

Council

Mon 20th September
2010
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

Access to Information - Your Rights

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

Your main rights are set out below:-

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

**If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact
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Welcome to today's meeting.

Guidance for the Public

Agenda Papers

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

Chair

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

Running Order

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

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

Decisions

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

Members of the Public

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

Special Arrangements

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

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

Further Information

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Fire/ Emergency instructions

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

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

Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do Not use lifts.

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

The emergency **Assembly Area** is on **Walter Stranz Square**.

Declaration of Interests: Guidance for Councillors

DO I HAVE A "PERSONAL INTEREST" ?

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

OR

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

you have a personal interest.

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

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

IS IT A "PREJUDICIAL INTEREST" ?

In general only if:-

- It is a personal interest **and**
- The item affects your **financial position** (or conveys other benefits), or the position of your **family, close associates** or bodies through which you have a **registered interest** (or relates to the exercise of **regulatory functions** in relation to these groups)

and

- A member of public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably believe the interest was likely to **prejudice** your judgement of the public interest.

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

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



Council

20th September 2010

7.00 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Kath Banks (Mayor)	Bill Hartnett
	Anita Clayton	Nigel Hicks
	Peter Anderson	Roger Hill
	Michael Braley	Gay Hopkins
	Andrew Brazier	Robin King
	Juliet Brunner	Wanda King
	Michael Chalk	William Norton
	Simon Chalk	Jinny Pearce
	Greg Chance	Brenda Quinney
	Brandon Clayton	Mark Shurmer
	Jack Cookson	Debbie Taylor
	Andrew Fry	Derek Taylor
	Carole Gandy	Diane Thomas
	Adam Griffin	Graham Vickery
	Malcolm Hall	

1. Welcome	<p>The Mayor will open the meeting and welcome all present.</p> <p>The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Jo Musson, will lead the Council in prayer.</p>
2. Apologies	<p>To receive any apologies for absence on behalf of Council members.</p>
3. Declarations of Interest	<p>To invite Councillors to declare any interests they may have in items on the agenda.</p>
4. Minutes Chief Executive	<p>To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th August 2010.</p> <p>(Minutes circulated in Minute Book 4 - 2010/11)</p>
5. Communications and Mayor's Announcements	<p>To receive a report from the Mayor on civic matters which have arisen since the last meeting or events which may be occurring in the near future.</p> <p>To give notice of any variation to the items listed in the Forward Plan and/or items accepted as "Urgent Business".</p> <p>(No separate report / oral update)</p>

<p>6. Leader's Announcements (Pages 1 - 6)</p>	<p>To receive a report from the Leader on matters considered to be of significance to the Council.</p> <p>(No separate report / oral update – Minutes of the most recent meeting of the Redditch Local Strategic Partnership attached for information)</p>
<p>7. Leaders' Questions (Pages 7 - 8) Chief Executive</p>	<p>To consider the following Question for the Leader, which has been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 8A:</p> <p><u>"Housing for Older Persons"</u> (Mr M Chawner)</p> <p>(Question attached)</p>
<p>8. Notices of Motion (Pages 9 - 10) Chief Executive</p>	<p>To consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor W Norton in accordance with Standing Order 6, concerning concessionary bus travel.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p>
<p>9. Executive Committee Chief Executive</p>	<p>A. To formally receive the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on <u>28th July 2010</u>.</p> <p>(All decisions here have previously been fully resolved. There are no outstanding recommendations or referrals which require the Council's consideration.)</p> <p>(Minutes circulated in Minute Book 4 - 2010/11)</p> <p>B. To receive the decisions notice and consider the recommendations and/or referrals from the following meeting of the Executive Committee:</p> <p><u>8th September 2010</u></p> <p>Matters requiring the Council's consideration may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Control – New Supplementary Charges;• Review of Redditch Borough Council's Sheltered Housing Stock – Customer Feedback Update; and• Church Hill District Centre – Redevelopment Report <p>(Decision notice to follow)</p>

<p>10. Regulatory Committees Chief Executive</p>	<p>To formally receive the minutes of the following meeting of the Council's Regulatory Committees:</p> <p>Planning Committee -17th August 2010</p> <p>(Minutes circulated in Minute Book 4 – 2010/11)</p>
<p>11. Scheme of Delegation to Officers Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services</p>	<p>A decision was taken recently under Standing Order 36 in respect of Disabled Facilities Grants and approval given for the award of a discretionary grant (Decision Number 485, to be reported to the Executive Committee, 29th September 2010). Discretionary grants are only rarely made and the following recommendation was approved alongside agreement of the grant to avoid the need for such further requests to come before Councillors.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED that</p> <p>the Council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers be amended to provide the Head of Community Services with the authority to approve discretionary Disabled Facility Grants, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Local Environment and Health.</p>
<p>12. Urgent Business - Record of Decisions Chief Executive</p>	<p>To note the following decision taken in accordance with SO36 since the last meeting of the Council:</p> <p>1) <u>Portfolio Holder – Committee Places Adjustments</u> (Acting Deputy Chief Executive)(Decision Reference 486)</p> <p>The case for urgency was that the next available meeting of the full Council was not until 20th September and the Conservative Group wished to make these adjustments as soon as reasonably possible.</p> <p>It was therefore RESOLVED that</p> <p>1) with immediate effect Cllr Gay Hopkins be appointed Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Tourism, and therefore Executive Committee Member, in place of Cllr Anderson; and</p> <p>2) the further adjustments of memberships, detailed below, be approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Leisure & Tourism Portfolio</u> - Cllr Hopkins to replace Cllr Anderson• <u>Executive Committee</u> - Cllr Hopkins to replace

	<p>Cllr Anderson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Member Champion (1. Children / Young People & Play and 2. Heritage)</u> - Cllr Hopkins, as Portfolio Holder, to replace Cllr Anderson• <u>Climate Change Advisory Panel</u> - Cllr Anderson to replace Cllr Hopkins as Vice-Chair• <u>Leisure Contracts Advisory Panel</u> - Cllr Hopkins to Chair, Cllr Anderson Vice-Chair• <u>O & S Substitutes / Members' Pool</u> - Cllr Anderson to replace Cllr Hopkins• <u>Joint Worcestershire Hub Task & Finish Group</u> Cllr Hill <i>nominated</i> to replace Cllr Hopkins (for decision of the O&S Committee)• <u>Audit & Governance Committee</u> - Cllr Anderson to replace Cllr Hopkins• <u>Other allocations</u> made at the Annual Meeting (Committee Places and Outside Bodies appointments) to remain unchanged <p>Subsequent to the decisions, above, being taken a further change has been made by the Conservative Group to their appointments to Committees, as set out below:</p> <p><u>Overview & Scrutiny Committee</u> – Cllr Anderson to replace Cllr Banks</p>
<p>13. Urgent Business - general (if any)</p>	<p>To consider any additional items exceptionally agreed by the Mayor as Urgent Business in accordance with the powers vested in him by virtue of Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>(This power should be exercised only in cases where there are genuinely special circumstances which require consideration of an item which has not previously been published on the Order of Business for the meeting and/or on the Leader's Forward Plan.)</p>

14. Exclusion of the Public

Should It be necessary, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, to consider excluding the public from the meeting in relation to any items of business on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be divulged, it may be necessary to move the following resolution:

“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(s) on the rounds 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, as amended.”

(Note: Anyone requiring copies of any previously circulated reports, or supplementary papers, should please contact Committee Services Officers in advance of the meeting.)



Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd August 2010

Present:

Cllr Carole Gandy (Chair)	Redditch Borough Council
Cllr Mike Braley	Redditch Borough Council
Cllr Graham Vickery	Redditch Borough Council
Kevin Dicks	Redditch Borough Council
Sue Hanley	Redditch Borough Council/Chair RCSP
Hugh Bennett	Redditch Borough Council
Angie Heighway	Redditch Borough Council
Helen Saunders	Redditch Borough Council
Liz Williams	Redditch Borough Council
John Gallagher	NEW College
Des Sutton	Federation of Small Businesses
Peter Fryer	Worcestershire Health Authority
Cllr Barry Gandy	Worcestershire County Council
Hazel Robinson	Worcestershire County Council
Beth Gray	Kingfisher Centre
Gary Woodman	Chamber of Commerce

In attendance: Susan Tasker (minutes), Suzie James, Worcestershire County Council (item 1-4)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Cllr Carole Gandy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies noted for Ann Sowton, Ian Joseph, Maggie Bryan, Peter Sugg, Mike Ashton, Jim Smith, Tim Rice, Angie Burnett, Bill Hartnett, Ruth Bamford, Patrick Birch, Keith Chance,

Noted there were a lot of apologies due to the holiday season. May need to take some decisions on agenda, subject to e-mail confirmation' to others absent.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Helen to chase Maggie Bryan – action from last meeting to circulate list of Governor vacancies in Redditch.

ACTION: MAGGIE BRYAN/HELEN SAUNDERS

3. UPDATE ON MENTORING AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL ISSUES.

Carole updated Board on fact finding visit to Warrington, to look at educational attainment and explained similarities to Redditch. They are net 'importer' of students in comparison to Redditch that is net 'exporter' outside of district. Despite being similar to Redditch in terms of deprivation etc Warrington's schools and students are far higher achievers in spite of that. How schools worked collaboratively to attain an overall improvement for the town. Carole said that a note had been produced detailing the findings. There is a meeting later in August to

look at male mentoring, working with the council, education, schools, police; after which there will be publicity to find male mentors.

In response to a question, Carole said the Jobs Fair education convention would be for 12 years old pupils and onwards although hoping to involve younger students also. Des said for business it is better for older for experience, although an introduction can be for younger ones. Kevin said getting the children early on is not just about work experience but increasing aspirations as early on as possible.

Graham suggested that all schools in a pyramid need to have shared responsibility. Also he asked who Warrington are compared against and whether it is possible to boost funding from the County Council. Barry said the new Head of Service, John Edwards, with responsibility for school improvement and attainment takes up post on 1st September. He sees focusing on locality important rather than having a team covering the whole of Worcestershire. Comparisons can be made with Warrington in terms of the percentage attainment. The perception of school performance in Redditch creating outflow out of Redditch area is not found in Warrington; so there are other factors. Graham asked if there will be someone specifically looking at Redditch – Barry and Carole said this is something that they will be pushing. Kevin added that he will be meeting with John Edwards and Gail Quinton and will be pushing for this and linking to John Gallagher. John stressed need to keep the agenda moving forward in a way we choose and not fragmented especially with academies and schools / parents opting out to have their own run school. Carole explained the background to see what could be done ‘outside of the 9-3.30’ to help assist schools and pupils. Kevin said this may need to be shunted up to the Worcestershire Partnership and any discussions about changes to education need to incorporate Redditch Partnership and NEW College views and participation in discussions.

Graham suggested a forum for Governors for all the schools within the Town be set up to discuss these issues. The Board agreed this is a very good idea that should be pursued.

ACTION: RBC to co-ordinate

4. WORCESTERSHIRE COMPACT

Suzie James attended RPB to discuss the compact. The Compact Steering Group wants to visit each LSP to increase awareness and reinvigorate interest. The compact is an agreement to increase work and relationships between the different sectors (voluntary, community and public sectors). In 2006 the Worcestershire Compact was drawn up and adopted by the Worcestershire Partnership (32 organisations signed up).

The principles around the compact is that there is a mutual need and one needs the other. The compact is not a piece of legislation. The compact commits public sector to recognise the voluntary sector in terms of funding and decision making. It is a two way framework, with the voluntary sector expected to have high standards of governance and standards and involving beneficiaries when developing services.

There are code of practices for volunteering, consultation/involvement/voice; and process for conciliation.

Suzie said in Worcestershire, for NI7, it is in the lowest quartile for having ‘a thriving community sector relationship’, saying they have a good relationship – with 14% for Redditch compared to 16% nationally saying they have a good relationship. Barry asked how factual this is and the difficulty when it comes to ‘perception’; and is there a feeling about how generous the authorities are and what their exception are. Suzie agreed that they are measured on perception and it is about how the voluntary sectors feel which is subjective and whilst not based on funding it does look at a range of issues in terms of consultation, taking on

board views on policy decisions etc. Unfortunately that is what we are measured against and is a benchmark to be used until such point it is changed. Peter agreed that approximately 15% having a good relationship is not good, although don't know whether that really means 80% does not. Suzie said the feedback from voluntary sector is that they do not feel they are consulted and involved or that public sector do anything as a result.

A letter had been sent to LA Chief Executives giving guidance, to remind them of the compact and how to apply it in this time of fiscal challenge which may impact on voluntary sector. Need to involve Voluntary Sector in guidance and minimum 12 week notice if funding is going to be changed or removed. Kevin asked if given the political / financial position of councils and public sector, thus meaning the third sector may have to meet the gap - is the Compact fit for purpose? Suzie said it is now and moving forward, however in 12-24 months it may need to be revised/refreshed for the new climate – the compact provides the framework and should be followed although the end vehicle may look differently.

Peter asked if the Redditch Partnership could be more proactive working with public and voluntary sectors. Looking at expectations and manage that whole process and what support can be given. Barry followed this point, where financial restraints only give one channel and whilst we can consult there is option available. So can consultation be real consultation? Need to manage expectations. Suzie said if it is not consultation it should be named as 'dialogue' which can also stimulate new ideas. Carole said it could be that a third sector organisation could deliver a public authority service cheaper on their behalf. Need to address what capacity there is to deliver.

Angie raised concern that public sector organisations fund the voluntary sector and a mapping exercise is needed to tie up what is coming from where. Suzie agreed and that some single pot funding may be a way ahead.

5. LSP BOARD AWAYDAY AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

Helen referred to the existing Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) which needs to be reviewed, especially in light of the CAA findings which came out since it was originally produced. Proposal is to have an awayday with the Partnership in October which would result in a new SCS. Helen said this is longer term plan and is conscious that there is nothing in meantime to look at priorities of education, health and economic development. Helen asked for views.

Carole felt an awayday would not add any value. The 'We are Redditch' event at the start of the year made it clear that education, health and jobs were the key areas. Carole felt on those, officers could produce a plan. Kevin said Lorna Shorn from IDEA is willing to work with LSP to put something together on health. Carole proposed that the next RPB meeting is a single item on Health with Lorna which would produce what is needed in that area.

Graham supported Carole's view and would value a detailed discussion on health. Kevin thanked Helen for the paper and Peter for his work in this area, and supported Carole's view and stressed the need to now focus all the Partnership's views on agreeing the actions around health.

Hugh felt that an awayday could be helpful and have a purpose. Kevin said no-one disagrees with that but we can still get to that point without having to wait until an awayday in October. It would be a half day at a future meeting on education (16th September).

Sue suggested that a statement is put out to the Partners. Peter said the Health and Wellbeing Group has produced an action plan but is missing the strategic objectives for the Partnership. The fault of the previous SCS is that there were too many objectives, in the future they need to be more focussed. Peter said the objectives should not be what individual partners are already doing but what Partners can do collectively. Peter said the H&W Group has looked at some strategic objectives, in that the way you can affect health in the deprived areas through community development.

They narrowed it to two objectives of

- a) Building self esteem and confidence and
- b) building communities

and then suggested four ways to deliver these

- a) utilising existing community groups ie coffee mornings, dealing with social isolation issues,
- b) social marketing looking at best way to deliver (Peter's team has someone who can assist with this),
- c) community consultation led by Nbh D officer to look at lifestyle choices; and
- d) looking for local champions working with the third sector and these particularly last two have links to Areas of Highest Need.

Peter said this is for the next 6 months and maybe this could produce the basis / starting point for a 3 year plan which can be developed at the next meeting (single item Health).

Des supported Carole's view, as did Sue who stressed need to have a frank and tough discussion around resources at the same time including commitments from all Partners. Kevin said Lorna from IDEA may be able to help challenge what is done collectively or individually.

Peter said this is about everyone having an input, not just the Health Service.

Agreed next meeting on 16th September will concentrate solely on Health.

6. CHANGES TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

Carole referred to the written report and still had some reservations although there are some improvements.

Graham shared Carole's views and that the purpose was to corral the funding, it will streamline that exercise. There are only 2 council representatives and Graham felt all Chief Executive's should attend. Graham said this proposes that the Partnership should look at Worcestershire as one area and unity/commonality which falls down given earlier discussion about the distinct areas and needs. Kevin agreed with Graham, and that the Worcs Partnership would include all Leaders/Chief Executives, it is only the Public Sector Executive Group that would have two representatives. Carole said the smaller group is the delivery arm for the strategic group, which has full representation. Mike suggested increasing from 2 to 3 reps on PESG.

Kevin suggested if anyone has comments on this, they should forward them to Helen to collectively respond, signed off by Carole and Ann Sowton as Chair and former Vice Chair. Kevin also asked that the response stress the importance of local ie Redditch LSPs. The Board agreed it would not want to see Redditch Partnership Board/LSP abolished.

ACTION: ALL/HELEN/CAROLE

7. IMPLICATIONS OF THE EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE NHS WHITE PAPER

Peter referred to the paper summarising the White paper. Most of the NHS budget will be devolved to an NHS Board and local GPs. Responsible for commissioning all secondary care services. There will be 3 or 4 consortia for the Worcs area (one for Redditch&Bromsgrove). These are early discussions/proposals. Acute Hospitals will become separate organisations. From April 2011 PCTs will no longer provide health care. The provider side of PCTs will transfer. Public Health & health improvement will move to the County Council, along with a ring fenced budget. There will be a national public health service for what is left of the Department of Health.

A national health commission will be created. This means councils will have a greater scrutiny role for its area.

There will be a review of social care undertaking during the next year.

This will have big implication for County Council and the Partnership. Public Health (Peter's role) will come under County Council in the future. Carole said that may help links between health and education if within same organisation.

8. LSP COMMUNICATIONS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

Communications

Barry said a letter has been sent to Head Teachers offering to assist promotion of positive issues of school. Although it was near the end of school term, one response received to date, with positive feedback. Will need to chase schools when they start back. Barry is the first point of contact with support from RBC comms team.

Hugh suggested the Board have a communications/community engagement planner to look at what is coming up in the next six months and make links/synergies. Agreed, and Hugh would send out a template to start collating that. Carole thought that would be a good idea and then help to pick and choose what the LSP can collectively attend.

ACTION: HUGH

Consultation

Carole mentioned the Morton Stanley Park Festival on 21st/22nd August, and proposed having a stall for the Partnership under 'We are Redditch' Banner and doing some consultation. RPB communications group to look at questions to be asked (asking all Partners) and format ie questionnaires/post its and then get on and do it on the day. Finding out from people what they think of Redditch, about services etc. An opportunity to engage with young people. Partners were happy to be involved.

Helen to send an e-mail to Partners to ask what questions they would like asked, then Barry and communications group will meet asap to plan and organise the format and stall.

ACTION: HELEN

7. AREAS OF HIGHEST NEEDS

Liz Williams was introduced as the new Neighbourhood Development Manager who will be working on the 'Redditch Areas of Highest Need Project Implementation Plan', a copy of which was circulated. Liz has been in post for about a month. Liz explained progress so far. There will be a competition to decide a more snappy name for the project – all suggestions welcome. Angie will be working closely with Liz and bring a proposal of how there will be reported to the board.

8. THEME GROUP UPDATES

Community Forum

There will be an election to chair at the next meeting (3rd August).

Children & Young People

Helen said this group had met and had discussed the action plan out of the half day session with schools earlier in the year. They focused on three key areas – improving literacy (children centres), raising awareness of opportunities (careers fair) and potential of academic potential. At its next meeting they have invited John Edwards, to give a view on how he sees education issues being tackled in Redditch, WCC Early years around future provision of Children Centres in Redditch and where children were going to outside of Redditch Schools (this work has been done by WCC and will be fed back to next meeting).

9. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

10.00 am on Thursday 16th September.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**COUNCIL**

20th September 2010

QUESTION TO THE LEADER
- HOUSING FOR OLDER PERSONS

The following Question to the Leader has been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 8 by Mr Mike Chawner, Chair of the Borough Tenants' Panel:

"In respect of the Older Persons Housing and Support Strategy, I ask the Leader of the Council:

to note that, contrary to advice given at the last meeting of the Council, I was not involved in the formulation of the Strategy; however, the Borough Tenants' Panel is happy to fully support the proposals for the Review of Sheltered Housing but would like the following concerns noted for the future:

- 1) that the Council should take steps to make provision that it will not use the Older Persons Housing and Support Strategy to deplete its older persons' housing stock; and*
- 2) that, if it is identified that older persons' housing stock is unsuitable in the future that it should be promptly replaced with suitable accommodation so stock is not depleted further."*

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NOTICE OF MOTION – CONCESSIONARY BUS FARES

Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr J Pearce
Relevant Head of Service	Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services
Not a Key Decision	

The following Notice of Motion has been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 6 by Councillor William Norton:

“Redditch Borough Council NOTES that:

1. *the Coalition Government has decided to continue with the policy of the previous government of reorganising the free bus pass system so that in the case of Redditch it will in future be administered by Worcestershire County Council;*
2. *this will involve a reallocation of central government grants from Redditch Borough Council to Worcestershire County Council from April 2011 at the latest;*
3. *as a result of this reorganisation the risk is that free bus pass will in future cover only a core service beginning after 9.30 am, which is narrower than the coverage currently provided by the Redditch-administered bus pass;*
4. *any enhancements to the new bus pass core service will have to be financed by Redditch Borough Council out of other grants and income, and the ability to do so will depend upon the level of grant reallocated from Redditch to Worcestershire County Council by central government;*
5. *despite the fact that this reorganisation was confirmed by Alistair Darling MP in the December 2009 Pre Budget Report, officers of Worcestershire County Council have informed the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that central government has so far failed to confirm the basis on which the reallocation of funds will take place, or the amounts involved.*

Redditch Borough Council REQUESTS the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive Officer to:

1. *write to the Department for Transport deploring the unreasonable delay in confirming the basis of the reallocation of funding and requesting an early deadline by which time these matters will be notified to us;*

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2. *use their good offices, together with those of the MP for Redditch, to make the Secretary of State for Transport and other relevant ministers aware of the importance to the residents of Redditch of an early resolution of this issue."*

Proposed by: Cllr William Norton

Seconded by: Cllr Diane Thomas