

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 27th July, 2026

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Nicola Lloyd (Chair), Councillor Roger Bennett (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Sharon Harvey, Joanna Kane, David Meredith, Rita Rogers and Jane Spilsbury

Officers:

Claire Felton, Simon Parry, Matthew Bough, Matthew Austin, Katie Sharp-Fisher and Paul Earley (on Microsoft Teams)

Democratic Services Officers:

M Sliwinski

16. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Baker.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor of party whip.

18. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public speakers registered to speak at this meeting.

19. UPDATE ON THE MEETING OF BUDGET SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP (VERBAL)

The Committee received a verbal update in respect of the finance reports that were due to be reported to the Budget Scrutiny Working Group (BSWG). The Chair explained that, as the BSWG meeting had been cancelled, officers present would provide an overview of the three financial reports due to be considered by the Executive Committee at its meeting tomorrow evening (28 July 2026).

Chair

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Three finance reports were due to be considered by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 28 July 2026: Medium Term Financial Plan Scene Setting Report 2027/28; Treasury Management Outturn Report 2025/26; Quarter 4 Financial Monitoring and Outturn Report 2025/26.

The Financial Services Manager advised that the first report related to the Medium Term Financial Plan scene setting. Members were informed that this report represented the first stage in setting out the Council's budget for 2027/28 and the Medium Term Financial Plan through to 2030/31. It did not seek approval of a budget at this stage, but instead set out the timetable, assumptions and key financial issues that would shape budget proposals later in the year.

Members expressed disappointment that the Budget Scrutiny Working Group (BSWG) had not been able to meet, noting that this had limited the opportunity for detailed financial scrutiny before consideration by the Executive Committee. It was clarified that the reports had been published as part of the BSWG agenda before the meeting had had to be cancelled. However, Members noted their disappointment that BSWG had not been able to meet and report back to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In discussing the Medium Term Financial Plan scene setting report, Members raised questions about budget pressures, including undelivered base budget efficiencies and savings. Officers explained that efficiencies and savings were built into service budgets each year to encourage services to identify and deliver efficiencies. It was acknowledged that some efficiencies had not been delivered, and Members were advised that a full review of savings and efficiencies by service area would be undertaken as part of the 2027/28 budget process.

Members also discussed the provision included for the cost of Members joining the pension scheme. Officers clarified that the budget pressure reflected the maximum potential cost if all eligible Members joined the scheme. Where Members did not join, this would be recognised as a saving within the year.

A question was raised regarding Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the potential constraints that might apply to spending decisions by the existing authority once a shadow authority was in place. Officers advised that further detail had not yet been provided and confirmed that clarification would need to be sought once more information was available from Government about the arrangements and the implications for spending and budget

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decisions for the district authorities once a shadow council was in place after May 2027 local elections.

The Committee then discussed the capital outturn position. Members queried the low level of spending reported on the capital outturn position, with the capital outturn position of £8.154 million expenditure, against the total estimated capital budget of £31.7 million. It was highlighted that the net balance of £23.693 million had been carried forward into the 2026/27 capital programme. Officers explained that where capital schemes were not fully spent within the financial year, the unspent balance was carried forward into the following year for those schemes. Members were advised that the carry forward did not represent funding returned for general redistribution, but funding allocated to existing capital schemes approved through the budget process.

Members raised questions about individual capital schemes, including capital projects on improved parking scheme and new cemetery provision. Officers indicated that they did not have detailed information to hand on every individual capital scheme but agreed that further details could be provided after the meeting. Concerns were raised that some Members of the Committee had not been involved in discussions around setting the previous budget and therefore required more supporting detail to scrutinise the capital programme effectively. Some Members also expressed significant concern that the capital project on cemetery provision referred to "Ipsley Road" (Ipsley Church Lane) as the location of the cemetery, despite this location having been discounted by Members through the decision-making process under the previous administration and Officers directed to find alternative location(s) for the proposed cemetery. Members of the Committee requested that this be corrected in future capital programme reporting.

The Committee was advised that the third report was the Treasury Management Outturn Report. Officers explained that this provided the Council's annual review of treasury management activity during the year, including borrowing, investments and cashflow. Members were advised that the Council had remained fully compliant with its Treasury Management Strategy, prudential indicators and approved borrowing and investment limits throughout the financial year, and that the Section 151 Officer had confirmed that treasury management activities had been undertaken in accordance with the relevant code of practice.

Members commented that, as the Treasury Management Outturn Report was retrospective, it was difficult to scrutinise in the same

way as forward-looking budget proposals. It was noted that Overview and Scrutiny had a role in considering both retrospective and forward-looking matters. Officers advised that arrangements could be made for the Budget and Scrutiny Working Group to meet before the full Council meeting at which the finance reports discussed today would be submitted so that Members could be provided with an opportunity to scrutinise those reports in more detail.

Members also expressed concern about the timing of Working Group meetings and emphasised that meetings should, whenever possible, be scheduled at evening hours. It was acknowledged that the cancelled meeting had arisen from unusual circumstances and that the normal intention was for meetings of Budget Scrutiny Working Group to be held in the evenings (with a 6.00pm start time).

RESOLVED that

- 1) the verbal update on the finance reports being submitted to the Executive Committee meeting on 28th July 2026 be noted.**
- 2) A further meeting of the Budget Scrutiny Working Group be scheduled before the full Council meeting at which the finance reports referenced in the minute text above are due to be reported.**

20. HOUSING ASSISTANCE POLICY 2026 - PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

The Private Sector Housing Manager presented the Housing Assistance Policy and explained that the policy set out how the Council provides financial assistance to residents to help them adapt, repair and improve their homes. Members were advised that the policy focused particularly on supporting disabled and vulnerable residents to live independently in their own homes. It was noted that the policy was a statutory requirement and provided the framework for the delivery of mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs), together with a range of discretionary assistance schemes, including support for property repairs, energy efficiency improvements and top up funding where adaptation costs exceeded the mandatory grant limit.

Members were informed that the revised policy had been developed jointly with all six Worcestershire local authorities to provide a

consistent county-wide approach to housing assistance. It was reported that the policy would support the Worcestershire Home Adaptation Service, improve customer experience and help prepare for the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) arrangements. Key changes included the introduction of a single Worcestershire-wide Housing Assistance Policy, adoption of nationally recognised performance targets for the delivery of adaptations, removal of certain administrative fees to maximise funding available for adaptations, greater flexibility to approve exceptional cases, and formal recognition of the Armed Forces Covenant through the provision of additional support where appropriate for serving personnel, veterans and their families. The Committee was advised that the policy would continue to be funded through the Better Care Fund and recycled grant repayments and would not place any additional financial burden on the Council.

During consideration of the report, Members queried the implications of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and whether the proposed county-wide arrangements would remain appropriate once new unitary authority arrangements had been established. Officers advised that the shared approach would assist with consistency across the county and support future transitional arrangements.

Detailed discussion took place regarding Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) and the extent to which applicants understood the application process, eligibility requirements and financial contributions that might be required. Members expressed concerns that applicants were sometimes unaware that grants could be means tested and that financial contributions might be required, which could cause distress, particularly for disabled and vulnerable residents. It was suggested that clearer communication should be provided at the outset of the process, including information about what adaptations could and could not be funded, how means testing was undertaken and the circumstances in which applicants may be expected to contribute towards costs.

Officers outlined the role of the Worcestershire Home Adaptation Service and explained that all applicants were initially assessed by an Occupational Therapist (OT). Following referral, applicants were allocated a caseworker who would undertake a means test assessment and provide support throughout the application process. Members were informed that the service assisted residents with applications, contractor procurement, planning permissions, building control requirements and access to wider support services. Officers explained that mandatory Disabled

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Facilities Grants were subject to national legislation and that means testing arrangements were applied consistently across the country. It was also confirmed that residents could undertake an initial online assessment and that applicants were advised of potential financial contributions at an early stage in the process.

Further discussion focused on the transparency of the financial assessment process. Members sought clarification regarding savings thresholds and requested that information regarding the impact of savings and household income on grant entitlement should be communicated more clearly to applicants. Officers advised that any savings above £6,000 would be taken into account as part of the financial assessment process and an applicant (in England) could receive up to £30,000 through the Disabled Facilities Grant. Officers undertook to review whether clearer explanatory information could be publicised on the Council's website.

Members also raised concerns regarding residents with rapidly progressing or terminal conditions and whether adaptations could be delivered more quickly in such circumstances. Reference was made to correspondence one of the councillors received from the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND Association). Officers confirmed that urgent cases were already prioritised through Occupational Therapy (OT) assessment processes and advised that urgent adaptations could be delivered within accelerated timescales where clinically justified. Members agreed that this commitment should be reflected explicitly within the policy documentation and to that effect it was suggested that appropriate wording should be included in the Housing Assistance Policy.

The wording suggested for inclusion, to the first paragraph of section 13 of the Housing Assistance Policy, was read out as follows: *"The Council will do everything it can to fast track cases where applicants have rapidly progressing or terminal conditions."* The Committee agreed that this wording should be recommended to the Executive Committee for inclusion in the Housing Assessment Policy 2026.

Members queried whether residents experiencing severe mental health difficulties could access assistance through the scheme. Officers advised that housing adaptation decisions were based on assessments undertaken by Occupational Therapists (OT) and that adaptations would be considered where professional assessment demonstrated a need. However, the legislation was primarily focused on providing physical adaptations to improve access and

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use of the home, such as stairlifts, ramps, widened doorways and accessible bathing facilities.

The Committee considered arrangements for quality assurance and performance monitoring. Officers explained that completed works were inspected by technical officers and that contractor performance was monitored through established procedures. Members were also informed that the Worcestershire Home Adaptation Service was overseen by a governance board comprising officer representatives from participating authorities. The board reviewed a range of performance measures, including caseloads, complaints, timescales, urgent adaptations and financial performance. Officers advised that the service was subject to ongoing review and audit processes to ensure quality and identify opportunities for improvement.

Questions were raised concerning previously reported underspends within Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) budgets. Officers explained that expenditure could fluctuate significantly depending on the complexity and timing of adaptation projects and noted that larger adaptation schemes frequently crossed financial years. It was further highlighted that Redditch benefited from strong provision within its own housing stock, which had historically reduced pressure on the grant budget, meaning there were underspends on the DFG within Redditch.

Members sought clarification regarding grant repayment arrangements in cases where adapted properties were subsequently sold or transferred. Officers confirmed that grants provided to owner occupiers could be subject to a local land charge of up to £10,000. Repayment would only be required where the property was sold or otherwise transferred within a ten-year period, with recovered funds recycled into future grant provision. It was confirmed that inheritance arrangements resulting in a transfer of ownership would trigger consideration of repayment.

The Committee also clarified that housing association tenants remained eligible for Disabled Facilities Grants, subject to landlord consent, whilst Council-owned Housing Revenue Account properties were funded through separate arrangements. Members requested that the policy and supporting documentation should clearly explain eligibility criteria and specify the categories of residents to whom the scheme applied. The Committee agreed this as a further recommendation to the Executive Committee.

Consideration was given to the Equality Impact Assessment accompanying the report. Members noted that potential language and cultural barriers had been identified and sought assurances regarding mitigating actions. Officers advised that work was being undertaken to improve accessibility, including consideration of translated materials and wider engagement with underrepresented communities. It was agreed that further work should be undertaken to improve awareness of the assistance available amongst communities where language barriers might otherwise limit access to services. It was agreed this should also be included as a recommendation to the Executive Committee.

Members requested enhanced monitoring arrangements and proposed that an annual report be submitted to the Committee setting out performance information relating to the Housing Assistance Policy, including applications received, grants approved, expenditure, service performance and other key indicators considered by the Worcestershire Home Adaptation Service officer governance board.

Following discussion the following recommendations and resolutions were agreed by the Committee:

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) The following amendments be made to the Housing Assistance Policy 2026:**
 - a. wording be added to the first paragraph of section 13 – Decisions, Notifications and Redeterminations, to read: “*The Council will do everything it can to fast track cases where applicants have rapidly progressing or terminal conditions.*”**
 - b. Information is set out at the beginning of the document on who is eligible to apply under the Policy (both for the Disabled Facilities Grant and any discretionary assistance set out under the Policy).**
 - c. That the financial eligibility criteria (i.e. income and savings test limits and contribution thresholds for amounts above the limit) are clearly set out in the Policy and communicated through information on the Disabled Facilities Grant available on the Council’s website.**

d. That the Policy is accessible in the languages of communities identified as being under-represented in accessing Disabled Facilities Grant.

- 2) That the Housing Assistance Policy be approved and adopted.
- 3) Delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to agree any revisions to the Housing Assistance Policy and in line with any legislative or government guidance updates.

RESOLVED that

- 4) An annual report is presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee covering the governance arrangements and performance monitoring for the shared Home Adaptations Service (as covered under section 16.4 of the Policy) and updating on any changes to the Housing Assistance Policy.
- 5) That quarterly data is shared with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the spend status of Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) within Redditch, either through a specific report to Overview and Scrutiny or through information within Quarterly Performance Monitoring report.

21. FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS IMPLEMENTATION - PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

The Committee considered a report on Food Waste Collections Implementation. The report set out the proposed way forward for the introduction of a weekly domestic food waste collection service within Redditch.

Members were advised that the requirement to introduce a separate food waste collection service had been established under the Environment Act 2021, with a statutory deadline of March 2026 to introduce the service. As the service had not yet been introduced, the Council was not currently compliant with the statutory duty. However, officers explained that Redditch was not alone in this position, as no local authorities in Worcestershire were yet compliant and a significant proportion of authorities nationally were also not yet meeting the requirement.

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The Committee was informed that the Council had previously sought to procure an external contractor to provide the service jointly for Redditch Borough Council together with Bromsgrove District Council and Wyre Forest District Council. This approach had been pursued because the Council did not have sufficient land to operate a full food waste collection service. Outsourcing had also been considered a way to manage risk, given that the Council had a duty to provide the service, but the level of take up by residents was unknown.

Officers explained that central Government had provided capital funding to support implementation, including the purchase of vehicles and food waste caddies. However, no clear additional ongoing revenue funding had been confirmed to cover the ongoing cost of the service. Also, no specific allocation for food waste collections had been identified within the Local Government Finance Settlement. Members were advised that £500,000 had therefore been allocated in the Medium Term Financial Plan to cover a significant proportion of the revenue costs, although further funding would be required to enable the provision of the service to all households.

The Committee was advised that officers were proposing to implement the service in phases. The first phase would cover approximately half of households in Redditch and was expected to begin in late January or early February 2027, following delivery of the vehicles in December 2026 and after the high-pressure Christmas waste collection period. Officers explained that this approach would allow the service to be introduced carefully, monitored and expanded once operational arrangements were working effectively.

It was highlighted that a number of local authorities, including Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC), that had implemented their services on a Borough-wide basis from the outset, had subsequently experienced significant operational difficulties. Members were advised that the phased rollout was intended to mitigate these risks and avoid disruption to existing recycling services.

Members were informed that the principal operational challenge related to the availability of land from which to operate the service. Officers were in negotiations with the private sector regarding the sites that the Council could lease. The proposal was for Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council to operate from a

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shared site, which would reduce costs and provide greater resilience through shared staffing and vehicle arrangements.

The Committee was advised that the report sought authority to the Assistant Director for Regeneration and Property to negotiate and finalise the terms of the lease for land identified to operate food waste collections from. Members were informed that the proposed lease arrangements were based on a five-year lease with a three-year break clause, which would provide operational security in the context of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and adapt if any public sites become available within the timescale.

Members noted that the report asked for additional ongoing revenue funding of £376,000, which would be required to extend the service to all households. Officers explained that this funding was not being requested for immediate approval but needed to be considered as part of the budget process for release at some point so that the Council could move towards full compliance with its statutory duty.

The report also asked Members to note the fact that currently the Council was not complying with its statutory duty with regard to the food waste service, and highlight that this presented a risk of a judicial review, although the Council had kept the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) fully updated on the steps the Council had been taking to implement the food waste service, and the Government had confirmed they were not looking to take action against authorities that were not yet compliant. There remained a risk of third parties launching a judicial review, however.

In response to questions, Officers confirmed that the first phase of the service would run for a few weeks from late January/February 2027. Then the Council would look to expand the service for a second stage, to be funded from existing resources. The full rollout would then be planned to commence from 2027/28 financial year, subject to additional funding being allocated for that financial year. Final decisions had not yet been made on which areas would receive the service first, but officers intended to prioritise areas which had high recycling rates so that early successes could be used to encourage take-up in other areas. In areas with more complex housing profile, such as flats and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), the service was expected to be launched later as more tailored engagement would be required.

Members discussed the use of caddy liners. Officers explained that food waste caddy liners had been shown elsewhere to improve

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participation because they reduced concerns about smell and cleaning of the caddies. It was proposed that households would receive an initial roll of liners and that further liners would be supplied to households who were using the service (putting their food waste bin out for collection), with controls in place to monitor use. The expected cost of caddy liners for the first phase was approximately £8,000, with ongoing annual costs for Redditch estimated at between £5,000 and £6,000 depending on take-up.

Members queried the use of plastic liners. Officers explained that the food waste would be sent to an anaerobic digestion facility and that the operator's preference was for plastic polymer liners rather than compostable liners. This was because compostable liners could interfere with the anaerobic digestion process also as they were harder to separate once they became wet. Officers acknowledged that the use of plastic liners might appear counterintuitive in terms of reduction to plastic waste but explained that this was considered the most effective operational approach for the receiving facility.

In response to questions about disposal capacity, officers explained that Worcestershire County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority, was responsible for arranging where collected waste would be processed. Discussions had taken place with the chosen anaerobic digestion facility and the agreement was expected to be finalised before the service was due to be launched in Redditch.

Members asked whether use of the food waste service would be compulsory. Officers advised that households and businesses had a general duty to manage waste responsibly, but that the Council's approach would initially focus on education and engagement rather than enforcement. Additional funding from Extended Producer Responsibility arrangements would support waste education and engagement, including work to improve participation in both dry recycling and food waste services.

The Committee also discussed what types of waste would be accepted. Officers explained that the service would be for food waste only, such as plate scrapings, vegetable peelings, leftovers and food that had not been eaten. Residents would be encouraged to separate food from packaging. Members were advised that a previous waste composition analysis had indicated that around 30 per cent of residual waste collected in grey (non-recyclable waste) bins was food waste, highlighting the potential scale of environmental benefits of the service.

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Members asked about the specification of the food waste vehicles. Officers confirmed that the vehicles had been ordered from Dennis Eagle and were designed specifically for food waste collections. The vehicles would be sealed due to the high moisture content of food waste and were considered suitable for the service. Officers also advised that electric vehicles were not currently considered viable for this type of operation, although the Council was currently using a mix of diesel and hydrogenated vegetable oil to reduce carbon emissions from its fleet.

Members asked about the position of Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC). The Committee was advised that Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council had been working together to develop a joint service. A joint procurement exercise had initially been undertaken with Wyre Forest District Council because of limited depot capacity across the area and the intention to use a third-party provider to support delivery and share risk. However, following changes to the funding position, WFDC had withdrawn from the procurement process, meaning that the original proposal could not proceed. A more recent update suggested that WFDC was beginning to undertake preparatory work to introduce the food waste service, although it was likely to be at least twelve months behind Redditch because of the lead-in time for the vehicles.

Following the consideration of the report, the report recommendations were endorsed as printed in the report.

The Committee:

NOTED the progress made on food waste collection implementation.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) authority be granted to the Assistant Director for Regeneration and Property Services to negotiate and finalise the terms of the lease for land identified to operate food waste collections from.**
- 2) an allocation of additional ongoing revenue of £376,311 for the expansion of the food waste collection service from 2027/28 is considered as part of the Medium-Term Financial Plan, with any decision deferred until the full financial implications are assessed alongside wider funding priorities through the budget process.**

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22. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME - SELECTING ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY

The Committee considered the Executive Committee Work Programme. The Committee noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme already contained a significant number of items for forthcoming meetings, including items for overview. No further Executive items were added to this Committee's work programme at this stage.

RESOLVED that

the Executive Committee Work Programme be noted.

23. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. Members noted the items already scheduled for forthcoming meetings and did not request any amendments at this stage.

RESOLVED that

the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be noted.

24. TASK GROUPS, SHORT SHARP REVIEWS AND WORKING GROUPS - UPDATE REPORTS

The Committee received updates in respect of Task Groups and Working Groups as follows:

a) Budget Scrutiny Working Group

it was noted that the meeting originally scheduled had had to be cancelled and that, as agreed earlier, this meeting would be rescheduled to a date in August to provide Members of the Working Group with an opportunity to scrutinise the finance reports before they are submitted for a meeting of full Council in September 2026.

b) Performance Scrutiny Working Group

The first meeting of this Working Group in the 2026/27 municipal year would take place on Wednesday (29 July 2026).

c) Post-16 Education Task Group

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Councillor Spilsbury reported that the Task Group had met on 2nd July 2026 to review the work undertaken previously by the Task Group (under previous memberships) and to consider how the review should proceed going forward. The Group had concluded that the focus should be on practical strategies to improve employment opportunities and skills for young people aged 16 to 24 in Redditch, rather than on post-16 education provision more broadly.

Members noted that further data would be gathered about the current position in Redditch to help ensure that the review was focused and evidence-based. It was also noted that the group had discussed previous proposals and considered that practical and tangible actions within the Council's influence would be more helpful than any recommendations, including to external partners, requiring large-scale structural changes.

RESOLVED that

the updates in respect of Task Groups, Short Sharp Reviews and Working Groups be noted.

25. EXTERNAL SCRUTINY BODIES - UPDATE REPORTS

Updates on the External Scrutiny Bodies were provided as follows:

- a) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Lloyd, provided the update as the Council's Representative on this scrutiny body. Councillor Lloyd reported that there had been a change to the committee structure at WMCA which had resulted in a change to the profile of scrutiny committees. It appeared that the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee was no longer in operation. Little details had been provided to Redditch Borough Council about these changes, so officers at WMCA would be contacted to request further details.

- b) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Transport Delivery Overview and Scrutiny

It was reported that the same situation also affected this scrutiny committee and clarification would be sought from officers at West Midlands Combined Authority.

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c) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

The Council's Representative on HOSC, Councillor Spilsbury, provided an update. Members were advised that two main items had been considered at the last meeting of HOSC on 21st July 2026: end-of-life care provision and the redesign of adult mental health rehabilitation services. The Committee was informed with regard to mental health rehabilitation provision that proposals were being developed to reduce physical bed-based provision and to provide more support through community-based services and supported living arrangements.

Members expressed concern about the proposed reduction in adult mental health rehabilitation beds across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. It was reported that the current provision included 33 beds across two facilities and that the proposal was to move to one facility with 15 beds. Members queried whether sufficient community provision and how appropriate supported living accommodation would be made available and asked about the evidence base used to support the proposed redesign of this service.

The Committee discussed the potential implications for Redditch residents and noted that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) could affect future health governance responsibilities and partnership arrangements. Members agreed that representatives from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust and the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (HWICB) should be invited to attend a future Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to explain the proposals, the data underpinning them, and the implications for residents. It was suggested that Members of the Committee submit any questions they wish to be raised to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with the questions to be forwarded as part of the invitation.

Members also received information regarding end-of-life care. It was reported that population projections indicated an increase in the older population in Worcestershire by 2032, with a particularly high increase among residents aged 79 and over. The Committee was advised that the proposed model for end-of-life care aimed to reduce emergency admissions and reliance on hospital bed provision, increase identification of people approaching the end of life, and reduce non-elective admissions and bed days for people at the end of life. Members expressed concern about the capacity of

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services to provide appropriate end-of-life support and suggested that the modelling was based on the increased role of social care and private sector providers in this area, with expressed concern about capacity issues.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the External Scrutiny Bodies updates be noted.**
- 2) That the Representatives from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust and the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board be invited to attend a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss the proposed redesign of adult mental health rehabilitation services.**

26. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee agreed that the exclusion of the public and press would not be necessary for Minute Items No. 12 and 13 – Minutes (of the Previous Meeting) and Executive Committee Minutes – as the Committee would not be discussing the contents of the exempt minute records of those meeting.

The Committee remained in open session for the entirety of the meeting.

27. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 8th June 2026, including the exempt record of that meeting, were submitted for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 8th June 2026 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

28. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Executive Committee minutes of the meeting of 9th June 2026, including the exempt record, were submitted and noted by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 8.52 pm