

Wyre Forest District Council

Council

Wednesday 18th May 2011

The Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Stourport-On-Severn

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Prayers Prayers to be said by Pastor Rob Palmer of Franche Community Church, Kidderminster.	-
2.	Election of Chairman To elect a Chairman of the Council for this Municipal Year.	-
3.	Chairman – Investiture and Declaration of Acceptance of Office To invest the Chairman of the Council with the Chain of Office after which the Chairman will make his or her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.	-
4.	Chairman’s Response The Chairman of the Council will express thanks for his or her election.	-
5.	Retiring Chairman The Leader of the Council will thank the retiring Chairman of the Council.	-
6.	Retiring Chairman – Presentation of Badges To present the retiring Chairman of the Council with a Past Chairman’s Badge. The retiring Chairman may wish to respond.	-
7.	Appointment of Vice-Chairman To appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Council for this Municipal Year.	-
8.	Vice-Chairman – Investiture and Declaration of Acceptance of Office To invest the Vice-Chairman of the Council with his or her Badge of Office after which the Vice-Chairman will make a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.	-
9.	Vice-Chairman’s Response The Vice-Chairman of the Council will express his or her thanks for his or her appointment.	-

10.	<p>To appoint a Leader of the Council To consider a report on the arrangements for appointing a Leader of the Council.</p>	9
11.	<p>Apologies for Absence To receive apologies for absence.</p>	-
12.	<p>Declarations of Interest In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any personal or personal and prejudicial interests in the following agenda items. Members should indicate the action they will be taking when the item is considered.</p> <p>Members are also invited to make any declaration in relation to Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. (See guidance note on cover.)</p>	-
13.	<p>Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2011.</p>	12
14.	<p>Public Participation In accordance with the Council's Scheme for Public Speaking at Meetings of Full Council, to allow Members of the public to present petitions, ask questions or make statements, details of which have been received by no later than 12 noon Monday 9th May 2011.</p> <p><i>If you wish to speak on an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline and you could not reasonably have known about it at the time, you should register your interest in speaking no later than 9am on the day of the meeting of Council. In the case of a request to speak on an urgent matter, the Director of Legal and Corporate Services will rule on whether or not the matter is urgent and that ruling will be final.</i></p>	-
15.	<p>Questions No questions have been received in accordance with Standing Orders (Section 7, 1.9) by Members of the Council, details of which should have been received by no later than 12 noon Monday 9th May 2011.</p> <p><i>In the case of an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline above, and could not have reasonably been known at that time, it must be delivered in writing to the Director of Legal and Corporate Services no later than 9am on the day of Council.</i></p>	-
16.	<p>Chairman's Communications</p> <p>(a) To note the engagements of the outgoing Chairman of the Council since the Council's last meeting.</p> <p>(b) To receive such communications from the new Chairman of the Council including details of the Chairman's charity.</p>	29

17.	<p>Leader of the Council Announcements and Reports To receive announcements and any matters to report from the Leader of the Council.</p>	-
18.	<p>Members' Annual Activity Reports and Attendance 2010/2011 To note the schedule of Members' Annual Reports giving details of their activities in their role as District Councillors for the 2010/2011 municipal year and to receive a record of Members' attendance for the 2010/2011 municipal year.</p> <p><i>These reports have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details) Copies will also be available with the pre council refreshments and in the Democratic Services Office.</i></p>	30
19.	<p>Annual Reports for the Municipal Year 2010/2011</p> <p>(a) Cabinet</p> <p>(b) Annual Scrutiny report 2010/2011</p> <p>(c) Ethics and Standards Committee</p>	<p>32</p> <p>34</p> <p>43</p>
20.	<p>Political and Constitutional Structures 2011/2012</p> <p>a) To consider a report from the Director of Legal and Corporate Services on the proposed political and constitutional structures for 2011/2012. This report will include the municipal calendar and the proposed amendments to the constitution.</p> <p>b) Appointments to outside bodies</p> <p>(Please note that this item is marked to follow)</p>	-
21.	<p>Policy and Budget Framework Matters which require a Decision by Council</p> <p>Cabinet</p> <p>March 15th 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees and Charges Policy <p>April 19th 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2011 – 16 • Wyre Forest Local Development Framework Development Plan <p>Licensing and Environmental Committee</p> <p>21st April 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Testing 	48

22.	<p>Motions Submitted Under Standing Orders No motions have been received in accordance with Standing Order (Section 7, 4.1).</p> <p><i>Motions must be received in writing by the Director of Legal and Corporate Services no later than 12 noon Monday 9th May 2011.</i></p>	-
23.	<p>Urgent Motions Submitted Under Standing Orders To consider any motions in the order in which they have been received, which, by reason of special circumstances, should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Standing Order (Section 7 4.1 (viii)).</p>	-
24.	<p>Independent Remuneration Panel To consider amendments to the Members' Allowance Scheme for this Municipal Year. <i>(Report to follow)</i></p>	-
25.	<p>Boundary Commission To receive a report from the Chief Executive about whether to request a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission of the size of the Council.</p>	50
26.	<p>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Director of Legal and Corporate Services before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</p>	-
27.	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public To consider passing the following resolution: "That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of "exempt information" as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act".</p>	-

Part 2
Not open to the Press & Public

28.	<p>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Director of Legal and Corporate Services before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</p>	-
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

18TH MAY 2011

Appointment of Leader of the Council

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	-
CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITY:	Delivering Together with Less
CABINET MEMBER:	Cabinet Member
DIRECTOR:	Caroline Newlands Director of Legal & Corporate Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Penelope Williams Democratic Services Manager
APPENDICES:	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To appoint a Leader of the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

Council is asked to DECIDE that:

2.1 The Office of Leader of the Council be determined.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 1st December 2010, the Council adopted a new governance model for its executive arrangements following the elections in May 2011. These arrangements were adopted after having consulted the public and other interested persons.
- 3.2 The Local Government 2000 (as amended) (The Act) required Councils to adopt what has been described as a “strong leader” in governance terms for executive arrangements. These cover most (but not all) of the Council’s day to day functions as designated by Regulations.
- 3.3 Under this model, Council appoints the Leader, who then appoints the Cabinet and allocates Cabinet responsibilities. The Leader has a strengthened role and is directly responsible for the discharge of the functions which are the responsibility of the executive, as he or she wishes to arrange it.
- 3.4 Unlike the previous model, Cabinet Members are no longer appointed or removed by Council. Council will no longer fix the size of the Cabinet (the 10 legal maximum remains) nor areas of Cabinet member responsibility. These are now matters for the Leader of the Council, who must appoint at least 2 Councillors to the Cabinet. The Leader must appoint a Deputy. The Leader allocates responsibility for the discharge

of executive functions, whether by him or herself, the Cabinet collectively, individual members of the Cabinet, or officers, or any combination.

3.5 The discharge of functions which are not the responsibility of the executive (e.g. Planning, Overview and Scrutiny and Ethics and Standards) remains unaffected.

3.6 Council will continue to receive regular reports from the Leader.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 On 1st December 2010, the Council selected a new model of governance for its executive arrangements. The Act meant that the previous Leader and Cabinet model could not continue. Having consulted the public and other interested parties, the Council adopted a 'new-style' Leader and Cabinet model rather than a directly elected Mayor model.

4.2 Responsibility for the executive functions of the Council are vested in the Leader, who will decide how those functions are to be discharged and the extent of the delegation.

4.3 Where as under the existing system the Council appointed its leader every year, Council must now appoint its Leader for up to a 4 year term of office. This will be determined by the date when the Member was originally elected to serve on the Council. For example a Member elected in 2008 if appointed as Leader would be Leader of the Council until 2012 when they were due for re-election. The Council has, though, opted to retain the power to remove and replace the Leader during that 4 year term.

4.4 The Leader will be a Councillor elected to the position of Leader by the Council. The Leader will hold office until:

- (i) the day when the council holds its first annual meeting after the leader's normal day of retirement as a Councillor, as provided by section 44E of the Local Government Act 2000; or
- (ii) he/she resigns from the office; or
- (iii) he/she is suspended from being a Councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although he/she may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); or
- (iv) he/she ceases to be a Councillor before the normal date of retirement as a councillor including as a result of statutory provisions; or
- (v) he/she is removed from office by resolution of the Council.

4.5 If the Leader ceases to hold office as mentioned in paragraphs (ii), (iii) or (iv) above, the functions of the Leader (other than appointment and dismissal of Cabinet members and decisions on allocation of executive functions) shall be discharged by the Deputy Leader until the election of a new Leader. In these circumstances, if an ordinary meeting of the Council is not scheduled to take place within the following 21 days, an extraordinary meeting of the Council shall be held within 21 days in order to elect a new Leader.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial implications of adopting the new style Leader and Cabinet Member can be met from existing budgets.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Adopting a new governance model is a requirement of the Local Government Act as amended.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An equality impact assessment has been undertaken and it is considered that there are no discernable impacts on the six equality strands.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 Should the Council fail to appoint a Leader of the Council, the powers would be discharged by the Head of Paid Service in consultation with Group Leaders.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 That a new Leader be appointed as required by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 The Council
10.2 The public and other persons as detailed in 4.1 of the report.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 as amended
11.2 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act Report to Council 1st December 2010

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN

23RD FEBRUARY 2011 (6.00PM)

Present:

Councillors: M Ahmed, J Aston, J Baker, G Ballinger, A Buckley, J-P
Campion, S Clee, N Desmond, H Dyke, P Dyke, B Glass, D Godwin,
J Greener, P Harrison, M Hart, P Hayward, M Hazlewood, A Hingley, M Kelly,
H Martin, D Millis, F Oborski, T Onslow, J Phillips, M Price, K Prosser, M
Salter, D Sheppard, K Stokes, J Thomas, N Thomas, S Williams,
G Yarranton, R Bishop, N Gale, I Hardiman, T Ingham, D McCann, J Parish
and J Shaw.

C.70

Prayers

Prayers were said by Father Stephen Pimlott from St Wulstan and St
Thomas of Canterbury Roman Catholic Church, Vale Road Stourport.

C.71

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J Holden, and
C D Nicholls.

C.72

Declaration of Interests

The following Members declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item number
12 Budget Proposals as they are members of the Community Housing Board:

Councillors J Aston, A Buckley, N Gale, J Greener, M Kelly and G Yarranton

Councillors H Dyke and P Dyke declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item
number 12 as Councillor P Dyke is employed by the Community Housing
Group.

Council was advised that all the above Members had been granted a
dispensation by the Ethics and Standards Committee for the Council meeting
on 23rd February 2011 to enable them to take part in the debate and vote on
matters relating to and including the Housing Company.

C.73

Minutes

**Decision: The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 1st
December 2010 and the Ordinary meeting held on 1st December 2010 be
confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

C.74

Public Participation

In accordance with the Council's scheme for public participation at meetings of Full Council, Mr M Wrench presented a petition which requested the Council to halt the single site project.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wrench for the petition and advised that the agenda contained a motion which asked the Council to confirm again its decision to go ahead with the single site. The Chairman felt that as this was the same issue as raised by the petition albeit from a different direction the debate about this item would form part of the discussion during agenda item 9 of the agenda.

C75.

Questions

The Council received a report setting out a range of questions from Councillors F Oborski and H Martin, directed at the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members.

Question 1 – From Councillor F Oborski to the Leader of the Council.

In view of the fact that Malvern Hills District Council are actively seeking to share senior officers (possibly including the post of Chief Executive) and are reported to be in discussions with other Councils, including Stratford on Avon District Council with who they don't share a boundary, would the Leader tell me:

- 1 What if any discussions he had already held with Malvern Hills DC?
- 2 Whether or not he feels we could offer to share any services or posts with Malvern Hills DC?

Reply from the Leader of the Council

I and other Leaders in Worcestershire continue to have ongoing discussions on how best to work together to meet challenges. I have had discussions with the Leader of Malvern Hills District Council regarding procurement and a few other back office activities. It has been reported in the press about Malvern and Stratford possibly working together and I have been surprised about the brevity of the reporting and raised my surprise at this with Malvern Hills District Council. We have a more mature relationship in Worcestershire and as part of the ongoing discussions would hold a debate where there is a need. We would do what we have done previously and bring the matter back to scrutiny and to the Council Chamber if a decision is required. The discussions have been broad but have not been specific.

Supplementary Question from Councillor F Oborski

If you are aware of a neighbouring District Council with an adjoining boundary is actively seeking to share a Chief Executive and other senior posts which it may be appropriate to share with Wyre Forest District Council; do you not agree that it would be more appropriate for that Council to share with Wyre Forest District Council rather than with an authority outside the county?

Answer from the Leader of the Council

I thank Mrs Oborski for her question but I cannot discuss individual cases. I take a similar attitude to that of Worcestershire County Council and will look at any such proposals when it is right to do so. There may be opportunities for sharing when we are part of a single site and we will look at this again. I can assure you that I am having discussions at the appropriate level. There are currently many challenges including the budget and the Chief Executive is concentrating 100% of his time on those issues.

Question 2 – from Councillor Howard Martin to the Leader of the Council.

In view of the government's decision to scrap plans to sell off the country's forests, brought about by overwhelming public opposition, will the Leader of the Council now follow the magnanimous example of the Prime Minister and admit that he, also, is wrong? Will the Leader therefore now bow to similarly universal local public opposition by scrapping the hugely unpopular plans to build new council offices?

Reply from the Leader of the Council

We receive leadership guidance from the current prime minister whereas his predecessors gave poor leadership.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Howard Martin

In light of the dissatisfaction on the proposals do you not care what the public think?

Answer from the Leader of the Council

I find it difficult to have lectures on the single site. There have been regular opportunities in the chamber and ten Corporate Resources scrutiny meetings to comment on the single site. You did not attend one scrutiny meeting last year and out of the eight this year you only attended four. If you care and want to be effective you have to turn up to meetings.

C.76**Chairman's Communications**

The Council received a list of functions attended by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman since the Council's last meeting.

The Chairman made the following announcements:

The Charity Dinner which had been held on 11th February raised £1,449.50 and the total raised so far this year by the Chairman's Charity had been £1,558.62. Members were thanked for their contributions towards this.

Members were also thanked for their generous food contributions they had donated at Christmas on behalf of Franche Community Church.

Members were advised that Friday 25th February 2011 would be the 99th birthday of Honorary Alderman Elizabeth Mills and on behalf of the Council the Chairman wished her a very happy birthday and would be sending flowers.

Councillor D Millis was congratulated on his forthcoming marriage and the Chairman wished him and his bride every future happiness.

Members were informed that Councillors Stokes and Millis would not be standing in the forthcoming elections and he took the opportunity to thank them both for their work as Ward Councillors and their contribution to the work of the Council.

C.77 Leader's Announcements and Report

The Leader of the council advised Members that Wyre Forest District Council had played a full and influential part of the Worcestershire bid and it also intended to be part of the Birmingham LEP.

An update was given on the Council's Icelandic investments. Council was advised that £3.151m had been recovered against the £9m invested and there was £6m in UK backed banks. Moreover, Administrators continued their efforts to recover the Council's money; so far 53% of the investment had been returned and the Council was confident about the return of the remainder of its money. The Council had applied to the Icelandic Courts for 'preferred creditor status.' A further update would be given to Members at Annual Council in May 2011 and any development in advance of this would be shared with Group Leaders.

The Leader concluded by extending his congratulations to Honorary Alderman Mrs Mills on her forthcoming 99th birthday.

C.78 Motions Submitted Under Standing Orders

Council received motions that had been received in accordance with Standing Orders (Section 7, 4.1).

Motion from Councillor John Campion, Leader of the Council.

"Council expresses deep concern at any consideration by the Environment Agency not to deploy temporary flood barriers in Bewdley.

This Council believes that the Environment Agency should do all it reasonably can to ensure that properties in Bewdley are protected from the River Severn when it is in flood including the use of temporary barriers.

Council directs the Chief Executive to communicate concerns raised in this motion to the Environment Agency, the relevant Government Minister, Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest and the County Council."

The Leader introduced the motion and commented on the significant flood protection that had been provided in Bewdley. However, Members' attention was drawn to the fact that there was insufficient protection on the Wribbenhall side of Bewdley. Temporary barriers were available but these were only erected when the river was in flood and in the majority of times they had been erected had not protected properties entirely from flood water. The Leader was aware that the Environment Agency had considered not deploying the barriers. Whilst the barriers protected only 20 properties in total, the rest of the town appeared to be happy to accept any disruption that the temporary barriers caused.

During debate Members commented that the Environment Agency should be made aware that houses that were flooded were affected by raw sewerage. Moreover, Insurance companies were largely refusing to reinsure those who had been flooded. Thus if the barriers were not to be deployed they would have no insurance and no protection from flooding. Further, that the barriers presented access problems to residents but if walking routes could be kept open it would allow access to the primary and high schools. Residents would also need to access doctors surgeries, vets and banks.

Decision: The motion be agreed.

Motion from Councillor J-P Campion, Leader of the Council:

Council resolves to endorse the updated financial assumptions for the centralised office accommodation project prepared by the Council's statutory officers as presented to the Corporate Resources Scrutiny on 10th January earlier this month including the reconfirmed annual revenue savings of the project.

Council resolves to reconfirm its decision of 29th July 2009 relating to the centralised office accommodation project, including the delegation to Cabinet to take all further appropriate decisions to ensure completion of the project within budget allocations previously approved by Council on 18th July 2008.

Council resolves to progress the centralised office accommodation project and implement it by summer 2012 in order that the Council maximises the savings it had calculated from the project.

Council requests the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee to continue to consider an update from the Chief Executive on the centralised office accommodation project at its meetings.

The Leader of the Council introduced the motion and drew Members' attention to the report and presentation that updated the operational and financial business case of this authority moving to single site received by Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee. Further, the single site had been the subject of debate and scrutiny at Council on a number of occasions and it was necessary to give final reaffirmation to the project and a clear steer to the Chief Executive and his team that Council accepted and endorsed the business case as presented to scrutiny.

The Leader advised that should the motion be approved Council could be confident that single site would deliver savings and ensure the Council's resources were reorganised in terms of how the Council spent its money. Moreover, it was considered that the single site would enable the Council to be well placed to bid for hosting shared services and other partner operations as the Councils streamlined its services.

A lengthy and vigorous debate ensued on the motion and the merits and benefits of the Council building a single site headquarters were discussed at length. This concluded with an unsuccessful amendment by the Labour Group.

A named vote was held on the substantive motion:

For the Motion

Councillors M Ahmed, J Aston, J Baker, G W Ballinger, R Bishop, A J Buckley, J-P Champion, S J Clee, N J Desmond, H E Dyke, P Duke, N Gale, D R Godwin, J Greener, I Hardiman, P B Harrison, M J Hart, P V Hayward, M A Hazlewood, A T Hingley, T Ingham, D McCann, F M Oborski, T L Onslow, J Phillips, M Price, K Prosser, M A Salter, S J Williams and G C Yarranton.

Against the Motion

Councillors B T Glass, M B Kelly, H J Martin, D Millis, J Parish, J A Shaw, D R Sheppard, K J Stokes, J Thomas and N Thomas.

Decision: The motion be approved.

The Leader advised Members that the Council had struggled to explain to its constituents why it was so vital for future services that a single site was delivered quickly and the petition that had been received tonight was an example of this. The status quo was not an option and Council would redouble its efforts to articulate why it was moving to a single site.

Members were advised that documentation relating to the single site was available on the Council's website thus ensuring that the public were able to access the documents and understand why a new single headquarters was needed.

C.79

Urgent Motions Submitted Under Standing Orders (Section 7, 4.1)

No notices of motion were submitted under Standing Orders 7,4.1.

A comfort break was held at this point from 7.50 – 8 pm. Councillor J Parish left the meeting.

Recommendations from Cabinet**Recommendations from the Cabinet Meeting of 25th January 2011****Adoption of a new Corporate Plan**

The Council considered a report from the Corporate Development and Improvement Manager which set out the draft Corporate Plan for the period of 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2014.

The Leader thanked Councillor Martin for progressing this.

Councillor Howard Martin reciprocated and wished to formally thank the panel members and Corporate Development and Improvement Manager and Policy and Performance Officer for their hard work and contributions to the formulation of the new Corporate Plan.

Decision: The Corporate Plan (2011- 2014) be adopted.

Adoption of Shared Services Strategy:

The Council considered a report which provided an update on the Council's Transformation Programme, including the development of a new Shared Services Strategy for 2011 onwards.

Decision: The Shared Services Strategy (2011 onwards) be adopted.

(Councillor M B Kelly wished it to be recorded that he had voted against this decision)

Recommendations from the Cabinet Meeting of 25th January 2011**Self Management of the Council's Allotments**

The Council considered a report on the self management of the Council's allotments. The Cabinet Member for Community and Partnership Services wished to place on record her thanks to officers and allotment holders for their work on the project.

Decision: Delegated authority be given to the Director of Community and Partnership Services and the Director of Legal and Corporate Services to enter into Self Management agreements with the four Allotment Associations, i.e. West Kidderminster Allotment Society, Aggborough and Foley Park Allotment Association, The Comberton Community Allotments and FHC Community Allotment Association for a period of 15 years from 1st April 2011.

Wyre Forest Parking Review Phase 2

The Council considered a report on the Wyre Forest Parking Review Phase 2. The Leader of the Council commented that the recommendations did not reflect the amount of work that had been undertaken behind the scenes by the Review Panel. He commented that there had been wide consultation with members of the public who had had an opportunity to come to a scrutiny meeting and put their views forward. The proposals would be introduced as from 4th April 2011 and would introduce an element of free parking for everyone.

Decision: Wyre Forest District Council (Off Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2009 (Variation No. 2) Order 2010 be amended and consulted upon to accommodate the changes in recommendations 2.2 and 2.3 of the report to Cabinet as necessary, together with any further minor drafting amendments, which, in the opinion of the Director of Planning & Regulatory Services, are required and that Cabinet be given delegated authority to consider any representations made as a result of public consultation and to finalise the revisions to the Order.

Treasury Management Strategy Statement of Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and updated Prudential Indicators

The Council considered a report on Treasury Management Strategy Statement of Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and updated Prudential Indicators.

Decision:

- 1. To approve the restated Prudential Indicators and Limits for the period 1st January 2011 to 31st March 2011 and for the financial years 2011/2012 & 2012/2013.**
- 2. To approve the revised Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement that sets out the Council's policy on MRP included in Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet, to be effective from 1st April 2011.**

C.80

Budget Proposals 2011/2014

The Leader of the Council presented the administration's proposals for the budget. He thanked the Director of Resources and the Corporate Management Team for their support during the budget process. Members' attention was drawn to the significant pressure that the Council had experienced by having £2m removed from its grant over the next 3 years. Members were advised that this was a faster and deeper reduction than had been anticipated and the administration had expressed their concerns to the Government; concluding that the challenges facing the Council were significant.

The Cabinet Member for Resources stated that the budget set out a clear vision to steer the Council through the very difficult economic context. Moreover, if the Council wished to continue to deliver high quality services the status quo was not an option and there was a need to drive through further efficiencies and consider new ways of working, including working more closely with partners. The Cabinet Member concluded by stating the budget provided and clear and sensible vision for the Council.

A robust debate ensued on the budget proposals, during which Members of each of the political groups made their comments.

Decision:

1. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 ONWARDS

- 1.1 Approves the updated Base Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule as presented to the Cabinet on 10th January 2011 and further updated to reflect Quarter 3 slippage, along with the Prudential Indicators and the revised approach to the Minimum Revenue Provision as detailed within the separate report to this meeting.**
- 1.2 Delegated authority continues to be given to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, to fund appropriate elements of the Capital Programme by means of Prudential Borrowing.**
- 1.3 Delegates authority to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Cabinet, to determine the most financially prudent funding method for Capital Projects (Capital Receipts or Direct Revenue Funding) at the end of each Financial Year.**

2. INCOME SERVICE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Recommends Income Service Options and associated fees and charges as detailed in the Financial Strategy as presented to Cabinet on 10th January 2011, along with the amendments attached in Appendix 1, including the increased Car Parking Charges to be effective from 4th April 2011 (with the exception of Season Ticket increases).**
- 2.2 Recommends the proposals for fees and charges within the Council's Licensing and Health and Safety and Pollution Control functions for 2011/12 rise by the same percentage as all the other fee increases across the Council.**
- 2.3 Delegates to Cabinet approval of the introduction of new charges for Discretionary Services.**
- 2.4 Delegates approval of all of the Council's Planning Fees following the publication on new guidance to local authorities to the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration.**

3. THREE YEAR BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK 2011/14

- 3.1 The contents of the Reports of the Director of Resources on the Three Year Budget and Policy Framework 2011/2014 (pages 3-121) incorporating the Base Budget Variations**

(pages 23-24) be endorsed and in doing so approve the Revised Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2010/11.

- 3.2 Approves the inclusion of the Area Based Grant in relation to Homelessness of £109,270 for 2011/12 and 2012/13 along with corresponding expenditure for the function. Delegate's authority to the Director of Resources to incorporate any future such grant funding into the Base Budget.**
- 3.3 Approves the Council's policy relating to Working Balances, Reserves and Provisions and notes the amount of Reserves and Provisions available for use in the Budget process (page 10) as updated in paragraph 3.5 below.**
- 3.4 Approves that any Final Account savings arising from 2010/2014 over and above the target allowed for in the Council's Finance Strategy, together with surplus Earmarked Reserves, be allocated for the one-off costs of the Single Site project.**
- 3.5 The following General Fund Revenue Budget be recommended including Cabinet Proposals (Appendix 2) and Income Service Options and related amendments (Appendix 1):**

	Revised 2010/2011 £	2011/2012 £	2012/2013 £	2013/2014 £
Net Expenditure on Services (per Appendix 1 on Page 14 of the Financial Strategy Book) (*) and (**)	15,307,830	14,033,090	14,177,730	14,408,070
<u>Less</u> Cabinet Proposals - (Appendix 2)	-	(335,020)	(929,000)	(1,140,520)
<u>Less</u> Council Tax Grant		(173,290)	(173,290)	(173,290)
<u>Plus</u> One-off implementation costs		700,000		
Net Expenditure	15,307,830	14,224,780	13,075,440	13,094,260
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	9,700	(883,730)	(414,010)	(684,560)
Net Budget Requirement	15,317,530	13,341,050	12,661,430	12,409,700
<u>Less</u> Business Rate Grant, Government Grant and Collection Fund Surplus (Page 14)	**8,084,620	**6,294,330	**5,441,290	**5,121,200

Area Based Grant (**)	327,080	109,270	109,270	0
Council Tax Income	<u>£6,905,830</u>	<u>£6,937,450</u>	<u>£7,110,870</u>	<u>£7,288,500</u>
Wyre Forest District Council Tax Level assuming no change in 2011/12 then a 2.5% increase 2012/13 onwards.	<u>£197.62</u>	<u>£197.62</u>	<u>£202.56</u>	<u>£207.62</u>

(*) As amended in line with the Cabinet decision on 25th January 2011 in relation to Stourport Community Centre

(**) Settlement updated in line with the Final Local Government Financial Settlement on 31st January 2011 and 7th February 2011

(***) Includes additional approvals for 2011/12 and 2012/13 see paragraph 3.2

Government Grant Analysis*	2010/11	2011/12	Increase (decrease)	
	£	£	£	%
Revenue Support Grant	1,022,890	1,474,240	451,350	44.1
Business Rates	7,044,230	4,769,440	(2,274,790)	(32.3)
Collection Fund Surplus	17,500	50,650	33,150	189.4
Overall Totals	8,084,620	6,294,330	(1,790,290)	(22)

*For the years 2012/13 the split between the Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates is not known at this stage. The figure for 2013/14 is an estimated position

- Reserves available as part of the Three Year Financial Strategy:

Reserves Statement	2010/11 £'000	2011/12 £'000	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Reserves as at 1 April	*2,151	2,161	1,277	863
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	10	(884)	(414)	(685)
Reserves as at 31 March	2,161	1,277	863	178

* As updated to reflect additional approvals

4 COUNCIL TAX

4.1 Recommends a Council Tax for Wyre Forest District Council on a Band D Property of £197.62 for 2011/12 (£197.62 2010/11) no increase on Council Tax for 2011/12.

4.2 Recommends a provisional Council Tax on a Band D Property in 2012/2013 of £202.56 and £207.62 in 2013/2014 an increase of 2.5% per annum over 2011/2012.

C.81 Council Tax 2011/2012

The Council considered a report to approve the formal resolution for setting the Council Tax for 2011/2012.

Decision:

1. To note that at its meeting on the 10th January 2011 the Cabinet calculated the following amounts for the year 2011/2012 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:

- (a) 35,105 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year.
 - (b) The amounts set out in column 2 of Appendix 1 for each Parish being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulations 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
2. To resolve that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2011/2012 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
- (a) £63,683,652 being the aggregate of the amounts, which the Council estimates for the items, set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act. (Gross expenditure including Parish precepts and special expenses)
 - (b) £49,883,230 being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act. (Income)
 - (c) £13,800,422 being the amount by which the aggregate at (2.2)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (2.2)(b) above calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its budget requirement for the year. (Net budget)
 - (d) £6,403,609 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, area based grant, increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1998. (External support and collection fund surplus)
 - (e) £210.71 being the amount at (2.2)(c) above less the amount at (2.2)(d) above all divided by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act as the basic amount of its council tax for the year. (The amount to be funded by council tax)
 - (f) £459,372 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act as set out in Column 1 of Appendix 1. (Total Parish precepts and special expenses)

- (g) £197.62 being the amount at (2.2)(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (2.2)(f) above by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 43(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates. (Band D council tax for those areas with no Parish precepts or special expenses)
- (h) The amounts set out in Column 4 of Appendix 1 for each Parish being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (2)(g) to above the amount of the special item relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned in Appendix A divided in each case by the amount at (1)(b) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate. (Band D council tax including Parish precepts for each Parish)
- (i) The amounts set out in Appendix 2 for each Parish being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (2)(g) and (2)(h) above by the number which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands. (Council tax including Parish precepts for each council tax band and Parish)
3. To note that for the year 2011/2012 the County Council, Police Authority and Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as shown below:

	<u>Worcestershire County Council</u>	<u>West Mercia Police Authority</u>	<u>Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority</u>
	£	£	£
Band A	692.71	119.15	49.10
Band B	808.16	139.00	57.28
Band C	923.61	158.86	65.46
Band D	1,039.06	178.72	73.64
Band E	1,269.97	218.44	90.01
Band F	1,500.87	258.15	106.38
Band G	1,731.77	297.87	122.74
Band H	2,078.13	357.44	147.28

4. To resolve that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (2)(i) and (3.3) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in Appendix 3 as the amounts of council tax for the year 2011/2012 for each of the categories of dwellings.
5. **Authorisation of Officers to collect and recover Council Tax and Business Rates:**

Mr. D. Buckland, Director of Resources; Mrs. T. Southall, Financial Services Manager; Mrs. V. Upton, Revenues and Benefit Manager; Mrs. F. Johnson, Principal Revenues Officer; Mrs. S. Clayphan, Mrs. V. Sloane, and Mr. J. White Senior Revenue Officers; Mrs C. S. Newlands, Director of Legal and Corporate Services; Mrs. M. Morgan, Litigation Solicitor; Mrs. J. Alexander, Principal Solicitor; Mrs. S. Tallon, Contracts and Freedom of Information Solicitor; Miss. C. Beswick, Property and Licensing Solicitor, or any other person specifically authorised by the Director of Legal and Corporate Services, appointed to the said offices under Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, be hereby authorised:-

- (a) to demand, collect and recover any Council Tax or National Non-Domestic Rate made by the Council under the Local Government Finance Acts 1988 and 1992;
- (b) to demand, collect and recover any penalties under Schedules 3 and 4 to the Local Government Finance Acts 1988 and 1992;
- (c) under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all other powers enabling them to prosecute and to appear on behalf of the Council at the hearing of legal proceedings in connection with the demand, collection and recovery of any Council Tax, National Non-Domestic Rate, Community Charge and General Rates made by the Council and/or any penalties imposed under the Local Government Finance Acts 1988 and 1992; and
- (d) to make such amendments to the Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rate as are authorised by the Local Government Finance Acts 1988 and 1992 and other legislation in force from time to time. Further, the Head of Financial Services, Financial Services Manager be authorised to impose penalties in accordance with Schedule 3 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, with regard to the supply of information for Council Tax purposes.

**C.82 Recommendations from the Licensing and Environmental Committee
7th January 2011**

Policy for the Exhibition of Unclassified Films Licensing Act 2003

The Council considered a report from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that asked the Committee to approve the Policy for dealing with unclassified films.

Decision:

- 1. The Policy for dealing with unclassified films be approved.**
- 2. Delegated responsibility for the authorisation of films which have not already been classified by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) be given to the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services.**

C.83 Corporate Governance

The Council considered revisions to the Council's constitution following a programme of work undertaken by the Transformation Board, to appoint two members to an outside body and to amend the contract procedure rules.

A Member expressed concern about the proposal to move the date for questions and motions to be submitted. It was clarified that the reason for changing the current system was to give greater transparency to the press and public and to address how to deal with urgent questions.

Decision:

- 1. The amendments to the Council's Constitution as set out in Appendices A and B of the report to Council be approved.**
- 2. The amendments to the Contract Procedure Rules as set out in Appendix C of the report to Council to take effect on 1st April 2011 be approved.**
- 3. Councillors J Aston and K Prosser be appointed as the Council's representatives on The Wyre Forest GP Commissioning Consortia Advisory Group.**

C.84 Review of Polling Districts and Places

The Council considered a report which recommended the outcome of the consultation on a review of polling districts and places within Wyre Forest.

During debate Members made the commented that there was concern that some residents would not be able to physically access Holy Innocents Hall and it was not an area where voters were likely to apply for a postal vote. A Member spoke out against the closing of rural polling stations especially as there was little or no public transport in these areas.

Concern was expressed about moving the polling station from the Primary School in Tan Lane to St Wulstans Hall in view of a fatal accident that had occurred on the corner by St Wulstans Hall. Concern was also expressed about using the Community Centre in Lickhill Road instead of the Scout Headquarters as the distance was greater than the quoted ¼ mile. It was considered that many people were able to walk to the Scout Headquarters and there was not a lot of traffic.

Decision:

- 1. That the changes to the polling places as set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report to Council be made together with the inclusion of the Y Centre, Dowles Road, Kidderminster and the polling place at Stourport Primary School, Tan Lane Stourport to move to St Wulstans Church Hall**
- 2. To note that a further review of polling places will be undertaken later in 2011, in particular to address the issues mentioned in paragraph 3.4 of the report to Council.**

C.85 Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

The Council received a report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and considered the scheme of allowances to be paid to Members for the financial year 2011/2012.

Members were advised that it the current scheme of allowances would be extended until Annual Council when the allowances would be reviewed.

Decision:

- 1. To adopt the present scheme of allowances as the scheme to be operated for the financial year 2011-2012 until Annual Council 18th May 2011.**
- 2. At Annual Council in May 2011 to consider any amendments to the scheme in light of decisions at that meeting on the committee structure and any other relevant factors.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 21.26.

LIST OF FUNCTIONS FOR CHAIRMAN
2010/2011

FEBRUARY 2011

Saturday 26th Wyre Forest Dance Festival, Civic Hall

MARCH 2011

Saturday 5th Charity Fund Raising Concert, Redditch Borough Council
 Sunday 6th Chairman's Civic Service, Herefordshire Council
 Tuesday 8th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race, Corn Exchange
 Friday 11th Kidderminster Mayor's Ball, Kidderminster Town Hall
 Friday 18th Wyre Forest Young Voices, Town Hall
 Saturday 19th Wyre Forest Symphony Orchestra, Kidderminster Town Hall
 Saturday 19th Mayor of Bewdley's Charity Concert, Kidderminster
 Valentines
 Friday 25th Mayor of Droitwich Charity Ball, Royal British Legion
 Saturday 26th Kidderminster Choral Society

APRIL 2011

Saturday 2nd Redditch BC Civic Dinner, Town Hall, Redditch
 Friday 8th April Chairman of Malvern Hills Charity Murder Mystery Evening
 Saturday 9th Kidderminster Male Choir Spring Concert, Town Hall
 Saturday 9th Stourport Mayor's Ball, Civic Hall, Stourport*
 Sunday 10th Wyre Forest Young Voices, St Mary's Parish Church
 Sunday 17th Chairman of Worcestershire County Council Civic Service,
 St Stephens Church
 Saturday 23rd Mayor of Evesham St George's Day, Town Hall

MAY 2011

Sunday 1st Kidderminster Scout & Guide St Georges Day Parade
 Sunday 8th Mayor of Evesham End of Year Celebration
 Monday 9th Annual Mayor Making, Evesham Town Council
 Friday 13th Bewdley Annual Town Council Meeting
 Sunday 15th Civic Service, Evesham Town Council

* Denotes attendance by Vice Chairman

**Index of Members' Activity Reports Received as of the date
of publication of the Council Agenda**

Electronic Copies of all reports are available on the Internet

	Attendance Percentage for 2010/11
Councillor M Ahmed	90%
Councillor J Aston	81%
Councillor J Baker	94% *
Councillor G W Ballinger	91%
Councillor R Bishop	96%
Councillor A J Buckley	85%
Councillor J-P Campion	90%
Councillor S J M Clee	87%
Councillor N J Desmond	81%
Councillor H E Dyke	86% *
Councillor P Dyke	58%
Councillor N Gale	97%
Councillor B T Glass	55%
Councillor D Godwin	70%
Councillor J Greener	84% *
Councillor I Hardiman	96%
Councillor P B Harrison	100%
Councillor M J Hart	83%
Councillor P V Hayward	76%
Councillor M A W Hazlewood	88%
Councillor A T Hingley	100%
Councillor J Holden	94% *
Councillor T Ingham	75%
Councillor M B Kelly	91% *
Councillor H J Martin	85%
Councillor D McCann	81%
Councillor C D Nicholls	88%
Councillor F M Oborski	96% *
Councillor T L Onslow	89%
Councillor J W Parish	92%
Councillor J Phillips	90%
Councillor M Price	97%
Councillor K H Prosser	91%
Councillor M A Salter	98%
Councillor J A Shaw	96% *
Councillor D Sheppard	83% *
Councillor K J Stokes	73%

Councillor J Thomas	89%
Councillor N J Thomas	97% *
Councillor S J Williams	100%
Councillor G C Yarranton	96%

* Subject to the Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel meeting to be held on 17th May 2011.

**Index of Members' Activity Reports Not Received as of the date
of publication of the Council Agenda**

**Attendance Percentage
for 2010/11**

Councillor D J Millis	74%
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: MUMSHAD AHMED

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

I am a District Councillor for Broadwaters and a County Councillor for St Georges and St Oswald which covers mostly Broadwaters and part of Greenhill.

I am constantly working on a host of issues on behalf of the constituents. These include housing matters, street cleaning and maintenance of parks and environment, crime and disorder matters.

I have aided the re-housing of several constituents with serious housing problems.

I have worked closely with the local policing team on racial and drug related matters.

I do not hold surgeries, however I try to walk the whole of Broadwaters once a month. I am also available at all the other resident meetings I attend.

I have also been involved in the public consultation on the Public art project at the Horsefair triangle.

I have constantly worked on arranging for potholes in my ward to be filled and for public footpath improvements in and around the Broadwaters area. I have also been working closely with teachers, staff and parents of St Marys and St Oswalds Primary school for after school clubs.

Highlights:

-

Special Knowledge:

Having lived in Hurcott Road for 30 years and being a local businessman, I have vast experience and knowledge of the area and believe people in the ward need a face to face contact with their Councillor. I am fluent in 2 languages and am able to help and interpret for the Bangladeshi community.

I am also a governor of St Ambrose school.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

90%.



Ward Information:

Broadwaters

Political Group:

Independent

Committee Membership:

Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation.



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: JOHN ASTON

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

- *Campaigning for a crossing by the Spennells Play Area.*
- *Removal of large tree in Merganser Way involving lengthy talks with District Council.*
- *Planting 13,000 daffodil bulbs on Spennells and oak trees (x 24) to replace those taken down.*
- *Negotiated with Council to erect bollards/kissing gate to prevent motorcycles gaining access to fields on the bridleway known as Route 537.*
- *Ongoing negotiations with Worcestershire County Council to try and block access to end of Mill Lane as 12 properties are experiencing robberies and damage to their homes day and night.*
- *Continuing to work with Worcester County Council to reduce the speed limit from 60 mph to 40 mph on Wilden Lane.*
- *Efforts are still continuing to resolve the problem in Cobham Wood by negotiating with Wyre Forest Community Housing.*
- *Several issues regarding Wyre Forest Housing i.e. evictions.*
- *Continuing with efforts to fill potholes.*
- *New manhole covers in Spennells.*
- *Resurfaced a section of road in Linnet Rise.*
- *Negotiating with Worcestershire County Council regarding double yellow lines opposite bus stop on edge of Captains Pool Road.*
- *Regular surgeries held.*
- *Hoo Road reduce speeding*

Highlights:

-

Special Knowledge:

Excellent communicator with an ability to build rapport easily with a range of people.

Resolving problems and issues within the ward and representing constituents views.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

81%.



Ward Information:
Aggborough & Spennells

Political Group:
Conservative

Committee Membership:
Corporate Resources
Scrutiny Committee,
Council,
Kidderminster
Education Foundation



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: JEFFREY BAKER

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

I have only missed one PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting due to a Mayoral appointment. Problems from ward members for example, parking, speeding, dog fouling are discussed and acted upon. Police, politicians and members of the public take part. There are six meetings per year.

I am one of the Council's representatives on the Carpet Museum Trust. All our meetings are geared towards building and opening a Carpet Museum around 2013 or so.

I am a member of the Kidderminster Educational Foundation which distribute grants to organisations with an education background. Many local schools, sports groups, religious groups and recreation groups have benefitted from this fund. Due to the present financial climate, our funds only allow requests up to £1,000.

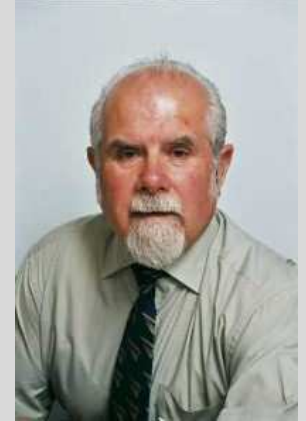
I am at this time Chairman of the Sports and Leisure Centre Review Panel looking into the future of our leisure centres. This scrutiny panel is in its early days and as yet no recommendations have been made.

I am a member of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. Due to a Mayoral appointment I have missed a meeting but in the meetings I have attended, I have made an active contribution,

I am Chairman of the Licensing and Environmental Committee. Any public house premises that need an extension of hours or a change in their operation of how they run their premises need to put their new application to the Licensing Committee. If someone wishes to become a taxi driver and has a conviction, he/she has to appear before the Committee to see if he/she is a fit and proper person to drive a taxi. The activities of this Committee are many and varied and they now come under the auspices of the Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

I do not do surgeries, I do home visits. I find this a far better way to find out what assistance ward members require from me.

I am a member of the Conservative Group on Wyre Forest District Council which is the current administration under the Leadership of John-Paul Campion. I am the Leader of the Conservative Group on the Charter Trustees and also Chairman of Franche Ward Conservative Committee which meets monthly. We produce six leaflets per year which we distribute around our ward. This is our way of keeping ward members fully informed of our activities and to also get them involved.



Ward Information:
Franche

Political Group:
Conservative

Committee Membership:
Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Council, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Kidderminster Educational Foundation Working Group, Chairman of Licensing & Environmental Committee, Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel



Highlights:

Franche has had some pavements re-tarmaced in Marlpool Lane and Anne Hingley, Daniel McCann and myself spent many hours lobbying the Highways Department to undertake this work.

We now have a Lengthsman working hard in the ward and the fruits of his labour are already showing. I think he will improve things a great deal around the ward

Some new street lighting has also been installed around the ward. This has proved to be very popular with the residents and has enhanced the ward's facilities.

Special Knowledge:

I am now in my seventh year as a councillor and I have collected a lot of experience and knowledge along the way. My seventeen years as a Magistrate; twelve of those years as a Licensing Magistrate have given me a great deal of knowledge in my time as a member of the Licensing Committee.

I think I am a good communicator and my time with many local organisations has given me an insight into the workings and ways of Kidderminster and the Wyre Forest.

I was a Director of Kidderminster Harriers FC for 21 years and I am the club's senior life member. This association has been very good for me as I have been at the centre of the way the club has been run over the years - the ups and downs, the successes and the failures.

I believe this has made me the right type of person to be a good Ward Councillor.

My attendance at meetings is 96%. It would hopefully have been 100% if my Mayoral duties had not clashed with meeting dates.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

94% (subject to the Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel meeting to be held on 17th May 2011).



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11****COUNCILLOR: GRAHAM BALLINGER****Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:**

With regular Focus newsletters distributed to every household in Greenhill Ward there are open lines of communication with a Freepost facility for return of residents comments/suggestions - not all of which are necessarily polite but are all read and dealt with appropriately! The excellent local free newspapers Shuttle and Chronicle also provide a good source of information giving and receiving. I regularly attend PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meetings - held in the Catholic Club and ably independently chaired by the local priest - with an ever growing attendance by local residents. Following the inauguration of PACT a few years ago and a slow start, they have become an integral part of community life in the Ward. Since being first elected to represent Greenhill Ward in 1979 the issues raised then such as dogs fouling pavements; anti-social behaviour; lack of play/green space for children; fewer police officers on the beat; and planning issues often influenced by "not in my backyard" considerations are often still being regularly discussed. As all my Ward colleagues would say that we do our level best to deal with all these issues but are so often met with the response that whilst agreeing with the need there are no resources (cash) available. That situation is likely to worsen over the coming years.

Highlights:

At a very personal level I find most satisfaction in getting out around the Ward and distributing our regular Focus newsletter throughout the year and not simply at election time. The camaraderie that builds with residents (our customers at the end of the day) is always a highlight for me and is the opportunity to identify new local issues and to get feedback on previously actioned items. The use of e-mails from and to residents has increased as has my own experience of technology having started from a very low base.

Special Knowledge:

Most of my working life prior to my retirement was spent in the statutory and voluntary care sector which hopefully has given me a good grasp of the many social issues which effect all our lives. I have chaired for a number of years a WFDC Scrutiny Committee and also the annual Budget Review Panel which provides an all party analysis of the proposed spend for the following financial year. It provides the opportunity to ensure value for money for the tax paying residents in Wyre Forest and is a task I particularly enjoy. It is this special knowledge which has enabled me to support the proposals to build a single site office facility thereby saving £500K per annum - a decision which should have been taken 20 years ago.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

91%.



Ward Information:
Greenhill

Political Group:
Liberal

Committee Membership:
Audit,
Chairman of
Corporate Resources
Scrutiny Committee
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
Project Board –
Stourport-on-Severn
Facilities



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: ROSE BISHOP

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

I am a Governor at King Charles I School & Sixth Form Centre.

I am Chairman of the Offmore/Comberton Action Group and Chairman of the local PACT (Partners & Communities Together).

I am also a Member of the Disability Action Wyre Forest Group and Affordable Warmth Committee.

Highlights:

An amount of £22,000 has been raised this year towards new play equipment for the Borrington park.

We are now working towards an Eco project with King Charles Lower School in a rare habitat on the Comberton Estate and have funded the local allotment group an amount of £500 towards security fencing.

Special Knowledge:

-

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

96%.



Ward Information:
Offmore & Comberton

Political Group:
Liberal

Committee Membership:

Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Council, Ethics & Standards, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Parking Review Phase II Review Panel.



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: ARTHUR BUCKLEY

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

I travel round the ward on a regular basis and if I see or hear of anything that requires action, I notify whoever is appropriate. Also, I take any opportunity to meet local residents, respond to telephone calls and contacts and take action where necessary.

Highlights:

I received complaints about cars being parked and sold in a lay-by and I had the cars removed.

Special Knowledge:

Was a small business owner.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

85%.



Ward Information:
Wribbenhall

Political Group:
Conservative

Committee Membership:
Corporate Resources
Scrutiny Committee,
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
Licensing &
Environmental,
Treasury Management
Review Panel,
Wyre Forest Highways
Partnership Forum



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: JOHN-PAUL CAMPION

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

This past year has been an interesting and challenging year in Sutton Park with a diverse range of issues presenting themselves. During this year, we have seen issues raised in relation to anti social behaviour, speeding, planning, economic regeneration and recycling but to name but a few. I have worked closely with my colleagues Cllrs Onslow and Hart to ensure that we engage effectively as a team with the communities we work for throughout the year. We have delivered a regular newsletter informing our local residents as to pertinent issues and our activities as Ward Councillors. We have also met with our constituents as and when required. I have continued to liaise and engage with our public sector partners to help effectively represent the constituents of Sutton Park ward.

Highlights:

In addition to my work as a Ward Councillor, I have also held the office of Leader of the Council during the last year. The past year has been another significant challenge for the Council including significant financial pressure. I have worked effectively with the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team during the municipal year. I am pleased that we have seen a progressive budget proposed, scrutinised and adopted by the Council which will see it remain on strong financial foundations. I am also very pleased to say that the Council has continued to progress the project to deliver a new Council HQ that will save hundreds of thousands of pounds which will enable us to continue to protect services.

I have worked with all Group Leaders through this municipal year whilst not always being able to agree on all subjects, I hope that members will agree that communication has improved. I have participated fully in the Council's scrutiny function and continue to welcome scrutiny's involvement in police development.

Special Knowledge:

I have an educational background in Information Technology attaining a Bachelor of Science in Business Information Systems. I also have a wide experience of the private sector.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

90%.



Ward Information:
Sutton Park

Political Group:
Conservative
(Leader of the Council)

Committee Membership:
Appointment & Appeals,
Bewdley Museum Management Committee, Cabinet, Corporate Performance Clinic, Council, Group Leaders Meeting, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Planning, Transformation Board



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: STEPHEN CLEE

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

In the last 12 months I have been an active Ward Councillor.

Ward activity is on a daily/weekly basis with casework letters and emails resulting from regular newsletter distribution. I leaflet every door in my ward keeping my residents updated on local issues. That's 4,000 leaflets each time.

I am a Cabinet Member working with the Planning, Economic and Regeneration brief. Economic Development continues to play a major part in Wyre Forest District especially during the current national economic downturn. We have to remember that we have, in Kidderminster alone, over 850 businesses within the Town Centre, Crossley Retail Park, Mill Street and Comberton Hill areas.

Highlights:

During the year the Planning and Regulatory Services Directorate has had a very active time with the highlight being ourselves hosting the North Worcestershire Economic & Regeneration shared service with Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils.

Special Knowledge:

-

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

87%.



Ward Information:
Bewdley & Arley

Political Group:
Conservative
(Cabinet Member for
Planning & Economic
Regeneration)

**Committee
Membership:**
Bewdley Museum
Management
Committee,
Cabinet,
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational Foundation



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: NATHAN DESMOND

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

My main focus of work in Oldington and Foley Park over the last year has been to continue to improve the quality of life for all residents.

I have focused on facilitating the improvement of road surfaces and pavements, clearing up litter hot spots and helping to tackle anti-social behaviour.

In addition, I have responded to and carried out a vast quantity of case work on many issues that have helped to aid and improve residents' quality of life.

Highlights:

This year I have had five lighting columns installed in the alleyway between Beauchamp Avenue and Lisle Avenue. This was first raised as an anti social behaviour issue at a local PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting.

I have also been able to get new pavements laid in Avon Road and Sutton Park Road.

I have had the green light for double yellow lines to be installed at the corner of Beauchamp Avenue and Blount Terrace. This was also raised at a PACT meeting because of parking problems.

I have had the Old Garage Site on Jubilee Drive cleared of all rubbish and fly tipping and had the entrance secured by having a barrier installed.

I have had all the overgrown bushes cut back along Goldthorn Road.

I have also given £3,500 from a pot of money for Positive Activities for Children to the YMCA Club to run after school activities at Birchen Coppice Primary School

Special Knowledge:

I have a degree in History and Politics which helps my understanding of the intricacies of politics on a national and international level. I also help run the family business in industrial and commercial flooring which gives me insight into challenges and pressures of the private sector.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

81%.



Ward Information:
Oldington & Foley Park

Political Group:
Conservative
(Cabinet Member for Resources)

Committee Membership:
Appointment & Appeals
Cabinet Council
Kidderminster Educational Foundation



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: HELEN DYKE

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

As usual it has been another busy year in Aggborough and Spennells, plenty going on and plenty to do.

As a panel member for the PACT Meetings (Partner and Communities Together), I have attended the meetings for this year. At these meetings residents have asked for action on an assortment of issues such as litter, dog fouling, speeding, fly tipping, anti-social behaviour and pot holes and poor road surfaces. We have a very positive and active PACT Chairman who contacts the various agencies for responses to the questions raised by residents and Councillor Peter Dyke and I in our role as District Councillors take away issues to deal with. We use our regular Newsletters to advertise the dates of meetings and to give updates and reports back on items raised.

For the past 2 years I have joined with residents to take part in Community Litter Picks around Aggborough and Spennells and I was hoping to expand this idea by re-invigorating a community group that had existed in past years. With this in mind, late in 2010 I facilitated a meeting of interested residents including representatives from the local PTA, The Friends of Cobham Woods, Community Housing, the Chairman of PACT and myself. We met one evening to see if there was a way forward and the initial get together was a great success and future meetings and venues were planned straight away. Since that initial meeting things have moved on in a very positive way, the group has renamed itself (it is now called Aggborough and Spennells Community Correct), adopted a constitution, opened a bank account and elected officers and has established a web site which is updated on a regular basis by one of the members of the group. Group members still take part in Litter Picks and the younger members recently went to County Hall to receive a Try-Angle Award for their litter busting work in the community. Many other activities have taken place such as a Community Christmas working with the PTA at Heronswood School and an Easter Extravaganza on Spennells Playing Field (thanks to WFDC Parks Department for their help with that one). Further activities are being planned at the moment. As treasurer of the group, I do play an active part but all the hard work is done by local residents who enjoy working to improve the community in which they live.

Case Work is still very important to me and I continue to deal with a wide range of ward issues throughout the year including-much needed road and pavement repairs, tree maintenance, parking issues, litter, fly posting and fly tipping, dog fouling, anti-social behaviour, housing issues and many many more.



Ward Information:

Aggborough & Spennells

Political Group:

Independent

Committee

Membership:

Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (Chairman), Corporate Performance Clinic Review Panel, Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee, Council, Ethics & Standards, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Licensing & Environmental Committee, Local Development Framework Review Panel, Planning, Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel, Transformation Board Treasury Management Review Panel Wyre Forest Highways Partnership Forum



Working with Councillor Peter Dyke, I continue to keep residents informed with regular editions of our Newsletter. We have tried holding surgeries but have found that residents prefer us to either visit them or communicate by telephone or increasingly, email.

Outside Bodies:

- Community Governor at Heronswood Primary School
- LEA Governor at Comberton Primary School
- Charter Trustees of Kidderminster
- Member of the Corporate Parenting Group representing Wyre Forest at County Hall, this group meets monthly
- Treasurer of Ascc (Aggborough & Spennells Community Connect)

Through my paid employment I am

- Chairman of Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership
- Vice-Chairman of the Safer Communities Board
- Chairman of the Integrated Offender Management Strategic Board
- Chairman of the Town Centre Community Safety Group

Highlights:

I think that my proudest achievement is being in the position to be able to facilitate the initial meeting of local residents to form the new community group for Aggborough and Spennells. This group has been a fantastic success and moves on from strength to strength and is a credit to local residents and the community.

Special Knowledge:

-

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

86% (subject to the Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel meeting to be held on 17th May 2011).



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: PETER DYKE

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

In the past twelve months I have continued to work with local residents to resolve issues that affect their daily quality of life such as litter and fly tipping problems and potholes. A lot of issues raised by residents mean that I have to liaise with the County Council on a regular basis.

I continue to deliver newsletters around Aggborough and Spennells on a regular basis. This is a good way of keeping people in our ward informed and aware of what is going on in and around the ward. It also carries full contact details for both myself and Councillor Helen Dyke.

Highlights:

-

Special Knowledge:

As a Community Neighbourhood Warden working for the local housing company, I attend TCC (Tenant Consultative Committees) and PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting and also attend the Community Action Newtown meetings.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

58%.



Ward Information:

Aggborough & Spennells

Political Group:

Independent

Committee Membership:

Corporate Plan Development Review Panel, Council, Ethics & Standards, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Kidderminster Educational Foundation Working Group, No Barriers Review Panel, Project Board – Stourport-on-Severn Facilities



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: NICKY GALE

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

This year I have dealt with enquires from people in my ward on the following matters :

The lack of disable access on First Buses , the removal of a dead animal form the nature reserve ,the little Red Trucks using Piggy Ally ,anti-social behaviour happening in various parts of the ward , the litter in various areas in the ward , damp issues in property , disputes between neighbours ,

Overcrowding and damage to bus shelters.

I have also attended training as part of being a board member on the Community Housing Group I have also attended meetings as a committee member .

I continue to be on the governing body at Birchen Coppice Primary and have continued to go into school regularly.

I am still PACT (Partners and Communities Together) chair and continue to bring forward issues that are arising within the community

I attend meeting with Oldington and Foley Park Local Management Board

I have attended tenants committees , I have also taken part in walkabouts within my ward, I have taken part in two tidy up days; one of which was fancy dress , I have also taken part in tree planting at Woodbury Road play area

I have taken part in a street collection for Help For Heroes

Highlights:

In my first year it has been a steep learning curve for me I have enjoyed learning all the new skills needed to help me preformed as an effective Councillor.

Seeing the new Birchen Coppice Primary School completed and seeing what a huge difference it has made to everyone who uses it and the look on the faces of the first children to enter it on that first morning as they went into their classroom for the first time

Being able to take part in the decision making processes for the District Council.

Special Knowledge:

Knowledge of the area and getting to know more people who live within the ward .

The abilities to be able to listen to their concerns , being approachable

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

97%.



Ward Information:
 Oldington and Foley Park

Political Group:
 Conservative

Committee Membership:
 Budget Review Panel,
 Corporate Resources
 Scrutiny Committee,
 Council,
 Kidderminster
 Educational
 Foundation,
 Parking Review Phase
 II Review Panel,
 Treasury Management
 Review Panel



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: B T GLASS

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

Being an active member of Partners and Communities Together (PACT) for Lickhill & Mitton, I spend quite a considerable amount of time doing activities that result from these meetings.

My shop in the High Street, Stourport acts as a surgery for people in both Lickhill and Mitton wards. I also still co-ordinate the Stourport Stop Watch in conjunction with the police to make it a safer place to live and shop.

Highlights:

This year I have mainly solved problems in my ward, i.e. roadworks, problems in Lickhill Park, drainage problems, housing problems, etc.

Special Knowledge:

-

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

55%.



Ward Information:
Lickhill

Political Group:
Independent
Community & Health
Concern

**Committee
Membership:**
Audit,
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
Licensing &
Environmental.



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11****COUNCILLOR: DOUGLAS R GODWIN****Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:**

My name is Douglas Godwin and I have had the honour of representing Rock Ward on Wyre Forest District Council for the last three years. Over the past twelve months, I have also been an active member of the Rock Parish Council, which I have been on for the past seven years, this helps to keep me informed about local matters.

My principal employment is as a Solicitor in commercial practice but this also gives me a better understanding of the legal implications of the actions of the Council and rights that our communities enjoy. I travel around the Ward every weekend and visit numerous constituents either to deal with particular problems or just to say, "Hello I am here, can I help?" I have also attended Parish Council meetings in Bayton on matters of concern to both parishes.

Every month I write a article for the local magazine, Rock and District News, here I report on my activities during the past month and keep residents up to date with Council business in and around Wyre Forest, along with national points of interest and reports from the County Council.

I try to attend as many social events as my work will allow which including Rock Church services and village fetes, shows, pantomime, horticultural shows and art shows etc.

Luckily I have a supportive family, which means we attend such functions together and I believe this demonstrates that I genuinely am interested in the Ward and my family care about the people living there and what is happening to the community as a whole. My family and I attend the annual Remembrance service and other church services and events held at the five churches within my Ward including the St Georges Day Service for the Scouts and funeral services for residents of the Ward (work permitting). I visit those I know are in the more isolated places, or have special needs.

I have regular contact with the Scout and Guides and other groups within the community. I provide advice via telephone, e-mail and letters on matters including; planning, highways and rights of way, environmental concerns including drainage and sewer problems, farming and agricultural problems, waste disposal and fly tipping, recycling and refuse collection, health problems and access to services at District and County level, dealing with abandoned cars, police and security issues, some matters are referred to County Council, the Housing Association, NHS Trusts, or Central Government Departments or our MP.



Ward Information:
Rock

Political Group:
Conservative

Committee Membership:
Council,
Ethics & Standards,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
Local Development
Framework Review
Panel,
Planning



Highlights:

I sit on the following; Council, Ethics & Standards, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Local Development Framework Core Strategy Review Panel, Planning. These committees take up a lot of time in the evening reading agendas. Planning sometimes involves site meeting to look at a specific problem. I have difficulty in attending these in the week, but often look at the site at the weekend, or in the evening on the way home from work.

Most committee meetings are in the evening and I attend them after work. The Planning Committee is often very time consuming but is one of the District Council's most important functions.

I have also attended meetings on the proposed Energy from Waste Plant (Incinerator) that may be built at Hartlebury. Meetings on developments in the Ward and District concerning the better use of energy and the potential for small-scale power generation. I was very pleased that we are to have the first small scale wind turbine power plant in the District and hope to see more of these in the near future.

I am very glad that the Bliss Gate Playing Field Charity project is up and running with a new management committee. A continuous battle with Severn Trent Water over a particular unpleasant sewage plant over flow in Sugars Lane Far Forest. Dealing with the removal of fly tipping and tyres that are dumped on the roadside and abandoned cars. Obtaining replacement grit bins for those damaged in the past and new bins within the Ward. I have been working with the Council's officers on several planning enforcement matters. Having road drainage repairs done and maintenance of culverts and repair to blocked roadside drains after years of asking!

Special Knowledge:

I am a property solicitor and practice in Bridgnorth and so have a wide experience in planning matters. Born in Mable and brought up in the ward, I have a vast knowledge of my area and its residents and an understanding of rural way of life particularly from a farming perspective. I come from a local farming family so residents know I know what I am talking about and can relate to their concerns both on a business and personal level. My training as a lawyer means I have an insight into the many aspects of the law, which results in me being able to advise my constituents on various problems, which may not be Council related, boundary disputes or matrimonial matters for example.

I have served on the Rock Parish Council for seven years, three as the Chairman and a School Governor for seven years for a primary school in Kidderminster. I have also been active with the Church's in Mable and Rock. (I helped have the bells of Mable church refurbished). I maintain contacts with our MP, Mark Garnier and with neighbouring MP's Harriet Badwin (West Worcestershire) and Billy Wiggins (Leominster). The residents of this Ward know I care about our Ward and its communities and that I have every intention to continue to do so.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

70%.



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: JENNIFER GREENER

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

Governor at Bewdley Primary School. Have been involved in new anti bullying policy and other decisions. Looking at School Development Plan.

Have held surgery at Arley to try and support the rural areas of the Ward.

Sent regular newsletters informing of Council matters.

Member of Bewdley Town Council, act as a consulting body on town planning issues and local improvements

Regularly attend Bewdley Development Trust's Environment and Town Centre Group.

Board Member of Wyre Forest Community Housing, sitting on the Sheltered Housing Board and the Worcestershire Telecare Board. Have attended training sessions for board members and am on the Supporting People Working Group.

I also represent the Council on the Kidderminster and District Youth Trust.

Highlights:

The refurbishment of the Wyre Hill Play Area, talking to users and supporting the improvements along with the Town Council who pick up the maintenance costs.

Being a part of the Parking Review which agreed on equitable charging and conditions for Bewdley.

Visiting Portishead which is a regeneration scheme on a large site which was previously waste land and an old gas works. It was inspiring to see a vibrant housing and social area brought about by collaboration between partners with a joined-up approach.

Being elected a Town Councillor and knowing I can help in supporting the town I represent at District level.

Special Knowledge:

I was a Health professional for thirty eight years and have a wide knowledge of the area and its residents. As well as my professional qualifications and knowledge of disability issues I have had training in counselling skills, customer care and interviewing skills, a supervisory and management diploma, risk management and palliative care.



Ward Information:
Bewdley & Arley

Political Group:
Conservative

Committee Membership:
Bewdley Museum Management Committee, Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Corporate Performance Clinic Review Panel, Corporate Plan Development Review Panel, Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee Council, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Licensing & Environmental Committee, No Barriers Review Panel, Parking Review Phase II Review Panel, Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel



I have been active in Scouting for over twenty five years and have extensive experience of working with adults and children including Safeguarding. I have completed all the rigorous training required and am a Training Advisor for adults and a member of the Appointments Advisory Committee which screens all adults wishing to work with young people and also deals with disciplinary issues.

I have lived in Bewdley since 1973 so know the town well.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

84% (subject to the Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel meeting to be held on 17th May 2011).



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: IAN HARDIMAN

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

I have responded to many varied concerns by residents including highway problems, boundary disputes, benefit entitlement, disability care, disabled parking permits and planning queries. I have attended the Habberley Tenants committee meetings and the Area 1 Community Housing meetings, in addition to attending the local PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meetings where I helped resolve issues raised by residents. I am a committee member of the Sports and Leisure committee which meets regularly with D.C. Leisure who manage Wyre Forest Leisure Centres and swimming pools. I have circulated regular Newsletters and provided residents with the opportunity to attend a Surgery with our MP within the ward.

I serve as a School Governor of St. John's Primary School where I am Chairman of the Premises committee.

Highlights:

I have had many highlights achieved by perseverance in helping ward residents whose kind thanks have been very rewarding and encouraging. One particular case was a situation in which a local resident was entitled to benefits which they were not receiving. Through my co-operation with other agencies, the appropriate benefits were provided.

Special Knowledge:

I believe that I engage well with residents and that they in return find me approachable. My considerable supervisory / management experience in problem solving equips me well to resolve problems efficiently. I have also taken advantage of councillor training provided by WFDC.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

96%.



Ward Information:
 Habberley & Blakebrook

Political Group:
 Conservative

Committee Membership:
 Audit,
 Community &
 Regeneration Scrutiny
 Committee,
 Council,
 Kidderminster
 Educational Foundation



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11****COUNCILLOR: PAUL HARRISON****Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:**

As a Ward councillor, my main activities have been aimed at providing a service to the residents of Greenhill Ward by keeping them informed about local issues and responding to their complaints and enquiries. Much of this work is based around the delivery of the Greenhill Matters newsletter.

Ward Councillors are invited by the Community Housing Group, the main social housing partner of the Council, to attend the meetings of the Tenant Consultative Committees (TCC) which involve their wards, and I have attended all four meetings of the Greenhill Tenant Consultative Committee (TCC), and two meetings of the Aggborough and Spennells Tenant Consultative Committee (TCC). It was not possible to attend both of the Annual Meetings of these bodies as they occurred at the same time.

West Mercia Police invite Councillors to attend PACT meetings (Partners and Communities Together) and I have attended meetings of the Greenhill Ward PACT. I have attended two of the four meetings of this body.

I am a Local Education Authority appointed member of, and have attended meetings of, the Offmore Primary School Governors and their committees.

As a Wyre Forest District Councillor representing a Kidderminster ward, I am a member of the Charter Trustees of the Town of Kidderminster. I have attended meetings of this body, including robed public meetings in support of the Town Mayor, such as:

- Mayor Making
- Mayor's Sunday
- Remembrance Sunday.

During this year I chaired the Treasury Management Review Panel. This scrutiny panel considered the investment policy of the Council in the light of the Icelandic banking crisis and served to enlighten members in this technical financial area.

I have been a member of the board of the Horsefair, Broadwaters and Greenhill Partnership since its inception in 2003. This year I have taken part in the BIG Lottery Steering Group which the HBGP have set up as the group which will aid community groups to access lottery funding which will see a million pounds channelled to the local community over the next ten years.



Ward Information:
Greenhill

Political Group:
Conservative

Committee Membership:
Corporate Resources
Scrutiny Committee,
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
Licensing &
Environmental
Committee,
Planning,
Treasury Management
Review Panel.



Highlights:

-

Special Knowledge:

-

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

100%.



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: MARCUS HART

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

My main focus of work within the Sutton Park Ward during the last 12 months has been to continue to represent all of the Electors of Sutton Park.

I have carried out a voluminous amount of case work by email, letter, phone calls and in person on a variety of topics. I have engaged within the community by delivering regular newsletters throughout the year and by attending residents meetings.

I have engaged in a number of community activities as I am the Assistant Group Scout Leader of 15th Kidderminster Habberley Scout Group.

I sit on the Governing Body of Sutton Park Primary School and Baxter College, and also the Temporary Governing Body of the new Special School.

I also attend the Friends of Brinton Park meetings whenever I can which is a community group set up by interested residents surrounding Brinton Park and they carry out projects within Brinton Park. This is supported by Wyre Forest District Council.

I have assisted residents' groups within the Ward, namely the Hillcrest Residents' Association and given them considerable support in local issues, in particular regarding highways and planning applications.

Whenever I am able, I also attend the Wyre Forest Community Housing Tenants Consultative Committee Meetings within the Sutton Park area.

I also sit on the PACT (Partners and Communities Together) Meeting Committee as the Ward District Council representative and I attend as many meetings as I can.

I work with my two ward colleagues, Councillor John Campion and Councillor Tracey Onslow on all issues in the ward

In the last year 333 letters have been written plus internal memos and emails to and from constituents have been sent.

Highlights:

It is difficult to pick one specific highlight throughout the last year. However, one would be seeing the newly built Sutton Park Community Primary School. A valuable community asset in the heart of the ward.



Ward Information:
Sutton Park

Political Group:
Conservative
(Cabinet Member for
Housing &
Environmental Services)

**Committee
Membership:**
Appointments &
Appeals,
Cabinet,
Council,
Ethics & Standards,
Kidderminster
Educational Foundation,
Planning.



Special Knowledge:

The specialist knowledge I have is from my professional training as a solicitor. I do find this has helped me, particularly when sitting on the Planning Committee, whilst I am not by any means an expert in planning law, I did study some at university and do understand the general principles which I have found assisted me greatly in determining what is and is not a material planning consideration.

I also sit on the Ethics and Standards Committee and find that my legal background has helped me in respect of this. Again, I sit on the Appointments and Appeals Committee and my legal training has helped me tremendously to be able to play a positive role on this committee.

Also, as a solicitor who specialises in criminal law, advocacy is a big part of my job and therefore speaking at Council meetings comes a lot easier.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

83%.



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: PAULINE HAYWARD

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

I am involved in the following:

Litter picking initiatives, Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings, public meetings in church over planning development, Parish Planning meetings when called, tenants meetings, regular meetings regarding Gypsy encampment at Churchill, regular attendance at 3 village churches, attending Parochial Church Council meetings, 3 different Parish Council meetings, local village fete, church fete. I am a member of Churchill Church Penne and Bennett Charity.

Highlights:

I still attend meetings regarding the Gypsy encampment when called, consulting with officers regarding the car parking problems. Consulting with Officers regarding the Millennium Green problems with dog litter.

Special Knowledge:

29 years as Councillor for Wyre Forest District Council.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

76%.



Ward Information:
Blakedown &
Chaddesley

Political Group:
Conservative

Committee Membership:
Corporate Resources
Scrutiny Committee,
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
Licensing &
Environmental
Committee,
Parking Review Phase
II Review Panel



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: MALCOLM HAZLEWOOD

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

I am involved with several activities within the community and available for counselling at any time, as such I do not tend to hold dedicated surgeries.

I have involvement with Wolverley Memorial Hall as a committee member, (currently Vice Chairman).

I also serve on the local Wolverley & Cookley PACT (Partners and Communities Together) committee.

I am a member of the Wolverley "Flood Action Group" which is a sub committee of the Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council.

Also I am a coordinator for the Kingsford leg of the "Neighbourhood watch".

With the issues surrounding the traffic problems in Wolverley village I became a member of Friends of Wolverley Group, which is a representative group from within the village of Wolverley dedicated to resolving the serious traffic congestion experienced in the village during school term time.

I am a regular attendee of the Wolverley Tenant Consultative Committees (TCC) and the "estate walkabout"

More locally I am the chairman of the "Kinverdale Residents Association" which we formed to maintain the rights of the residents of this "Mobile Home Park".

Highlights:

-

Special Knowledge:

Having been a member of the District council for seven years, I have been fortunate to receive training in many aspects required to participate in local government building up knowledge of Planning legislation, economics in respect to setting budgets and also forward planning for the economic well being of the area.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

88%.



Ward Information:
Wolverley

Political Group:
Conservative

Committee Membership:
Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Council, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Local Development Framework Review Panel.



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: ANNE HINGLEY

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

In my six years as a Franche ward Councillor, I have continued to keep in contact with residents through our regular Franche Matters newsletter, personal contact through home visits, phone calls and emails.

Through the newsletter I have started a campaign for the resurfacing of Mill Street, Kidderminster asking for the support of the Community.

I have established a working partnership with police officers through the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings

I joined the first litter pick with the newly formed Franche Community Team based at the Franche Evangelical Church in Chestnut Grove, Kidderminster.

I am a Governor at Franche Community School.

I am a Governor at St Catherine's Church of England School, Marlpool Lane, Franche.

I am a Trustee of Claire Witnell and Blount Almshouses, Wilton Ave, Franche.

I attend Community Housing Tenants meetings and walkabouts.

I am a Charter Trustee of Kidderminster.

Highlights:

A Lengthsman scheme set up to keep the verges and footways in Franche tidy.

Majority of roads now resurfaced with the added safety of new street lighting on the main roads through Franche.

Youth facilities completed on the open community space at White Wickets, Kidderminster.

Improvement in waste collections with use of ONE bin for all recycled items.

Special Knowledge:

- *Leadership and business skills in the private, public and voluntary sector.*
- *University of Life experience.*
- *Committed community involvement from childhood to present time*
- *Particular interest in health and social issues.*

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

100%.



Ward Information:
Franche

Political Group:
Conservative
(Cabinet Member for
Legal & Corporate
Services)

**Committee
Membership:**
Appointments &
Appeals,
Cabinet,
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: JOHN HOLDEN

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

I am a governor of St Wulstan's RC Primary School and also Hartlebury CofE Primary School representing them on their internal finance committee.

I have worked closely with Tesco in securing the flood plain from vehicle access.

I have organised a consultation evening with Taylor Wimpey with regard to future planning applications to build houses.

I have responded to letters and emails along with phone calls.

I am constantly representing the people of Stourport on scrutiny committees and the Project Board - Stourport-on-Severn Facilities.

Highlights:

The opportunity to chair a Steering group (which is non political), looking at suitable venues for the towns Civic amenities. This hopefully, will give the chance of Asset Transfer to the community. Focus Groups have been set up to encourage volunteer groups with a view to taking ownership and map the future for the people of Stourport. Two Focus Groups have been formed covering the Arts and Theatre among with leisure facilities.

Special Knowledge:

Having had external training in Chairmainships and I now chair the Audit Committee, and the Stourport Facilities Board.

I am also the editor and writer of the Conservative Newsletters for Stourport-on-Severn.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

94% (subject to the Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel meeting to be held on 17th May 2011).



Ward Information:
Mitton

Political Group:
Conservative

Committee Membership:
Audit,
Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Council, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Parking Review Phase II Review Panel, Project Board – Stourport-on-Severn Facilities, Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel, Sub Committee Project Board SOS Facilities



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: TIM INGHAM

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

Through regular monthly newsletters (Focus) circulated all across Greenhill Ward, I keep in touch with the electorate as part of a Liberal Team of two District Members and a County Member. Issues which continue to affect the public in the past year are street cleanliness, anti-social behaviour.

As a Governor at Offmore Primary School, I remain interested in the consequences of the new build programme. The school is presently using temporary accommodation until the new school is built.

The proposed resiting of the St Georges School entrance on the Birmingham Road has also raised some local objections, due to the rebuilding of the school.

I continue to make every effort to be responsive and helpful at all times to the public to whom at the end of day I am accountable as their elected member. My home telephone number and address are readily available and are regularly used by the public with increasing contact through my email address.

Working alongside Councillor Ballinger and the knowledge gained from my mother who was a previous Greenhill Councillor, has enabled our team to have yet another very successful year.

Excellent attendance from the public at the PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meetings both at St. Ambrose and Hoo Road Scout Hut have resulted in positive outcomes to peoples concerns.

Feedback from local residents through our regular newsletter continues to form our direction.

I visit people in their homes and community groups at their request and spend a lot of time talking to residents during the regular distribution of our newsletters.

Ward councillors are invited by the Community Housing Group, the main social housing partner of the Council, to attend the meetings of the Tenant Consultative Committees (TCC) which involve their wards, and I have attended meetings of the Greenhill Tenant Consultative Committee (TCC).

As a Wyre Forest District Councillor representing a Kidderminster ward, I am a member of the Charter Trustees of the Town of Kidderminster. I have attended meetings of this body, including robed public meetings in support of the Town Mayor, such as:

- Mayor Making
- Mayor's Sunday
- Remembrance Sunday



Ward Information:
Greenhill

Political Group:
Liberal

Committee Membership:
Corporate Resources
Scrutiny Committee,
Council,
Ethics & Standards,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
Treasury Management
Review Panel



Highlights:

In my first year as a Councillor, I have enjoyed learning all the new skills needed to help me be as effective as possible. It has been a steep learning curve, but thoroughly enjoyable.

Special Knowledge:

My business/financial background has been a big help to me in carrying out my councillor duties.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

75%.



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: MIKE KELLY

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

Over the last 12 months I have dealt with many enquiries and complaints, most of them from my ward of Habberley and Blakebrook. The main thrust of the complaints are housing based and I have a very good working relationship with Wyre Forest Community Housing.

I also receive many complaints about Highways and Education matters. Unfortunately, the working relationship with the County Council is not so good. I find the County Council a very challenging organisation to work with.

As the only Councillor from the Labour Party in the Habberley & Blakebrook Ward, I have to work on my own. I put out five newsletters a year. This is intended to keep the residents within my ward informed on Council issues and decisions. There is always a return slip on the newsletter with my address and phone number, so that the residents can contact me to request a visit or make any point they wish to make.

I have always done and continue to do walkabouts in different parts of my ward. Meeting people in the street or in their gardens and engaging them in conversation on council issues, this is both popular and effective. I find that people are genuinely interested and want to talk as long as it is not during an election period. I have tried surgeries. They do not work, hardly anyone turns up. I find that newsletters and weekly walkabouts more effective.

I am Group Leader of the Labour party and I regularly attend committees that I am not an official member of.

I am the Council Representative on Kidderminster and District Youth Trust and I am a board member of Wyre Forest Community Housing.

Highlights:

Not for me to say. See electorate of Habberley and Blakebrook.

Special Knowledge:

I have received regular training particularly on Licensing matters. I also receive intensive training from the Community Housing Group.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

91% (subject to the Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel meeting to be held on 17th May 2011).



Ward Information:

Habberley & Blakebrook

Political Group:

Labour

Committee Membership:

Corporate Performance Clinic Review Panel, Council, Group Leaders' Meeting, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Kidderminster Educational Foundation Working Group, Licensing & Environmental Committee, No Barriers Review Panel, Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel, Transformation Board



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: HOWARD MARTIN

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

Board Member of Horsefair, Broadwaters, Greenhill Partnership.

Member of Cleaner, Greener, Safer Group. (Sion Hill).

Attendee at Broadwaters Residents Action Group (BRAG).

Member of "Friends of St Georges Park" and "Friends of Broadwaters."

Attendee at Friends of Baxter Gardens and Springfield Park meetings.

Regular attendee and panel member - Broadwaters PACT (Partners and Communities Together).

Member of HBGP working party on local social and emotional need. Co-ordinator of public meeting on local car park consultation. Representing residents of Waterside Grange on road adoption. Chair of School Governors. Addressing local issues brought to me by residents - including housing issues, local anti-social behaviour matters, neighbourhood disputes, refuse and street scene issues, parks maintenance (working with parks officers on improvement planning), highway issues and other ad hoc matters which may be raised on issues not always directly related to Council.

Currently acting working in support of the Council Masterplan for the Churchfields area and representing local resident and traders interests in opposition to a number of planning applications incompatible with the Masterplan. Regular liaison with local police and community wardens on local issues throughout the ward. Regular liaison with church leaders and local schools in the community. Regular liaison on local matters with officers of Vestia.

Highlights:

The success of Friends of St. Georges Park receiving an award for "bottom up" community involvement in regenerating the park and the subsequent visit of HRH The Duke of Kent in March.

The national award made to the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Group on behalf of the Sion Hill area under the national standard for local cleanliness.

The potential re-provision of community centre facilities at Upton Road in conjunction with YMCA. The decision to retain Broadwaters Drive car park as a free facility for local residents after a full period of consultation between Council and the Community.

The award of "Big Local" lottery funding to the area which will impact positively in an area of high need.

There is increasing evidence that the community is becoming increasingly involved in local groups and consequently this is having a positive affect in helping to improve the quality of life in parts of the are



Ward Information:
Broadwaters

Political Group:
Labour

Committee Membership:
Audit,
Corporate Plan
Development Review
Panel,
Corporate Resources
Scrutiny Committee,
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
No Barriers Review
Panel,
Parking Review Phase
II Review Panel



Special Knowledge:

A business background in central government over many years in economic development and regeneration throughout the West Midlands. Expertise in Employment Law and Equal Opportunities Legislation. A post graduate diploma (DipCounc) in Counselling & Psychotherapy – increasingly useful as a Ward Councillor. Plus the knowledge and expertise built up on a host of matters over nearly 30 years as a trade union representative and the last 10 years as a local councillor.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

85%.



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: DANIEL MCCANN

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

During my first year as Councillor for Franche I have found it to be extremely diverse with varying issues like parking, speeding, anti social behaviour, litter and potholes to name a few.

I have worked closely on common issues in with my colleagues Councillor Anne Hingley and Councillor Jeff Baker.

I have attended Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings to hear concerns and keep local resident informed of what is going on.

I have attended the Franche Tenant Association to any listen to any concerns and updated local residents.

As Vice Chair of Governors at Franche Community Primary School I am taking a real interest in the future development of the school by attending governors meeting and being part of the Access and Inclusions Committee for the school.

Highlights:

During the year personally all of the activities have been a highlight. But if I were to pick a few, the first would be the work that been done as part of the Scrutiny Committee. Throughout the year the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee have reviewed and discussed on a variety of topics and I feel we have played an important part of the Council process.

The second would be the work we continue to do as a governor at Franche Community Primary School.

Special Knowledge:

I have a degree in Business Management, which supports my understanding of the issues faced of a council delivering quality and efficient front line services. This helps me especially on the Audit and Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committees.

I have also attended:

- Audit Training
- Planning Training
- Scrutiny Training
- Housing Training
- Chairmanship Training

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

81%.



Ward Information:
Franche

Political Group:
Conservative

Committee Membership:
Audit,
Corporate Resources
Scrutiny Committee,
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: CHRIS NICHOLLS

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

I hold regular surgeries at Cookley Sports and Social Club, now the new Village Hall and Sports Club. Surgeries are held on the first Saturday of each month.

I have monthly consultations with residents regarding planning applications in conjunction with other parish councillors.

- *Chairman of Wolverley and Cookley Partners & Communities Together (PACT).*
- *Member of Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council.*
- *Governor at Cookley Primary School.*
- *Member of Cookley Surgery's Patient Participation Group.*
- *Trustee of the Sebright Educational Foundation.*
- *A trustee of Wolverley Charities.*
- *Regular attendance at Cookley Tenants Consultative Committee.*
- *Communication with the community via a newsletter.*

I continue to promote the interests of our village community e.g. maintaining the Green Belt and representing residents' views at relevant Council and committee meetings.

I liaise with the police and other outside bodies via PACT meetings to resolve issues for the benefit of our community.

I continue to monitor the Parish Plan.

As a Governor for Cookley Primary School, I continue to assist in its development.

I continue to play an active role in the life of our village.

Highlights:

The major event in Cookley's year was the opening of the new Village Hall and Sports Club.

The Senior Citizens Christmas Party which was held in March was a resounding success so much so that we will hold it in March every year!

Special Knowledge:

Using the wealth of experience I gained as your District Councillor for the last 20 years, to continue to promote your views and interests.

Cookley is a great place to live with a true community spirit.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

88%.



Ward Information:
Cookley

Political Group:
Labour

Committee Membership:
Appointments & Appeals, Council, Ethics & Standards, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Planning



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: FRAN OBROSKI

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

Along with my Ward Colleagues, I produce and deliver our FOCUS Newsletter to every house throughout the year on a regular, at least monthly, basis.

I hold an Advice Centre at Brookside Children's Centre on the first Tuesday in the month from 10-12.

I serve on the local Partners and Communities Together (PACT) Panel and attend all PACT meetings.

I attend meetings of the Offmore and Comberton Tenants Consultative Committee.

I am Treasurer of Friends of St. Georges Park.

As a Member of the Management Committee of the Offmore Comberton Action Group (OCAg), I am involved in organising our local Community Carnival, the Borrington Bash.

I serve as a Governor on Stourminster Special School (Chair), Offmore and Comberton Primary Schools, King Charles 1 High School and the new Wyre Forest Special School (Joint Chair).

I serve as a Councillor Representative on the Management Committee of the Kidderminster / Husum Twinning Committee.

I am Chairman of Wyre Forest Matters Children and Young People's Theme Group which is becoming a local Children's Trust.

Highlights:

-

Special Knowledge:

Over 30 years experience on Planning Committees.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

96% (subject to the Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel meeting to be held on 17th May 2011).



Ward Information:
Offmore & Comberton

Political Group:
Liberal

Committee Membership:
Appointments & Appeals, Corporate Performance Clinic Review Panel, Corporate Plan Development Review Panel, Council, Group Leaders' Meeting, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Kidderminster Educational Foundation Working Group, Local Development Framework Review Panel, No Barriers Review Panel, Planning, Project Board – Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel, Stourport-on-Severn Facilities, Transformation Board



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: TRACEY ONSLOW

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

- Resident-Led Casework
- Delivery of 18,000 leaflets to keep residents informed
- Canvassing residents to talk personally about issues
- Attendance at Friends of Brinton Park Meetings including :
- Waitressing in Brinton Park
- Helping with Easter Trail With Local Schools
- Elected as Chair of Governors of Sutton Park School
- Attending Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership
- Attending Kidderminster & District Youth Trust
- Attending Wyre Forest Children and Young Persons Local Strategic Partnership

Highlights (Just some of them.):

- Handing out Sports Awards
- Attending the Dance Festival
- Helping local children's sports club to get £10k in funding
- Promoting Big Society projects
- Attending the Country & Western Festival
- Seeing the Friends of Brinton Park Lottery Bid evolve
- Helping at the Subway Deluxe Project
- Helping with the Canalside Clear Up Project
- Opening the Orchard & Play Area at QEII Gardens

Special Knowledge:

- Working for local MP gives me an understanding of Government Depts
- As Managing Director of a property company, I understand about efficient working practices and getting value for money
- As a Cabinet Member, I hear about all areas of WFDC
- Being born and bred in Wyre Forest means I have good local knowledge
- As a working mother, I understand the issues faced by families
- Most importantly, being organised and answering all calls, emails and Letters, every time

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

89%.



Ward Information:
Sutton Park

Political Group:
Conservative
(Cabinet Member for
Community &
Partnership Services)

**Committee
Membership:**
Bewdley Museum
Management
Committee,
Cabinet,
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundational,
Project Board –
Stourport-on-Severn
Facilities



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: JIM PARISH

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

Ward work helping constituents with problems relating to education, transport, housing, parking and other confidential matters.

Assisting with the development of play areas. Attending PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meetings and dealing with local issues arising from these meetings. Attending meetings with the youth and sporting organisations including Community Action Newtown. Being involved with WFDC committees and work arising from these.

Highlights:

Working on the steering committee to redevelop the Stourport Civic Centre.

Helping to get funds for playground development.

Special Knowledge:

Experience of being a County Councillor.

As a retired businessman with 50 years of experience of management, I can bring the principles of the commercial world to a public body. Being a people person I can communicate and help resolve problems.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

92%.



Ward Information:

Lickhill

Political Group:

Independent
Community & Health
Concern

Committee

Membership:

Corporate Plan
Development Review
Panel,
Corporate Resources
Scrutiny Committee,
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
Sub Committee Project
Board SOS Facilities



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: JULIAN PHILLIPS

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

During my first three years on the Council I have taken any opportunity I can to learn about local government and how to be effective for the people of Bewdley & Arley.

Between the hours of home working, attending all of the various committees, review panels, public meetings, briefings and other events, I spend an average of at least 12 hours per week on council business. All told this equates to one and a half days of work on top of my full time job and other voluntary non-council related roles.

I sit on the Bewdley Partners and Community Together (PACT) panel and Bewdley Youth PACT panels. I am also a governor at the Bewdley School & Sixth Form. During the town's carnival I have manned the PACT stall along with police officers and Wyre Forest Community Housing wardens.

I have volunteered to various scrutiny panels. Although I was not a member of the panel, I attended every meeting of the Car Parking Phase II review panel as the outcomes of it were going to effect the parking situation in Bewdley.

I also sit on the Bewdley Christmas Festival committee which organises the annual event and I spend the entire day of the event(s) on duty assembling street stalls, marshalling crowds and clearing away the stalls afterwards. Planning is already underway for the 2011 event. Hundreds of voluntary hours are put in to this festival every year. I also represent the Town Council on the committee of Bewdley Twinning Association. I have also assisted fellow Town Council members with organising a "party in the park" to celebrate the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. I am also leading the organisation of the region's very first rabbit show that will be held at Kidderminster Town Hall.

As well as on-going projects I address around 50 individual items of casework each year ranging from highway issues to street scene and antisocial behaviour. I have been involved with Community Action projects such as litter picks and 'tidy days'.

Whilst we no longer hold regular surgeries, my ward colleague and I distribute a newsletter to every household every two months with our contact details. We advertised surgeries in them but the turnout is very small. I regularly patronise the businesses in my ward and attend as many of the public events that I am able to (such as Discover Bewdley, the Carnival, Christmas Festival, October Festival, any special public forums etc.) where residents are welcome to talk to me informally. I feel I am very accessible to my residents. I am also a member of Bewdley Round Table which also supports the above events and is perhaps most notable for the "Santa" collections prior to Christmas.



Ward Information:
Bewdley & Arley

Political Group:
Conservative

Committee Membership:
Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Council, Kidderminster Educational Foundation



As well as being a member of Bewdley Town Council, I attend between four and six Upper Arley Parish Council meetings each year. Between us, my fellow ward councillors and I are present at all of their meetings unless they clash with District Council commitments.

I have represented WFDC at meetings of the Local Government Association's Rural Commission which meets bi-annually at a location to suit its members. This past year the meetings have been held in London and Chester. I would like to add that I have not claimed for travel and parking expenses for these journeys.

Highlights:

As Vice Chairman of the District Council's Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel I feel that the Chairman, Cllr Mrs Dyke, and I did a good job of contributing to the Council's public relations and accountability when hosting public forums regarding important issues such as flooding and social housing policy. The work of panels such as the Parking Review Phase II and Leisure and Sports Review panels are crucial to influencing the day to day running of the council's front line services.

I feel the Youth PACT which is held at Bewdley Secondary school & Sixth Form is now very well established. It meets once every school term and consists of a meeting between myself, the police and the local WFCH warden and two representatives from each year group at the school. The pupils raise very sensible issues that often fall under the 'radar' of the traditional PACT meetings that are only attended by adults. I have made an effort to raise the profile of both PACT and Youth PACT through my news letters and promoting it at public events such as the carnival and Christmas Festival.

In a motion to full council in May 2009, Cllr Campion and I secured a grant to upgrade the facilities of Wyre Hill play area, the regular maintenance of which is currently funded by Bewdley Town Council from their annual parish aid grant from WFDC. I am very grateful to the council's Leisure officers for their determination in successfully securing external funding to add to the grant provided by WFDC. The play area was finally refurbished in March 2011 with brand new equipment replacing the dated swings and is now busier than ever before! This is the council project I am most proud to have been a part of.

Special Knowledge:

Being 26, my experience may not be as vast as that of some of my fellow councillors. I studied Sociology at University of Central England and have worked 9 years in retail and leisure thus I have a good understanding of customer service and public expectations.



I currently work full time for the local Member of Parliament which involves liaising with a plethora of agencies including the Housing Groups, the Police, NHS, armed forces, Child Support Agency, Jobcentre Plus, the County Council and many more. It would be impossible to be an expert in all of these fields but a brief understanding is certainly useful and is occasionally useful in my elected role and vice versa.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

90%.



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: MIKE PRICE

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

Regular Focus leaflets and individual casework.

I serve as Vice Chairman of Governors of St George's CE Primary School and as a Governor of Comberton Primary School.

I have attended Offmore and Comberton Action Group (OCAg) and served as Vice-Chair, where I also serve on a sub group planning a fourth community event to take place in July 2011 on Borrington Park. I have attended Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings for Offmore and Comberton and also Tenant Consultative Committee (TCC) meetings.

I attend a monthly advice centre meeting at The Children's Centre in Borrington Road, Kidderminster.

Highlights:

-

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

97%.



Ward Information:
Offmore & Comberton

Political Group:
Liberal

Committee Membership:
Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Council, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Licensing & Environmental Committee.



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: KEN PROSSER

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

Most of the Ward activity, in common with many other Councillors, I suspect, has related to the potholed state of the roads. I have however dealt with many other issues raised by residents. Included in outside activities formed part of the Committee to scrutinise new car parking arrangements and recently appointed to represent WFDC on the Wyre Forest GP Commissioning Consortia Advisory Group.

Highlights:

Ensuring that screening trees planted on Habberley Play Area were evergreen rather than deciduous as had been proposed by Community Housing thus ensuring screening all the year round. Hopefully getting some commitment, with the support of Councillor Hart, to at long last get Selba Drive resurfaced. This was ignored when the remainder of the adjacent Habberley Estate was resurfaced some 18 months ago.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

91%.



Ward Information:

Habberley &
Blakebrook

Political Group:

Conservative

**Committee
Membership:**

Audit,
Community &
Regeneration Scrutiny
Committee,
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
Parking Review Phase
II Review Panel



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11****COUNCILLOR: MIKE SALTER****Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:**

I have advised residents on various queries. I have also been involved in Stourport Forward, Elizabeth Mills Community Centre, Age Concern, Stourport Town Council, Wilden Village Hall and Stourport Carnival Committee.

Highlights:

All the following are in the Mitton Ward – Tesco, Arab Investments, Vale Road Car Park, Parsons Chain Development, Civic Centre, Churchill Development, road and sewerage maintenance, Hartlebury common, gypsy and traveller sites in Sandy Lane and the concern between business people in the area. Millfield Estate roads still not made up. Constant calls from residents regarding damage to cars, etc. Traffic in the town – no help from county. Taylor Wimpey new build power station.

Special Knowledge:

I know my town well and obviously the residents contact me direct to explain what is taking place and the Council's aims. I am a good salesman and use those skills to help the residents in my ward to overcome difficulties.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

98%.



Ward Information:
Mitton

Political Group:
Conservative
(Vice Chairman of the Council)

Committee Membership:
Audit,
Budget Review Panel,
Corporate Resources
Scrutiny Committee,
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
Parking Review Phase
II Review Panel,
Planning



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: JAMES SHAW

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

Most Councillors, myself included, are elected under a political banner and part of our role is overtly political. One particular issue during the course of the past municipal year, the construction of new council offices, highlights this point. One of the definitions of "politics" which I quote most often is "the authoritative allocation of resources". What better description could there be for the long debates and eventual decision on this issue in the period from November 2010 to February 2011, committing such a large capital sum to one project? I use this example not to re-open the debate, but to account for much of the time devoted to my council work during these months. To build a case built on strong evidence that had a Planning as well as a budgetary focus was time consuming, involving research and numerous Labour Group meetings in addition to those of the council. And, although I led on the Planning aspect, the time I spent on the issue was considerably less than fellow Labour councillors!

"Politics" is also about the making of policy. The Scrutiny process adopted by Wyre Forest District Council allows all Councillors to make a contribution, albeit sometimes only modest, particularly when there are a number of Councils and/or a range of other agencies involved. Nevertheless, through my membership of the main Community and Regeneration Scrutiny committee in 2010-11, I was part of the decision-making process on many subjects, for example, numerous reports on Housing and Environmental Sustainability. The time need to assimilate facts before the meetings of this committee was considerable. At one recent meeting, there was an appendix of 280 pages to read for one agenda item and one of 80 pages for another.

Arguably, the best opportunities for a Councillor to create policies are through membership of working parties. In 2010-11, I served on several, namely those concerned with the Local Development Framework, the Corporate Plan, Stourport Facilities and the Sports and Leisure Centres review. All but the Corporate Plan work continues into 2011-12.

Of course, the role of a Councillor must include involvement in the local community. For a full thirty years, the Labour Party has kept the residents of Areley Kings informed of local issues through its four issues per year of the "Rose" newsletter, of which I am editor. I do not hold surgeries, but my contact details feature in every Rose. I believe this to be an effective means of communication, because I always have a caseload of local issues brought to my attention by residents phoning, emailing, or stopping me in the street; (my photograph is featured in the Rose!).



Ward Information:
Areley Kings

Political Group:
Labour

Committee Membership:
Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee,
Corporate Plan Development Review Panel,
Council,
Kidderminster Educational Foundation,
Local Development Framework Review Panel,
Project Board – Stourport-on-Severn Facilities,
Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel,
Sub Committee Project Board SOS Facilities.



Problems addressed during 2010-11 included housing accommodation, environmental and anti social behaviour matters.

Within Areley Kings ward, I have continued to be a member of the PACT (Partners and Communities Together) committee and usually have undertaken to deal with one of the three priorities identified at a particular meeting. I served on the Walshes Community Partnership board and on the governing body of St Bartholomew's Primary School, where I chaired its Achievement and Standards committee. I attended Walshes Tenants Committee meetings and continued as a trustee of Areley Kings Village Hall. I look forward to continuing in these community roles in 2011-12.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

96% (subject to the Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel meeting to be held on 17th May 2011).



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11****COUNCILLOR: DIXON SHEPPARD****Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:**

I have continued to be an active panel member of the Lickhill and Mitton PACT (Partners and Communities Together) as well as the two PACT meetings at Stourport High School. I have also continued to serve on the Committee of Campaign Action Newtown (CAN) as well as helping at their "Party in the Park" in September. A lot of time has been spent sorting out the problems at the Elizabeth Mills Centre (formerly Stourport Social Day Centre) following the resignation of the Chairman and other Committee members. I am the Wyre Forest District Council's representative on the Trustee Committee and have also been the President in my capacity as Mayor of Stourport. I have had difficult public meetings to Chair but I am now pleased to report that a new very active Chairman, Karen Butler has been appointed together with some new Trustees, who are determined that the Centre should succeed whilst maintaining most of the current activities, also introducing new ones. The finances need to be kept under close scrutiny, however a recent "bag pack" at the Co-op in Stourport raised nearly £1,500 and there will be a further similar amount to follow from my Mayoral Charity Fund.

Highlights:

The main highlight was the honour of being elected Mayor of Stourport, along with my wife Janice, the Mayoress, we have attended some 140 functions and meetings in Stourport, Kidderminster, Bewdley and Worcestershire. At the dinner in late September to celebrate the Carnival of our twin town Villeneuve-le-Roi, just outside Paris, I managed to deliver a short speech in French.

The second highlight was being re-elected as a District Councillor for Lickhill in May 2010.

Special Knowledge:

My insurance/financial services background continues to be useful on occasions. Whilst never having had any formal training, I do appear to have a knack of bringing "warring parties together" particularly at the Elizabeth Mills Centre.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

83% (subject to the Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel meeting to be held on 17th May 2011). My attendance at Wyre Forest District Council meetings has been affected by my Mayoral duties.



Ward Information:
Lickhill

Political Group:
Independent
Community & Health
Concern

Committee Membership:
Community &
Regeneration Scrutiny
Committee,
Council,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
Licensing &
Environmental
Committee,
Sports & Leisure
Centre Review Panel.



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: KEN STOKES

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

I am constantly working on issues on behalf of my constituents. These include housing matters, rent problems, maintenance issues, parking issues, business issues, street cleaning, benefit matters, advice on Council Tax, road and footpath problems, personal problems of residents and neighbourhood disputes.

I regularly attend PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meetings, Friends of Broadwaters meetings, Friends of Springfield Park, Cleaner Greener Safety Meetings, Tenant Consultative Committee (TCC) Meetings, Kidderminster War Memorial Trust meetings, Board of St. Oswalds C of E Primary School and Kidderminster Youth Trust meetings.

Highlights:

The progress of Friends of Broadwaters and Springfield. The two new panels being added to the War Memorial with 74 additional names. A model of the proposed Policeman in the Pulpit completed.

Special Knowledge:

40 years as a qualified engineer, employed in the following capacity: Project Engineer, Design Engineer, Product Designer, Sales Engineer and Sales Manager.

20 years as a Chairman and Governor of a school.

15 years as a Councillor.

5 years as Chairman of a staff union.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

73%.



Ward Information:
Broadwaters

Political Group:
Independent
Community & Health
Concern

Committee Membership:
Corporate
Performance Clinic
Review Panel,
Council,
Ethics & Standards,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
Kidderminster
Education
Foundational Working
Group,
Planning



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: JOHN THOMAS

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

My main activities during the year have focused around constituents queries trying to help and advise where possible. I have visited numerous constituents to see their problems first hand and with the help of Officers tried to rectify these problems.

I have regularly attended the Areley Kings Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings and worked through problems which have arisen at these meetings with other members. I have attended local Tenants Consultative Committee (TCC) meetings and consulted with tenants and officers of Wyre Forest Community Housing.

In addition I am a member of the Walshes Partnership and the Cleaner Safer Greener group for the area.

Highlights:

Working with others to improve the ward and help as many constituents as possible.

Special Knowledge:

I have attended several briefing and seminars during the year which has enriched my knowledge for working as a Councillor and serving my constituents.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

89%.



Ward Information:
Areley Kings

Political Group:
Independent
Community & Health
Concern

Committee Membership:
Corporate Resources
Scrutiny Committee,
Council,
Ethics & Standards,
Kidderminster
Educational
Foundation,
Parking Review Phase
II Review Panel,
Treasury Management
Review Panel



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: NIGEL THOMAS

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

Within the last 12 months, I have attended to numerous problems within the Areley Kings area and attended most PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meetings and Tenants Consultative Committee (TCC) Meetings. I work with the police, Community Housing Officers and school staff to make our area a better place to live.

Some of the main problems I have encountered have to remain confidential but complaints about illegal fly tipping continue to grow and I do feel it will get more prolific unless new efforts are made to control it.

With the help of my County Council colleagues, we have continued our efforts to control speeding on the Dunley Road and Areley Common, with a limited amount of success.

Highlights:

My main highlight of the year was the closing of the Larford Concrete Works (near the Environment Agency) to the illegal dumping of thousands of scrap tyres. Thus removing the possibility of people on the Walshes Estate having to leave their home if the tyres had been set on fire, and also the risk of pollution into the River Severn.

My other highlight was being made Leader of our Independent Community & Health Concern party.

Special Knowledge:

My skills and experience are of running private companies with other partners and directors and also as an engineer. I have experienced three heart attacks, one cardiac arrest and a triple by pass, so I know and feel for people with health problems and how important our health is to us.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

97% (subject to the Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel meeting to be held on 17th May 2011).



Ward Information:
Areley Kings

Political Group:
Independent
Community & Health
Concern

Committee Membership:
Appointments & Appeals,
Corporate Performance Clinic,
Council, Group Leaders Meeting,
Kidderminster Educational Foundation,
Parking Review Phase II Review Panel,
Sports & Leisure Centre Review Panel,
Treasury Management Review Panel



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: STEPHEN WILLIAMS

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

I have concentrated this year on planning issues having been Chairman of the Planning Committee for 6 out of the last 7 municipal years and during the year I have been a member of the Local Development Framework Review Panel attending all their meetings and site visits.

During the year I have helped the Margaret Delabere Almshouse Trust with forward planning and other matters.

I have attended all meetings of Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council and many of the meetings of Churchill and Blakedown, Stone, Rushock and Broome Parish Councils.

I have worked closely with my colleagues Councillor Pauline Hayward (Wyre Forest District Council) and Councillor Stephen Clee (Worcestershire County Council) to help electors from Blakedown and Chaddesley Ward and others with many and varied problems.

I have attended and contributed to all Group meetings helping to formulate policy.

I am a neighbourhood watch co-ordinator and am up-to-date with all local concerns and make myself available to all people through personal contact or telephone as my number is readily available through local parish magazines.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

100%..



Ward Information:

Blakedown & Chaddesley

Political Group:

Conservative

Committee Membership:

Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Council, Kidderminster Educational Foundation, Local Development Framework Review Panel, Planning



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010/11

COUNCILLOR: GORDON YARRANTON

Ward Activities this year, including outside bodies:

I have used my locally determined funding from Worcestershire County Council and gave £4,500 to Youth Café Bewdley. I have also raised £2,700 to put purpose built vegetable planters into all the primary schools in my ward. I have spent a long time negotiating with the County Council and the residents of Severn Bank Park (private road) for 2 grit bins to be installed and agreed with the quarry to fill them with grit at the cost of £150 each time which they are doing free of charge. I have also negotiated with the County Council, after extensive culvert works in Wribbenhall, to rebuild the sand stone wall at their expense. After long and drawn out negotiations with Worcestershire County Council I had Station Road resurfaced in Bewdley. I also had the repainting of road markings from Canterbury Road down through the severe bends to Habberley Valley. I have regular drop in surgeries at All Saints Church, Wribbenhall and deliver newsletters to my residents to keep them updated on issues I have addressed.

I have used my County Council Highways money and gave £1,800 to one of my parishes and £1,200 to the other parish to enhance what the lengthsman get from the County as they do such a good job in the parishes.

Wyre Forest Community Housing have resurfaced large areas of the road in Vally Close, Lower Habberley.

Highlights:

The highlight of this year has been being Chairman of Wyre Forest District Council.

I have attended many varied functions and have particularly enjoyed attending the concerts at the Town Hall.

We have also had a visit by HRH Duke of Kent.

Special Knowledge:

I was a central heating engineer and I have worked in the building trade for many years. This experience helps me with my role on the Planning Committee both at the District and County.

Attendance Percentage for 2010/11

96%.



Ward Information:
Wribbenhall

Political Group:
Conservative
(Chairman of the Council)

Committee Membership:
Council,
Kidderminster Educational Foundation,
Planning



Cabinet

Annual Report 2010/2011

Report from the Leader of the Council

We have seen significant progress this year on the Council's major projects including the new Council Headquarters where we are now in the final phase with the facility planning to be opened in summer next year.

The Cabinet has considered a wide range of issues this year including some more controversial than others! I am confident that the robust challenge that is provided by Scrutiny enables the Council's policy and decisions to become stronger. I would like to place on record my thanks to the Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees for their attendance and contribution to Cabinet this year.

I am sure that financial constraints will continue to figure largely in the Council's decision making process. I am very proud of the way the Council has adapted, changing quickly to the new economic conditions, and I am confident that the Council will continue to come up with ingenious ways of working to meet those new financial challenges. As I said in last year's report, we will continue to endeavour to provide those quality services that our local residents demand.

The Administration is committed to supporting the Wyre Forest Forward Programme that will see the Council examine its services and operations over the next twelve months to ensure that we are able to continue to provide the services that the local residents need within the financial constraints with which we are now presented.

I would like to place on record my thanks and support from my Deputy, Councillor Marcus Hart, and the Cabinet as we have moved through this last municipal year. The past year has been another challenging one as the Council has sought to continue to re-establish itself in the austere times our society finds itself in.

I would also like to place on record my thanks to the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team for their help and support to the Administration and the whole Council during this past twelve months. The quality of the decisions the Council is able to make is down in no small part to the excellent advice we continue to receive as members from our professional officers.

In conclusion, 2010/2011 has been a year of progress. It has been a year that the Council has adapted and progressed important issues whilst ensuring that we take our communities with us on what will be a challenging road of transformation.

Wyre Forest District Council
Annual Scrutiny Report
2010/2011

Foreword of the Chairman of the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee

The past year has been a challenging time for Wyre Forest District Council and the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee has worked hard to ensure that the decisions that the Council has had to take have been thoroughly scrutinised on a cross party basis.



As Chairman of the Committee I feel that we have had many successes during this period including a detailed and inclusive scrutiny of the Council's budget setting process, the ongoing monitoring of the plans to build a new Council Headquarters, and the appointment of our first Co-opted Member.

Being inclusive of Members, the public, our partners and stakeholders is a vital aspect of Scrutiny; and the Committee has made further progress in empowering Councillors to monitor the Council's progress against its business plan targets by encouraging individual Members to meet with Directors and report back on the progress made against their targets.

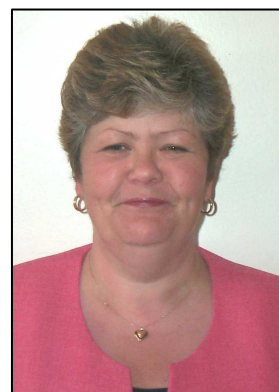
I feel we have been less successful in creating awareness of the work of the Committee amongst the general public and press and encouraging their input. Scrutiny is an open and transparent process and in the new municipal year I would like to encourage the public and press to get involved in the Scrutiny process through attending meetings, or by submitting comments on topics of interest. This challenge is closely related to the work of the Recording Equipment, Blogging and Social Media Review and I hope that as part of this we are able to find new and innovative ways to promote and open Scrutiny up to the public.

I would like to thank the following people for their efforts this year which have contributed to the Committee's successes; Councillor Paul Harrison - Vice Chairman of the Committee, all of the Members of the Committee, Councillor John-Paul Campion - the Leader of the Council, those Officers that have attended or otherwise contributed towards the Scrutiny process, our Scrutiny Officer Ben Craddock and last but not least our Co-Opted Member Tavis Pitt.

Councillor Graham Ballinger

Foreword of the Chairman of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

The municipal year 2010/11 has been very busy for the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. The Work Programme was varied and extensive for every month without exception.



Of particular note was the excellent public participation into the scrutiny of the Council's Car Parking Review Phase 2. Following the publication of a press release and notice on the Council's website a variety of key stakeholders attended the meeting and gave valuable feedback to inform the review.

The review of the Council's Sports and Leisure Facilities is ongoing. As part of this we will consult with local stakeholders and members of the public.

As part of its terms of reference the committee can scrutinise housing and planning matters. This has resulted in the committee reviewing a number of significant policy proposals relating to housing and planning policy including the Local Development Framework and the Worcestershire Housing Strategy.

The Committee also devoted one of its meetings to scrutinising the performance of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership in relation to crime and disorder. Two presentations were delivered by the Community Safety Partnership to update members on initiatives that were taking place.

I have enjoyed chairing the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and have found the work to be most rewarding. I would like to thank the Vice Chairman of the Committee, the members of the Committee and the officers for the support they have given me during the municipal year.

Councillor Helen Dyke

Introduction

Scrutiny at Wyre Forest

During 2010/11 a diverse and challenging workload has been undertaken by Wyre Forest District Council's Scrutiny Committees which has resulted in tangible outcomes and benefits for the District. The two committees consisted of a cross party Membership of backbench Councillors, and also a Co-Opted Member.

Both committees have undertaken a varied workload which has included scrutinising proposals for new or amended policies before their consideration by the Cabinet and Council, undertaking detailed reviews into existing procedures and policy, and monitoring the schedule of proposed decisions as set out in the Cabinet's Forward Plan.

Achievements of the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny of the New Council Headquarters

Detailed scrutiny was undertaken by the Committee to monitor the progress of the Council's plans to build new Headquarters. Update reports from the Chief Executive were provided to each meeting of the Committee, and ahead of the process for appointing construction contractors the Chief Executive and Director of Resources provided a presentation to the Committee which reiterated the financial business case for the project. The outcome of this scrutiny was that all Members had the opportunity to clarify any outstanding queries or concerns regarding the project at the final stage prior to construction.

Directorate Business Plans

To involve the Committee in the scrutiny of Council Performance, small groups of Members chose to monitor the progress of the Council's four directorates against their business plan targets.

As part of this they met with Directors and challenged them over any targets which were overdue or not met. These Members then gave presentations to the November 2010 and April 2011 meetings of the Committee in order to set out their findings and address any areas of concern.

The Committee felt that this was a very valuable exercise which had significantly developed their understanding of performance management issues, and also empowered them to identify and address areas of concern.

Monitoring of Finances

In addition to the work of the Budget Review Panel, Members of the Committee received regular presentations from the Director of Resources which set out the current position of the Council in the light of expected cuts in funding from Central Government. A further update was provided at the April 2011 meeting of the Committee which set out the position of the Council's Icelandic investments, and its creditor status.

The outcome of this exercise was that the Members of the Committee were kept informed with the most up to date information regarding the financial position of the Council ahead of the Budget Review process.

Co-Opted Member

Following consideration and adoption of a protocol for the Co-Option of Members, the Committee voted to appoint hyperlocal blogger Mr Tavis Pitt onto the Committee as its first Co-Opted Member. Mr Pitt brought a new, independent perspective to the Committee and promoted its work to a wider audience through his blog, the Wyre Forest Agenda which is located at: www.wfa.org.uk

Achievements of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Housing

The Committee scrutinised a number of housing topics during the municipal year making recommendations where appropriate to Cabinet and Council. Of particular note was the scrutiny of the Worcestershire Housing Strategy which covered all areas of housing across the County. The Committee recommended that Council adopt the strategy and Council subsequently adopted it in February 2011.

Another housing topic of interest that the Committee scrutinised was the Local Connections Policy. This policy had been developed for affordable housing schemes with the aim of ensuring that residents from within a parish received priority for rehousing in any scheme that was developed. The policy was recommended to Cabinet for adoption and Cabinet adopted it in November 2010.

Review of Parks and Green Spaces

The Committee scrutinised the Parks and Green Spaces Service. As part of the scrutiny exercise Members of the District's Friends of the Parks Groups were invited to the Committee's November meeting to outline the work they were undertaking and their various fundraising activities. The information obtained from the Review was used by the Community and Partnerships Directorate in its reassessment into the way the Council delivered its services in relation to parks and green spaces and measures put forward were adopted by the Council as part of the budget process.

Crime and Disorder

The Committee has responsibility for discharging the Council's Crime and Disorder Scrutiny function. The December meeting of the Committee was dedicated to scrutinising the performance of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership. Two presentations were given, namely the Community Safety Partnership Priorities for 2010/2011 and Community Safety Delivery as part of the Areas of Highest Need Project. The Committee found the presentations to be useful to inform their knowledge and were particularly interested in the priorities that the Community Safety Partnership had adopted namely – Home Security, No Rogue Trader Scheme and the Christmas Campaign. With regard to the Community Safety Areas of Highest Need Project Members learnt about

the priorities within this project namely training and employees, families and young people, resident participation, neighbourhoods and community safety.

Illegal Gypsy Encampments

In September 2010 the Committee intended to set up a review panel to look into illegal gypsy encampments. However, the Localism Bill was imminently due to be published and the Scrutiny Committee agreed to defer the setting up of the Review Panel as Eric Pickles had indicated that there would be new powers contained within the Localism Bill to deal with unauthorised gypsy encampments. Once the Localism Bill had been published it became clear that the anticipated powers to deal with illegal gypsy encampments were not contained within the Bill and the committee decided instead to receive a briefing paper on available powers to deal with unauthorised development.

Review Panels

Review Panels are in depth investigations into issues conducted by Members outside of the formal Scrutiny Committee setting. Their flexibility allows for a wide range of evidence sources, guests, and methods of evidence gathering to be considered. The following review panels have been undertaken in the past municipal year:

Budget Review

With the prospect of significant cuts in funding from central Government, this year's budget setting process was particularly challenging. The Budget Review Panel considered the Cabinet's proposed Financial Strategy for 2011/2014 and this provided the opportunity for Members to scrutinise the proposals in great detail. At the final meeting of the review, alternative budget proposals were put forward by party group leaders which the panel duly considered. The outcome of this review was that the Cabinet's proposed Financial Strategy, and the alternative budget proposals had been considered in great detail, and any areas of concern or queries were able to be clarified ahead of the February meeting of the Council.

Corporate Performance Clinic Review

Originally formed in early 2010, this review panel was reconvened to assess the impact of its original recommendations. Arising from this short review of the Council's Corporate Performance Clinic, Members made a number of recommendations which were intended to maximise the impact of the work of the Clinic and also to increase awareness amongst Members.

Corporate Plan Development Review

A thorough consultation process was undertaken in order to involve key stakeholders in the process of setting the Council's priorities for the period of 2011-2014. Several focus groups were held comprising of Members, Officers, key community stakeholders, partners, and local schools, in order to make the process as inclusive as possible. The review panel set the direction for the Corporate Plan which was subsequently adopted by the Council and came into effect as of the 1st April 2011.

Local Development Framework Review

As the Local Development Framework process evolved further, the review panel continued to play an important role in scrutinising the proposals. Involved from the early stages, the panel scrutinised and influenced both the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document, and Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan Document. Members spent a day visiting the sites identified as potential development sites within the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document, so that they were able to more accurately consider what type of development would be best suited to the sites. Public consultation papers for the two documents are to be considered by the May 2011 meeting of the Council.

Parking Phase II Review

A Review Panel was established in November 2010 at the request of the Cabinet to scrutinise the second phase of the Council's Parking Review. The purpose of the review was to consider the differing charges that had evolved across the 3 towns in Wyre Forest in order to assume a more consistent and rational approach to charges in the three towns.

As part of the review members of the public and traders were invited to attend a meeting of the Review Panel to give their views on the proposals. A mix of Members of the public and traders attended and some useful suggestions were made which helped to inform the Panel's recommendations to Cabinet.

The Review formulated a set of recommendations all of which were accepted, and the changes made came into force in April 2011.

Recording Equipment, Blogging and Social Media Review

This panel is currently ongoing and is tasked with examining whether the Council should allow the public/press to record Council meetings from the public gallery. Also under consideration is whether the Council should broadcast its meetings, and whether it should allow blogging, tweeting, and use of other social media during Council meetings.

Evidence is being sought from other authorities, the press, members of the public, renowned bloggers and campaign groups. The panel is being chaired by the Co-Opted Member of the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee, Mr Tavis Pitt, who himself is a hyperlocal blogger, and is expected to report back with recommendations early in the 2011/2012 municipal year.

Sports and Leisure Centres Review

In March 2011 a Review Panel was established to undertake a full appraisal of the options available to the Council for the provision of sports and leisure facilities. The review was set up as the Leisure Centre buildings and the facilities within them are potentially coming towards the end of their useful life. The current leisure management contract ends in March 2013 and the Review Panel has been tasked with considering the options open to the Council for the future provision of leisure facilities.

The Review is ongoing and will report to the Cabinet in June 2011 with its recommendations.

Treasury Management Review

The Treasury Management review panel have performed a number of duties relating to the scrutiny of the Council's Treasury Management Policies, and also the Council's appointed advisors.

As part of the process of appointing new Treasury Management Advisors to the Council, the panel held a special meeting where they interviewed the firms tendering for this role.

The chosen firm was subsequently invited to provide a training session for the review panel and all Members were invited to attend. This training boosted the Members' knowledge and confidence in scrutinising subsequent proposals to amend Treasury Management Procedures later in the municipal year.

Recommendation Tracking

As Scrutiny Committees can only make recommendations, and do not take decisions, it is important to keep track of what has happened to the recommendations made by Scrutiny.

After recommendations have been made, both Committees have considered feedback from Cabinet regarding their recommendations, so that there was a clear means of tracking the outcome of recommendations.

In addition, the two Committees looked back at the recommendations made in the previous year, so that they were able to examine the progress made in implementing the recommendations. This was carried out twice by both Committees, and there were no concerns raised over outstanding recommendations.

Public and Stakeholder Involvement in Scrutiny

Scrutiny is an important means of involving the community in the Democratic Process. If you have any suggestions or comments for issues affecting your area which you feel Scrutiny could consider, please contact the Democratic Services Team via email: committee.section@wyreforestdc.gov.uk telephone: 01562 732736, or in writing to Democratic Services, Civic Centre, New Street, Stourport on Severn, DY13 8UJ.

More information on Scrutiny at Wyre Forest District Council can be found at <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/cms/your-council-and-elections.aspx>

The Scrutiny Committees:

Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee

Chairman: Councillor Graham Ballinger
Vice Chairman: Councillor Paul
Harrison

Terms of Reference:

The Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which has responsibility for coordinating any issues that overlap the terms of reference of the two Committees.

- Asset Management
- Branding
- Budget & Major Policy
- Communication
- Comprehensive Area Assessment
- Concessionary Travel
- Corporate Plan Review
- Customer Services / Worcestershire Hub
- Emergency Planning
- Equality & Diversity
- Human Resources
- ICT
- Improvement Plan
- Performance Monitoring and Improvement
- Refuse Collection & Recycling
- Scrutiny Support
- Single Site
- Transformational Change

Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Chairman: Councillor Helen Dyke
Vice Chairman: Councillor Julian Phillips

Terms of Reference:

- Scrutinising the local Crime and Disorder Partnership and Responsible Authorities as required by the Police and Justice Act 2006.
- Cemeteries, Parks and Open Spaces
- Children and Young People
- Climate Change
- Community Safety and Accountability
- Councillor Call for Action
- Crime and Disorder Act
- Culture and Arts
- Economic Development and Regeneration
- Health Improvement
- Housing Strategy
- Leisure and Community Development
- Leisure Centres
- Local Development Framework
- Markets
- Older People
- Parking Services
- Partner Agencies and Local Strategic Partnership
- Planning and Sustainable Communities
- Public Conveniences
- Public Health
- Tourism
- Transportation and Highways

Wyre Forest District Council
Ethics and Standards Committee
Annual Report 2010/2011

Foreword by the Chairman of the Ethics and Standards Committee

The Localism Bill places a duty on authorities to shape and maintain high ethical standards but it is local choice as to what a local authority puts in place to achieve this.

The publication of the Localism Bill has concentrated the minds of those involved in ethics and standards on what the future of such committees will be. The Council is keen to promote high standards of governance and will have to decide in the light of the Localism Bill's recommendations what stance it will take on ethical governance in the future.

Reverend J A Cox
Chairman – Ethics and Standards Committee

Activities

The Ethics and Standards Committee met four times during the 2010/2011 municipal year and debated a range of topics including:

- Dispensations
- The Future of Standards for England
- Complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman 2009/2010
- Partnership Behaviour Protocol
- Outcome Hearings Sub Committee meeting
- The Localism Bill and its implications for Ethics and Standards

Members of the Ethics and Standards Committee

Independent Members

Reverend J A Cox (Chairman)

Mrs C A Noons

Mr T J Hipkiss

Mr R Reynolds

Town and Parish Members

Vacancy for Town Council Member

Councillor R Hobson

Councillor J Swift

Wyre Forest District Council Members

Councillor R Bishop

Councillor H E Dyke

Councillor P Dyke

Councillor D R Godwin

Councillor M J Hart

Councillor T Ingham

Councillor C D Nicholls

Councillor K J Stokes

Councillor J Thomas

Terms of Reference

1. Promotes and maintains high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted members.
2. Assists the councillors and co-opted members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct.
3. Advises the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct.
4. Monitors the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.

5. Advises, trains or arranges to train Councillors and co-opted members and on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct.
7. Considers complaints against any member relating to alleged breach of the National Code of Local Government Conduct or such local code as shall replace the National Code, to make findings of fact and decisions in respect of the action to be taken, and where necessary to make recommendations to full Council.
8. Advises and brings forward proposals to the Council on a local Code of Conduct, including provisions which properly reflect the mandatory elements of the Model Code to be produced nationally, once such a code is available.
9. Exercises (1) to (8) above in relation to the Parish Councils wholly or mainly within the Wyre Forest District area and the members of those Parish Councils.
10. Recommends approval and adoption of relevant codes, plans and policies.
11. Oversees the Whistle Blowing Policy.
12. Oversees the complaints handling and Ombudsman investigations.
13. Keeping the operation of the constitution under review so far as it relates to ethics and standards of behaviour.

Local Determination of Complaints

During the 2010/2011 municipal year there has been one case that was referred to the Assessment Sub-Committee which was subsequently referred for investigation and finally a hearing by the Hearings Sub-Committee.

The Hearings Sub-Committee found that there had been a breach of the Code of Conduct and the Member of the Town Council concerned was required to undertake training on the Code of Conduct before she returned to her committee work.

Complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman 2009/2010

The Committee considered a report that outlined the outcome of complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman for the municipal year 2009/2010.

Three complaints had been investigated by the ombudsman and this was the lowest number of complaints received in the past 9 years. Moreover, it was noted that for the fourth year running the Ombudsman had concluded that there had been no maladministration or injustice.

Training

A training session was held in May 2010. The training took the form of an interactive session where the Monitoring Officer asked the participants questions and then the group considered the answers that were given to the questions.

A number of parish members attended and the feedback was very positive on this training session.

Review of Constitution

Pursuant to the Terms of Reference of this Committee the Ethics and Standards Committee will need to make appropriate recommendations to Council to specify new statutory requirements to establish, promote and maintain high standards of ethical governance. The Committee will need to formulate and make recommendations to Council to specify future requirements for ethics under the Localism Bill.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
18TH MAY 2011

**POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK
MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL**

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Cabinet on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Would Councillors please note that the related reports and documents have not been included in the Council Book as they have already been sent to Members via the Cabinet agenda. Copies have been included in the electronic circulation of the Council agenda and a public inspection copy is available on request. The policy documents, referred to below, have been posted on the Council's website. (See front cover for contact details.)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET – 15TH MARCH 2011

ITEM	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL	CABINET MEMBER
Fees and Charges Policy	The Council is asked to consider a report from the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee which outlines a proposed Fees and Charges Policy. RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: The Fees and Charges Policy be endorsed and adopted.	

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET – 19TH APRIL 2011

ITEM	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL	CABINET MEMBER
Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2011-2016	The Council is asked to consider a report which recommends the approval of the Worcestershire Housing Strategy and Associated Action Plan 2011/12. RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: The Worcestershire Housing Strategy and associated Action Plan 2011/12.	

<p>Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework Development Plan Documents and Churchfields Master Plan Preferred Options Consultation</p>	<p>The Council is asked to seek endorsement of the consultation papers which represent the next stages in the Local Development Framework's (LDF) preparation. These being the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) Preferred Options Paper and the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan (KCAAP) DPD Preferred Options Paper. The Council is also asked to agree a public consultation draft Supplementary Planning Document as part of the evidence base and the accompanying Consultation Plan to apply to all three documents.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: The following Local Development Framework Development Plan Documents be approved for the purposes of consultation in accordance with Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, as amended by The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.</p>	
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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
21ST APRIL 2011

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Licensing and Environmental Committee on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

ITEM	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL	CABINET MEMBER
<p>Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Testing</p>	<p>The Council is asked to consider a proposed change to the current licensing conditions relating to the number of annual mechanical inspections of Taxis operating within the District of Wyre Forest.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: To change the current system of mechanical Taxi inspections from the requirement to have 3 annual inspections carried out by the Council's testing station at Green Street and an MOT carried out by an external testing station to 2 annual inspections and an MOT test all carried out by the Council's testing station.</p>	

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
18TH MAY 2011

Boundary Commission

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	-
CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITY:	Delivering Together with Less
CABINET MEMBER:	Leader of the Council
DIRECTOR:	Ian Miller Chief Executive
CONTACT OFFICER:	Caroline Newlands Director of Legal and Corporate Services
APPENDICES:	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider whether to make a formal request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a review of the size of the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **Council is asked to DECIDE whether it wishes to request a review of the size of the council; and, if it does so, to indicate any preferences for the review in terms of outcome and timing.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The size of the council was set at 42 members following the last review which led to The District of Wyre Forest (Electoral Changes) Order 2002, although the council has had 42 members since at least the late 1970s. No account seems to have been taken of significant changes in responsibilities of and expectations on local government over the last 40 years – most notably the transfer of the housing stock to Wyre Forest Community Housing in 2001 and the externalisation of running of leisure centres in 2003. Financial pressures since 2008, in particular the reduction in Government funding for public services from 2011 onwards, is likely to see the Council's net revenue budget fall from £15.9m (after £1.5m of investment income) in 2008-09 to an estimated £13m in 2014-15.
- 3.2 As part of their response to significant reductions in expenditure, and the changed role of councils under the Localism Bill, other councils have already begun to make requests to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to conduct reviews to reduce their size in terms of the number of councillors. For example, Telford and Wrekin submitted a request in December to reduce from 54 councillors to about 40 councillors; and Bromsgrove District Council has also decided to seek a review.

- 3.3 In expectation that it would receive more requests for such reviews, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England published draft procedure notes in *Striking the Right Balance* (November 2010). A request for a reduction of council size would be a Type C review as described in the draft guidance. The final version of the guidance is expected in the near future.
- 3.4 The procedure for conducting a review takes at least 12 months and would involve two rounds of public consultation. By now, therefore, it is already too late for any review to be undertaken and implemented at the time of the next district council elections in May 2012. With county council elections due in 2013, the earliest implementation date of a review would be May 2014. Issues related to timing are considered further below.

Size of the council

- 3.5 The Commission would expect a request for a review based on reducing the size of council to indicate the reduction that the Council envisages. A request should also be accompanied by an explanation of why the council wanted a review, explaining how it would contribute to efficient and effective conduct of business. The Commission is not obliged to conduct a review upon receipt of a request, but it is keen to support local authorities in their pursuit of improvement. The Commission would not consider itself to be compromised should an initial request suggest a specific number – it has discretion about the shape of its proposals and final decisions.

Single-member or multi-member wards

- 3.6 The Commission's review would include proposals for the number and boundary of wards and the number of councillors to be elected for each ward. The Council is not required to express in advance a general preference for or against multi-member wards. The Commission's proposals will set out its ideas and all interested parties (including the Council) would have the opportunity to respond. However the Commission has indicated that, for a council that elects by thirds, its presumption would be for a pattern of three-member wards. Legislation requires it to start from that presumption but does not irrevocably bind the Commission. The Commission is able to recommend wards which are not three-member wards if, in so doing, it can better reflect community identities and interests and sustain effective and convenient local government.

Timing

- 3.7 Separate from the question of the size of the Council, there is a window of opportunity, under existing legislation, for the council to consider during 2014 whether it wishes to change its electoral cycle and move to all out elections in 2015 and every four years thereafter (2019, 2023 etc). The period during which the Council can take such a decision is set by the Local Government and Improvement Act 2007 as between its AGM in 2014 and 31 December 2014: the relevant provision governing this process are sections 32 to 36 of the 2007 Act.
- 3.8 If the Council makes a request for a review, and the Commission decides to undertake one, the Commission would discuss the timing and timescale of the review with the Council. The Commission must consider the commitment of its

resources in the context of its obligations to other authorities and their electorates. The following scenarios would seem to be possible:

- (a) the Council could ask the Commission to implement the new arrangements in 2014. There would be all out elections on the new boundaries in 2014 and, if the Council decided later in 2014 to change its electoral cycle, there would be a further set of all out elections in 2015;
- (b) the Council could ask that the Commission's review be implemented in 2015, when all out elections would be held. Election by thirds would take place in 2014 and the councillors elected then would hold office for only one year – this would be marginally less costly for the Council than option (a);
- (c) as (b), but the Council could ask the Secretary of State to extend the term of office of councillors due for election in 2014 by one year to 2015, using his powers in section 87 of the Local Government Act 2000. While the Secretary of State would have to consider any such request, it is not thought likely that he would agree to do so in the circumstances we are discussing here.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 With all functions and services going through change or review under the "Wyre Forest Forward" programme, it is timely for the Council to consider whether to seek a review of the size of the Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report – preparing responses to the Commission's consultation would be undertaken within existing resources. A reduction in the number of councillors would reduce the total cost of allowances. Depending on timing of implementation, there could be some additional electoral costs in 2014 compared to current plans.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The relevant legislative provisions have been cited above.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An equality impact assessment has been undertaken and it is considered that there are no discernable impacts on the six equality strands.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 The principal risk relates to the management of the review process, which would be the responsibility of the Boundary Commission although the Council would work closely with it in order to ensure a smooth process.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The Council is recommended to consider whether it wishes to request a review of the size of the council; and, if it does so, to indicate any preferences for the review in terms of outcome and timing.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 On this report: Leader of the Council.
- 10.2 The public consultation on the budget, autumn 2010 produced responses from over 500 residents. 72% wished to see expenditure on “members and committee costs” reduced, the highest proportion in the survey backing reduction in expenditure.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Local Government Boundary Commission for England – consultation draft of guidance on procedures for electoral reviews

http://www.lgbce.org.uk/_documents/lgbce-documents/guidance/pabr-and-electoral-review-consultation-nov-2010/electoral-review-final-web-version-nov10.pdf

Local Government and Improvement in Health Act 2007 – provisions relating to district councils changing their electoral cycle

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/28/part/2/chapter/1>