

Portfolio Holder Annual Report

Portfolio: Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development
and Local Transport

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Pearce

Year: 2010/11

1. Executive Summary

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

- Progressed the Core Strategy to another consultation stage, getting closer to the publication of the Core Strategy for examination and numerous evidence base documents have been completed to support the Core Strategy;
- Progress has been maintained in Development Management including successful enforcement actions;
- There has been the commencement of the shared service for Local Land Charges with Bromsgrove;
- Commencement of investigation of the options into shared arrangements for a North Worcestershire Building Control Service, also the service was successfully audited, won commercial work in competition with the private sector (such as the Abbey Stadium Project) and had a Customer Care 11 point commitment published in brochures and on the website.
- EDU have been concentrating on delivering the Economic Development Strategy and the promotion of the business centres. This has been going well except where actions are delivered in partnership with publicly funded business support organisations, e.g. Business Link, which have been subject to substantial reductions in funding and have therefore rationalised their activities. Elsewhere the team have continued to support businesses in accessing market opportunities, such as the Olympics and public sector procurement, worked with young people to encourage entrepreneurialism and promoted Redditch as a business location;
- Progressed number of projects within the Town Centre Strategy and organisation of events in the Town Centre;
- Set up the Redditch Town Centre Partnership.

2. Performance

2.1 Please detail areas of good performance over the past year

- Successful analysis of the consultation responses received following the joint consultation with Bromsgrove on the Core Strategy in February 2010;
- Adaptation of working processes as the new planning system emerges (since May 2010);
- Numerous press releases and public responses;
- Good progress on Core Strategy preparation throughout planning system changes;
- Equalities Impact Assessments prepared for the Core Strategy and Town Centre Strategy;
- Beginning to align planning processes and hold joint meetings with members between Redditch and Bromsgrove;
- The Development Management statistics have been consistently high all year and there has been flexibility of staff between teams at Redditch and also with Bromsgrove;
- Building Control local targets have been achieved of dealing with 25% of plans within 2 weeks, 50% of plans within 3 weeks and 100% of plans within 5 weeks;
- Organised 3 events for business - two Biz Expos and an Olympic workshop;
- Produced a guide for businesses in Redditch;
- Secured funding for electric vehicle infrastructure as part of the Central Technology Belt;

- Consulted with the business community regarding the establishment of Local Enterprise Partnerships;
- Assisted Trinity High School to deliver enterprise days to students;
- Arranged a jobs fair in partnership with Housing Options;
- Successful Town Centre Partnership with a wide representation of stakeholders;
- Successful Town Centre events such as St. George's Day;
- Good working partnership with St. Stephen's Church concerning regeneration of the Town Centre;
- Outcome of consultation events for Landscape Proposals and St. Stephen's Church good with public responses;
- Improved relations with Kingfisher Centre Management and regular meetings held with them to tie up events;
- Works started on re-landscaping of the train station area.

2.2 Please detail key performance indicators that are of concern

There are no performance indicators which are considered to be of concern.

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
0760	The service is not expected to fully cover costs for Building Control fee earning work.	This is essentially due to the recession and will be addressed under the North Worcestershire Building Control Shared Service.	Income is expected to be lower than budgeted with no impact upon performance but the need to ensure efficiencies.
0760	Redditch Borough has more unauthorised development than adjoining authorities.	Review of unauthorised work and procedures under the North Worcestershire Building Control Shared Service.	Marketing the service such as writing to applicants of planning applications to raise awareness to avoid unauthorised work and improve income.

There are no budget problems for 2010/11 relating to Development Plans or previous revenue bids, however most of the commissioning of studies/reports tends to take place later in the financial year.

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
0148	IT need for Uniform software upgrade.	To align with other software for shared services delivery and lessen time to respond to enquiries such as Land Charges. There is the need for a budget bid in due course.	Expected improvement on performance including shared service working, administration answering queries and out of office working to exceed local targets and income expectations.

There are no issues for Development Plans.

5. The Year Ahead

5.1 Please detail the portfolio holder's main areas of focus in 2010/2011:-

- Continue to progress Core Strategy with a view to publication and examination of the document;
- Continue to gather information, research and evidence to support the Core Strategy;
- Focus on Infrastructure charging schedule and other Community Infrastructure Planning work;

- Local Land Charges Shared Service, Transformation for Development Management and Development Plans teams and North Worcestershire mergers for Economic Development Unit and Building Control;
- Continue the progress of implementing the Town Centre Strategy key projects;
- Continue work with the Town Centre Partnership and ensure events are continued in the Town Centre;
- To play a role in the development of an EDU Strategy for North Worcestershire and its implementation;
- Significant Development Management applications are anticipated and it is likely that the portfolio holder will need to be more involved in pre-application discussions;
- Investigations into the declining market services;
- Working with Worcestershire County Council on local transport issues and route subsidies.