



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

No Direct Ward Relevance

6th March 2012

PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNUAL REPORTS: QUESTIONS AND SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION WITH COUNCILLOR JINNY PEARCE, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLANNING, REGENERATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The following questions have been suggested by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These questions will be posed to Councillor Jinny Pearce, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development and Public Transport at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on Tuesday 6th March 2012.

1. What is elected Members' involvement in the governance arrangements of the North Worcestershire Economic Development Unit?
2. What actions have been taken and what plans are in place to grow the night-time economy in Redditch?
3. How successful has the North Worcestershire Economic Development Unit been in creating new jobs in Redditch? What arrangements are in place to measure its effectiveness?
4. The written report for your portfolio, which was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14th February, stated that "Worcestershire County Council funding cuts to bus services managed well and impact minimised in Redditch" (p2)
 - a) In this context what is your view of the recent removal of the 57 and 58 bus services to the Alexandra Hospital?
 - b) What is being done to alleviate inconvenience to local residents?
5. To what extent is the Portfolio Holder involved in assessing new commercial planning applications that could help create new jobs in Redditch?
6. What plans are in place to continue and develop the *Organised Work Experience Awards* programme in Redditch?
7. What is being done to fill empty retail units and office spaces in the Borough?

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

6th March 2012

NB Note draft revision /Update – Page 2. S

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL **GUIDE TO / FOR PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

Portfolio Holders are appointed annually by the Council (separate sheet refers) and between them cover all areas of the Council's work and responsibility.

"Portfolio" indicates a specified area of responsibility allotted by formal resolution, for the purposes listed below.

"Portfolio Holder" indicates a member of the Council's Executive Committee who, within the allotted area of responsibility,

CAN	1.	Monitor Council performance informed by documents such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Strategy• Corporate Plan• Service Plans• Budgets• E.Government statements• BVPI's / Local PI's (separate document available)• Forward Plan	*
	2.	Monitor the implementation of Council policy and decisions informed, in addition to the above, by <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council reports and Minutes• Personal contact with Officers	*
	3.	Act as consultee for Members and Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formally, in accordance with approved delegations of authority to Officers• Informally for general reference.	*
	4.	Act as "Spokesperson" for the Council in relation to Press / Media / outside the	

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

6th March 2012

		Council, but <u>not exclusively (other Members may also have this shared role)</u> (Council decision – 11th October ??)	
	5.	Act as “Rapporteur” a) to report annually to Overview & Scrutiny on the Services for which the Portfolio Holder has responsibility; and b) to act as a channel for feedback from representatives of outside bodies which fall within the remit of the Portfolio Holder. (Council Annual Meeting 22 nd May 2006)	
	6.	<i>the role of Portfolio Holders be expanded to include a higher level of involvement with the Local Strategic Partnership, and, more specifically, with relevant Sub-Groups of the Redditch Partnership, as and when formed.</i> (Exec January 2007 / Council ...)	
CANNOT		Act with delegated authority in any personal capacity (PFHs cannot therefore commit resources – financial / staffing, without further authority – Exec., Council, or Officer authority)	
			*
MAY	1.	Represent and “sponsor” their allotted Portfolio(s) at meetings of the Executive and the Council, and, <i>where appropriate</i> , at other Council meetings, e.g. O&S.	
	2.	Develop closer working relationship with relevant lead Directors and, via Directors, other relevant Officers.	
	3.	Attend relevant meetings, e.g. relevant O&S meetings, beyond those to which formally appointed by the Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As an approved duty where invited to the meeting • Also as an approved duty when present on own initiative. <p style="text-align: right;">in accordance with current approved constitutional requirements.</p>	
	4.	Seek to trigger reports to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Executive or Council, via normal report / 	

Overview & Scrutiny

Committee

6th March 2012

		agenda preparation processes	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulatory Committees, via normal report / agenda preparation processes• Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
		in accordance with current approved constitutional requirements.	

G:M&C/Members/Portfolio Holder Guide
& Constitution / Const.documents/revised sms/8.7.6/16.7.7