

# Portfolio Holder Annual Report

Portfolio: Community Leadership and Partnership  
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gandy

Year: 2009/10

# 1. Executive Summary

## 1.1. Please provide a summary of progress over the last year (no more than one page).

### Community Leadership

A range of community engagement activities have been undertaken around the Local Strategic Partnership e.g. “We Are Redditch”, a stand at the Morton Stanley Festival; and also engagement activity around the Council’s specific agenda, in particular, the Budget Jury. A Community Forum has also been established. Road shows around the Borough have also been held and “walking the ward” sessions.

### Partnerships

Work has continued on the Local Strategic Partnership. A sustainable community strategy is currently being drafted and will come through to March 2011 Full Council with pre-scrutiny.

### Voluntary Sector

A new Grants Policy has been agreed at Executive and a Grants Officer post included in the 2011/12 budget, subject to approval. The Bromsgrove and Redditch Network, the infrastructure organisation for the voluntary sector, have been invited onto the Local Strategic Partnership and a range of voluntary organisation attend the Community Forum.

### Regional Matters

We have ensured that Redditch is appropriately represented at Worcestershire Leaders Board, raised the profile of the Redditch Partnership at the Worcestershire Partnership Board level which has seen greater acknowledgement and buy in to addressing the issues that Redditch community face i.e. red flag issues and regularly attended and input into the debate at the Regional level which has been essential in these unprecedented times of change particularly with regard to the changing regional landscape

### Corporate Policy

The Council Plan 2010-13 has been approved and the next rolling three year plan is currently being worked on. This is supported by the corporate performance indicator set.

### Communications

Three Redditch Matters have been published, plus an Annual Report on the Council's progress for 2009/2010. A "Redditch, It's My Place" campaign was run over the summer to improve residents' perceptions of the Borough and the team have continued to support the Council's service teams through a range of press releases.

## 2. Performance

### 2.1. Please detail areas of good performance over the past year.

- Three Redditch Matters tailored to local issues e.g. volunteering, Abbey Stadium, town centre etc.
- Annual Report using historic industry of Redditch, needles, as backdrop.
- “Redditch – It’s My Place” campaign.
- Press releases.
- Set up Twitter feed for Council.
- Set up Facebook site for Council and a separate one for Morton Stanley festival.
- Managed TV/media at General Election.
- Designed the Heart of England in Bloom submission.
- Piloted Budget Jury.
- Led on communications/response around “red flag”.
- Morton Stanley festival community engagement presence.
- Supported road shows and other community engagement events.
- Set up education attainment conference.
- Drafting Sustainable Community Strategy.
- Health inequalities away morning.
- Health inequalities action plan in draft.
- Educational attainment theme group established.
- 2010/11 voluntary sector grants allocated.
- New Grants Policy drafted.
- Grants Officer post a budget bid for 2011/12. This post will help allocate the funds, but also work with the voluntary sector.
- Council Plan agreed.
- Quarterly reporting of performance.

- Data quality policy agreed.
- Joint improvement plan agreed.
- Business plans for 2010/11 signed off and new format agreed for 2011/12.
- Action Plan for Winyates Area of Highest Need agreed.
- Neighbourhood Co-ordinator post appointed.
- Funding for Area of Highest Need drawn down.
- About to embark on £200,000 capital project in the Area of Highest Need.

**2.2. Please detail key performance indicators that are of concern**

<b>Key Performance Indicators – Areas of Concern</b>			
<b>PI Ref</b>	<b>PI Description</b>	<b>Explanation and/or corrective action.</b>	<b>Impact on budget</b>

There are no performance indicators for this portfolio, but there will be outcome measures for the Area of Highest Need, once agreed. This work is currently on-going with the support of the County Council's Research and Intelligence Unit.

### 3. Revenue Budget

3.1. Explain problem areas – what has been done, what is planned to be done – impact on priorities, key deliverables

Revenue Budget – Areas of Concern			
Budget Code	Description	Explanation and/or corrective action.	Impact on performance and priorities

There are no budget issues for 2010/11; however, Redditch Matters is not funded from March 2011 onwards and is subject to a budget bid as part of the 2011/12 budget deliberations. Also, the Policy, Performance and Partnerships team, which includes communications, is about to start going through a shared services restructure (to be completed in April 2011). This will need to balance the need to make savings with the need to ensure the service is resilient and can respond to Members' needs in 2011/12.

# 4. Capital Budget

4.1. Explain problem areas – what has been done, what is planned to be done – impact on priorities, key deliverables

Revenue Budget – Areas of Concern			
Budget Code	Description	Explanation and/or corrective action.	Impact on performance and priorities

There is a capital budget on the Area of Highest Need project, but there are no budget issues.

## 5. The Year Ahead

5.1 Please detail the portfolio holder's main areas of focus in 2011/2012:-

### Community Leadership

The current restructure of the Policy, Performance and Partnerships team should (subject to Full Council approval and staff and union consultation) increase the capacity of the team to support the community leadership agenda, in particular, community engagement. This should include a launch event of the Sustainable Community Strategy, a community engagement strategy, a evaluation of the Budget Jury and further public involvement through the next budget round, work on the ground through "walking the wards" and specific engagement activity, particularly, in our areas of highest need: Church Hill, Winyates, etc.

### Partnerships

Once the Sustainable Community Strategy is agreed, we will need to ensure that "form follows function" i.e. that we have the appropriate theme groups, with the right individuals and organisations represented, to deliver the action plans in the Strategy. We will want to see practical examples of progress on the ground that tackle the "red flag" issues and a further review and update of the action plans. Continued work on the Area of Highest Need Project – Winyates.

### Voluntary Sector

2011/12 should see the new Grants Policy go live and monies allocated to the voluntary sector that support our corporate priorities. It is also anticipated that we will evaluate how the community forum is working and look to ensure that the voluntary sector is sufficiently represented, but also that we provide a forum for individual members of the public to make their views known to the Council.



### Regional Matters

Continued development of Redditch Partnership and addressing the issues of health inequality and educational attainment. Further development of working relationships across all tiers of local government and the public sector within Worcestershire to minimise the effects of the budget cuts. Further development of the Worcestershire Partnership following the recent restructuring of the Partnership.

### Corporate Policy

The key piece of work will be the updating of the Council Plan i.e. rolling it forward to 2011-14. With the abolition of the National Indicator set, the Policy Team will be working with heads of service to determine a local indicator set which is relevant. We will also need to understand the impact on new ways of working on performance, in particular, systems thinking. The new set of indicators will be subject to approval by Members. Behind the scenes, we will continue to work to ensure that each department has a service business plan and each team a team action plan.

### Communications

Subject to a successful budget bid, we will continue to produce Redditch Matters. We expect to produce an Annual Report and continue to support services with press releases and other media work. We are currently supporting the Promoting Redditch Task and Finish Scrutiny Group and this may well produce additional development work for the team e.g. social marketing, support to the Economic Development Team etc.