

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 7TH JULY 2009

TELFORD AND WREKIN RURAL PLAN

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval and inform on the content of the Rural Plan for Telford and Wrekin.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Rural Plan for Telford and Wrekin be approved.**

3. SUMMARY

- 3.1 Over the last nine months the Council has been developing a Rural Plan for the borough of Telford and Wrekin and the Locality Manager for Newport and Rural areas has been working in consultation with parishes, partners and officers of the council.
- 3.2 A Rural Forum is currently being formed which will support further development and monitoring of the Rural Plan.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Not Applicable

5. INFORMATION

5.1 Background

The purpose of the Rural Plan is to acknowledge and respond to the issues affecting, and to maximise the opportunities for, people living within the rural areas.

Consultation was undertaken with a wide range of organisations and individuals within the rural areas. In addition, the Telford and Wrekin Rural Forum held workshops to establish issues that rural communities felt needed addressing. From these consultations the initial action plan has been developed.

5.2 The Rural Plan

A copy of the Rural Plan draft document is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

The draft Plan essentially:-

- a) Defines Telford and Wrekin's rural areas

- b) The purpose of the Rural Plan
- c) Short profile of rural Telford and Wrekin
- d) The key issues for rural Telford and Wrekin
- e) The objectives and priorities

5.3 Equality and Diversity

The Plan has undergone an initial equality impact assessment and highlights the different needs of the communities within the rural areas which will be taken into account in developing and implementing the Plan

5.3 Environmental Impact

Copies of the plan will be available electronically and there will also be a web page for the community which will reduce the amount of literature that needs to be printed.

5.4 Legal Comment

The work envisaged by this report is within the Council's powers. Officers and Members involved in rural partnerships should familiarise themselves with the Council's Partnership Protocols and seek advice from Legal Services on structures, governance and potential liabilities (for example, liabilities for contracts, volunteers, and public liability) where appropriate.

5.5 Links with Corporate Priorities

The Plan links to all the Council's Corporate Priorities and will need to become fully embedded within each of the Priority Plans:

- Maintaining a High Quality, Attractive and Sustainable Environment Promoting Healthy Communities and Improving the Quality of Life of Vulnerable and Older People (Health and Well-Being)
- Strengthening the Local Economy and Skills of Local People
- Creating a Safe, Strong and Cohesive Community
- Giving Children & Young People the Best Possible Start in Life (CYPP)
- Securing Sustainable Housing Regeneration and Development
- Efficient, Effective and Customer-Focused Council that delivers Value-for-Money for the Community

5.6 Opportunities and Risks

The opportunities and risks associated with the Plan will be assessed. Arrangements will be put in place to manage the risks and maximise the opportunities that have been identified.

5.7 Financial Implications

5.7.1 The action plan for consultation and implementation outlined in section 4 of the Rural plan can be funded from within existing budgets held by Locality Management. It is anticipated that funding for any specific actions or projects identified by the Rural Forum through the consultation process will be sought from third parties and external grants. However the Authority has a capital

allocation of £20k in 2009/10 and a further £10k in 2010/11 that could be used towards rural projects.

6. WARD IMPLICATIONS

The Rural Plan has implications for all rural wards across the borough

Report prepared by

***Caroline Oakes
Locality Manager (Newport & Rural)
Neighbourhood and Communities
Telford & Wrekin Council
Tel: 01952 382136***