

APPENDIX 1
Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Planning Event
Workshop Feedback

Members participated in a workshop session as part of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Planning event. During this workshop Members were divided into four groups and discussed potential topics for scrutiny, based on Members' awareness of the key issues impacting on local residents.

The following subjects were proposed as potential topics for scrutiny. (The strategic purposes linked to each of the suggestions made by Members have been highlighted in italics).

Group A: (Councillors Brazier, Bush and Roger Hill)

Three priority issues:

- Jobs and skills (including people's aspirations).
(Help me to be financially independent – including skills and education).
- Suitable accommodation (including consideration of environmental factors).
(Help me to find somewhere to live in my locality).
- Trees and landscaping.
(Keep my place safe and looking good).

All suggested topics:

- **Housing – suitable accommodation.**
(Help me to find somewhere to live in my locality).

Key considerations:

- The Council's Housing Transformation team in Winyates are exploring new approaches to housing tenants.
- This subject was reflected in 6 Council performance measures in June 2013.
- 26.6% of houses in Redditch were classified as "non-decent" condition in the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2012).
- Various aspects of housing have been the subject of previous substantive scrutiny reviews including Preventing Homelessness (2006); Housing and Homelessness Appeals (2006); and Housing Density (2013).

- **Trees – light deprivation.**
(Keep my place safe and looking good).

Key considerations:

- Highway closures take place three times per annum for tree pruning and grass cutting.
- The Landscaping team is currently participating in a pilot transformation scheme in Winyates.
- Tree maintenance was proposed as the subject for a scrutiny review in 2012, though no review was undertaken.

- **Grass cutting and landscaping.**
(Keep my place safe and looking good).
Key considerations (listed under trees – light deprivation above).

- **Parking** – in residential areas, including enforcement issues.
(*Keep my place safe and looking good*).

Key considerations:

- Members have reported that the issue of parking is consistently raised at PACT meetings.
- Civil Parking Enforcement was introduced in some parts of the Borough following completion of a scrutiny review in 2007.
- Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3 – Highways Design Guide – sets out parking requirements for new developments.
- A strategic review of parking in residential areas was recently announced by local County Councillors (Redditch Standard, 14th June 2013).

- **The Alexandra Hospital.**

(*Help me to live my life independently – including health and activity*).

Key considerations:

- The Save the Alex Campaign was established and has been led by local residents, indicating there is significant interest within the community in this subject.
- The Alexandra Hospital Commission was established in October 2012 by Council. This Group has been tasked with gathering evidence to inform the Council's response to the Joint Services Review of Worcester Acute Hospital services.

- **Job creation** – with a focus on education.

(*Help me to be financially independent – including skills and education*).

Key considerations:

- The economy of Redditch with a focus on providing a larger and more diverse job offer is one of the key priorities of the Local Strategic Partnership in Redditch.
- Education attainment and raising the aspirations of young people is one of the priorities of the Local Strategic Partnership in Redditch.
- This subject matched at least five strategic measures in June 2013.
- Scrutiny reviews on similar subjects were completed on Jobs and the Economy (2004-05); and Work Experience (2011).
- Worcestershire County Council also completed reviews of Jobs and the Economy in 2010 and Youth Employment in 2011.

- **Business start-ups.**

(*Help me to run a successful business*).

Key considerations:

- The economy of Redditch, including a focus on Redditch as a business location, is one of the key priorities for the Redditch Local Strategic Partnership.
- The North Worcestershire Economic Development Unit has a business start-up scheme for North Worcestershire.

- **Mental Health.**
(Help me to live my life independently – including health and activity).

Key considerations:

- Health inequalities is one of the key priorities for the Local Strategic Partnership in Redditch.
- A Mental Well-being project was one of the items included on the Action Plan for this priority in November 2012.

Group B: (Councillors Michael Chalk, Hopkins, Mould and Derek Taylor)

Three priority issues:

- Pavements
(*Keep my place safe and looking good*).
- Transport
(*Help me to live my life independently – including health and activity*).
- (Un)employment
(*Help me to be financially independent – including skills and education*).

All suggested topics:

- **Pavements** – focusing on:
 - Safety
 - Aesthetic appearance.
 - Tree root damage (over 40 years).
 - Overgrown shrubbery and poor maintenance.(*Keep my place safe and looking good*).

Key considerations:

- Pavements has been raised as a subject that might be suitable for further scrutiny at previous O&S Work Programme Planning events in Redditch.
- The Access for Disabled People Task Group review, completed in August 2012, considered the subject of dropped kerbs.
- A scrutiny review of Highways Maintenance, completed by Worcestershire County Council in 2009, considered maintenance requirements for “footways”.
- This subject matches one of the current strategic measures for the Council.

- **Transport** – focusing on:
 - Availability of public transport, considered less available the further one is located from the centre.
 - The school run and school transport.
 - Frequency, reliability and hours of operation of public transport.
 - Increasing complaints from the public.
 - The quality of buses.(*Help me to live my life independently – including health and activity*).

Key considerations:

- Worcestershire County Council’s Choose How You Move has recently been promoting sustainable methods of transport to residents living in the Borough.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee engaged with residents on behalf of the Council in 2011 in response to Worcestershire County Council’s consultation over potential changes to bus services.
- Bus service accessibility was considered by the Access for Disabled People Task Group review, completed in 2012.
- Public Transport was the subject of a scrutiny review undertaken by Worcestershire County Council in 2006.

- **Fly tipping** – focusing on:
 - Not necessarily how the Council responds to fly tipping but rather what could be done to prevent fly tipping?
 - Why does fly tipping happen?
 - What items are being tipped?
 - The involvement of “cowboy builders.”
 (*Keep my place safe and looking good*).

Key considerations:

- Tackling fly tipping was the subject of a Redditch Borough Council campaign which took place between January and March 2012.
- This matches one of the Council’s current strategic measures.

- **Dog fouling** – focusing on:
 - How is dog fouling dealt with?
 - Ways to prevent dog fouling.
 (*Keep my place safe and looking good*).

Key considerations:

- Dog fouling was identified as an area of concern for residents by Members at the Overview and Scrutiny introductory training session in May 2012.
- Tackling dog fouling was the subject of the Council’s “Mucky Pup” campaign in 2011
- Is this a Borough wide issue or one that ward members could be supported to tackle?.

- **(Un)employment** – focusing on
 - NEETs (not in education, employment or training).
 - Young people’s skills.
 - The changing face of the economy.
 - Support available to young people.
 - Applications made on the computer. No face to face interviews as a starting point.
 (*Help me to be financially independent – including skills and education*).

Key considerations:

(Please refer to evidence listed under the subject “Job Creation” on page 40).

- **Abbey Stadium** focusing on:
 - The potential expansion of the stadium.
 (*Provide good things for me to see, do and visit*).

Key considerations:

- The revamped Abbey Stadium was reopened in 2012.
- Facilities at the new stadium include a 25 metre pool; two exercise studios; a five court, multi use, sports hall; two full sized football pitches; an 8 lane, floodlit athletics track; and seating able to accommodate 300 spectators.
- The Abbey Stadium revamp followed 15 years of preliminary planning work.
- Links with one strategic measure.

- **Future of local health services, especially the Alexandra Hospital.**
 (*Help me to live my life independently – including health and activity*).

Key considerations: (Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject “the Alexandra Hospital” on page 40).

Group C (Councillors Gandy, Hartnett and Mason - this group did not agree three collective priority issues).

Suggested topics:

- **Housing** – focusing on:
 - Access to housing;
 - Lack of suitable housing to meet the needs of different social/demographic groups.
 - Arrangements for accessing more suitable Council housing following a change in personal circumstances.
 - Communicating housing rules and regulations to residents.
 - The impact of access to housing equity on eligibility for Council housing.
 - Young people requiring support to get onto the housing ladder.
 - The potential to work more with private landlords and social housing representatives to increase options for residents.
 - The condition of properties (e.g. mould) and health implications for residents/tenants.

(Help me to find somewhere to live in my locality).

Key considerations:

(Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject “housing – suitable accommodation” on page 1).

- **Parking** – focusing on:
 - Inappropriate parking in older residential areas, particularly for the school run.
 - There are 2000 houses in Oakenshaw where no parking was designated to the houses.
 - Parking as a cause for neighbourly disputes.
 - Parking schemes in the Borough.
 - Potential problems with parking solutions that have been introduced to date.
 - Visitors’ parking needs.
 - Implications for green spaces of providing additional parking in some residential areas.
 - Delivering places that meet modern living requirements through the planning process.

(Keep my place safe and looking good).

Key considerations:

(Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject “parking” on page 2).

- **Roads/highways/pavements** – focusing on:
 - Provision of dropped kerbs.
 - Meeting the needs of disabled people and mothers with prams.

(Keep my place safe and looking good).

Key considerations:

(Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject “Pavements” on page 42).

- **The Alexandra Hospital** focusing on:
 - The future of the Alexandra Hospital / future service provision at the hospital.
 - The Joint Services Review.
 - Responding to residents' concerns.*(Help me to live my life independently – including health and activity).*

Key considerations:

(Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject "The Alexandra Hospital" on page 40).

- **Landscaping** – focusing on:
 - The Council's tree cutting policy.
 - Grass cutting arrangements.
 - The impact of inclement weather on landscaping services.
 - Managing residents' expectations.
 - Taking into account the lessons learned through the pilot transformation landscaping team in Winyates.*(Keep my place safe and looking good).*

Key considerations:

(Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject "Trees – light deprivation" on page 39).

- **Jobs and skills** – focusing on:
 - Opportunities available through working with the business sector / working in partnership.
 - Expanding apprenticeship opportunities in the Borough.
 - Addressing "job ready" issues, particularly for young people.
 - Clarifying business expectations and matching these to the needs and skills of young people.*(Help me to be financially independent – including skills and education).*

Key considerations:

(Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject "Job Creation" on page 40).

Group D: (Councillors Braley, Quinney, Smith and Witherspoon).

Two priority issues:

- Take effective action in respect of anti-social behaviour.
(*Keep my place safe and looking good*).
- Find me suitable accommodation
(*Help me find somewhere to live*).

All suggested topics:

- **Help me resolve problems with tree roots.**
(*Keep my place safe and looking good*).

Key considerations:

(Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject "Pavements" on page 42).

- **Cut back the trees.**
(*Keep my place safe and looking good*).

Key considerations:

(Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject "Trees – light deprivation" on page 39).

- **Help resolve the parking problems in my area.**
(*Keep my place safe and looking good*).

Key considerations:

(Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject "parking" on page 40).

- **Planning – make it more transparent and pay more attention to what matters to me.**

Key considerations:

- Links with at least one of the current strategic measures.
- Decisions are made in a quasi-judicial process by members of the Planning Committee and / or by professionally trained Planning Officers (under delegated powers).
- Planning decisions are guided by national and local planning policies, including the current Local Plan (3).

- **Take effective action in respect of anti-social behaviour.**
(*Keep my place safe and looking good*).

Key considerations:

- Overview and Scrutiny is required to scrutinise the local Community Safety Partnership at least once a year. Anti-social behaviour issues could be considered as part of this scrutiny exercise.
- Anti-social behaviour was the subject of an 18 month Task and Finish review in 2005/06.
- This subject matches at least two of the Council's current strategic measures.

- **Stop the dog fouling.**
(*Keep my place safe and looking good*).

Key considerations:

(Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject “dog fouling” on page 43).

- **Find me suitable accommodation that meets my needs and is affordable.**
(*Help me find somewhere to live*).

Key considerations:

(Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject “housing – suitable accommodation” on page 39).

- **Improve the quality of the pavements.**
(*Keep my place safe and looking good*).

Key considerations:

(Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject “Pavements” on page 42).

- **Improve our bus services** so that:
 - We have better buses;
 - Better staff;
 - The buses turn up on time.(*Help me to live my life independently*).

Key considerations:

(Please refer to key evidence listed under the subject “Transport” on page 42).