularly review operational procedures to ensure the lowest possible carbon footprint dependant of course on weather effects.

13.2 New legislation confers additional powers on all relevant drainage authorities to incorporate environmental improvements including biodiversity and the maintenance or re-creation of water-based habitat allowing appropriate species of flora and fauna to thrive.

**14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 Initially there should be no human resources implications as it is suggested that relevant officers from constituent partners form a collaborative team sharing common practices and policies for delivery on behalf of the LLFA.

14.2 Any additional operational resources will be procured externally by means of current Term Contracts supported by additional funding from other relevant partner authorities.

**15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no governance or performance management implications.

**16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

There are no community safety implications.

**17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

There are no health or inequalities implications.

**18. LESSONS LEARNT**

Priorities are regularly reviewed in the light of any improvement schemes, climatic effects or changes in statutory duties and powers. Following the proposed National Emergency Exercise referred to in 10.2 above, there may be additional directions from both Defra and/or the LLFA.

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A possible district based river warden scheme is being considered for urban areas in conjunction with lengthmen for parishes in rural areas. This scheme, if pursued, will be developed in conjunction with relevant partners and referred to Members in advance for approval. It is envisaged that such functions would either be on a voluntary basis or where applicable, supported by the local Parishes and/or LLFA.

**20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	Yes
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	No
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

**21. WARDS AFFECTED**

All Wards

**22. APPENDICES**

Members are advised that although the Defra documents in Appendix 4 are titled, not all matters relating to local authority responsibilities are so listed.

Appendix 1	Notes re Overview and Scrutiny, Minute 192, 18/03/09.
Appendix 2	Notes re Overview and Scrutiny, Minute 20, 17/06/09.
Appendix 3	Notes re Executive Committee, Minute 81, 12/08/09.
Appendix 4	Defra Factsheets, issued on 28/07/10.
Appendix 5	Summary of outstanding works, post-2007.
Appendix 6	PowerPoint presentation (visual only at Committee).

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**23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Defra Guidance Notes for the Flood and Water Management Act 2010  
dated 28 July 2010.

**24. KEY**

Defra Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs  
EA Environment Agency  
LDA Local Drainage Authority  
LLFA Lead Local Flood Authority

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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**Appendix 1 Progress Notes, Overview and Scrutiny Committee,  
Minute 192, 18th March 2009**

A combined Worcestershire Land Drainage Protocol was formally adopted by Council on 26th October 2009, a part of which sets out common enforcement procedures. These have already been successfully applied in two instances.

As a part of WETT, a Land Drainage function has been identified but as yet it is unclear what the extent of these functions are. They are potentially only applicable to former Local Drainage Authority functions in relation to enforcement as it will become the responsibility of the Lead Local Flood Authorities, or approved partner organisations acting on their behalf, to consent works to ordinary watercourses and to provide corresponding advice on policy and other strategic matters.

Problems surrounding enforcement remain in respect of the level of delegated powers. It is not suggested that they be considered at this time, but when further details of any new working arrangements emerge. At that time, it may be possible to aggregate combined responsibilities and consideration be given to raising thresholds at least on a pro-rata basis. Otherwise, where such situations arise, both Members and officers will remain hampered by the extent to which Member approval in advance is required, thereby necessarily extending the time taken for enforcement to be carried through to a satisfactory conclusion.

There is only one Parish Council within the Council's area, Feckenham. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) in collaboration with Feckenham Parish Council, have jointly funded the provision of a Parish lengthmen. There are other rural areas within Redditch as well as all the other urban districts. It is suggested that a voluntary, community focussed scheme be set up so that there are similar lengthmen/wardens for all other districts. This would need to be considered at the time of any new arrangements arising out of the new legislation. These would be a welcome second-line support to the Council's existing operational arrangements and may assist, particularly during inclement weather, the appropriate deployment of resources in a timely and focussed fashion.

As a part of working on Multi-Agency Flood Plan (MAFP) and Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) these will bring to the fore key problem areas and required actions in Worcestershire. Each partner is currently engaged either independently or as in our case, in collaboration with Bromsgrove District Council (BDC).



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Progress with regards to Reservoirs and associated risk management has unfortunately been painfully slow. Defra appears to be constantly extending deadlines for the Environment Agency (EA) to respond. Despite new obligations for smaller reservoirs, there appears to be little or no information available in respect of existing significant ones. Later timescales have been prescribed for these smaller ones.

Mention was previously made in respect of Hewell Lake, situated within the BDC area. Subsequent investigations for other purposes revealed that the overflow weir was formerly provided with four sluices, primarily to regulate flows for milling purposes, which became dilapidated and subsequently removed. Investigations into the exact causes and hence corrective measures and apportioning of blame will be necessarily costly and time-consuming. There is no guarantee that swift enforcement actions could effectively be pursued,

Officers have monitored the performance of the new Batchley Brook Improvement Scheme, which fully meets its design objectives. However, the December 2008 flood event demonstrated that Redditch was receiving exceptionally high flows from upstream, from the Batchley Brook via Hewell Lake. It occurs to officers, that for a relatively modest cost, three of the sluices could be reinstated, thereby severely restricting the potential for high flows for whatever reason, being passed forward to Redditch. Obviously this may have implications for the reservoir owners (Her Majesty's Prisons). If acceptable to the owners (free of charge) the Council provisionally proposes to provide these sluices and as this would a flood defence measure solely for Redditch purposes, the Joint Chief Executive supports in principle that these works in BDC's area being so undertaken. This proposal will, of course, be subject to the usual procedures for bidding and procurement.

The protocol and other policies referred to in the Item 192 report were completed as listed in Section 7 of the main report for this meeting.

In response to the resolutions: -

- 1) This update was originally scheduled for March 2010 but owing to long-term officer illness had to be deferred to this time.
- 2) Revised maps have been produced, including one for web-based purposes, allowing customers to identify which watercourse they are concerned with or commenting upon. (These are included within the PowerPoint presentation, but can be reproduced in other formats upon request).

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- 3) The policies and other documents were in addition to the Minutes arising from the meetings listed in Section 7 of the main report were approved and subsequently ratified by Council on 26th October 2009.

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**Appendix 2 Progress Notes, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Minute 20,  
17th March 2009**

The publication of legislation and other factsheets and guidance notes by Defra has confirmed that the primary strategic and emergency planning roles are to be delivered by the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA). The relevant Regulations and Acts are listed in Items 6.c) and 6.d) of the main report.

It now emerges that other roles are to be delivered where possible more locally subject to the approval of the LLFA. Also, it is recognised that new enhanced roles are not going to be capable of being delivered by many authorities on an individual basis and advice is given as to how these may be performed by a number of partnerships. The exact details are to be approved by the LLFA who are empowered to act in default should circumstances warrant it.

Although we were approached informally by a firm of consultants BWB Consulting who kindly made a presentation to Committee, County the LLFA, has preferred partners whom they have already engaged.

In response to the resolutions: -

- 1) As per Appendix 1, the policies and other documents were in addition to the Minutes arising from the meetings listed in Section 7 of the main report were approved and subsequently ratified by Council on 26th October 2009.
- 2) The officers of respective Councils in North-Worcestershire have actively engaged in discussions regarding a prospective local land drainage partnership. Following a meeting on 3rd August 2010, delayed because of the earlier long-term illness of the Operations Manager, informal exchanges of information has now taken place. Once the relevant officers can formulate a combined strategy to address expectations set out in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, these will be referred to the relevant Heads of Service, Joint Chief Executive and subsequently Members for approval in due course.

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**Appendix 3 Progress Notes, Executive Committee, Minute 81, 26th October 2009**

Funding matters have yet to be clarified except that Defra repeatedly states, that where there are any new responsibilities, these will be fully funded. Initially it is seen that this chiefly applies to LLFA (Worcestershire County Council). However, where functions are permissively delegated to other authorities and/or partnerships, then corresponding funding elements are to be passed forward.

Whilst Redditch currently is recognised as having a good set of asset records, these need to be aligned with the latest legislation, to include all “designated features”. Rather than being confined to pipes, culverts, weirs and the like, designated features include any feature that has an affect upon flood defence and/or flood routing. Examples of these are:

- 1) Highway embankments
- 2) Bunds and berms
- 3) Balancing Areas
- 4) Garden Walls

By virtue of the new Flood and Water Management Act 2010, such new features would enjoy the same level of protection and enforcement as existing ones (currently protected by means of Section 23 of Land Drainage Act 1991).

Through pursuing engagement with both Bromsgrove District Council and Wyre Forest District Council, officers believe it will be possible to enhance service delivery both operationally and strategically. This is in line with Members earlier guidance but will be subject to subsequent detailed referral, as indicated in Appendix 2. Consequently, such a system would allow the relevant local authorities to retain as much control and influence as possible.

The new Act also confers additional powers and responsibilities with regards to sustainability and environmental matters. With reference to Defra’s factsheet (Appendix 4), specific mention is made in addition to hydraulic and hydrological factors to ‘works that are deemed by the relevant authority to be desirable for the natural environment, or other aspects of the environment, such as historic environment, landscape, amenity or leisure benefits.’ With a significant amount of abandoned former drainage assets, particularly related to former milling activities, there is both an opportunity and a need to recognise such features.

Officers remain vigilant to the effects of climate change and as a consequence, regularly monitor performance, particularly where new or improved works have

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been carried out. Part of this process, includes a cyclic review of balancing areas which allows maintenance regimes to be modified accordingly. Experience shows that where such features operate at their limits, some form of adaptation may be necessary to ensure their long-term fitness for purpose.

Officers are working with LLFA and other neighbouring authorities in the preparation of Multi-Agency Flood Plans (an emergency planning tool) and Surface Water Management Plans (a strategic and planning tool). The former is at an advanced stage and is provisionally scheduled to be published in the autumn. The latter document is only now being progressed and the first workshop is expected to take place on 16th August 2010. Details of availability of the final plan are not yet available.

Working within the Worcestershire Land Drainage Partnership continues with the next meeting scheduled for 23rd August 2010. If necessary, a verbal update will be provided to Members at Committee. The information sharing has been extremely variable, although an updated spreadsheet records the current assets and resources criteria.

In terms of a prospective land drainage partnership for North-Worcestershire, with reference to census and other data, if Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest were to collaborate, this would represent roughly 49% of the population of Worcestershire. All three are geographically linked to one of the partner organisations and most importantly retains both banks of the River Severn under the control/influence of one organisation in addition to EA. Area-wise, this is relatively compact amounting to 26% of Worcestershire and excluding Worcester City, contains the next two largest conurbations of Redditch and Kidderminster respectively.

In response to the resolutions: -

- 1) As per Appendix 1, the policies and other documents were in addition to the Minutes arising from the meetings listed in Section 7 of the main report were approved and subsequently ratified by Council on 26th October 2009.
- 2) The officers of respective Councils in North-Worcestershire have actively engaged in discussions regarding a prospective local land drainage partnership. Following a meeting on 3rd August 2010, delayed because of the earlier long-term illness of the Operations Manager, informal exchanges of information has now taken place. Once the relevant officers can formulate a combined strategy to address expectations set out in the Flood

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and Water Management Act 2010, these will be referred to the relevant Heads of Service, Joint Chief Executive and subsequently Members for approval in due course.

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**ITEM 11  
DRAINAGE UPDATE REPORT**

**APPENDIX 4:  
DEFRA GUIDANCE NOTES  
FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT  
ACT 2010**

**COVER PAGE**



# Flood and Water Management Act 2010

## What are the changes to the regional committees?

The Act provides for the replacement of the existing Regional Flood Defence Committees (RFDCs) by Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs). In doing so it will reconcile the legal position with current practice and extend the remit of the committees to include coastal erosion as well as flooding. The Act allows for transitional arrangements and the new committees will continue much of the work of the RFDCs. They will play an important role in guiding the Environment Agency's flood and coastal erosion risk management activities in their region. It is intended that they will also have a wider role in assisting the scrutiny of local authority risk assessments, maps and plans required by the Floods Directive.

The Environment Agency will be required to obtain the consent of the RFCC for the regional programme. This will provide for continued local input to decisions and ensure that the committees will have the final say on implementation of the programme of works which the Environment Agency has determined and brought forward for that region.

Importantly, the committees will retain responsibility for raising the local levy, which enables additional schemes to be funded at a regional level. They will decide how these, and other funds raised locally (such as general and special drainage charges and contributions from internal drainage boards) will be spent.

### **Why the change of name?**

The new name of these committees reflects an extension of their powers to cover coastal erosion, mirroring the extension of the Environment Agency's remit.

### **What are the provisions on raising the local levy – who will be able to vote on this?**

The Act means that the consent of the RFCCs continues to be needed for the Environment Agency to raise funds through the local levy, and for spending this and other money raised locally. The Act provides for regulations (secondary legislation) to be made on the membership and functioning of the committees. It is intended to continue to require a majority of local authority representatives for decisions to raise the local levy. However, there will be potential for making changes in these arrangements if the role of the RFCCs evolves, without the need for primary legislation.

### **How will RFCC boundaries be determined?**

The Act provides for the Environment Agency to establish committees for England and Wales and decide on their boundaries. This means that different boundaries can be set from those that we have at present and that these can be changed in the future. Ministers in England and Wales will have the power to set out in regulations the procedures which must be followed by the Environment Agency in setting these boundaries. Ministers may use these powers to ensure, amongst other things, that there is adequate consultation.

## **How will RFCC Chairs and members be appointed?**

The Act does not set out the numbers of RFCC members or how they will be appointed. Instead it gives regulation making powers to the Minister to lay down requirements relating to eligibility for membership, and appointment and selection procedures. This leaves open a wide range of possibilities, including both appointment (by the Minister or some other body) as well as the election of RFCC members by the public or a group of people such as councillors.

The regulations will set out who will make the appointments of Chairs and members and how they will be made. No firm decisions have yet been taken but Ministers will take into account the views of the RFCCs and other stakeholders and consult further if necessary. Because the appointment procedures will be made by regulations, there is flexibility to change them. Alterations might be required, for example, to reflect changing needs in representation on these committees as well as to revise boundaries. Any proposed changes would be subject to consultation.

# Flood and Water Management Act 2010

## What does the Flood and Water Management Act mean for Local Authorities?

This factsheet summarises flood management provisions in the Act that affect local authorities in England.

### Lead local flood authority

Sir Michael Pitt's review of the flooding in 2007 stated that "the role of local authorities should be enhanced so that they take on responsibility for leading the co-ordination of flood risk management in their areas". The Act provides for this through the new role of the lead local flood authority.

As set out in the Government's response to Sir Michael's Review, the Act defines the lead local flood authority for an area as the unitary authority or the county council. This will avoid any delay or confusion about who is responsible, but in no way prevents partnership arrangements to make full use of all capabilities and experience locally. The Act enables lead local authorities to delegate flood or coastal erosion functions to another risk management authority by agreement.

### Local Partnerships

Sir Michael Pitt's Review recommended that the lead local flood authority should bring together all relevant bodies to help manage local flood risk. The important roles played by district councils, internal drainage boards, highways authorities and water companies are also recognised in the Act and these bodies, together with the Environment Agency, are identified as risk management authorities.

The Act enables effective partnerships to be formed between the lead local flood authority and the other relevant authorities who retain their existing powers (with some enhancement), but it does not say what any local arrangements should look like. It requires the relevant authorities to co-operate with each other in exercising functions under the Act and they can delegate to each other. It also empowers a lead local flood authority or the Environment Agency to require information from others needed for their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.

Guidance and examples of best practice arrangements for local partnerships will be made available to local authorities and, as recommended by the EFRA Select Committee, different bodies' roles can be varied if necessary.

### Flood risk management strategies

The Environment Agency will be required to develop a national strategy for the management of coastal erosion and all sources of flood risk for England. This will need to be consulted on publicly before being approved by the Secretary of State and laid before Parliament.

The Act also requires a lead local flood authority to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. The lead local flood authority will be responsible for ensuring the strategy is put in place but the local partners can agree how to develop it in the way that suits them best. The Act sets out the minimum that a local strategy must contain, and the lead local flood authority is required to consult on the strategy with risk management authorities and the public.

Local flood risk includes surface runoff, groundwater, and ordinary watercourses (including lakes and ponds). Guidance may, amongst other things, set out in more detail how the national strategy and local strategies should interact and how local strategies will need to take account of plans to manage other sources of risk.

Local authorities will need to consider the full range of measures consistent with a risk management approach in developing their local flood risk strategy. Resilience and other approaches which minimise the impact of flooding are expected to be a key aspect of the measures proposed.

### **Duty to act consistently with local and national strategies**

The Act will require local flood risk management strategies to be consistent with the national strategy. The local strategies will build on information such as national risk assessments and will use consistent risk based approaches across different local authority areas and catchments. The local strategy will not be secondary to the national strategy; rather it will have distinct objectives to manage local flood risks important to local communities.

### **Duty to investigate and to maintain a register**

To ensure greater co-ordination of information and avoid situations where bodies do not accept responsibility, the lead local flood authority will:

- investigate flooding incidents in its area (where appropriate or necessary) to identify which authorities have relevant flood risk management functions and what they have done or intend to do. The lead local flood authority will then be required to publish the results of any investigation, and notify any relevant authorities.
- maintain a register of structures or features which they consider have a significant effect on flood risk in their area, at a minimum recording ownership and state of repair. The register must be available for inspection and the Secretary of State will be able to make regulations about the content of the register and records.

### **Ensuring progress**

To avoid administrative burdens, the Act does not require routine reporting on performance, but allows information to be requested where necessary. Local authorities can bring matters to the Government's attention and if a risk management authority fails to exercise a flood or coastal erosion risk management function, the Secretary of State can direct another authority to carry out that function.

In addition, the Act will enable overview and scrutiny committees in lead local flood authorities to hold all the risk management authorities to account. In this way, the public can be actively involved in ensuring authorities perform.

## Works powers

The Act provides the lead local flood authority with powers to do works to manage flood risk from surface runoff and groundwater. Powers to do works on ordinary watercourses remain with either district or unitary authorities, or internal drainage boards. All works must be consistent with the local flood risk management strategy for the area.

## Designation of third party assets

The Act provides lead local flood authorities, district councils, internal drainage boards and the Environment Agency with powers to designate structures and features that affect flooding or coastal erosion. The powers are intended to overcome the risk of a person damaging or removing a structure or feature that is on private land and which is relied on for flood or coastal erosion risk management.

Once a feature is designated, the owner must seek consent from the authority to alter, remove, or replace it. If someone does make a change to a designated feature, then the authority may issue an "enforcement notice" which will set out any steps that must be taken to restore a feature. An individual may appeal against a designation notice, refusal of consent, conditions placed on a consent or an enforcement notice.

## Sustainable drainage systems

The Act establishes a SuDS Approving Body (the "SAB") at county or unitary local authority levels. The SAB would have responsibility for the approval of proposed drainage systems in new developments and redevelopments, subject to exemptions and thresholds. Approval must be given before the developer can commence construction.

In order to be approved, the proposed drainage system would have to meet new national standards for sustainable drainage. Where planning permission is required applications for drainage approval and planning permission can be lodged jointly with the planning authority but the Approving Body will determine the drainage application. Regulations will set a timeframe for the decision so as not to hold up the planning process.

The SuDS Approving Body (SAB) would also be responsible for adopting and maintaining SuDS which serve more than one property, where they have been approved. Highways authorities will be responsible for maintain SuDS in public roads, to National Standards.

Sustainable drainage systems on private property, whether they are private or adopted, must be designated by the SAB under Schedule 1 to the Act as features that affect flooding risk. The SAB will also be required to place all approved sustainable drainage systems on the register of structures and features (as a separate category).

The National Standards will set out the criteria by which the form of drainage appropriate to any particular site or development can be determined, as well as requirements for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of SuDS. Local authorities are represented on the Project Advisory Board for the development of these National Standards.

The Act, in response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review, also makes the right to connect surface water drainage from new development to the public sewerage system conditional on the surface water drainage system being approved by the Approving Body.

Further information on sustainable drainage systems and drainage is covered in a separate factsheet for property developers.

## **Other powers**

Local authorities will be able to use all their normal powers (in planning, regeneration, local investment, highways and to provide information and guidance) to support their new roles under the Act.

They will take over the Environment Agency's role in deciding whether to allow works by third parties that may affect water flows to take place. They will also continue to be members of Regional Flood and Coastal Committees. These Committees will decide on the local levy raised and how this is spent and will be consulted on all relevant Environment Agency proposals.

## **Sustainable development duty and environmental works**

The Act includes a duty for local authorities, highways authorities, and internal drainage boards to contribute to sustainable development in discharging their flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) functions. This is similar, to the existing duty that the Environment Agency already has.

The Act also provides environmental powers for works that a) have a net beneficial impact, b) are consistent with the national FCERM Strategy and, c) are deemed by the relevant authority to be desirable for the natural environment, the historic environment, landscape, or have amenity or leisure benefits.

## **Levies**

The Act will enable the Environment Agency to issue levies to the lead local flood authority for an area in accordance with section 74 of the Local Government Finance Act in the same way that they could previously raise levies under Section 133 of the Water Resources Act 1991, which will be repealed.

## **Funding**

Defra is committed to funding all net new burdens on local authorities resulting from the new Act, and will monitor the situation as implementation proceeds.

There is a separate factsheet on funding.

## **The EU Floods Directive**

Alongside the Act, the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 have been made to implement the Floods Directive in England and Wales. These regulations outline the roles and responsibilities of the various authorities consistent with the Flood and Water Management Act and provide for the delivery of the outputs required by the Directive:

- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments (PFRAs), which will allow the identification of areas of potential significant risk.
- Maps showing impact and extent of possible future significant flood events.
- Flood risk management plans, identifying how significant flood risks are to be mitigated.



It is envisaged that initially the local and national strategies (which will take on board work to date in putting together catchment flood management plans, shoreline management plans, and surface water management plans amongst other things) will help to shape the work to be done on the Floods Directive outputs. Over time the maps and plans under the Directive will in turn shape the national strategy and the local strategies.

# Flood and Water Management Act 2010

## Funding for local authorities

### **Defra is committed to fully funding net new burdens, and will keep the situation under review**

Government is currently undertaking a full Spending Review. It is not possible to pre-empt the outcome of the Spending Review. However, Defra recognises that the Act will place significant extra responsibilities and burdens on lead local flood authorities (county and unitary councils) and is committed to funding local authorities for their flood and coastal erosion risk management.

Net new burdens have been assessed and agreed with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), and estimates and assumptions will be kept under review as implementation takes place. As part of this a joint Defra/LGA review panel has been meeting since March to advise Defra Ministers and LGA Members on resource, capacity, skills and training issues relating to the uptake and implementation of the new powers and duties by local authorities as set out in the Flood and Water Management Act and Flood Risk Regulations.

### **Authorities are set to receive an extra £36 million a year to fund the leadership role**

Following comments on the draft Bill, Defra commissioned additional evidence gathering to estimate the costs of the lead local flood authority. Overall, the evidence suggests there needs to be between £30m and £42m spent by authorities a year, in preparing local strategies and surface water management plans, on capital improvement works, designating third party assets, and resourcing in-house teams, etc. Maintenance of SUDS is considered separately, see below.

The spending review will determine the total amount of funding available to local authorities for flood and coastal erosion risk management, including the new burdens under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Flood Risk Regulations.

### **Defra is already funding early action amongst at least half of all lead local flood authorities**

As evidence of Defra's commitment to the new role and to provide the necessary resources, the department will spend a total of £16m before commencement to allow at least half of all county and unitary authorities to take early action. An additional £1m is being provided to support local authority flood risk management apprenticeships.

In addition, the need for local authorities to spend more on flooding and coastal erosion was anticipated at the last Comprehensive Spending Review in 2007. As a result the local authority formula grant settlement for the current period to March 2011 included additional funds to spend on flood and coastal erosion risk management, including in levy payments to the Environment Agency and internal drainage boards.

As formula grant is unringfenced, it is for local authorities to decide how much to spend on each of their priorities. So far, local authorities are not spending as much on flood and coastal erosion risk management as expected. We will monitor the situation to see if this continues, before and following commencement of the new legislation.

## **Other new burdens will also be funded in full, such as SuDS adoption**

As well as funding the lead flood authority role, Defra will also make sure that the ongoing costs of maintaining Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), adopted as a result of the new duty, will be funded in full. These costs will be near zero in the first year following commencement but will rise as more and more SuDS are built by developers and adopted by authorities.

As a result of concerns raised by local authorities, Ministers have committed to publish a clear way forward on long-term funding for SuDS maintenance prior to implementation of the Act. This will take account of circumstances faced by local authorities and developers, whichever option is adopted, local authorities will be able to promote SuDS implementation in full certainty that there will be no shortfall in funding.

The Act will also extend the role of the Regional Flood Defence Committees, to become Regional Flood and Coastal Committees, and as a result allow them to raise funds through the existing 'local levy' for locally important works to manage coastal erosion. Assuming this means the levy will increase by 10%, to reflect the national split between flooding and erosion work, county and unitary authorities will be provided with an extra £2.7m a year in their settlement<sup>1</sup>. Local authorities may vote as members of the committees to spend more or less than this.

## **Roles will be paid for by reducing local authority involvement in private sewerage**

Private sewerage has been a problematic issue for many years, with individual home and property owners usually unaware of their responsibilities unless something goes wrong and they face a potentially large bill to put things right. Issues can drag on, and if they affect more than one home it can be even more difficult to resolve.

Local authorities, as well as owning property themselves, have historically stepped in to sort out many such issues on behalf of householders. In some cases they have charged householders and recovered their costs, but in many others it has not been possible or appropriate to do that, or councils have seen this as part of a service they provide on behalf of the community. As a result, local authorities have been amongst those calling for the Government to do something about private sewerage, citing it as a significant call on their time and resources.

After a long period of consultation, Government announced in December 2008 that it would transfer responsibility for private sewers to the water and sewerage companies. To inform the earlier consultation stages and the final decision, the Government compiled evidence on the potential costs and benefits of the transfer. Included in this was a survey that assessed local authority involvement in private sewerage, and captured cost data. A third of local authorities responded to the survey and 41 provided cost information. It is likely that some local authorities found it hard to provide numeric data as the costs of dealing with private sewerage are not routinely recorded, and are typically spread across a number of authority budgets such as drainage, highways, housing, etc.

The data that was provided suggested local authority costs could be as high as £125 million a year. For the final estimate, costs recovered from property owners and the proportion of sewerage within ownership of housing associations were removed from the analysis. As a result, the Department's best conservative estimate of local authority savings from the transfer is £50 million a year. The highest cost estimates were also removed from the analysis to suggest, if anything, this may be an underestimate.

As the potential transfer has been known for many years, local authorities may already be making savings by reducing their involvement and postponing work they would historically have undertaken. Separately, Ofwat estimates that water companies could need to spend an extra £130 million a year once transfer takes place, as well as invest over £1 billion in the early years to tackle existing problems with sewerage they will inherit.

The Government has a duty to reflect the estimated savings in future local authority budgets as otherwise taxpayers would be paying for an activity no longer performed. Based on recent outturn data, accounting for the transfer is expected to affect the relevant local authority funding provision by less than 1%.

### **Other benefits of additional local authority action**

It should also be recognised that local authorities are likely to save money as a result of their additional risk management work, and investment by central government and agencies, in that there should be fewer and less severe floods occurring than otherwise. Expenditure on preventing floods is highly beneficial, given that responding and reinstating buildings, roads and repairing other damages can be extremely expensive.

Such savings could be significant in the long-term given projections of climate change. However, the savings are not needed to offset authorities' extra costs until at least 2014/15. If the ongoing maintenance of SuDS becomes funded by other means, as intended the savings will not strictly be needed at all.

It is important to recognise the savings available to local authorities resulting from the additional investment at both national and local levels. This is to prevent activity being paid for twice by the taxpayer and to encourage an "investment to save" culture amongst authorities. Risk management activity should only be funded if the costs are outweighed by the expected benefits.

For the Environment Agency's national investment programme, the benefits of improved defences outweigh the costs on average by 8 to 1 over the long-term. Local authorities should take a benefit/cost approach to everything they do to make sure the costs of plans and investments are well justified.

Ultimately, on top of the risk management activity paid for by taxpayers in general, local authorities can decide for themselves - as part of local strategies - whether extra up-front money should be raised and spent locally to further reduce future flood costs and damages in their area. This would be to avoid costs authorities themselves will otherwise bear, but more importantly, to help mitigate the costly and traumatic impact of flooding on local residents and businesses.

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<sup>i</sup>The value of the RFDC local levy was £27.2m in England in 2007/08. This is due to increase to around £30m by 2010/11. Defra is therefore providing for this to increase to approximately £33m a year from commencement.

# Flood and Water Management Act 2010

## What does the Flood and Water Management Act mean for internal drainage boards (IDBs)?

The Act recognises and builds on the key role of IDBs in managing flood risk. It received Royal Assent on 8th April 2010. But it will not be in force until commenced by way of a Commencement Order. It is intended that some parts of the Act are brought into force this year, and most other parts in April 2011.

### **A duty to act consistently with local and national strategies**

The Act will require the Environment Agency to develop a national strategy for managing coastal erosion and all sources of flood risk for England. This will need to be consulted on publicly before being approved by the Secretary of State and laid before Parliament. Local authorities and IDBs must act consistently with this national strategy in developing and implementing the local flood risk strategies, and then also act consistently with those local strategies.

IDBs will also have a duty to have a regard to these strategies when performing wider functions.

### **A duty to co-operate and provide information**

All flood risk management authorities will be required to co-operate with any other flood risk management authority, including Welsh Ministers, when they are exercising flood risk management functions. This includes sharing information where it may be useful even if not requested. IDBs must also comply with reasonable information requests from the Environment Agency or lead local flood authorities.

### **Scrutiny by lead local flood authorities**

IDBs will be subject to scrutiny by lead local flood authority overview and scrutiny committees when they are addressing flood and coastal erosion risk management. This will mean that they will need to provide information and respond to reports, and have regard to the recommendations of those committees. Ministers will be able to decide the procedure, which may be laid down in regulations, and this may include allowing local authorities to require the attendance of IDBs at scrutiny meetings.

### **Power to delegate functions**

The Act allows all relevant organisations to undertake flood and coastal erosion functions at the request of another body. IDBs will play a key role in local partnerships led by local authorities. Local authorities will be able to delegate work to IDBs, with their agreement. This will enable arrangements that best suit local needs and circumstances, making the most effective use of capabilities and resource available, to be put in place.

District local authorities and IDBs will continue to manage ordinary watercourses. The Act now allows consenting powers to be delegated. This will mean county local authorities will be able to delegate direct responsibility for consenting of third party works, enabling district councils and IDBs to have effective control of the watercourses they manage.

## **Powers of direction – defaulting authorities**

The Secretary of State and the Welsh Minister will have powers to direct any flood authority to act in default of another flood authority. This is only intended to be used where that authority has failed to deliver and has been given a reasonable opportunity to improve.

## **Designation of third party assets**

The Act provides lead local flood authorities, district councils, internal drainage boards and the Environment Agency with powers to designate structures and features that affect the risk of flooding or coastal erosion. These may include (but are not restricted to) things such as embankments and walls. The powers are designed to overcome the risk of a person damaging or removing a structure or feature that is on private land and which is relied on for flood or coastal erosion risk management.

Once a feature is designated, the owner must seek permission from the authority to alter, remove, or replace it. If someone does make a change to a designated feature, then the authority may issue an "enforcement notice" which will set out any steps that must be taken to restore a feature. An individual may appeal against a designation notice, refusal of consent to remove, alter or replace a feature, any conditions placed on such a consent, or an enforcement notice.

## **Sustainable development duty and Environmental Powers**

The Act includes a duty to contribute to sustainable development for local authorities and IDBs in discharging their flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) functions. This complements the existing duty that the Environment Agency has under section 4 of the Environment Act.

It also provides environmental powers to local authorities, IDBs and the Environment Agency to carry out works that:

- a) have a net beneficial impact, taking into account all effects (both positive and negative);
- b) are consistent with the national FCERM strategy; and
- c) are deemed by the relevant authority to be desirable for the natural environment or other aspects of the environment, such as the historic environment, landscape, amenity or leisure benefits. This is in the context of ensuring that the overall programme of FCERM contributes to all three pillars of sustainable development.

## **The specific provision for drainage authorities to form consortia**

The Act includes a provision to allow IDBs to work in consortia. This will enable IDBs to share administrative, professional or technical services as well as perform flood risk management functions for one another. We see this as a progressive next step towards full amalgamation of IDBs based on sub-catchments by 2013.

## **Statutory consultees to the SUDS Approving Body on sustainable drainage**

The Act introduces a requirement for proposals for drainage systems in new developments to be approved by a unitary or county council SUDS Approving Body. This will ensure sustainable drainage systems are employed where possible, and that they are designed and built to National Standards. The Act enables the Minister to define what requires approval, and to set exemptions, which can be used to make clear the arrangements for construction of IDB drainage assets.

The Act now makes Internal Drainage Boards statutory consultees to the approval process in appropriate circumstances. The Approving Body must consult the relevant IDB if it thinks that the drainage system proposed may directly or indirectly involve the discharge of water into an ordinary watercourse within that board's district.

### **What is not changing as a result of this Act?**

The consultation package, issued alongside the draft Bill in April 2009 included a number of possible wider reforms for IDBs which are not included in the Flood and Water Management Act.

Responses to the consultation identified a number of key issues which we need to explore before any decision on the future supervision of IDBs and associated activities can be made.

In the meantime, the Environment Agency will continue to supervise IDBs and consent to works they undertake. The Government will continue to consider the results of the consultation in deciding which authority should lead on this.

### **Working with stakeholders on further legislative changes**

We are grateful for the consultation responses provided in 2009, and the contribution that different bodies and organizations have made to our workshops over the past year. We will continue to work closely with Association of Drainage Authorities, Natural England, Local Government Association and other key organizations to address the issues raised and develop policies for inclusion in future legislation. **It is not anticipated at this stage that any legislation in the near future will provide for compulsory amalgamation of IDBs.**



# Flood and Water Management Act 2010

## What does the Flood and Water Management Act mean for reservoir owners?

The Act introduces new arrangements for reservoir safety based on risk rather than the size of the reservoir. For the first time, reservoirs with a capacity between 10,000 and 25,000 cubic metres will be brought within the scope of the Reservoir Act 1975. However, where a reservoir does not represent a risk to public safety, routine supervision and inspection requirements under that Act will not apply.

Regulatory and other burdens will be proportionate to the risk. The Act will require all reservoirs which are 10,000 cubic metres or more to register, but there will be no charge for registration and the information required will be kept to a minimum.

Ministers will have the power to amend the proposed 10,000 cubic metres threshold figure upwards or downwards in light of the evidence which will be collected by the us and the Environment Agency as the first stage in the implementation of the Act as it affects reservoirs.

A reservoir which presents no risk to the public (even if very large) would be subject to lighter regulation than a smaller reservoir which does represent such a risk. While some reservoirs will be regulated for the first time, others will benefit from a lighter form of regulation than they are currently subject to.

The regulatory impact of the Act's provisions as they affect reservoirs will be reviewed within one year of the main necessary secondary legislation coming into force

We will ensure that controls are proportionate to the risks and justifiable. In doing this we can specify what control regime each reservoir needs according to the risk assessment; we can vary the minimum threshold up or down according to the acquisition of knowledge; and we can make exemptions.

We will aim to begin implementation from 2011, starting with the reservoirs already within the 1975 Act. Extending it to those between 10-25,000 cubic metres will be later, so people who are worried about being brought within the Act have plenty of time see what is proposed before making decisions about the future of their reservoirs.

### **Fishing Clubs and other recreational users**

We have taken account of representations made during consultations and adjusted the definition of reservoir undertaker to ensure that the burden on recreational users of reservoirs is proportionate. If, for example, a club's lease is only for fishing rights, they won't be caught at all. However, if their lease brings with it responsibilities for reservoir maintenance for example then they will have a share of the undertaker's responsibilities.

From our discussions with the Angling Trust and Fish Legal we anticipate that many recreational users of small reservoirs will have short term arrangements (vast majority for less than 7 years, with many only for 2 or 3) for use, which do not involve them in the responsibilities of undertakers as now defined in the Act.



## **Farmers**

Many farm reservoirs are low structures remote from built up areas. Reservoirs which pose no risks to public safety will not be designated as high-risk and they will be exempt from the routine supervision and inspection requirements, regardless of their size. We are working on guidance to farmers about irrigation reservoirs to help them judge the effects of the amended Act at the time they are thinking about new builds.

## **What are we doing outside the scope of the Act**

### **Reservoir legislation and flood authorities**

The Environment Agency has produced inundation maps for larger reservoirs, which will feed into flood risk assessments and emergency planning by Local Resilience Fora (emergency services, local authorities, Environment Agency).

Revised spatial planning guidance, which is currently being discussed, will also take account of the mapping capability

The need for inundation maps for the smaller reservoirs covered by the Act will be assessed once they have been registered with the Environment Agency.

# Flood and Water Management Act 2010

## What the Flood and Water Management Act means for property developers

### Encouraging sustainable drainage as part of new developments

Using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage surface water has a number of benefits, such as improving water quality and the local environment. However, they also provide an important function in reducing the risk of flooding of homes and businesses, as well as adjacent or downstream properties, as a result of heavy rainfall.

The Flood and Water Management Act encourages the use of sustainable drainage in new developments and re-developments. It does this by requiring drainage systems to be approved, against a set of National Standards, before building can commence and a connection to the sewer can be allowed (if needed). It also makes local authorities responsible for adopting and maintaining SuDS.

These measures are necessary because despite positive planning policies, few SuDS are built as part of new developments, even though they can often be more practical and cheaper than conventional surface water drainage. There are powers to exempt some developments from the requirement to have their drainage systems approved, which can allow for a phased implementation, for example.

### How these measures will work in practice

#### National Standards for sustainable drainage

National Standards for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of SuDS are being drafted. These standards will set out the criteria on which the forms of drainage appropriate to any particular site or development can be determined. The National Standards will allow for local conditions to be taken into account, and will consider the costs and benefits of sustainable drainage approaches – including cost to developers.

#### Approval of drainage plans

The plans for the drainage system would need to be approved, before construction could start, by the SuDS Approving Body (SAB) which will be the unitary or county council for the area. This applies to both permitted developments and those that require planning permission. This will ensure that SuDS are also included in construction that may cover large surface areas, but does not require planning permission.

Where both planning permission and SuDS approval are required, the processes will run together. Applications for the drainage system and for planning permission will be submitted together to reduce burdens for the applicant. The planning authority will notify the developer of the outcome of both the planning permission and drainage approval at the same time, including any conditions of approval. Regulations will set out a timeframe for the approval of drainage application by the SAB, so the planning process is not delayed.

This will encourage pre-application discussions – ideally between developers, planners, highways authorities and the SAB - to ensure that delays to the approval system can be avoided as far as possible. Pre-application discussions should ensure that SuDS are considered at the earliest stages of site design in order to maximise their use on the development and ensure a smooth approval process. SuDS will become a routine feature of new construction.

### **Non-performance bond**

As part of the approval process, the SAB can require a non-performance bond to be paid. This bond will be refunded in full if the work is completed to the satisfaction of the approving body. The size of the bond would not be greater than the cost to build the drainage system. This approach offers buyers reassurance by ensuring that the home owner or local taxpayer does not have to bear the cost of bringing drainage up to standard where a developer has failed to complete a SuDS, or not built it to the approved plan. The Government may provide advice to local authorities on what amounts may be required for bonds.

### **Adoption of SuDS**

Developers have long called for clear arrangements for the long-term maintenance of SuDS. The Act delivers this by placing a duty on local authorities to adopt and maintain SuDS. This gives developers a further incentive to incorporate sustainable drainage in developments. SuDS assets that serve more than one property will be adopted and maintained by the local authority when it has been completed to their satisfaction. Highways authorities will be responsible for maintaining SuDS in roads to National Standards. The drainage system must function as approved, including any conditions, in the plans for the drainage system.

This also gives property owners certainty that the SuDS that serve their property will be maintained, and will continue to provide effective drainage for their homes and businesses.

### **The right to connect to the public sewerage system**

The automatic right to connect surface water to the public network will cease. Connection of surface water to surface water or combined sewers will be dependent on the drainage system being approved by the SAB as meeting the new National Standards. The provisions amending the right to connect applies only to surface water and do not apply to the connection of foul water to the sewerage system - the right to connect newly built foul sewers to the public network remains, but an adoption agreement must be in place with the relevant Water and Sewerage Companies (WaSC).

### **Appeals**

The Act enables appeals against decisions on approval, including where proposals for drainage systems have not been approved, and appeals against use of the bond if the SuDS have not been built to standard.

## **Agreements on new non-SuDS drainage systems**

WaSCs will be obliged to adopt and maintain new foul sewers connecting to the public system, and those (very few) surface water sewers with no SuDS alternative connecting to the public system. This provides assurance for developers and householders that sewers serving new developments will become part of the public sewerage network.

Adoption agreements will be required before connecting into the public sewerage system. The agreements may contain approaches that promote site flexibility and not stifle innovation but must contain provisions to ensure that:

- a) New sewers are built in accordance with the proposed Government Build Standard, or, if preferred, alternative standards the developer chooses to agree with the WaSC;
- b) and that the WaSC adopts the new sewers.

These particular provisions would not come into force until the Government Build Standard is published by the Secretary of State. The Government is committed to working with stakeholders, including developers, on the Build Standard. The Build Standard will harmonize current different WaSC adoption criteria into one unified national standard, and will be consulted on prior to introduction.

Developers will be able to appeal to Ofwat about agreements on a wider range of issues than they currently can – including disputes on the execution of the build standard.

The Act gives the Secretary of State the power to make regulations on when an agreement is needed and on its contents, e.g. about the Build Standard, bonds and guarantees etc. The Secretary of State may also publish general guidance to which WaSCs (and therefore Ofwat) should have regard.

**Appendix 5: Summary of Outstanding works, post-2007**

The Council has undertaken a number of projects either conceived before or subsequent to the July 2007 flood event, including a number of smaller projects funded from the Flood Recovery Support Grant. These have largely addressed most major flood risks but there remain some items which still need to be resolved.

These are likely to be borne out by the findings of the forthcoming Surface Water Management Plan for Redditch, see Appendix 3. Whilst approval to these will be subject to separate consideration by Members, appended below is a provisional list:

- 1) Hewell Lake - Replacement Sluices (Batchley Brook);
- 2) Bromsgrove Road/Pitcheroak Woods - Drainage Improvements;
- 3) Severn Trent Water Limited Revised Redditch sewerage strategy;
- 4) Hewell Stream - Enforcement/S106 matters (Brockhill);
- 5) River Arrow, Old Forge Drive - Delayed due to EA environmental issues;
- 6) Ipsley Mill Stream - Possible flow diversion relating to 5) above; and
- 7) Church Hill Brook - Improvements nr Walkers Road and Loxley Close.

As a general guide, Items 1 and 2 will require new additional funding and be subject to forthcoming capital bids.

Items 3 and 4 require officer input only and should be funded externally. Item 7 was a very close near miss in 2007. Officers believe opportunity to fund from new S106 obligations are the best way to complete this scheme.

Item 5 although previously approved, has been subjected to additional environmental studies and requirements at the behest of the Environment Agency. These are currently being re-designed and no figures are available at the present time. Concurrently, other landscape and environment issues nearby (Pikes Pool, Ipsley Church Lane) have been raised. In the light of the new legislation, it may be possible to combine these works with Item 5, thereby achieving a greater number of objectives and thus deriving a considerably higher value for money score. Again, when more details are known, suitable bids will need to be prepared.

In all other cases, officers expect current operational arrangements for Redditch to continue to be delivered within existing budgets. If deficiencies are subsequently identified in respect of existing balancing areas, these may need additional funds to carry out any necessary works.

Finally, officers consider it appropriate to maintain a log of any other, minor matters, which cannot be directly funded from existing funds. This can be referred to as opportunity allows to possible additional S106 obligations.





# Overview and Scrutiny

No Direct Ward Relevance

## Committee

25th August 2010

### WORK PROGRAMME

(Report of the Chief Executive)

Date of Meeting	Subject Matter	Officer(s) Responsible for report
<b>ALL MEETINGS</b>	<b>REGULAR ITEMS</b>	<b>(CHIEF EXECUTIVE)</b>
	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
	<b>REGULAR ITEMS</b> Quarterly Performance Report Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report Annual Update on the Implementation of the Civil Parking Enforcement Scheme	Chief Executive Chief Executive Relevant Lead Heads of Service

# Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

25th August 2010

	<p><b>REGULAR ITEMS</b></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><b>REGULAR ITEMS</b></p> <p>Oral updates on the progress of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the Dial-A-Ride Task and Finish Group;</li> <li>2. Joint Worcestershire Hub Scrutiny; and</li> <li>3. Bus Pass Scheme County Provision.</li> </ol>	
<b>OTHER ITEMS - DATE FIXED</b>		
<b>25th August 2010</b>	Budget Scrutiny - Feedback from the Chair – Oral report	
<b>25th August 2010</b>	Climate Change Strategy	Relevant Lead Director
<b>25th August 2010</b>	Environmental Standards on Local Estates – Scoping Document	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service



# Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

25th August 2010

<b>25th August 2010</b>	Neighbourhood Groups Task and Finish Group – Monitoring Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>25th August 2010</b>	Review of Ditches – Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>15th September 2010</b>	Garden Waste Collection – Pre-Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>15th September 2010</b>	Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report – First Quarter	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>15th September 2010</b>	Redditch Health Action Plan – Consideration of the document.	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>15th September 2010</b>	Sub Regional Choice Based Lettings	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>21st September 2010</b>	Pitcheroak Golf Course - Presentation	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>21st September 2010</b>	Town Centre Landscape Improvements (including Church Green Improvements)	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>5th October 2010</b>	Member attendance at the 'Future of Overview and Scrutiny' conference.	
<b>6th October 2010</b>	Council Plan – Part I	Relevant Lead Director

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<b>6th October 2010</b>	Charging Policy – Monitoring Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>6th October 2010</b>	Disabled Facilities Grants and the Lifetime Grant – scrutiny of the Countywide Scheme	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>6th October 2010</b>	Feedback from the ‘Future of Overview and Scrutiny’ conference.	
<b>17th November 2010</b>	Update on fly tipping and progress with the Worth It campaign	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>8th December 2010</b>	Children and Young Peoples Plan – Pre-Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>8th December 2010</b>	Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report – Second Quarter	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>19th January 2011</b>	National Angling Museum Task and Finish Group – Update on Actions	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>9th February 2011</b>	Civil Parking Enforcement - Annual Monitoring Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>2nd March 2011</b>	Council Flat Communal Cleaning Task and Finish Group – Update on Implementation of Recommendations Stage Two.	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>23rd March 2011</b>	Youth Employment at Redditch Borough Council – Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service

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<b>13th April 2011</b>	Update on fly tipping and progress with the Worth It campaign	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>June 2011</b>	Third Sector Task and Finish Group – Stage Two Update on Responses to the Group’s Recommendations	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>June 2011</b>	Staff Volunteering Policy – Update	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>OTHER ITEMS – DATE NOT FIXED</b>		
	Education Action Plan – Report from the Local Strategic Partnership	Relevant Lead Director
	Economy Action Plan – Report from the Local Strategic Partnership.	Relevant Lead Director
	Dial-a-Ride Task and Finish Review – Final Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Overview and Scrutiny Member Training on Pre-Scrutiny.	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Options for Public Speaking at Scrutiny Meetings – Officer report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Private Sector Home Support Service – Pre-Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head of Service

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	Promoting Redditch – Scoping Document	
	Work Experience Opportunities in Redditch – Scoping Document	
	Worcestershire Supporting People Strategy	Relevant Lead Head of Service