

Scrutiny Proposal Form

(This form should be completed by sponsoring Member(s), Officers and / or members of the public when proposing an item for Scrutiny).

Note: The matters detailed below have not yet received any detailed consideration. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee reserves the right to reject suggestions for scrutiny that fall outside the Borough Council's remit.

Proposer's name and designation	Councillor Potter	Date of referral	01/09/15
Proposed topic title	Leisure Services Options Short, Sharp Review		
Link to national, regional and local priorities and targets	<p>Redditch Borough Council Strategic Purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide good things for me to do, see and visit. • Help me live my life independently (including health and activity). <p>Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health inequalities - with particular focus on smoking, obesity alcohol/drugs, and mental health. 		
Background to the issue	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee launched the Abbey Stadium Task Group in 2013/14, which focused on improvements that could be made to the venue. In response to the findings in this review the Executive Committee agreed that the Council should explore options for all or some of the Council's leisure and cultural services to be managed by a trust. External consultants were subsequently tasked with undertaking an options appraisal in relation to the future operation of the Council's leisure services. The findings of this options appraisal together with a report from officers have been the subject of detailed pre-scrutiny in recent months. Overview and Scrutiny Members therefore have significant background knowledge in respect of this subject.</p> <p>On 14th July 2015 the Executive Committee considered the options appraisal, an officer overview of the findings in this appraisal and points raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Based on all of the information that had been provided the Executive Committee concluded that further work was required prior to a decision on the future delivery of leisure and cultural services.</p> <p>I feel that an Overview and Scrutiny Short, Sharp Review could make a valuable contribution in relation to this additional work. Scrutiny Members can gather extra evidence which Officers may</p>		

	<p>not have the time or resources to obtain. We can also provide a fresh and objective perspective and I believe we could really help the Council to identify a suitable way forward in relation to this matter. Good scrutiny can help the Council and this is what I aim to do through this exercise.</p> <p>The future operation of the Council's leisure and cultural services is an important matter for the Council to address. The final decision on this matter could have significant financial implications for the Council as well as improving the offer for residents. There could also potentially be implications for staff, depending on the decision that is made. It would therefore be best to ensure that a well informed decision is made on this subject as soon as possible so that staff can appreciate the position moving forward.</p> <p>As part of the review I am suggesting that Members should consider different operating models for the delivery of leisure and cultural services. However, I am not proposing that the group consider the option of delivering services in house as I believe that Officers are in a better position to consider this option due to their expertise. I am also not proposing that the Council consider retaining a streamlined service as I think that this could be achieved through service transformation which the Council is already working on and therefore I do not think further investigation of this would add any value.</p>
<p>Key Objectives Please keep to SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To consider the general requirements of the following different options in terms of future operational arrangements for leisure and cultural services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External delivery by an external leisure operator or existing trust; • Creation of a new leisure trust. • Commissioning/outsourcing parts of leisure and cultural services. • A local authority trading company (Teckal). • A joint delivery vehicle (public). • A joint delivery vehicle (private). • A mutual delivery model. 2) To review the financial implications for the Council of all of the delivery models. 3) To assess the implications of each delivery model for the quality of services delivered to the customer. 4) To consider the governance arrangements that would apply in relation to each model. 5) To consult with other local authorities about the operational models that they have adopted for the delivery of leisure and cultural services.

	<p>6) To identify suitable delivery models for leisure and cultural services. This should include considering whether different delivery models may be suitable for different elements of leisure and cultural services.</p>
<p>How long do you think is needed to complete this exercise? (Where possible please estimate the number of weeks, months and meetings required)</p>	<p>The aim is to complete this review by December 2015. This should ensure that the findings of the group and any recommendations, if approved, can be taken into account in advance of the Council's budget being set for the following year in February 2016.</p> <p>Any findings would need to be available in a timely manner order to be taken into account by Officers undertaking additional work as requested by the Executive Committee in July 2015. It is for this reason that I am proposing that a Short, Sharp Review of this subject should be undertaken rather than a full Task Group investigation.</p>

Please return this form to: Jess Bayley or Amanda Scarce, Democratic Services Officers, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
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