

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

12th January 2011

LEARNDIRECT - RELOCATION UPDATE

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Gay Hopkins, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism.
Relevant Head of Service	John Godwin, Head of Leisure and Cultural Services.
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To provide an update on the relocation of the service and its current position, and to update Members on the current position on 54, South Street, Redditch.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee is asked to RESOLVE that

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **a full review of the property known as the REDI Centre, 54, South Street, Redditch, be undertaken by Worcestershire County Council Property Services to identify options available to the Council for Members' future consideration.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following the Council Decision on the 9th August 2010 to relocate the Learndirect element of the REDI Centre service to another Council owned location, Officers have identified premises at Greenlands Business Centre that can accommodate the requirements of Learndirect.
- 3.2 All necessary permissions and regulations have been secured and works to adapt the facilities to meet the requirements of Learndirect and DDA have been completed.
- 3.3 Learndirect staff have continued to provide learning support and Learndirect courses from the REDI Centre during the transition period from August to December 2010.

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4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The service has relocated to the new premises and currently has 87 active learners. Staff have worked hard to ensure that continuity of courses has been maintained wherever possible.
- 4.2 Staff will undertake a general satisfaction survey with users to determine the impact of the relocation on existing customers and gauge the feeling of new customers attending at the new location.
- 4.3 The REDI Centre building has been secured and security services provided to oversee the property during its closure, utilities and non essential services have been disconnected.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs of transition from the existing Centre to the new location at the Business Centre were included in the financial implications element of the report to the Executive Committee on the 28th July 2010. Currently there are no concerns with the agreed budget; income from learners is on target to meet budget requirements.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

A hire agreement has been signed for the occupation of Units 4 & 5 at the Business Centre in line with normal letting procedures.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no major policy implications contained in this report.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

The relocation of the service has been a key objective contained in the improvement plan and has been achieved.

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY
CONSIDERATIONS**

The current Learndirect contract runs up to the end of July 2011; any new contract offer for August 2011 – July 2012 is usually communicated in May/June time when the service will know if a further contract and its value will be forthcoming. Members were advised in the Executive report

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on the options for the REDI Centre service, that future contracts may not be offered, which would have a significant impact on the future of any Adult learning services provided by the Council.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

There are no new customer implications that have arisen.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None contained in this report.

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

12.1 The service is now delivering in line with the option agreed by Council on the 9th August 2010. The use of the Business Centre is a very cost effective option.

12.2 The REDI Centre building is now vacant and secured, weekly security checks have been put in place to monitor the property whilst empty.

12.3 This may provide opportunity for the facility to be let or disposed of, or re-used by the Council. Worcestershire County Council Property Services provide a full property review service to help identify local property needs and what options are available to the Council.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

The Council will see a reduction in carbon emissions whilst the REDI Centre building is closed. Depending on decisions on future use this could contribute to a long term reduction.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Resource issues relating to this report.

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None related to this report.

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**16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF
CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

None related to this report.

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

None related to this report.

18. LESSONS LEARNT

None reported.

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

None required as this is an update for Members.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	
Chief Executive	
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	
Deputy Chief Executive/Executive Director – Leisure, Environment and Community Services	
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	Yes
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	
Corporate Procurement Team	

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21. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards.

22. APPENDICES

None.

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Executive Committee Report 28th July 2010.
Council report 9th August 2010.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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