

APPENDIX 1
Overview and Scrutiny Training Monday 14th May 2012
Suggested Items for Scrutiny

The following items were proposed as possible subjects for scrutiny in 2012/13. For ease of reference these subjects have been listed alphabetically for Members' consideration.

1) Anti-Social Behaviour Review – Monitoring Update Report

Councillor Proposing the item: Councillor Brunner

Summary of proposed Item: Members completed a detailed review of anti-social behaviour in 2006. In line with existing monitoring arrangements the aim of this item would be to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to monitor the implementation of the recommendations that were made on this subject and the long-term impact that these recommended actions have had on services and anti-social behaviour levels in the Borough. Implementation of this proposal would not require the launch of a separate Task and Finish review.

2) Arts Centre

Councillor Proposing the Review: Councillor Brazier

Summary of Proposed Review: The ultimate aim of the review would be to identify whether there is a suitable venue in the Borough that could be utilised as an Arts Centre. The review would focus on the costs involved in establishing an Arts Centre, the potential to access external sources of funding to support the introduction of an Arts Centre and the potential to work with partner organisations to introduce an Arts Centre.

3) Bus Services

Councillor Proposing the Subject: Councillor Fisher

Summary of Proposed Review: The review would focus on existing bus service provision, the suitability of current bus services for Redditch residents, and improvements that could be made to meet the needs of Redditch residents.

4) Bus Timetables

Councillor Proposing the Subject: Councillor Smith

Summary of Proposed Review: A review of bus timetables in Redditch would be timely following recent changes to bus services within the county and the implications for passengers in Redditch. A review could focus on the impact of changes to bus timetables on residents, how changes to bus timetables are communicated to customers in Redditch, provision of night

services in the Borough, Council influence over bus operators and the impact of competition on the quality of services received by customers (both the positive and negative implications).

5) Child Welfare / Child Protection

Councillor Proposing the Subject: Councillor Roger Hill.

Summary of Proposed Review: The review would focus on existing child protection policies in Worcestershire and the suitability of these policies for young people living in Redditch.

6) Crossgates Waste Facility

Councillor Proposing the Subject: Councillor Bennett

Summary of Proposed Review: To consider current arrangements for the disposal of waste materials at Crossgates, the potential to utilise a permit system at the site and the implications, if any, for recycling.

7) Dog Fouling

Councillor Proposing the Subject: Councillor Smith

Summary of Proposed Review: The review would focus on additional actions that could be taken to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets. Issues that could be considered during the review might include: the potential to distribute "pooh bags" to residents through local shops, the number of dog pooh bins situated in the town and the potential of these bins to meet demand. The Council's enforcement policy in relation to this matter would also need to be addressed.

8) Free Swimming

Councillor Proposing the Subject: Councillor Brunner

Summary of Proposed Review: To consider the affordability of the reintroduction of free swimming in the Borough, how many residents from Redditch will be benefiting from the reintroduction of free swimming and the potential impact of visitors from other parts of the country on the costs of providing free swimming arrangements and the quality of services received by Redditch residents.

9) Management of Redditch Trees

Councillor Proposing the Subject: Councillor Fisher

Summary of Proposed Review: The review would focus on ongoing maintenance requirements for the many trees situated in Redditch, the Council's criteria for felling trees, the needs of Redditch residents in relation to trees located in the town and how this is reflected in Council

policies, budgets allocated to tree management and landscaping and the cost effectiveness of existing arrangements. Residents would need to be consulted as part of the review.

10) Parking in Residential Areas

Councillor Proposing the Subject: Councillor Fry

Summary of Proposed Review: The review would focus on the impact of visitors/staff parking in residential streets and on the availability of parking to residents, particularly in areas where off street parking is currently limited. Civil Parking Enforcement arrangements would be assessed, involving a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of existing enforcement schemes and the potential to implement similar schemes in other parts of the Borough. Local residents and businesses would need to be consulted as part of the review to determine parking needs and preferences.

11) Parking in the Town Centre

Councillor Proposing the Subject: Councillor Hopkins

Summary of the Proposed Review: The review would focus on existing car parking provision in the town centre and could involve a SWOT analysis of the impact of charging for parking in the town centre. It is being proposed that if this subject was to be progressed by Overview and Scrutiny it could be undertaken as a Short, Sharp Review.

12) Pathways and Footpaths

Councillor Proposing the Subject: Councillor Smith

Summary of the Proposed Review: The condition of footpaths in the Borough is consistently raised by residents as an issue of concern during PACT meetings. A review of the subject could focus on: how to communicate which footpaths are managed by Redditch Borough Council and which are maintained by Worcestershire County Council as well as the use of any budget allocated to footpath maintenance by Redditch Borough Council. The review would also consider the most sustainable and aesthetic materials to use in maintenance of footpaths together with associated costs, (this would involve an analysis of both quality and costs).

N.B It was noted during the meeting that the Climate Change Advisory Panel or Environmental Advisory Panel may have considered this issue in recent years. This will need to be checked and the timeframes verified in order to potentially avoid duplicating recent work.

13) Pavements and Road Re-Surfacing

Councillor Proposing the Review: Councillor Fisher.

Summary of Proposed Review: A review would focus on the existing condition of pavements located in the Borough, current road/pavement surfacing arrangements, the working practices of utility companies and the impact of these practices on road surfaces and any additional maintenance issues.

14) Regeneration in the Town Centre

Councillor Proposing the Subject: Councillor Bush

Summary of the Proposed Review: The review would focus on actions that could be taken to re-use and reclassify property and land in the town centre, including Council properties, to regenerate the town centre. The review would take into account actions that are already being taken to address this issue, actions that could be taken to make use of empty shops and office blocks, actions that could be taken to generate income, and the potential to facilitate a café culture in the town.

15) Taxi Vehicles' Road Worthiness

Councillor Proposing the Subject: Councillor Bennett

Summary of the Proposed Review: The aim of the review would be to assess the current condition of vehicles licensed to operate as taxis, existing maintenance arrangements, requirements from the licensing authority in relation to the condition of licensed vehicles and any improvements that could be made to enhance the road worthiness of the vehicles.

16) Traffic Islands

Councillor Proposing the Review: Councillor Hopkins

Summary of the Proposed Review: The review would focus on the potential to utilise the many traffic islands based in the town to promote local enterprises and to display sculptures and other art work produced by NEW College students. Ultimately, a review group would be tasked with clarifying the potential for the islands to be utilised to help develop a positive identity for the town.

17) Vehicle Sales on Grass Verges

Councillor Proposing the Subject: Councillor Brunner

Summary of the Proposed Review: The review would focus on the current strategy for tackling sales of vehicles on grass verges, enforcement arrangements, methods utilised to communicate reporting mechanisms to residents, and improvements that could be made communicate

arrangements more effectively. There is the potential that this subject could be considered as a Short, Sharp Review.