

# Review of Council Plan Priorities 2023 & 2024

**Our vision** is to enrich the lives and aspirations of our residents, businesses and visitors through the provision of efficiently run and high quality services, ensuring that all in need receive appropriate help, support and opportunities.



**Housing**



**Parks &  
Green Spaces**



**Economy &  
Regeneration**



**Community  
Safety**

## Introduction from the Leader



The future for Redditch is exciting not least because we see our masterplan for the regeneration of the town which we are making a reality after securing £15m in Town Deal funding from the Government.

You will see that work is under way to create a community hub, putting public services under one roof and a related plaza redevelopment off Alcester Street.

This shopping and leisure plaza will open up the space, a move which has been commended by independent consultants, and connect the town centre to the Kingfisher, meaning more footfall for our businesses.

All of these plans will create a better place for our residents and visitors to live, work and spend their spare time and of course creating more jobs and building on transport links with a new improved train station.

Auditors have told us that we are in a strong position financially to continue with these ambitious plans, which have also been commended by independent consultants and our peers from the Local Government Association who conducted a review earlier this year. This is down not only to our prudent budgeting but our creative investments and going forward we plough the benefits back into our communities who are the backbone of our Borough.

Delivering services which are important to our residents are our priority which is why I am delighted to introduce this review of our priorities which sets out our future based on what residents have told us through consultations.

We are always looking at continuous improvement so will be inviting feedback on a range of services going forward. We will be undertaking a full review of our Council Plan later this year, please take time to have your say on these and together we can unlock Redditch's true potential.

***Cllr Matt Dormer, Leader of Redditch Borough Council***

## Timeframes (financial years):

- Short term (2023-2024)
- Short to medium term (2023-2025)
- Medium to long term (2024-2026)

### Housing - Short term priorities

<b>1</b>	Completion of 19 new Council homes at Edgeworth Close. Planning permission obtained and work to commence on 6 new Council homes at Loxley Close.
<b>2</b>	Embed new Housing Policies and improve customer response times.
<b>3</b>	Seek to reduce long term and high capital cost voids to enable a quicker turn-around of properties.
<b>4</b>	Work with HOW College, construction department to undertake a VOID for learning/development processes.

### Housing - Medium to long term priorities

<b>1</b>	Identify existing properties for regeneration or additional land sites for the development of new Council housing.
<b>2</b>	Develop and build new Council housing at agreed development sites to achieve 230 new homes by 2030.
<b>3</b>	Delivery of the Housing Capital Investment Programme.
<b>4</b>	Delivery of improvements to increase energy efficiency of Council housing stock to ensure all properties reach EPC C by 2030.
<b>5</b>	Skills/Employment opportunity - involvement of the HOW College, construction department to assist in a project to build a new home and carry out further VOIDs works.

### Parks & Green Spaces - Short term priorities

<b>1</b>	Review grass cutting arrangements to prioritise footpaths and green areas within and connecting the Borough.
<b>2</b>	Review mechanical street sweeping and weed killing arrangements, to ensure there is a consistent, improved quality standard across the Borough.
<b>3</b>	Creation of an accessible wood carve sculpture trail in Morton Stanley Park, including working with the on-site café to produce trail packs.

## Parks & Green Spaces - Short/Medium term priorities

<b>1</b>	Establish and pilot a new model/approach for event delivery that allows local organisations, businesses, and communities to deliver programmes of events and activities supported by the Council.
<b>2</b>	Focus will continue to deliver the leisure strategy with particular emphasis, in the short term on recommendation 8 ' <i>Conduct a detailed assessment of the play value, quality, and accessibility of equipped play spaces across the Borough.</i> ' and start to address any issues identified via the assessments.
<b>3</b>	The leisure strategy recommendations will form the basis of the short/medium term focus (link to leisure strategy).

## Parks & Green Spaces Medium to long term priorities

<b>1</b>	Management plans reviews of the Council's parks and green spaces.
<b>2</b>	Carry out a natural capital assessment of the value of the Borough's parks and open spaces.
<b>3</b>	Develop a plan to identify priorities for delivering further carbon capture and natural capital gains.
<b>4</b>	Continue to focus on delivery of ALL recommendations as set out in the leisure strategy which continues from the short/medium term focus (link to leisure strategy).

## Parks & Green Spaces/Community Safety & Regeneration Short term priorities

<b>1</b>	ReNEW (Rediscover North East Worcestershire) activities: creative community grants distribution, creative digital tourism commission, £1.1m funding applications, branded participation campaign.
<b>2</b>	Creative People and Places community projects.
<b>3</b>	Bring Playing Pitch and Built Leisure Facility Strategies to Council for endorsement forward plan.
<b>4</b>	Management and delivery of Holiday Activity and Food, disability short breaks and multiple health intervention programmes.
<b>5</b>	Complete phase 1 of the new Cemetery project.

## Parks & Green Spaces/Community Safety & Regeneration Medium to long term priorities

<b>1</b>	Completion of the new Cemetery site.
<b>2</b>	Renegotiate the current agreement with Worcestershire County Council for the work conducted by RBC to the landscaping along the highway network on behalf of the County Council. To ensure that we are paid the correct amount and to agree standards of maintenance that improve visibility and community Safety.
<b>3</b>	Submit and develop a 3-year capital bid / programme to enhance estate areas by removal of trees and shrubs and re landscaping of areas to improve visibility and community safety.

## Economy & Regeneration - Short term priorities

<b>1</b>	Council will play an active role in shaping the redevelopment of the train station and public realm improvements at Unicorn Hill and Church Green. Town Hall Hub will be finalised, and redevelopment of Grove Street Police Station site will create an Innovation Centre.
<b>2</b>	Delivery of a “worry free day out” in Redditch Town Centre through capital build of Changing Places Disability Toilet Facilities in Kingfisher Shopping Centre.
<b>3</b>	Invite Executive Committee to consider a reviewed Planning Enforcement Policy.
<b>4</b>	Implement the Enforcement Services business case if endorsed by Executive Committee.

## Economy & Regeneration - Medium to long term priorities

<b>1</b>	Consider all options for redevelopment of Winyates, Matchborough and Woodrow district centres, including all funding options.
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## Community Safety - Short term priorities

<b>1</b>	Deliver crime prevention initiatives including Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order, designing out crime housing estate improvements and enhanced youth support projects.
<b>2</b>	Review and promote the CCTV re-deployable camera protocol and investigate a new camera at Arrow Valley Park.
<b>3</b>	Improve planning and environmental enforcement.

## Community Safety - Medium to long term priorities

<b>1</b>	Implement Safer Streets 5 Neighbourhood Crime initiative.
<b>2</b>	Implement new and updated requirements under the Governments ASB Action Plan and other crime prevention duties.
<b>3</b>	Actively embed crime prevention and community safety activities across all Council services.
<b>4</b>	Seek to make wider improvements to enforcement activities across the Council.

## Value for Money - Short term priorities

<b>1</b>	Prioritise a review of alternative models of delivery for shop mobility and Dial A Ride to achieve efficiencies.
<b>2</b>	Extending chargeable garden waste services to residents across the Borough.

## Value for Money - Medium to long term priorities

<b>1</b>	Reviewing contracted work to ensure costing are correct and the standards of work are met.
<b>2</b>	Continue to work closely with the other Worcestershire Districts and County Council to deliver the requirements of the Environment Act with regard to waste collection and disposal services once the Government announce the outcome of the consistency consultations and the terms of the secondary legislation due late 2024.