

Executive Committee

15th March 2011

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Malcolm Hall, Gay Hopkins, Jinny Pearce and Debbie Taylor

Also Present:

Councillor Peter Anderson

Officers:

H Bennett, M Bough, H Broughton, R Cooke, J Godwin, D Hancox, S Hanley, A Marklew, S Morgan, G Revans, D Taylor, J Pickering and C Wilson

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

187. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

188. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received from Councillors Hall and Pearce.

189. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair advised the Committee that the following items of business, scheduled on the Forward Plan to be dealt with at this evening's meeting, had been rescheduled to a later meeting of the Committee:

- Quarterly Monitoring of Sickness Absence – Quarter 3 – September to December 2010; and
- Quarterly Monitoring of Vacancies – Quarter 3 – September to December 2010.

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Chair

The Chair advised that she had accepted the following matter as Urgent Business:

Record of Decision - Redditch United Football Club

190. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 1st and 21st February 2011 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

191. REDDITCH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2011 - 2014

Members considered the Redditch Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 2014 and its four associated Action Plans.

Officers reported that the Strategy had been structured around four key priorities that had been identified through the 2009 Comprehensive Area Assessment in which Worcestershire was given a 'red flag' for differences in the quality of life for people in Redditch compared to the rest of Worcestershire.

The four priorities had been identified as:

- a) health inequalities;
- b) education attainment
- c) the economy; and
- d) areas of deprivation

These priorities had been further developed through consultation with residents in 2010.

Concern was expressed that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had not been made available to the Committee. Officers apologised for the omission and confirmed that they would be made available at the next full Council meeting at which the recommendations of the Executive Committee were to be considered.

RECOMMENDED that

the Redditch Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 2014 be adopted.

192. 2011/12 GRANT PROGRAMME FUNDING

The Committee considered a report which sought approval for the recommendations of the Grants Assessment Panel in awarding grants to voluntary sector organisations for 2011/12.

Officers reported that the total budget available for grants in 2011/12 was £239, 000 and that 67 applications totalling £519,074.26 had been received.

Members were informed that total funding of £230,154 had been recommended by the Grants Assessment Panel, which would support 28 Voluntary & Community Sector Projects / Organisations. The remaining £8,846 would be split between the two remaining rounds of the Stronger Communities themes.

During consideration of this item the Committee noted that the Student Council had, over a number of years developed a grant giving role and that currently it had substantial financial balances. In the circumstances the Committee felt it appropriate to reallocate the Council's annual donation of £520 to its own minor grants budget until such time that the Student Council require the donation. Officers were to advise the Student Council prior to consideration by Council.

RESOLVED that

- 1) that grants be awarded to voluntary sector organisation as follows:

Enterprising Communities - 90k Grant		
Organisation	Funding recommended	Project
CAB	90,000.00	Redditch Advice & Advocacy
Total	90,000.00	
Enterprising Communities - 10k Grant - Pot = 40k		
Organisation	Funding recommended	Project
Batchley Support Group	10,000.00	Batchley Community Café
Age Concern	10,000.00	Information & Advice
Sandycroft	10,000.00	Sandycroft'
Where Next	10,000.00	Where Next Support Work & Training
Total	40,000.00	

Education & Learning Grant 50k		
Organisation	Funding recommended	Project
Redditch Play Council	50,000.00	Crèche & Holiday Play care
Total	50,000.00	
Education & Learning Grant 2k - Pot = 10k		
Organisation	Funding recommended	Project
Batchley Support Group	2,000.00	Redditch Roots
British Asian Women's Group	2,000.00	Cultural Learning project
YMCA	1,980.00	Lights Camera Action
YMCA	1,956.00	Y-Dads
Chinese Association	2,000.00	Chinese New Year 2012
Total	9,936.00	
Health & Well Being Grant 4k - Pot = 20k		
Organisation	Funding recommended	Project
Carers Care Line	4,000.00	Health Awareness project
Friday Fun Club	2,600.00	Disabled youth group
Relate	2,500.00	Open Counselling Service - Redditch
Age Concern	3,360.00	History project
YMCA	3,273.00	Active8
SSAFA	2,000.00	Support Service for Veterans & Families
Total	17,733.00	
Safe Clean & Green Grant 5k - Pot = 20k		
Organisation	Funding recommended	Project
Batchley Support Group	5,000.00	Batchley Odd Jobs
The Ditch	5,000.00	Ditch IT
YMCA	4,974.00	Positive Futures
YMCA	4,481.00	Intensive Intervention Project
Total	19,455.00	
Total grant funding recommended from main grant themes	227,124.00	

Stronger Communities grant £500.00 - Pot = 3k		
Organisation	Funding allocated	Project
Harry Bishops Group	480.00	Charity Concert - Acorns
Smallwood residents Ass	500.00	Outing for Elderly
Headless Cross Methodist Outreach	500.00	Woodwork project
Matchborough West Community Group	500.00	Community group
St Johns - Spice Project	100.00	Community handy service
RM Samba - The Band	500.00	Samba Band
The Salvation Army	450.00	Projection equipment
Total funding allocated	3,030.00	

- 2) **subject to advice to the Student Council, the grant of £520 per annum (currently allocated to the Student Council) be passed to the Grants Assessment Panel to allocate to youth projects.**

193. RIVER REVETMENT WORKS – OLD FORGE DRIVE AND PARK WAY

The Committee received a report which sought approval for the revised scope and funding for River Revetment Works at Old Forge Drive and Park Way.

Officers reported that work had been previously proposed at 3 locations where significant erosion of river banks had occurred:

- Site 1 and 2: Old Forge Drive
- Site 3: Park Way (near the rear of Dolphin Road allotments.)

Members were informed of the reasons to exclude Site 3 from the scheme, which were outlined in Appendix A to the report. Officers were asked to work with the Dolphin Road allotment holders and the Environment Agency to identify alternative solutions at Site 3.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the scope of the Capital Scheme be revised to exclude Site 3 (at Park Way) from the scheme;**
- 2) **expenditure up to the sum approved by the Council be approved in accordance with Standing Order 41, for the purpose indicated in the report; and**

RECOMMENDED that

- 3) **additional funding of £30,000 be vired from existing, approved the Landscape Capital Project budget (Code 8131 C2202) in respect of Sites 1 and 2 at Old Forge Drive only.**

194. QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING - QUARTER 3 - SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2010

Members considered a report which gave an overview of the General Fund budget, including the achievement of approved savings for the period April - December 2010.

Officers reported that the financial position of the Revenue budget for the period April – December 2010 showed an underspend of £815k against an estimated target of £315k. The main reasons for the underspend were:

- vacant posts;
- lower than anticipated borrowing costs; and
- success in reclaiming previously paid VAT.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

195. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING - QUARTER 3 - SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2010

The Committee considered a quarterly performance report, which showed indicators that had improved, declined or remained static when compared with the same period in the previous financial year.

Officers reported that of the 41 indicators reported this quarter, 46.3% had improved compared to the same period last year.

Three indicators were highlighted as showing particular concern:

- a) BV 012 – the number of working days / shifts lost to the Local Authority due to sickness absence per full time equivalent staff member has increased from 6.71 days to 7.84 days when compared to the same period last year;
- b) BV 079b(i) – the amount of housing benefit overpayments recovered as a percentage of all housing benefit overpayments, when compared to the same period last year, has dropped from 77.35% to 73.82%; and
- c) NI 192 – the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting has dropped from 28.68% to 27.6% when compared to the same period last year and from 31.26%, compared to the same period in 2008/09. This shows that over a two year period there has been a 3.66 percentage point drop in the amount of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

196. QUARTERLY MONITORING OF THE BENEFITS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN - QUARTER 3 - SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2010

The Committee received a report on the performance of the Benefits Service during the period October to December 2010 including progress against the Benefits Service Improvement Plan.

During consideration of this item approval was sought to extend the Income Maximisation Officer's secondment until December 2011.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **the Income Maximisation Officer's secondment be extended until December 2011 funded from the additional benefit subsidy.**

197. QUARTERLY MONITORING OF FORMAL COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS - QUARTER 3 - JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2010

Members considered a report which detailed the Council's performance in relation to complaints and compliments recorded during October to December 2010.

In response to a question from a Member regarding logging of complaints electronically, officers reported that staff were receiving training on the systems.

RESOLVED that

the update on complaints and compliments for the period October – December 2010 be noted.

198. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 19th January and 9th February 2011. There were no outstanding recommendations for consideration at the meeting.

With reference to Minute 170 (19th January) a member highlighted an issue regarding the increased costs of permits in areas covered by Residents' Parking Schemes together with difficulties in being able to access parking when required.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 19th January and 9th February 2011 be received and noted.

199. SHARED SERVICES BOARD

Members received the notes and recommendations of the Shared Services Board from its meeting held on 27th January 2011.

RESOLVED that

the notes and recommendations be received and noted.

200. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS ETC

There were no referrals or minutes under this item.

201. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

202. ACTION MONITORING

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

203. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that

under S.100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended:

Redditch United Football Club (as detailed at Minute 205 below).

204. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES / REFERRALS (IF ANY)

There were no Confidential Minutes or Referrals under this item.

205. REDDITCH UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.04pm
and closed at 9.05pm

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Chair