

Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations Tracker
Recommendations that remain to be implemented

Promoting Sporting Participation Task and Finish Group

(considered by Executive Committee on 26/6/12)

Recommendation 2: That the Council look to maximise the benefits of parks and green spaces in Redditch by introducing more informal games areas and additional equipment to help increase sporting participation and physical activity in the local area

A detailed update on the action that has been taken and will continue to be taken until Easter 2014 in response to this recommendation has been detailed in Appendix 3 to this report.

Access for Disabled People Task Group

(considered by the Executive Committee on 21/08/12)

The following recommendation remains to be implemented.

Recommendation 6: a disability awareness session should be delivered as part of the Member Development Programme at Redditch Borough Council.

The Executive Committee agreed on 11th June 2013 that disability awareness training should be delivered to elected Members as part of the induction process for new Councillors. The training is due to be delivered as part of the new Member induction process in June 2014, following the next local Council elections.

Sickness Policy Short, Sharp Review
(considered by Executive Committee on 20/11/12)

Recommendation 3: an A5 laminated guide to the Council's Sickness Absence Policy should be provided for the use of managers and staff.

Officers have investigated the potential for an A5 laminated guide to the council's Sickness Absence Policy to be provided. Unfortunately, Officers have found that it is not possible to fit sufficient information about the process onto a single card.

Under these circumstances Officers were wondering whether Members would be willing to allow Officers to issue reminders to all staff and managers electronically about the policy?

Redditch Market Review
(considered by Executive Committee on 12/3/13)
(Seventeen recommendations)

All of the recommendations were all APPROVED subject to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development and Transport taking the lead on working on the detail of proposals and on the adoption of a bold and radical approach to recommendations 1 and 2 in particular, including a full assessment of the options for delivering a vibrant and viable market.

The following update has already been provided for Members' consideration on the remaining recommendations: In addition to arrangements being in hand to form the working group to develop the five year strategy and as part of the "full assessment of the options for delivering a vibrant and viable market", the North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration Service's Client Management Group has instructed Officers to explore various options with a view to potentially externalising the markets function.

<p><u>Recommendation 1</u>: a new strategy for the market be developed which clearly sets out how the market can be revitalised over the next five year period.</p>	<p>The potential exists to incorporate a strategy for the market within a wider town centre strategy, jointly with the Town Centre Partnership and the Kingfisher Shopping Centre. In addition, and following initial consideration of the proposal to examine options to outsource the Market, a further political steer and input will be required. In the first instance in this regard, the Head of Planning and Regeneration, the Town Centre Coordinator and Economic Development Manager are to meet the company that operate Kidderminster's outsourced outdoor market.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 3</u>: the number of general retail market operating days should be reduced to no more than three days a week. The working group to consult with existing regular traders about which particular days should be retained.</p>	<p>The feedback from traders is that they do not want a reduction from five to three days. However, before any reduction in trading days is to take place, the following need to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The need to purchase demountable stalls that can be taken up and taken down for three days and stored for four days.• The potential number of specialist markets that can operate on other "non market" days, is potentially limited.• A reduction in stall numbers would potentially result in a reduction in income.• A resource is required to initially purchase new stalls.• A resource is required to put up/take down stalls etc.

<p><u>Recommendation 4</u>: consideration is given to holding more speciality markets to take place on non general retail market operating days on a regular basis to help create a niche for the Redditch market. The working group to consider how such markets would be managed within the available resources.</p>	<p>A list of the types of potential specialist markets that exist have been circulated to the working group. There is concern that Redditch may not attract regular and large numbers of speciality markets.</p> <p>Furthermore, there is a resource issue associated with bringing in specialist markets that would require a budget bid.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 5</u>: the market working group considers the feasibility of introducing an on-site Redditch Market information point.</p>	<p>If this was to be progressed, the group felt this could be located on an "enclosed stall" rather than a permanent structure.</p> <p>Consideration needs to be given to using/adapting an existing stall. However, the Senior Market Operative's other responsibilities mean that he is not on site all of the time, which means that such a facility could not be "manned" all of the time. As such a facility never existed previously; there is potentially no demand and no meaningful purpose for it.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 11</u>: the market working group explores the possibility of realigning and extending the layout of the market past its current location.</p>	<p>A resource does not exist to purchase and to put up and take down extra stalls (there would need to be a budget bid). The matter has been considered but as there is currently not a waiting list of traders requesting additional stalls it is considered there is no demand requirement for additional space at present.</p>

<p><u>Recommendation 12</u>: the market working group explores the feasibility of introducing a covered food court area.</p>	<p>There is no resource to build such a facility (there would need to be a budget bid). Also existing relevant hot food traders currently deliberately operate apart from each other, as competitors.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 13</u>: the market working group explores the suitability of the design of the current market stalls and to consider whether the introduction of alternative stalls would improve the overall visual appearance of the stalls.</p>	<p>This would require a budget bid. However, it is considered better to implement the Town Centre Landscape Strategy before changing the market stalls, which are currently, still regarded to be of a satisfactory standard.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 15</u>: the market working group works with local bus operators to help further promote the market.</p>	<p>The response from the main bus operator is that they do not have many final destinations that say “Redditch Town Centre”. They try to be more specific about where the final destination of the bus is. All their buses are now DDA compliant which means they have working destination blinds. The relevant Act stipulates that destinations should be as clear as possible and they advise the best way to do this is to have as few words as possible on the blind. Adding “Redditch Town Centre & Market” or “Town Centre Market” would be difficult to read and, with certain types of blind, would be too many characters to display. They advise that this is not something they would be particularly keen to do.</p>

Recommendation 16: the Council should engage with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association with a view to reaching an agreement to regulate the working days and areas of charity street fundraisers in Redditch Town Centre.

A draft Site Management Agreement (SMA) has been prepared following discussions with representatives of the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association (PFRA). The SMA will enable the regulation of who, where and how many charity fundraisers are allowed to collect in the town centre on any given date.

Officers have consulted with the Chair of Licensing Committee and the relevant Portfolio Holder regarding the details of the agreement. Negotiations with the PFRA are now taking place to agree the SMA and ensure it meets the needs of Redditch Town Centre as well as being reasonable for the PFRA's Members. Once finalised, the SMA will be reported to Licensing Committee for ratification.

Arts and Culture Centre Task Group (considered by the Executive Committee on 09/04/13)

All nine of the group's recommendations were ENDORSED by the Executive Committee. However, the Committee could not decide on all of the recommendations as it is not the decision making body for outside organisations.

The following conclusions have been reached: Recommendation 2a, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 were APPROVED. Recommendations 1, 2, 4a, and 7 were recommendations to the Arts in Redditch Network. The Arts in Redditch Network has considered the Task Group's recommendations. The network has reserved the right to submit a more detailed response at a later date and may adapt their response accordingly at this stage. A final decision on these recommendations therefore remains PENDING.

Recommendation 4: art exhibition space, where local artists can display their work, should be introduced at the Palace Theatre and the Abbey Stadium:

- a) the Arts in Redditch Network should promote opportunities to display local artists' work.

The Abbey Stadium exhibition space has been up and running since approximately the beginning of 2012. The exhibition space is currently displaying artwork by a community group and permanent artwork by a local artist. The Arts Development Service is currently promoting the opportunity for other local groups and artists to use the exhibition space via the council's website.

Quotes have been received to create a permanent exhibition space at the Palace Theatre. The cost to deliver this project will now be met in the next financial year, pending budget pressures.

<p><u>Recommendation 7</u>: in an ideal world an arts centre would be established in Redditch by a community group. However, in order for this objective to be achieved the community group needs to be aware of and to address the following barriers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the extent to which local arts groups would make use of an arts centre; b) the financial costs involved in establishing and maintaining an arts centre; c) funding application requirements; d) creating a sustainable business case; e) legal liability and accountability issues; f) availability of volunteers to operate the centre; and g) management arrangements for the centre. 	<p>The establishment of an Arts Centre remains the clearly stated long-term objective of the Arts in Redditch Network. This commitment is featured in the 'About Us' pages of the website, and was re-stated at the launch event on the 22nd October 2013.</p> <p>To further promote the profile of the arts community in Redditch, the Arts in Redditch Network is promoting a 'pop-up gallery' at the Kingfisher Centre, over the period 10th - 19th May. This will help to showcase the visual arts scene in the town, help bring participants together and also encourage greater participation in arts activities.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 9</u>: the 'Creative Redditch' artwork should be prioritised for use on the next bus shelter that is installed in Redditch town centre.</p>	<p>The Community Safety team of the Council is currently working with Choose How You Move to install a covered cycle shelter in the town centre, to include the 'Creative Redditch' piece. A likely location was identified during October and officers are currently working on redesigning the area to accommodate the shelter and dealing with some concerns raised about the location. The shelter will, for a trial period, be fitted with transparent panels to monitor any anti-social behaviour relating to the shelter and to inform the decision to upgrade the panels to those featuring the 'stain glassed' artwork.</p>

	<p>The hard landscaping works are complete for the cycle shelter. Rather than undertake the 'Creative Redditch' artwork there is an opportunity for the Community Safety team to work with an artist to create artwork inspired by the New Town designation 50th anniversary.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Access for Disabled People Task Group – Monitoring Update Report <i>(considered by the Executive Committee on 11/06/13)</i></p> <p>The recommendations were endorsed, subject to changes to the wording of both recommendations.</p>	
<p><u>Recommendation 1</u>: a disability awareness session should be delivered on an annual basis as part of the Member Development Programme at Redditch Borough Council; and</p>	<p>The Executive Committee agreed on 11th June 2013 that disability awareness training should be delivered to elected Members as part of the induction process for new Councillors. The training is therefore not due to be delivered until June 2014, following the next local Council elections.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 2</u>: an in year bid, to be paid for from balances, should be made to fund the installation of a canopy over the ramp access to Shopmobility.</p>	<p>The Executive Committee recommended on 11th June that a canopy should be installed at this location. However, the Committee proposed that the installation of this canopy should be paid for using funds from the Shopmobility donated reserves.</p> <p>Approval will be required from the Kingfisher Centre due to the land being in their ownership. Following this planning permission would also be required. Estimated to be completed April 2014.</p>

Local Strategic Partnership Monitoring Update Report

(Considered by the Executive Committee 2nd September 2013)

The Executive Committee APPROVED this recommendation, subject to a slight amendment to the wording.

Recommendation: the Council identify suitable sources of funding, including from external partner organisations such as Worcestershire County Council, that could be used to fund the installation of adult exercise equipment in Morton Stanley Park.

The Executive Committee agreed the following: "Officers be requested to try and identify suitable sources of funding, including from external partner organisations such as Worcestershire County Council, that could be used to fund the installation of adult exercise equipment in Morton Stanley Park".

Medium Term Financial Plan

The recommendation was endorsed by the Executive Committee

(Considered by the Executive Committee 11th February)

Recommendation: the current position for 2014/15-2016/17 be noted and Officers be requested to review the savings that can be delivered to achieve a balanced budget.

Officers are working to review potential savings. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is due to receive the Future Financial Plan report in September / October which will contain further information on this subject.