

Redditch Council Plan update on progress February 2026

Priority: Economy, Regeneration & Prosperity

Key objective	Update on progress until end of Jan 2026	RAG
More high-quality jobs	<u>Enterprising Worcestershire</u> : In Q3 25/26, a further 2 businesses have accessed advisor support, bringing the total to 7 to date. 7 people attended a business start-up course this quarter, bringing the total to 18 year to date.	GREEN
Greater opportunities to develop new skills	<u>Careers Worcestershire</u> : In Q3 25/26, 56 people have been supported to gain employment (year to date: 175), with 20 getting a job (62 year to date). <u>Employability support in Family Hubs</u> : In Q3 25/26, 15 volunteering opportunities, 13 people gaining a qualification and 10 people have been supported to gain employment. <u>Employability skills programme</u> : Grants have been awarded to 3 organisations to deliver employability support to young people who are NEET. In the first quarter of delivery, 7 people have received support to gain employment and 7 are participating in education. <u>Skills Boost</u> : In Q3 25/26, 3 grants have been paid (year to date: 27). All funding has been allocated with a total of 76 grants approved.	AMBER
Increase footfall in the town centre	First stage has been completing procurement of footfall data provider; this has been done. Two 'geo-fences' have been set for the town centre, one covering the market and one the public realm. This will enable baseline data to be compiled to understand current footfall. Improvements to the public realm and continued development of Redditch Market will both help to encourage greater footfall in the town centre.	GREEN
Engage with our communities to understand the needs of our district centres	Engagement activity to be undertaken in 2026/27	GREEN
Support local independent businesses	<u>Business Grants</u> : 1 grant was paid in Q3 25/26 (3 year to date), with a further 7 approved. <u>Business Innovation & Productivity programme</u> : 3 businesses are participating in the programme with several more in the pipeline to take up the final place on the programme.	GREEN
Support and encourage new start-up businesses	<u>Business Grants</u> : 1 grant was paid in Q3 25/26 (2 year to date) with a further 6 approved.	GREEN
Collaborate with partners to secure public and private investment	Redditch has been included in the Government's Pride in Place Strategy, with £20 million of investment into Greenlands and Woodrow to regenerate the area for the community.	GREEN

Attract businesses to locate in Redditch	This will be developed in the new Economic Development Strategy, which will be developed in 2026.	GREEN
Regeneration of the Town Hall	A revised plan to refurbish the lower ground, ground and part of the first floor is now being delivered with works due to be completed in summer 2026.	AMBER
Redditch outdoor market	Redditch Market continues to develop, running on a Thursday and Saturday, with gazebos and mobile pitches. Thursdays have seen steady traders' numbers week on week whilst Saturdays remain less busy, Christmas and themed markets have proven successful. Themed markets are being planned for throughout the year alongside trader and promotional campaigns.	GREEN
Forge Mill Museum enhancements	Permitted development received for the new food kiosk installation. The contract was re-tendered due to issues with the original submissions, and the contract is being awarded w/c 23.02.26. Toilet refurbishment will be complete w/e 27.02.26, minor snagging items only outstanding. Electrical and heating upgrade works now complete.	AMBER
Innovation Centre	Speller-Metcalf have been appointed as Design & Build contractor and are currently working on Stage 4 Designs. Planning permission was approved on December 11 th . The full business case for Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership funds was approved by the Enterprise Zone Partnership Board and ratified by Birmingham City Council's Cabinet on January 20 th 2026. Construction is scheduled to commence Summer 2026 with an estimated 15-month programme, and due to become operational by the end of 2027.	GREEN
Utilise land and assets for the benefit of residents	A new asset management strategy will be developed in 2026/27	GREEN
Develop an approach to Community Wealth Building	The new Economic Development Strategy, which will be developed in 2026, will have an aim of embedding a community wealth building model.	GREEN
New Economic Development Strategy for Redditch	Work on the new Economic Development Strategy will commence in the new calendar year as scheduled.	GREEN

Priority: Green, Clean & Safe

Key objective	Update on progress until end of Jan 2026	RAG
Improve street cleanliness of our neighbourhoods and local environment	A new system of gauging condition, APSE LAMS, a mobile application, has been introduced, which enables benchmarking against similar councils to give us an idea of how we are performing. This has allowed us to further raise standards on a consistent basis.	GREEN
Support voluntary groups litter picking in their communities	We provide litter pickers, gloves, bags and rings to support anyone helping keep Redditch clean and tidy. We work with the Parks team to plan these events and in 2025, the Redditch Place teams supported 29 individual and group litter picks.	GREEN
Improve recycling rates	The waste education and engagement job description is being reviewed to attract suitable candidates for the new financial year to improve recycling as well as play an important role in promoting the new food waste service and the implications of the use of the various bins that will be available.	GREEN
Protect and enhance open spaces	Continuing the delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Action Plan, in relation to recommendations as part of the Leisure and Culture Strategy, including working towards Green Flags. Projects have commenced, with some completed and we are now looking to action the delivery of capital investments, once the budget has been secured through the MTFP.	AMBER
Enhancing biodiversity	We have undertaken a review of biodiversity in Redditch and current actions being delivered in the Borough. The Biodiversity Duty Report has been taken through Executive Committee and includes working across the council to develop and implement action plans to continue to improve biodiversity across the Borough.	GREEN
Work with partners to tackle ASB, serious violence, burglary and drugs misuse as part of the statutory Community Safety Partnership	NWCSP meets quarterly and the multi-agency Safer Redditch Tasking group meets approx. every 6 weeks to discuss crime, disorder and ASB issues across the Borough and in accordance with the NWCSP priorities. The Police continue with proactive enforcement of ASB within the PSPO area in Redditch and one Neighbourhood Warden commenced on 23 February 2026, with the second post being readvertised as initial recruitment was unsuccessful. The Right Path project (funded by the Home Office SV fund) continue to receive referrals for young people at risk of being involved in serious violence. They receive intensive therapeutic mentoring to prevent and deter violence and implement behavioural change. The Community Safety Team continue to deliver the Respect Programme, a therapeutic mentoring scheme which provides weekly support and guidance sessions to young people at risk of becoming victims and/or perpetrators of crime. A 'Right Path Project' using Serious Violence Duty funding allocated to Worcestershire, and working with South Worcestershire, has been commissioned by NWCSP. This delivers intensive 1:1 mentoring to support and guide young people who are at greater risk of criminalisation through use of violence.	GREEN

	The Nominated Neighbour Scheme continues with its aim to protect vulnerable residents from doorstep crime and rogue trader offences and continues to be a successful local initiative.	
Increase the amount of renewable energy generated by the Council	Solar energy is already being generated by the Council; data on this is being used to help calculate the carbon saving. Information on the amount of renewable energy generated will also feature on the Climate Change Dashboard which is currently under development. We are exploring additional opportunities and alternative funding streams as the central government decarbonisation funding has paused.	AMBER
Utilise brown field and industrial sites for development	The Council is currently awaiting the regulation for the new 30-month plan making system, once those are known a new timetable for the Local Plan will be published.	AMBER
Ensure large developments provide better green space and invest in existing open spaces	The Council is currently awaiting the regulation for the new 30-month plan making system, once those are known a new timetable for the Local Plan will be published.	AMBER
Develop a programme to reduce fly-tipping	Working in partnership with WRS and a fly tipping strategy is currently being finalised. A new enforcement strategy has been developed by WRS and performance data concerning the number of fly tips, the time taken to remove them and the number of enforcement actions taken are now embedded in the reported performance information.	GREEN
Review options for disposal of bulky waste	Based on suggestions from the Fly Tipping and Bulky Waste Task Group, a promotional campaign was introduced to raise awareness about bulky waste collections. This initiative resulted in a 15% rise in service usage compared to last year. We have also strengthened our messaging to make sure residents understand which items can be collected.	GREEN
Develop a campaign to reduce littering and dog fouling in the Borough	Initial ideas and action plan being produced to set out campaigns, objectives, target audiences and a communications plan including the development of posters, social media posts and campaign slogans.	GREEN
Implement a Neighbourhood Warden Scheme	One Neighbourhood Warden commenced employment on 23 February 2026 as is working to an introductory work programme. The second post is being readvertised following unsuccessful recruitment to this post at the end of 2025.	AMBER
Implement locally the Worcestershire Drug & Alcohol Strategy 22-27	North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) focuses on Priority 1 of the Strategy – Prevention: Breaking Supply Chains. NWCSP is working with local and regional partners to reduce the harm associated with the supply of illicit drugs in Redditch. This is fulfilled via the Multi-agency Targeted Enforcement (MATEs) group which brings operational officers together to take collective action against problem premises and organised crime groups involved in drug supply. The group has also had some success with local shops and establishments who engage in the sale of alcohol and tobacco to those who are	GREEN

	underaged. This collective approach means that critical information is shared, joint visits are conducted, and offenders can face punitive measures from a range of agencies all using their respective tactics and powers.	
Implement food waste collection and improve quality of recycling	Compliant with Dry Recycling requirements of Simpler Recycling across Domestic & Commercial Waste services. The tender for the Domestic Food Waste Service was cancelled after Wyre Forest District Council withdrew. A new project for in-house service delivery is being finalised, with phased implementation planned through 2026/7, beyond the original April 2026 target date. Defra has been informed of these updates.	RED
Review future cemetery provision	We have identified 10+ years burial capacity at Abbey Cemetery and are currently assessing Edgioake for additional capacity. A project plan for the potential development of an additional site is being finalised.	GREEN
Work with the community on climate change	The new climate change strategy sets out a number of actions and milestones for collaborating and engaging with climate change. The strategy is due to be presented at Executive Committee in March 2026	GREEN
Warm Homes programme	The Council has received funding for both private and public sector housing energy efficiency improvements. This will initially be targeted within the Woodrow area.	GREEN
Electric vehicle charging points	Work is ongoing with our provider to install EV charging points across our car parks, with a number of sites to go live early 2026.	GREEN
Undertake an audit of biodiversity requirements and actions	The Biodiversity Audit was undertaken and completed late summer 2025. This was followed by the Biodiversity Duty Report which includes working across the council to develop and implement action plans to continue to improve biodiversity across the borough.	GREEN
Ensure the protection and provision of open spaces through the Local Plan	The Council is currently awaiting the regulation for the new 30-month plan making system, once those are known a new timetable for the Local Plan will be published.	AMBER
Identify land for development through the Local Plan	The Council is currently awaiting the regulation for the new 30-month plan making system, once those are known a new timetable for the Local Plan will be published.	AMBER

Priority: Community & Housing

Key objective	Update on progress until end of Jan 2026	RAG
Build more Council houses	The Housing Growth Programme has been approved by Executive to deliver 56 new homes. A further programme will be developed to deliver a further 67 homes to achieve the overall target of 230 additional homes by 2030. We have been granted planning permission to build 6 2-bedroom Council houses in Church Hill, with work started during 2026-27.	GREEN
Reduce the housing waiting list	The new homes to be delivered as part of the Housing Growth Programme will contribute to a reduction of numbers on the housing waiting list.	GREEN
Reduce the number of families in temporary accommodation	Number of individuals and families in b & b continuously to remain relatively low with a number of stock allocated for temporary accommodation.	GREEN
Ensure our housing stock is clean & safe to live in	The new Caretakers Service, to clean and maintain communal areas, went live in November 2025 and is making a positive impact for residents with communal areas. Positive feedback has been received from residents, and the proactive removal of ad hoc flammable materials has significantly increased safety within these areas.	GREEN
Improve the time taken for repairs to be completed	The implementation of Power BI reporting has enabled the repairs service to evaluate its performance and identify areas requiring improvement. A new repairs policy has been approved, introducing an additional priority code for tasks—such as windows and doors—that generally take longer due to measurement and manufacturing requirements. Ongoing analysis is being conducted to further enhance performance.	GREEN
Work with partners to improve health & wellbeing	Redditch Partnership's Community Wellbeing Group continues to meet bi-monthly to allow partners to come together. This connects into the Redditch District Collaborative, chaired by the Director of the Kingfisher Primary Care Network (PCN). RDC involves both PCNs, RBC, Public Health, Rubicon and a range of VCS. A main focus is the PND (Priority Neighbourhood Development) areas. RBC and RDC engaged with the NHS 'Neighbourhood Health Workshop' in July set up by the ICB. Accelerator Sites (delivered by the PCNs, including Kingfisher PCN in Redditch), trialling integrated neighbourhood teams, were highlighted to consider lessons learnt that could help build a health model that works for communities in Worcestershire.	GREEN
Provide high quality play provision	A Play Audit and Investment Plan is now being put into implementation. A series of improvements have already been undertaken. An Inclusive Play Strategy has been developed and costed and subject to the funding being made available through the MTFP this work will progress early in the municipal year.	AMBER
Promote the establishment of community fitness and mental health groups	The 'A Movement for Change' project brought together more than 50 local organisations in a unified approach to improving health and wellbeing by increasing physical activity levels across Redditch. This	GREEN

	strengthened partnership model directly supports the objective to work collaboratively to improve residents' health, creating the conditions for more active, healthier lifestyles throughout the borough. Further works are currently taking place to develop leadership training initiatives for the local sector and pilot projects to test out the most effective ways to encourage people to be active in the areas of highest need. The RBC website continues to help raise awareness of what opportunities are available locally, including the promotion of Healthy Worcestershire –commissioned by WCC Public Health.	
Provide more walking & cycling routes	The Council is currently awaiting the regulation for the new 30-month plan making system, once those are known a new timetable for the Local Plan will be published. The LCWIP was published in November 25.	AMBER
Maximise funding available to the sector	<u>UKSPF</u> : Grants have been awarded to 7 voluntary organisations. A training provider has been identified to deliver a VCS leadership course which will commence October 2025. <u>Partnership working</u> : RBC and BARN have a partnership agreement where we provide a contribution to BARN to help them continue to support our local VCS groups. BARN provides a funding portal on their website, free for all to use and search. In addition, they are providing further funding information via a regular funding e-newsletter to their members. Our monthly Partnership Bulletin includes funding information we become aware of, to help spread the word to our VCS groups. This includes a range of Public Health funding streams as well as tools such as the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Insights website that provides a wealth of data the VCS can use to help complete funding bids.	GREEN
Engagement with the voluntary sector	We continue to engage and work in partnership with our VCS in delivering the district element of the Household Support Scheme (currently HSF phase 7). Working with Citizens Advice B&R to deliver our local Redditch HSF scheme, as well as working with other VCS offering support, such the Redditch Trussell Trust Foodbank (Acts of Kindness). This is in addition to the countywide schemes involving our VCS, such as Act on Energy who is delivering the Worcestershire HSF Energy related support scheme, alongside the free Redditch Energy advice line Act on Energy provide to our residents for RBC. The Redditch Partnership Community Wellbeing Group is a way we engage directly with the sector. It includes a range of VCS and it meets regularly. It enables an ongoing opportunity to engage and maintain strong partnership working with our VCS, and it can be where partnership opportunities first come to light. As part of our agreement with BARN, they facilitate Networking meetings for our VCS groups to come together in Redditch. In addition, they also help facilitate the local Community Frontline Workers. As part of the Best Start in Life contract with WCC and delivery of Family Hubs, there is a Redditch Network meeting specifically engaging partners, including VCS who support families too. This links to the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group and RDC. The Redditch Youth Provider Meeting, including relevant VCS, is looked after by our Leisure Team.	GREEN

Support the development of the local creative and cultural sectors	We are currently recruiting skills and capacity development expertise to support our local cultural sector develop appropriately between now and the onset of local government reorganisation in 2028. £60,000 is allocated from Arts Council England to support this work. Initial work will happen during 2026 and further development opportunities will come through in 2027	GREEN
Improve the Shopmobility scheme	The Shopmobility scheme has relocated to a new and improved unit within the Kingfisher Centre. The service has also started selling a few disability aids for customers and are actively seeking volunteers to assist at Shopmobility.	GREEN
Specific damp and mould resource	The damp and mould team was newly recruited on October 25. Processes have been updated to comply with Awaab's Law, and performance is now monitored quarterly through a Power BI report.	GREEN
Implementation of Total Mobile project	Final configuration and testing of the system are underway. A new project team is handling the last stages of testing and system integration. Delivery issues with the provider have been escalated within their organisation.	AMBER
Use stock condition data to create improvement programmes	Stock condition surveys are currently underway to ensure accurate and up-to-date information regarding the state of our housing. The findings will inform investment programmes. As part of the budget setting process, a review of the Capital Programme for 2026/27 and subsequent years has been incorporated to support home improvement initiatives and address non-decency issues.	GREEN
Buy back scheme	We have purchased 14 properties on the open market to increase the number of houses available for tenants.	GREEN
Bringing empty houses back into use	Ongoing process through our void management process we measure performance to ensure properties are brought back into use at the earliest possible time. Where properties are beyond economical repair, approvals are sought for disposal. An Empty Homes Strategy to work with homeowners or landlords of empty properties will be developed in 2026.	GREEN
Support community allotments by implementing the Leisure Strategy	As part of the Action Plan, discussing with allotment holders the possibility of implementing a self-management pilot scheme, which is to be delivered in 26/27. The Tenancy Agreements were amended in December 2025 to support tenants and prevent legacy issues, improving site conditions. Works have been undertaken at several sites to get them to a suitable standard.	AMBER
Improvements to play area provision via clarifying prioritisation	A Play Audit and Investment Plan is now being put into implementation. A series of improvements have already been undertaken. An Inclusive Play Strategy has been developed and costed and subject to the funding being made available through the MTFP this work will progress early in the municipal year.	AMBER
Address the provision of walking and cycling routes through the Local Plan	The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) was published in November 25 https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/walking-wheeling-and-cycling/redditch-local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-lcwip	AMBER

Support the work of the Redditch District Collaborative	The Partnership Manager and Community Services Manager attend the RDC Steering Group to support its work. The Partnership Manager has supported with increasing VCS engagement and linked in the Redditch Partnership's Community Wellbeing Group to RDC. The Partnership Manager supports the Chair of RDC Steering Group (Director of Kingfisher PCN) where possible and on a regular basis. In addition, RBC Chief Exec met with RDC Chair a few months ago and is due to meet again, along with PCN Clinical Leads.	GREEN
Implement a Town Hall Community Hub	A revised plan to refurbish the lower ground, ground and part of the first floor is now being delivered with works due to be completed in summer 2026.	AMBER
Restore the elected member grant panel	Completed. The Grants Panel was restored during 2025 and met in December to consider and make recommendations to Executive Committee on the annual grants to voluntary bodies for 2026/27.	GREEN
Develop an internal Bid Writer role	A bid for funding is being considered by Executive Committee for the 2026/27 financial year.	AMBER
Review how we support the 3 rd sector	This will be considered in conjunction with the ongoing bid writer provision in 2026.	AMBER
Review Dial-a-Ride charges	Completed. Charges for 2026/27 reviewed as part of the Fees and Charges report to Executive Committee	GREEN
Support Reimagine Redditch	Council continues to support to Reimagine Redditch, a programme designed to engage local people—many for the first time—in creative activity. Alongside this, the Council played a key role in shaping a successful funding application securing just under £1m, ensuring the programme's sustainability until 2029 and contributing to the wider objective of attracting public and private investment into the borough.	GREEN
Deliver the ReNEW Sharing Stories Shaping Futures campaign	The ReNEW project was successful in obtaining over half a million pounds in Place Partnership funding from Arts Council England, which will support residents across Redditch and Bromsgrove to share their stories to creatively shape the future of both areas. Under the ReNEW Skills and Capacity Development programme, two specialist officers are now in post, increasing professional capacity and directly supporting the objective to develop local creative and cultural sectors. An external evaluator has been appointed, and youth recruitment is well underway. These young people will shortly benefit from structured creative skills development opportunities delivered by performing, visual and digital arts organisations appointed through the contract opportunities that are currently being advertised. In addition, a local cultural sector skills programme is at design stage. This programme will support a wide range of amateur and professional arts, culture and heritage organisations, strengthening sector-wide capacity and creating pathways for high-quality local jobs.	GREEN
Work with the community to develop an engagement forum	Work to develop the community forum will be undertaken in line with the reopening of the Redditch Town Hall in 2026, with a community launch event at the newly refurbished Town Hall being the starting point for bringing residents and community representatives together.	GREEN