

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 21st  
September,  
2010  
7.00 pm

Council Chamber  
Town Hall  
Redditch



# 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.

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](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**

**Jess Bayley  
Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer**

**Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH**

**Tel: 01527 64252 (Ext. 3268) Fax: (01527) 65216**

**e.mail: [jess.bayley@redditchbc.gov.uk](mailto:jess.bayley@redditchbc.gov.uk)**

**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.

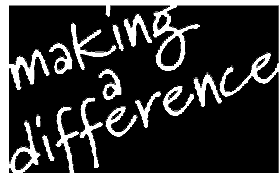
IS IT A "PREJUDICIAL INTEREST" ?

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

Tuesday, 21st September, 2010

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

### Agenda

#### Membership:

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

<p><b>1. Apologies and named substitutes</b></p>	<p>To receive apologies for absence and details of any Councillor (or co-optee substitute) nominated to attend this meeting in place of a member of this Committee.</p>
<p><b>2. Declarations of interest and of Party Whip</b></p>	<p>To invite Councillors to declare any interest they may have in items on the Agenda and any Party Whip.</p>
<p><b>3. Scrutiny of the Forward Plan</b></p>	<p>To consider whether any items on the Forward Plan are suitable for scrutiny. (No separate report). <b>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</b></p>
<p><b>4. Task &amp; Finish Reviews - Draft Scoping Documents</b>  (Pages 1 - 2)  Councillor Carole Gandy, Leader of the Council</p>	<p>To consider any scoping documents provided for possible Overview and Scrutiny review.</p> <p>- Work Experience Opportunities in Redditch – Proposed by Councillor Carole Gandy</p> <p>(No reports attached) <b>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</b></p>

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<p><b>5. 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. External Refurbishment of Housing Stock – Chair, Councillor G Vickery; and</li><li>2. Joint Worcestershire Hub – Redditch representative, Councillor R Hill.</li></ol> <p>(Oral reports)</p> <p><b>All Wards</b></p>
<p><b>6. Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel - Chair's Update</b></p> <p>(Pages 3 - 6)</p> <p>Councillor Bill Hartnett</p>	<p>To receive a report from the Chair of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel on any further developments in the work of the Panel that may have occurred since the previous meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>(Report attached and oral report to follow).</p> <p><b>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</b></p>
<p><b>7. Arrow Valley Countryside Centre - Audit Trail Report</b></p> <p>R Cooke, Leisure Services Manager</p>	<p>To receive a presentation concerning an audit trail for the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre's contractual arrangements, due for consideration by the Executive Committee on 29th September.</p> <p>(Verbal presentation to follow).</p> <p><b>(Winyates Ward)</b></p>
<p><b>8. Pitcheroak Golf Course - Operational Options</b></p> <p>J Godwin, Head of Leisure and Cultural Services</p>	<p>To receive a presentation concerning the review of the operation of Pitcheroak Golf Course over the previous 18 months and the options for future provision.</p> <p>(Verbal presentation to follow)</p> <p><b>(Central Ward)</b></p>
<p><b>9. 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>(No Specific Ward Relevance)</b></p>

# Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

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## 10. Work Programme

(Pages 7 - 14)

C Felton - Head of Legal,  
Equalities and Democratic  
Services

To consider the Committee's current Work Programme, and potential items for addition to the list arising from:

- The Forward Plan / Committee agendas
- External publications
- Other sources.

(Report attached)

**(No Specific Ward Relevance)**

## 11. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Should it be necessary, in the opinion of the Borough Director, during the course of the meeting to consider excluding the public from the meeting on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be divulged, it may be necessary to move the following resolution:

"That, under S.100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter(s) on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs (to be specified) of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act".

**(No Specific Ward Relevance)**





## 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.



**Redditch Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel: Chair's report of Panel meeting held on Tuesday 7th September 2010.**

The meeting was held to discuss topics raised by Members during previous meetings. There were two guest speakers: Inspector Ian Joseph, West Mercia Police Force, who was invited to talk about the £10 million cuts to the West Mercia Force's budget over the next three years, and Acting Detective Inspector (ADI) Vikki Reay from West Mercia Police Authority, who spoke on Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC).

Other items on the agenda were:

- a) Questions for the PCT, about a SARC for North Worcestershire.
- b) The Panel's response to the White Paper: Policing in the 21st century.
- c) The Panel's response to a consultation paper from the Home Office on the future of Community Safety Partnerships.

The co-opted representative from the West Mercia Police authority, Councillor Blagg, sent apologies to the meeting with ADI V Reay attending as substitute. Given it was Councillor Blagg's suggestion to have the two items on the agenda I invited Councillor Blagg to submit written comments to the meeting on the items for discussion. Copies of Cllr Blagg's comments were circulated prior to the meeting.

The panel were also joined by Michael Collins (a local magistrate and Redditch Standards Committee member) and Bev Houghton, Redditch Community Safety Manager.

**Item 5: Sexual Assault Referral Unit (SARC).**

The Panel received a very informative presentation on SARCs by ADI Reay. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

Following that the panel learnt:

- a) That West Mercia was one of only four of the 43 police force areas that did not have SARCs. (The South Wales area has 5 SARCs).
- b) That an independent business case has been commissioned by West Mercia on the need for a SARC which points to the north Worcestershire area being an area of need. Copies of the report were circulated to members of the panel.
- c) The 10 minimum elements required for a SARC.
- d) In West Mercia during 2008-2009 there were 262 reports of rape of which 40% (105) were in Worcestershire. 13% (34) of those cases in Worcestershire were in Redditch. In 2009-2010 the figures were 250 in West Mercia of which 45.2% (113) were from Worcestershire and of those 14.8% (37) were from Redditch.
- e) A recent survey has indicated that only 11% of all rapes are reported to the Police.
- f) The Government has said they want a SARC in every Police area.

- g) A SARC board has been set up and is due to meet for the first time in October.
- h) Funding can be sourced and obtained by various means, public, private and from the third sector.

The Panel thanked ADI Reay for her attendance and her undoubted enthusiasm for the need for a SARC for the West Mercia area.

### Item 6: Questions to PCT.

The Panel discussed which questions to raise with the PCT at our forthcoming meeting on the subject of SARC. At the PCT's request we have sent them the written questions in advance and outlined the areas for discussion.

### Item 7: Policing White Paper. Policing in the 21st Century.

The Panel discussed and replied to the majority of questions posed in the white paper. Reference was made to Councillor Blagg's written submission (most of which the Panel were in agreement with).

The Panel's comments remained within appropriate scrutiny remit (i.e. as to how the proposals would affect community safety and the Community Safety Partnership in Redditch). As a result of this we did not comment upon chapter 3 of the paper as this was considered more relevant to the Police than to wider community safety issues. The responses were that of the Panel and not that of the Council.

Broadly speaking the Panel were not in agreement for the proposal of a Commissioner, as outlined in the white paper, for the following reasons:

- a) This arrangement would not increase efficiencies or governance, (in fact the Panel felt it would reduce both).
- b) This arrangement would not reduce costs.
- c) The election of a single commissioner for West Mercia could not effectively work due to the sheer geographical area, encompassing a number of parishes, districts, boroughs, unitary and county councils in the three counties and covering a population of around 1.2 million.
- d) A single commissioner might politicise the process, given that all the authority and decision making powers would be vested in one person.
- e) The paper was unclear about both Assistant Commissioners - if these assistants would be allowed and how many - and crime panels, in terms of how many there would be and how they would be set up and serviced.

In response to specific questions in specific areas the Panel did make constructive comments on how efficiencies and improvements could be made in such areas as: procurement; IT services; joint working; volunteers; common systems; shared services; breaking down barriers; and more partnership working.

During this section Inspector Ian Joseph outlined the £10 million savings which were being made by West Mercia Police through restructuring in advance of the expected spending review to be announced in October by the government. (This was in an exercise called Planning for the Future). Members were advised about how these actions as would effect Redditch and that that would be a strategy to protect the “front line services”. Various tiers of management and “back office posts” were not being or had already not been replaced when they became vacant. Furthermore, where specialist officers, in for example licensing and crime risk management, previously would cover one single district each they were increasingly covering all three districts in the division. This strategy, the panel suggested, had both advantages and disadvantages. The Panel were also advised that other strategies were under examination in the areas of recruitment and retirement. The Panel thanked Ian for the briefing.

### Item 8: Response to consultation paper on community safety partnership.

This was an extremely tight consultation period. The response in fact had to be sent to the Government Office of the West Midlands on the day following the Panel’s meeting.

Again the response provided was that of the Panel and not of the Council.

The paper sought views on repealing various regulations which Community Safety Partnerships have to adhere to. The panel questioned and took advice from both relevant Officers and the police before replying to the questions. The panel acknowledged that the Redditch Committee Safety Partnership worked well and was effective. The Panel responded, and suggested that the government should not repeal many of the current regulations as the disadvantages outweighed the advantages in doing so.

Councillor W. Hartnett. 8th September 2010.  
Chair Redditch Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel.





# Overview and Scrutiny

No Direct Ward Relevance

## Committee

15th September 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

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	<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>21st September 2010</b>	Arrow Valley Country Side Centre – Audit Trail Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>21st September 2010</b>	Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel – Chair’s Update Report	
<b>21st September 2010</b>	Pitcheroak Golf Course - Presentation	Relevant Lead Head of Service



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<b>21st September 2010</b>	Work Experience Opportunities – submission of Scoping Document	
<b>5th October 2010</b>	Member attendance at the 'Future of Overview and Scrutiny' conference.	
<b>5th October 2010</b>	Member attendance at Scrutiny Skills Workshop, Worcestershire County Hall	
<b>6th October 2010</b>	Council Plan – Part I	Relevant Lead Director
<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 Scrutiny Training Events.	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>6th October 2010</b>	Garden Waste Collection – Pre-Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>25th October 2010</b>	Scrutiny Budget Workshop	Relevant Lead Director
<b>27th October 2010</b>	Performance Report for the services within the Housing, Local Environment and Health Portfolio	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service

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<b>27th October 20</b>	Petitions Process and FAQ Sheet– the Role of Overview and Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
<b>17th November 2010</b>	Performance Report for the services within the Corporate Management Portfolio	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
<b>17th November 2010</b>	Portfolio Holder Annual Report – Portfolio Holder for Housing, Local Environment and Health	
<b>17th November 2010</b>	Update on fly tipping and progress with the Worth It campaign	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>22nd November 2010</b>	Scrutiny Budget Workshop	Relevant Lead Director
<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>19th January 2011</b>	Performance report for the services within the Leadership and Partnerships Portfolio	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
<b>19th January 2011</b>	Town Centre Landscape Improvements (including Church Green Improvements)	Relevant Lead Head of Service

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<b>9th February 2011</b>	Civil Parking Enforcement - Annual Monitoring Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>9th February 2011</b>	Performance Report for the services within the Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development and Local Transport Portfolio	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
<b>9th February 2011</b>	Portfolio Holder Annual Report – Leadership and Partnerships	
<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>2nd March 2011</b>	Performance Report for the services within the Leisure and Tourism Portfolio	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
<b>2nd March 2011</b>	Portfolio Holder Annual Report – Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development and Local Transport	
<b>23rd March 2011</b>	Performance Report for the services within the Community Safety and Regulatory Services Portfolio	Relevant Lead Head(s) of Service
<b>23rd March 2011</b>	Portfolio Holder Annual Report – Leisure and Tourism	
<b>23rd March 2011</b>	Youth Employment at Redditch Borough Council – Update Report	Relevant Lead Head of Service
<b>13th April 2011</b>	Portfolio Holder Annual Report – Community Safety and Regulatory Services	

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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
	Health 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

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	Private Sector Home Support Service – Pre-Scrutiny	Relevant Lead Head of Service
	Promoting Redditch – Scoping Document	
	Worcestershire Supporting People Strategy	Relevant Lead Head of Service

