

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 26th July, 2012 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 1st AUGUST, 2012

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 6th AUGUST, 2012)

PRESENT: Councillor K.S. Sahota (Leader and Chair), E.A. Clare, S. Davies, A.R.H. England, W.A.M. McClements, H. Rhodes, C.F. Smith and P.R. Watling

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) and Councillor W.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Independent Group Leader)

CB-21 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28th June 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor R.A. Overton

CB-23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CB-24 COUNCIL MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2012/13 – 2014/15

Key Decision identified as **Council Plan** in the Forward Plan published on 16th May 2012

Council Decision – not subject to Call-in.

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services & Co-operative Council, presented the report of the Managing Director, attached to which was the draft Council Medium Term Plan 2012/13 – 2014/15.

The Council Plan identified the high level strategic focus for the organisation over the next 3 years, including the Council's vision, priorities and values; its approach to a co-operative way of working; the medium term financial strategy; and its strategy for "Putting Customers First" and being a "Business supporting, Business Winning Council". Against each proposed Priority, the Plan set out how 'delivery' would be measured, although specific measures would be kept under review as strategies and initiatives were developed. Progress reports on the delivery of the Plan and the Priority would be presented to Cabinet at regular periods.

A key challenge was to communicate and embed the Priorities within the organisation alongside the Co-operative values. This could be achieved through Personal Development Discussions between managers and their staff, and by ensuring all Council reports and plans identified how they contributed to delivering the Priorities. The report also outlined a number of suggestions for communicating the message within the organisation.

Reference was made to the new Development & Business Charter, and the series of pledges it made to ensure that the Borough was 'open for business'.

RESOLVED – that the draft Council Medium Term Plan 2012/13 – 2014/15 be approved, and to RECOMMEND to COUNCIL that it be adopted.

CB-25 CO-OPERATIVE COUNCIL UPDATE

Non-Key Decision

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services & Co-operative Council, presented the report of the Managing Director, which provided an update on the progress that had been made in putting co-operative working into practice.

The programme of work to translate the vision into action was focussed on four main areas:

- (i) Adopter projects – achievements over the last 12 months included the employment of around 100 apprentices within the Council, a Small Business Loans Fund, launch of an employability centre, environmental improvements in Brookside, and a Ward Co-operative Fund. A number of other projects were in progress – including Family Connect, bringing Dawley Town Hall back into community use, and free Wi-Fi in Council owned buildings. It was proposed to incorporate a Food Bank project into the current programme. Whilst some voluntary organisations already provided food parcels, it had been identified that there was a growing need for a co-ordinated Telford & Wrekin Food Bank facility, and support to tackle the underlying issues. It was proposed to allocate up to £5k from the Co-operative Council budget towards the cost of this project.
- (ii) Co-operative and Employee Commissions – recommendations from both Commissions had been agreed by Cabinet in May 2012. In conjunction with Commissioners, work had started on implementing the recommendations, including the launch of a Business & Development Charter and promoting volunteering. Both Commissions would meet again in October to review progress and agree next steps.
- (iii) Partnership Working – including developing a Health & Wellbeing Strategy and refreshing the Children, Young People & Families Plan.
- (iv) Community Agreements – existing community agreements such as the Parish Charter and the Customer Charter were being reviewed to better reflect the Council's Co-operative Values and approach.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the progress in delivering the Co-operative Council Work Programme, as set out in Section 4 of the report, be noted;
- (b) that the inclusion of the Food Bank project in the Co-operative Council Work Programme be approved.

CB-26 2012/13 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Key Decision identified as **2012/13 Financial Monitoring** in the Forward Plan published on 15th June 2012.

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance, which provided Members with the latest financial monitoring information for 2012/13.

It was reported that revenue spending for the year was projected to be within budget at year end, after the use of £2.6m of the budgeted contingency. There were still a number of significant pressures on the budget, including the cost of Adult Social Care purchasing (projected overspend of £0.320m, largely due to the Council having to fund the support to people who had had their funding withdrawn by the PCT); the cost of Children in Care placements and use of agency staff in the Safeguarding service (projected variation of £1.970m); the cost of Specialist Education (projected overspend of £0.3m); along with income shortfalls, particularly in School Meals. Projected variances of over £0.100m for individual service delivery units were detailed in the report. There were benefits from active treasury management, vacancies and other small service variances.

The capital programme totalled £112.7m, which reflected re-phasing approved as part of the outturn. Robust programme management and monitoring was in place to ensure schemes were delivered. Appended to the report were a number of new allocations and slippage for approval. The capital programme over the next few years relied on a significant amount of capital receipts as part of its funding, and the position was being closely monitored. There was no variation from receipts delivered compared to expectation to date.

Collection levels for Council Tax and Sales Ledger debt were behind target, while NNDR income was ahead of target at the end of June 2012.

Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) referred to the continued overspend on the cost of placements for Children in Care, and that promises to get this expenditure under control had not been met. In response, Councillor P.R. Watling (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families) stated that the Administration was clear on the direction of Children's Services, and that it would not put a price on children's safety. Councillor McClements added that measures were being taken to reduce the unit costs of placements, and recent monitoring had shown these were

coming down. Although the numbers of children coming into the care system was largely outside the Council's control, it was hoped that the overspend would not be any greater by the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that it be noted that the 2012/13 revenue spend is projecting to be within budget at year end;
- (b) that the uses of the budgeted contingency detailed in paragraph 6.1 of the report be approved, and that the existing delegated authority be extended in relation to approving bids against the capacity fund to cover the additional amount approved;
- (c) that the position in relation to capital spend be noted, and **TO RECOMMEND to COUNCIL** that the slippage and new allocations identified in Appendix 3 be approved;
- (d) that it be noted that NNDR income collection is ahead of target while Council Tax collection and Sales Ledger outstanding debt are behind targets set.

CB-27 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Key decision identified as **Draft Statement of Community Involvement** in the Forward Plan published on 16th May 2012.

Councillor C.F. Smith, Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Housing which set out a Co-operative approach to developing a framework for community engagement in relation to planning. Attached to the report was the proposed draft Statement of Community Involvement.

The Statement of Community Involvement was a regulatory requirement in relation to the development of the Local Plan, and set out minimum standards that the Council would deliver when engaging the public. It would provide greater overall clarity for investors in terms of how to engage with the planning process, and reflected the pledges contained in the Business & Development Charter in relation to streamlining the process. In terms of engagement with Members, it was proposed to focus engagement through the Cabinet, whose role was to directly shape and drive the Development Plan, and the Scrutiny structure. This would replace the current Development Plan Steering Group – a small cross party group that had worked with Officers on the new Plan.

If approved, the draft Statement of Community Involvement would be subject to a six week period of public consultation between 20 August and 1 October 2012. The Council would then review the comments made and make any alterations where appropriate prior to adoption by Council.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Statement of Community Involvement be approved for public consultation;
- (b) that the amended approach for Member engagement through Cabinet and the Scrutiny Programme be approved.

CB-28 PLANNING OF SCHOOL PLACES: HOLLINSWOOD INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS

Key Decision not in the Forward Plan but taken with the consent of the Chairman of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with paragraph 2.7 of the Cabinet Decision Procedure Rules as set out in part 4 section 4 of the Constitution.

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families, presented the report of the Assistant Director for Education, Culture & Skills which detailed the responses to the consultation on a proposed amalgamation of Hollinswood Infant and Junior Schools.

Following the Cabinet decision on 31 May 2012 to engage in formal consultation on the merger of the two schools, officers had been involved in several meetings with parents, pupils, staff and governors to seek and collate the views of all stakeholders. Further discussions had been held with headteachers and governors to explain the timetable and process necessary for any possible changes to be implemented by January 2013. Consultation responses and notes of consultation meetings were appended to the report. A further three responses received after publication of the agenda were tabled at the meeting, although it was reported that the response from a staff member was not to be considered, as they had subsequently asked for it to be withdrawn.

It was clear there were mixed views on the proposal, with the Infant School not being in favour of a merger. However, the merging of the schools would be in line with the national trend to reduce the number of single phase schools, it would ease the transition of pupils from KS1 to KS2 and more likely lead to improved attainment for all children, and would offer opportunities for staff to enhance their skills by gaining experience across more than one key stage. In the last seven years, only 4 pupils had not transferred from the Infant School to the Junior School. Cabinet were therefore minded to proceed with the amalgamation, but would work closely with the Infants School to address the concerns of staff and to make sure the transition was as smooth as possible.

RESOLVED – that, having taken into consideration responses to the formal consultation that ended on 23 July 2012, Public Notices be published in respect of the merger of Hollinswood Infant and Junior Schools.

CB - 29 HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE – WINTER SERVICE REVIEW

Key Decision identified as **Annual Winter Maintenance Review** in the Forward Plan published on 15th June 2012.

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services & Co-operative Council, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Leisure Services, which provided a review of the performance of the service during the 2011/12 winter season, proposals for service efficiencies amounting to £50k along with Co-operative Council initiatives to enhance the winter service provision.

To increase resilience without increasing costs, the rate of spread for salt applied to the roads for the winter of 2011/12 was reduced to reflect national guidelines and common practice elsewhere. This had been monitored, and there did not appear to have been any adverse impact. It was therefore proposed to continue with this rate of spread for the 2012/13 winter season. Following a review of all gritting routes, it was proposed that the number of gritting routes could be reduced from nine to eight – resulting in efficiency savings without reducing the defined network coverage. In response to stakeholder requests, the A4640 Redhill Way slip roads to Donnington Business Park had been added to the roads to be gritted.

In order to help members of the public with the effects of significant snowfall or adverse weather, it was proposed to introduce and support a Snow Warden initiative commencing in winter 2012/13. Based on the Co-operative model, the aim was to establish a network of up to 50 volunteer wardens – further details on how it would work and the financial/insurance implications were appended to the report. The newly created Parish Environmental Teams in St Georges & Priorslee, Great Dawley and Madeley would also provide assistance at times of adverse weather.

Members welcomed the report and thanked all those people who worked hard in often difficult circumstances to keep the roads clear of snow and ice.

RESOLVED – that the changes to the Highways Maintenance Winter Service outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report be approved, namely:

- Existing treatment routes to remain the same for 2012/13 with the addition of one location- the slip roads off A4640 leading to Donnington Business Park and reduce the number of gritting routes from nine to eight without affecting network coverage and in turn delivering efficiency savings;
- Existing Grit Bin Policy to remain for 2012/13 but to continue close working with Parishes and community groups for local co operative opportunities;
- To provide ongoing resilience and efficiencies – continue with salt storage at the same capacity and the rate of spread of salt of 10g per m2 for frost prevention and 20g per m2 for snow events be adopted as ongoing service policy;

- **Continue to improve communication channels and access to information for residents, parish councils and businesses within the Borough and to promote Co-operative Council opportunities including the introduction of up to 50 volunteer Neighbourhood Snow Wardens.**

CB-30 OUTCOME OF CALL-IN REQUEST

Non-Key Decision

Councillor D.R.W. White, Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board, reported on the Board's consideration of a Call-in of the decisions taken by Cabinet on 31 May 2012 regarding Waste Management Services Procurement. The Board had not supported the Call-in but the discussion generated had raised a number of issues and ideas. It was therefore recommended that:

- a detailed evaluation of the option of a Council owned and managed Transfer Station should be undertaken as part of the evaluation of solutions before going out to contract;
- benchmarking reviews should be undertaken at minimum 5 yearly intervals throughout the terms of the contract;
- scrutiny will be involved throughout the procurement process – this would be led by the Housing, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services & Co-operative Council, presented the Cabinet's response to the Scrutiny recommendations arising from the Call-in – a copy of which had been tabled.

A detailed evaluation of the option for a Council owned and managed Transfer Station would be undertaken, and assessed when the market submitted costed bids at detailed solution stage. In terms of benchmarking reviews, these would be built into the contract when it was drafted. A Scrutiny Engagement Plan would be produced, and discussions had taken place between the Project Team and Scrutiny Officer to agree on how the process was to be developed.

RESOLVED - that the Cabinet's response to the Scrutiny recommendations be approved.

CB-31 STATION ROAD, NEWPORT – UPDATE AND APPROPRIATION

Key Decision identified as **Station Road, Newport** in the Forward Plan published on 15 June 2012.

Councillor C.F. Smith, Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing which provided an update regarding the progress of the sale of the Station Road, Newport site for redevelopment as a superstore and

associated development and sought an in principle decision to appropriate the land for planning purposes.

Before the site was appropriated for planning purposes, the Council was required to consider whether the land was no longer required for the purposes that it was currently used. It was considered that more productive use could be made of the land and the Council, as landowner, had made its intentions clear in respect of the future use of the land. It was considered that appropriation for planning purposes would facilitate and indeed was necessary for carrying out that development, and therefore the appropriation would contribute to the promotion and improvement of the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Council's area as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **that in principle, and in accordance with section 122(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Station Road, Newport site is no longer required to be held by the Council for general landholding purposes;**
- (b) **that in principle the Station Road site, as identified in Appendix 1 of the report, be appropriated for planning purposes, subject to the consideration of representations as to the effect taking that step will have on affected landowners' interests;**
- (c) **that it be noted that an advertising and consultation process will be undertaken, and a final decision on the above matters will be taken following that process and having regard to any objections received;**
- (d) **that it be noted that the Leader will consider any representations received and make the final decision whether to appropriate the Site for planning purposes.**

CB-32 HOUSING KICKSTART PARTNERSHIP – WEST MIDLANDS

Key Decision identified as **Demobilisation & Assignment of Home Owner Loans to TWC** in the Forward Plan published on 16 May 2012.

Councillor C.F. Smith, Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing which outlined the implications for the Council of the wind-up of the West Midlands Kickstart Partnership established to administer the national programme in the Region.

The National Kickstart Programme was established in 2004 to provide loans to residents on low incomes unable to access finance for home improvements that would enable them to remain living independently. The Council joined the West Midlands Partnership in 2008 with the Home Improvement Agency linking residents with the Programme team. 59 households in the Borough had benefitted from the Scheme, and a number of equity share and

unsecured types of loans were offered. Following the Government decision to cease to provide Kickstart loan finance, the Partnership had had to wound up, with the remaining secure and unsecure loans being assigned to the relevant local authority. Although final figures were still being clarified, it was anticipated that the Council would take responsibility for 27 secured loans totalling £328k and 21 unsecured loans with a balance of £18k to be repaid.

The report set out the actions and responsibilities that now fell on the Council and how these would be dealt with. For the unsecured loans it was proposed that the in-house Invoicing and Collection teams manage the loan repayments. As part of the changes, the Council had received £15,000 of capital from the Project Management Team.

RESOLVED – that all secured and unsecured loans, as listed in the respective Deeds of Assignment of Loans schedules are formally assigned to Telford & Wrekin Council so that it can legitimately deal with any queries from borrowers relating to those loans and with any enforcement issues (where deemed appropriate).

CB-33 TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Non-Key Decision

The Leader presented the report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection which asked Members to consider proposals for the Council to operate in an even more transparent, open and accountable way in line with the values and ethos of a Co-operative Council and in accordance with Government guidance arising from the Localism Act 2011

The options outlined in the report were varied but focussed on the issues involving transparency for elected Members and public accountability to the Council's meetings and decision making processes. For example, further information and details could be published on any payments by the Council to companies or businesses that a Councillor had an interest in. In terms of Council meetings, it was suggested that greater public engagement could be achieved through a public question session at full Council meetings. Similarly, the filming and recording of Cabinet and Council by members of the public and the use of social media during meetings was being promoted by the Government as a way of allowing citizens to observe local decision-making. Implementation of some of these options would require consideration of protocols etc, and would need to be discussed by the Council Constitution Committee and full Council in relation to any consequent changes to the Constitution.

Members welcomed the report, and it was

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the following measures for increasing transparency and improving public accountability be approved:

- Publication of information on Councillors who trade with the Council
 - Publication of Councillor attendance figures for appointed meetings of the Council
 - Public Question session at Full Council Meetings
 - Filming/Recording of Cabinet and Council meetings by members of the public on a trial basis
 - Use of Social Media by members of the public during meetings
 - Voluntary publication of Council expenditure over £100
- (b) that, prior to implementation, further detailed protocols be agreed for consideration and approval by Council Constitution Committee and full Council.

The meeting ended at 5.56 p.m.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection
Date: 1st August 2012

Signed:

Date:

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET- 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

SERVICE & FINANCIAL PLANNING UPDATE

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: FINANCE, AUDIT & INFORMATION GOVERNANCE (CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER)

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR BILL McCLEMENTS

1. PURPOSE

This report provides an update on current government consultations on the proposed localisation of business rates, new local support for council tax scheme (whereby the government is significantly cutting the funding available for council tax benefit), changes to education and public health funding and an update on the council's saving proposals for 2013/14 and future years. Given the uncertainties which lie ahead, relating to the impending changes to the local government funding mechanisms and potential reductions in Government funding, it is likely that further savings will be necessary and work is underway to identify additional proposals for 2013/14 and beyond.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the contents of the report are noted and that targeted consultation on the savings proposals included within Appendix 1 is commenced in accordance with the approach set out in section 7 of the report.

3.0 SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	The Service & Financial Planning Strategy is integral to ensuring that available resources are used as effectively as possible in delivering all corporate priority outcomes
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	The proposals contained in this report will impact on specific groups of people. Section 7 of the report

		describes the equality impact assessment and targeted service user engagement which will be undertaken to consider the impacts the changes may have.
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	The Service & Financial Strategy will be considered by Full Council on 7 March 2013 and recommendations implemented in 2013/14 and subsequent years.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The financial impacts are detailed throughout the report.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	This report develops proposals for the Councils Service & Financial Planning Strategy. Consultation will be in line with the Constitutional budget and policy framework and the final budget and council tax will be set in March 2013 as required by regulatory deadlines.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	Appendix 1 details other impacts and risks associated with the savings proposals.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough Wide

4. INFORMATION

The Government are currently consulting on making very significant changes to the Local Government finance system. Key areas of proposed change include:-

- A scheme allowing the retention of an element of business rates locally,
- A reduction in the grant received by the Council to fund the cost of Council Tax Benefit,
- Education funding,
- The introduction of a ring-fenced grant to fund the cost of Public Health responsibilities being transferred to Councils when Primary Care Trusts are abolished.

All of these changes are due to come in to effect on 1st April 2013 and the details of how these schemes will operate are currently very unclear. This makes any forecasts of resources available for next year extremely difficult and subject to a very high degree of uncertainty. This is unlikely to be much clearer until after the funding settlement is announced by the Government which is expected to be sometime in November or December.

A brief update on each of these key issues is given below.

4.1 Business Rates Retention Scheme

The Business Rates Retention Scheme will replace the Formula Grant system of local government funding in 2013/14. Under the current system, the Council receives Formula Grant which consists of re-distributed business rates and Revenue Support Grant (RSG) which is distributed to authorities based on an assessment of needs determined through a complex set of formulae. Individual allocations of Formula Grant are normally announced annually in the Local Government Finance Settlement around early December.

Formula Grant funds around 53% of the Council's net revenue spending and therefore changes to the funding mechanism can have a very significant impact on the Council's overall financial position.

	£m
Total net spending 2012/13	126.254
Funded by:	
Formula Grant	66.645 (53%)
Council Tax	57.819 (46%)
Balances/Collection Fund	1.790 (1%)

The new proposed "Business Rates Retention Scheme" is currently subject to consultation which closes on the 24th September. The final details of the scheme are therefore not yet known and it is likely that we won't know the full implications for Telford & Wrekin until the Local Government Finance Settlement is announced in late November or December.

The Business Rates Retention Scheme proposals include a number of components which are complex and inter-related. In simple terms, under the new system authorities will receive a baseline funding level plus RSG. In addition to the baseline funding level, in future years authorities will retain 50% of any growth in business rates, however this is subject to levies which will be charged where there is a disproportionate benefit. The proceeds from the levy will be collected nationally and used to provide a safety net for authorities who experience unforeseen falls in their business rates. The safety net will be set within the range of 7.5% - 10% below an authority's baseline funding level – this means the authority will have to fund any shortfall until the fall in income is such that the safety net is reached transferring significant risk to the Council from the Government.

Business rates collected will be split equally into a local and central share. A **baseline funding** level will be set for each authority (i.e. an assessment of need). This will use the 2012/13 funding formulae as a starting point (although there are proposals to update certain elements of this, such as the treatment of concessionary travel, sparsity and data). An individual authority's **business rates baseline** will also be set. This will be 50% of the Government's estimate of the total national business rates collected apportioned across individual authorities on a proportionate basis (using average business rates income collected). To establish a fair starting point at the beginning of the new system, **tariffs** and **top-ups** will then be applied. Where an authority's business rates baseline is higher than its baseline

funding level a tariff will be paid to Central Government; where the base rates baseline is lower than the baseline funding level it will receive a top-up from Central Government. Tariffs and top ups will be fixed for the next 7 years with only an RPI increase, (until 2020 when the system is “re-set”).

To ensure that the Government’s overall Spending Controls are adhered to, the balance of funding (which includes the central share but is after deducting various set asides including £2bn funding for New Homes Bonus, a contingency for the safety net, capitalisation funding and Police Authority funding) is then re-distributed to local authorities as RSG. The basis for distribution of RSG will be set out in the annual local government finance settlement.

As mentioned above, it is unlikely that we will know the detail of the scheme before late November or sometime in December which means there is a great deal of uncertainty around any funding projections for the financial year starting 1st April 2013.

However, it is already clear that the new scheme will be significantly more complex than the current scheme, that it transfers risk to local from central government and that some of the original intentions of the new system such as encouraging councils to support growth in their areas have been watered down by the proposed “resetting” of the scheme in 2020 and the retention of only 50% of growth in business rates up to a level deemed to be “disproportionate” beyond which no additional growth would be retained locally.

4.2 Council Tax Support Scheme

The Council currently administers the nationally prescribed council tax benefit scheme and receives a subsidy grant from the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) in relation to benefits paid out, together with a grant towards the administrative costs of the scheme. The system is demand led i.e. an increase in eligible claimants leads to increased council tax benefit being paid and increased subsidy grant received by local authorities. Spend on Council Tax Benefits in this area was £14.7m in 2011/12.

As part of the 2010 Spending Review the Government announced that the current national Council Tax Benefit Scheme would be abolished and local authorities would be required to establish their own local Council Tax Support scheme by 31st January 2013, for implementation in April 2013. It was also announced that in making this change, the Government would cut the amount of grant paid to councils by 10%. Pension age claimants will be protected i.e. they will not experience a reduction in support as a result of these changes. Local Authorities have the freedom to design a scheme for working age claimants and to decide how to manage the impact of the reduction in funding.

In future, Council Tax Support is to be given as a council tax discount with funding being provided from Government Grant. However, the grant is to be distributed through the new business rates retention scheme, rather than

being given as a separate identifiable grant so after the first year of the scheme we will not be able to identify how much grant we are receiving specifically for the new local support for council tax scheme. However, the amount of grant transferred into the business rates retention mechanism will only be 90% of the Government's forecast of the 2013/14 subsidy.

The Government's forecast has no allowance for inflation (i.e. assumes that no council will increase council tax) and is based on an assumption of reduced caseload volumes (2.3% reduction presumably due to an assumption that the economy is starting to grow). Our budget strategy includes assumptions for a 2.5% council tax increase over the medium term and local caseloads indicate a trend of around 2% pa increases. This, together with the likely impact on collection levels gives an estimated funding shortfall of £3.1m in 2013/14 (note final grant allocations will be updated by Government and therefore current estimates are only indicative). Telford & Wrekin's proposed scheme was launched for consultation at the end of August and includes suggested changes to a number of council tax exemptions and discounts and applying a percentage global reduction in support given to less-vulnerable claimants to manage the funding shortfall. It is also proposed that £0.065m is allocated to award discretionary discounts in cases of extreme financial hardship.

4.3 Education Funding.

The Government have consulted over the last year on proposed changes to school funding. The final details of these changes were released in June 2012 with the overall proposal being to retain Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) whilst making some changes to how it can be allocated. The main impact of these changes will result in less flexibility in how funding is allocated to schools and movement in the local formula used to more of a national model.

The Council's new formula, set within the parameters given by the DfE, is subject to consultation with all schools and final agreement by the new Education Funding Agency (EFA). It will need to be implemented from April 2013. Most funding will then simply flow to schools via pupil numbers and this is likely to have a significant effect on the financial stability of some of our smaller secondary schools in particular and indeed any schools with falling pupil numbers. Whilst we expect pupil numbers to grow over the next few years in line with our Building Schools for the Future programme there will be an interim period of a few years where funding will be an ongoing problem for some secondary schools and action will need to be taken to address this issue.

The proposals also affect Special Education in requiring a more standardised funding system and as part of this removing any funding linked to lower value statements. There are also moves towards a lesser role for the Council in commissioning high needs places with more involvement of the new Education Funding Agency. Changes are also proposed in the status of alternative education provision.

The Council will also need to consider the impact these changes will have on DSG centrally funded services as well as others bought in by schools.

Changes in the current arrangements for recoupment of Council funding for the impact of Academies are part of the Business Rates retention consultation summarised in section 3.1 of this report and indicate the use of pupil numbers in maintained and Academy schools to allocate a new DfE grant. This will be an amount removed from the Council's current formula grant. Consultation on this proposal is due to close on 24th September 2012. The impact on changes in funding amounts for the Council resulting from this change will not be known until the outcome of this consultation is available later in the year. At the next spending review there is a possibility that further changes to how DSG is allocated to Councils could be put in place. The Council needs to be aware that as part of the allocation of costs through central recharges e.g. legal, accommodation, HR, Finance, ICT etc. a proportion is funded via centrally retained DSG. Any changes to this grant could impact significantly on these services.

4.4 Public Health Funding.

The NHS is also facing major change with Primary Care Trusts (PCT) being abolished from 1st April 2013. Most PCT functions will transfer to new Clinical Commissioning Groups but Public Health functions will transfer either to Public Health England, a new national body, or to upper tier councils such as Telford & Wrekin Council. Public Health functions will be a significant new additional responsibility for local government and will be funded by a new ring-fenced grant which can only be used to fund Public Health activities. It is currently assumed that the Council's Public Health budget will be equal to the grant that we receive so there will not be any material financial impact on other Council services or council tax payers as a result of this change.

The Government recently issued a consultation paper, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update on Public Health Funding" which sets out proposals on how the £2.2bn currently spent by the NHS on Public Health activities that will transfer to local authorities could be allocated between different councils. Under this set of proposals, this council would receive around £7.3m of grant. However, in the current year the Telford & Wrekin PCT is spending around £10.4m on these same functions. The consultation paper suggests that transitional arrangements will be put in place to smooth the redistributive effect of the new funding formula so whilst a shortfall may be experienced between the grant we receive in 2013/14 and what the PCT currently spend it is hoped that this will not be as significant as may at first appear to be the case.

A large number of Council and PCT officers are working together in order to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible and information is being received from the PCT on contractual commitments, staffing and existing budgets in order to assist with the development of the first council Public Health budget.

4.5 Care & Support Pressures.

The local Primary Care Trust has cut 73% of its funding for Continuing Health Care cases over the last 2 years in cash terms (over 80% in real terms) which has increased costs falling on the Council's social care budgets by around £8m pa ongoing - a major threat to service levels on top of government grant cuts. While part of this pressure has been funded by savings from other services a gap of some £5m still exists covered only temporarily by one off funding.

5. SERVICE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING STRATEGY.

Current projections of grant reductions for the Council are based on Departmental Expenditure Limits for Communities & Local Government announced as part of the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). These indicated a reduction in Government support for local authorities of around 28% over the 4 year period starting 2011/12 in order to assist the government in their target to eliminate the structural element of the national budget deficit. This equates to a reduction in cash terms of £27m, or in real terms of around £40m pa by the end of the period covered by the current CSR. At the same time demand for many services, notably social care services for children and adults is increasing and the Council has faced a significant transfer of costs from the PCT in respect of Continuing Health Care cases as well as many other budget pressures.

Nationally, the government's finances are suffering from the continuing recession. A lack of economic growth is resulting in reduced tax revenues and increased expenditure e.g. on benefit payments. These pressures are currently combining to increase, rather than reduce, the borrowing requirement and there is therefore a possibility that the Government may seek to reduce spending even further than they had previously planned in order to reduce the national budget deficit.

Local government is vulnerable to a significant share of any increased savings targets as the sector has a track record of delivering savings and the Government is likely to want to continue to do what it can to offer relative protection to health, education, police, defence and overseas aid spending. The Government may also seek to kick start the economy by increasing capital spending in order to stimulate the particularly weak construction sector of the economy – although this could be at the expense of further reducing revenue funding.

As already explained there will be considerable change to the local government finance system which will come in to effect from the start of April 2013. The lack of clarity on how the local government finance system will operate means that any projections of what funding will be available to the Council next year are extremely difficult and subject to an extremely high level of uncertainty.

It is however, clear that the squeeze on local government budgets will continue for many years and that the council needs to continue to identify further savings on top of the £40m pa of ongoing savings achieved since 2009/10. In order to ensure that future discussions about savings options are set within an overall strategic framework, on 28 June, the Cabinet agreed four key principles to be used when developing the service and financial planning strategy:

- In line with our co-operative values, we should work together with and involve our residents and employees in developing our strategy;
- Adopt a commercial approach and facilitate growth;
- Minimise the impact of savings on front-line service delivery;
- Minimise the impact of savings on our employees as far as possible.

In line with these principles, the starting point for our strategy is to focus on areas that do not have significant impact on front-line service delivery or employees, such as:

- **Improving procurement** e.g. re-tendering contracts, reviewing and robustly re-negotiating existing contracts, making greater use of framework agreements and getting added social value from procurement;
- **Property rationalisation and generation of capital receipts** – we have ambitious plans to invest in schools, regeneration and other capital projects to transform the Borough. In order to minimise the burden of ongoing debt repayments we're committed to a significant programme of asset sales totalling £110m over the medium term;
- **Driving down non-staffing costs that have minimal impact on service delivery** - reviewing and challenging budgets 'line by line' e.g. stationery, hospitality etc to ensure we have exhausted as many options as possible before considering changes or reductions to services.

However, due to the scale of the budget gap, some impact on service delivery and employees is inevitable. Our approach involves:

- **Carrying out planned, long-term service re-design, based around priorities**, not quick-fix options, such as withdrawing services or changing eligibility criteria e.g.
 - Children's Services – better help for people in the early stages of difficulties and more targeted help for families with complex needs;
 - Adults' Services – re-ablement to help ill or disabled adults learn or re-learn how to live independently;
 - Customer Services – more enquiries dealt with first time through a single point of contact

- **Facilitating growth** – becoming a business-winning council, increasing prosperity in the Borough and maximising income from business rates and the New Homes Bonus;
- **Working co-operatively with local people, organisations and partners** e.g.
 - Co-production and other new service delivery partnerships with the community;
 - Joining up services better to remove overlap and duplication;
 - Partnership with Town and Parish Councils to secure environmental improvements;
 - Encouraging local people to recycle more and reduce waste disposal costs.
- **Increasing income generation and external trading** – a more commercial approach and a particular focus on providing support services at affordable cost to local Voluntary & Community Sector organisations, Town & Parish Councils, partners, schools;

Our aim is to actively seek applications for voluntary redundancy and to promote flexible working arrangements in order to keep compulsory redundancies to a minimum although some continuing targeted restructuring activity is inevitable.

6. SAVINGS PROPOSALS FOR 2013/14 AND FUTURE YEARS.

The service and financial planning report considered at Council in March this year included details of some savings proposals for 2013/14 and later years but consultation focussed specifically on the 2012/13 budget proposals contained in that report. Officers have also been working to identify further savings proposals with a high level summary included in the report considered at Cabinet in June 2012. Full details of these additional savings proposals and those included in the March Council report are now included as Appendix 1 of this report. The shaded items in Appendix 1 were all included in the Service & Financial Planning report considered by Council in March 2012. As agreed in the March Council report, fees and charges will, where appropriate, be subject to a 2.5% increase to keep pace with inflation, on 1st October 2012 with a further increase of this amount applied in April next year.

Work is currently underway to identify further savings options and over the Autumn period the detailed base budget work will be undertaken in order to refine projections of base budget needs and underlying pressures for 2013/14 and later years. When the grant settlement is announced in late November/December an updated service and financial planning package will be considered by Cabinet and subject to consultation with final decisions being taken on the overall service and financial planning strategy for next year being taken at Council on 7 March 2013.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND TARGETTED SERVICE USER ENGAGEMENT.

Equality Impact Assessment is a tool that is used to ensure our decision making takes into consideration the protected characteristics with regard to the General Equality Duty (GED). In short we must demonstrate that we pay due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations.

We need to assess and analyse the practical impact on those whose needs are affected by cuts or changes. We have adopted a proportionate approach that takes into account the relevance of a proposal with regard to equality. This is a measured response recognising that our resources are best aimed at dealing with those proposals that could have a more significant impact. In order to accomplish this we have followed a process designed to stream proposals and ensure that they are fully explored. A scoping exercise to determine which budget saving proposals will require an equality impact analysis and/or engagement has been completed for the review of fees and charges and the savings proposals contained within Appendix 1.

This scoping exercise identified that no specific impact assessments or engagement activities are needed for the review of fees and charges although an overarching Impact Statement has been completed. Individual impact assessments and engagement activities have been initially identified for the savings proposals contained in Appendix 1.

Cabinet Members have agreed the initial list of proposed saving suggestions that needed further exploration with lead officers as to the extent of an impact analysis and service user engagement. For proposals where implications have been identified and are at a sufficiently developed state a proportionate impact analysis and service user engagement will be undertaken. Where a proposal is still at an early stage of development, a plan has been put in place to ensure delivery of equality impact analysis during its development.

The budget consultation undertaken during 2011-12 helped to establish the principles and policy direction for a 3 year strategy. This required a broad range of inputs, over 3000, from across the whole community which has significantly influenced the overarching approach to service and financial planning. During the Autumn/Winter of 2012-13 we are refining these proposals into specific savings; this requires a different kind of targeted engagement with service users and stakeholders. These are often the most difficult types of engagement and tend not to involve large numbers of people because we are looking for a precise reflection of the service and the specific impacts that these types of changes can have.

Dependant on the settlement in late autumn, there may be a further set of budget savings proposals and we will need to review our consultation programme, which at that point may require both specific service user and stakeholder engagement as well as a wider whole community engagement.

8. CONCLUSION.

There will be many changes to the local government finance system from April next year but the implications for the Council of these changes are currently far from clear. We will not be in a position to make accurate forecasts of our financial position for 2013/14 and later years until we have completed the detailed budget preparation work and received the grant settlement which is not expected until late November at best or, more likely, sometime in December (final information relating to Public Health and Education could be even later, potentially early 2013).

The medium term outlook for national finances is disappointing and this is likely to result in many years of continuing financial constraint for the Council as Government funding is likely to continue to be withdrawn at the same time that demand for many services is increasing. Targeted service user engagement will therefore now commence where appropriate on the savings proposals included in Appendix 1. Further work to identify additional savings proposals will also be undertaken and details included in a report to Cabinet in December 2012 following receipt of the grant settlement when a further consultation process will commence.

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TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

DRIVING DELIVERY OF THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

REPORT OF MANAGING DIRECTOR

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR BILL MCCLEMENTS

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

1.1. For Cabinet to consider baseline performance against the Council's priority outcome measures and identify any areas for targeted intervention.

2. Recommendations

2.1. That Cabinet:

- **consider baseline performance against the Council's priority outcome measures;**
- **identify any measures or themes which they consider require a specific, targeted focus to drive improvement**

3. Summary Impact Assessment

Community Impact	Yes	Achievement of the Priorities set out in the Council Plan will deliver many community benefits.
Financial & Value for Money Impact	Yes	Any financial implications arising from delivery or non delivery of the priority outcomes will need to be considered alongside the Council's budget strategy and met from within resources available.
Legal Issues	Yes	Under s.3 Local Government Act 1999 (as amended) the Council is under a duty (the Best Value duty) to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness". Statutory Guidance issued in September 2011 by the Department for Communities and Local Government makes it clear that overall value including economic, environmental and social value should be considered.
Other impacts, risks and opportunities	Yes	The ongoing and development programme of work to deliver the Council's Priorities will be evaluated to ensure risks are identified and managed and any associated opportunities are maximised. Delivering the Council's Priorities provides real

		opportunity to develop new arrangements and partnerships to improve the lives of local people.
Environmental	Yes	A number of the Council's Priorities will deliver environmental improvements – <i>“ensure that neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained”</i> and <i>“regenerate those neighbourhoods in need and work to ensure that local people have access to suitable housing”</i> As new initiatives are developed they will be assessed for environmental impacts as the proposals are developed.
Impact on specific wards	Yes	Borough-wide impact.

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. 2012/13 to 2014/15 Medium Term Plan

4.1. The Council's Medium Term Plan approved by Cabinet in July, identifies the strategic focus for the organisation. A central part of this is the Council's community focussed priorities which are:

- ***put our children and young people first***
- ***protect and create jobs as a 'Business Supporting, Business Winning Council'***
- ***protect and support our vulnerable children and adults***
- ***improve local people's prospects through education and skills training***
- ***ensure that neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained***
- ***regenerate those neighbourhoods in need and work to ensure that local people have access to suitable housing***
- ***improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and address health inequalities***

4.2. Against these priorities, the Plan identified a proposed basket of **outcome measures** which will be used to assess progress in delivering the priorities. 'Put our children and young people first' is described by the Plan as a cross-cutting priority which will be successfully progressed if the outcome measures aligned to the other priorities are delivered.

4.3. This report presents baseline 2011/12 performance against these outcome measures (see Appendix One). To contextualise this performance, where appropriate, we have set out:

- 'direction of travel' for the measures (year-on-year)
- the latest available national comparator information

5. Headline Summary

5.1. As a whole, there is a positive direction of travel for this basket – **71% of the measures ‘improved’ between 2010/11 and 2011/12**. However, when the Borough’s performance is **compared to the national picture, 68% of these measures are ranked ‘worse’**. A summary for each priority is provided below.

5.2. Protect and create jobs as a ‘Business Supporting, Business Winning Council’:

- Latest data (2010) shows that there are 81,096 of jobs in the Borough an increase from the previous year (2009), however the 2009 figure was some 3,500 jobs fewer than the 2008 figure of 84,600.
- At 8.6% (7,100 people) unemployment remains above the national average (8.1%) but below the regional average (9.1%). In 2011/12 the rate fell from 9.4%.
- Youth unemployment remains a significant challenge at a rate of 23.2% (2,000 16-24 year olds) – again above the national rate (21.1%) but below the regional rate (23.7%).
- Young People not in Education, Employment or Training is 8.5% - above the national position (6.1%).

5.3. Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults:

Children

- As at the end of March the number of children in care was 300. This number has remained relatively stable since Autumn 2011.
- In 2011/12 the proportion of children subject to a child protection plan for a second time rose from 12.2% to 16.2%. The percentage who had been on a plan for more than 2-years however fell from 8.8% to 4.3%.
- 2011/12 saw a significant increase in the percentage of children in care attaining 5 or more A* to C GCSEs - the rate though was significantly below their peers.

Adults

- The proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support (30.2% to 36.2%) and received direct payments (5.4% to 5.8%), have both increased.
- There has been a small fall in the proportion (77.9% down to 74.3%) of older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into re-ablement/rehabilitation services.
- The overall rate of delayed transfers from hospital is 8.58%. The rate of delayed transfers which were attributable to adult social care was 4.22%.
- The percentage of residents surveyed who felt that they had been treated with dignity and respect increased from 91.2% to 95.3%.

5.4. Improve local people’s prospects through education and skills training

- Overall, educational attainment has and continues to improve in the Borough, in particular at KS2 and KS4. Generally, educational attainment remains below the national position, but importantly both L4 KS2 and 5 A*-C GCSE are now at rates comparable to the national average.

- The Council has adopted ‘narrowing the gap’ measures for children in receipt of free school meals (FSM) and Pakistani children as its statutory equality objectives. In 2011/12, progress against these measures was mixed with the gap for FSM pupils narrowing for KS2 (22% to 17%) whilst the gap at KS4 widened (27% to 29%). For Pakistani children, the gap at KS2 widened (14% to 27%) and narrowed at KS4 (23% to 12%).

5.5. Ensure that neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained

- Both crime and anti-social behaviour have fallen – the level of crime (67.6 per 1,000 population) is slightly lower than the national position (70.6) but anti-social behaviour is significantly higher (66.0 vs 49.04). Compared to West Mercia Police area, Borough residents have a greater fear of crime (45% vs 38.1%).
- The rate of household recycling (43%) did not change from 2010/11 to 2011/12 - however the actual tonnage fell as a result of the recession’s impact on household consumption.

5.6. Regenerate those neighbourhoods in need and work to ensure that local people have access to suitable housing

- In 2011/12, 776 new homes were built in the Borough up from 511 in 2010/11. New build rates have increased year-on-year for the past 5 years. This strong performance compares well with other authorities e.g. Wolverhampton Council have seen their recent net housing completions decline 3 years in a row and net completions in Birmingham are a third of recent levels.
- The proportion of dwellings which meet the decent homes standard is 78% compared with 72% nationally.
- Both the number of homelessness acceptance (1.61 to 2.04 per thousand households) and nights in Bed & Breakfast (5,107 to 6,139) accommodation increased in 2011/12.
- The percentage of homeless households which were from of 16-24 year olds fell from 68.5% to 56.6% – however this remains significantly above the national position of 36.2%.

5.7. Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and address health inequalities

- Overall the health of the population is improving, including
 - Obesity in children
 - Premature death from cancer and cardiovascular disease
 - Male life expectancy
 - Teenage pregnancy rates
 - Smoking related deaths and smoking in pregnancy
- Hospital admissions attributable to smoking have though risen.
- However, overall the health of the population is *typically* worse than the national position.

6. Driving Improvement

6.1. It is important to recognise that the Council alone cannot drive improvement against these outcome measures – partnership working is key. A number of

these measures are already embedded within current partnership arrangements. For example The Children, Young People & Families Board has a focus on improving educational attainment.

6.2. To ensure that the Council is focussed on driving the improvement of these measures, **each one will be assigned to a Corporate Director to drive and challenge how performance is being driven.**

6.3. **Cabinet are asked to consider and identify whether there are any specific measures or themes which require a targeted improvement focus.**

6.4. **Progress reports will be presented to Cabinet on a quarterly cycle** – with ‘6 month’ performance report due in November. The focus of these reports will primarily be ‘exception reporting’ where performance has either stalled or declined.

Report prepared by Jon Power, Delivery & Planning Manger.

Appendix One: 2011/12 Priority Outcome Measure Performance

Protect and create jobs as a 'Business Supporting, Business Winning Council'

Indicator Title	2010/11	2011/12	Direction of Travel	National Comparator 2011/12	Comparison to national position	Comment
Number of Jobs within Borough	81,096	-	-	-	-	2010 figure represents an increase from the previous year (2009), however the 2009 figure was some 3,500 jobs fewer than the 2008 figure of 84,600.
Unemployment rate	9.4%	8.6%	Green	8.1%	Red	Unemployment fell between March 2011 to March 2012. This tallies with a reduction of the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance in the later half of 2011/12. Unemployment rose year-on-year from 3.8% in 2004/05 to 9.4% in 2010/11.
Youth unemployment rate	27.4%	23.2%	Green	20.4%	Red	Between March 2011 and March 2012 the youth unemployment rate fell from 27.4% to 23.2%. Youth unemployment doubled from 11.3% in 2007/08 to 23.2% in 2009/10 and rose further in 2010/11. The rate as
Young people not in education, employment or training	-	8.5%	-	6.1%	Red	Comparison to previous year figures is not possible, owing to changes in the calculation methodology.

Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults

Indicator Title	2010/11	2011/12	Direction of Travel	National Comparator 2011/12	Comparison to national position	Comment
Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support	30.2%	36.2%	Green	-	-	Continuing to improve locally.
Proportion of people using social care who receive direct payments	5.4%	5.8%	Green	-	-	Continuing to improve locally.
Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into re-ablement/rehabilitation services (Those offered Intermediate Care)	77.9%	74.3%	Red	-	-	Due to new service delivery model, we are increasingly putting all clients through re-ablement (not just selectively as was previously the case). Therefore there is a higher level of need and capacity.
People receiving re-ablement service who need no support at the end of their service	-	37.0%	-	-	-	Clients whose service ended in 2011/12. New in 2011/12
Delayed transfers of care from hospital	-	8.58	-	-	-	New in 2011/12 This shows those who are jointly responsible to both NHS and ASC

Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults (continued)

Indicator Title	2010/11	2011/12	Direction of Travel	National Comparator 2011/12	Comparison to national position	Comment
Delayed transfers of care from hospital which are attributable to adult social care	-	4.22	-	-	-	New in 2011/12. This figure shows those solely attributable to ASC..
Carer-reported quality of life	-	-	-	-	-	New survey commence 2012-13
The proportion of carers who report that they have been included or consulted in discussion about the person they care for	-	-	-	-	-	New survey commence 2012-13
The proportion of people being assessed who feel they were treated with dignity and respect	91.2%	95.3%	Green	-	-	
The number of dignity champions across the borough	-	-	-	-	-	New measure still to be defined.
Percentage of Children in Care who get 5 GCSE's A*-C including English and Maths	10.5%	20%	Green	11.6%	Green	This shows a good increase on previous years, and is above the latest National average. However, the cohorts are relatively small and there can be significant variation year-on-year
Percentage of children now aged 19 who were looked after in their 17th year who were in education, training or employment in the four months around their 19th birthday	41.6%	52.6%	Green	61%	Red	This shows a good improvement on the previous years but is still below the national average. Again, annual cohorts are relatively small and therefore there can be significant variation year-on-year.
Number of children in care (per 10,000 population <18)	71 (269)	79.5 (300)	Red	59 (England 2011) 71 (Statistical neighbours 2011)	-	Whilst the number of children in care was still comparatively high in March 2012 this figure has been and remains stable since September 2011
Children becoming the subject of a CP Plan for a second or subsequent time	12.4	16.2	Red	13.3 (2010/11)	-	Analysis is being completed to understand and address the reasons for the high number of repeat child protection plans
% of Children ceasing to be the subject of a CP plan during the year, who had been the subject of a CP plan continuously for 2 years or longer	8.8%	4.3%	Green	6% (2010/11)	-	
Percentage of children in care living with local foster carers	-	-	-	-	-	A key objective for improving the outcomes for children in care. This is a new indicator being developed. It will be reported at '6 month' monitoring.

Improve local people's prospects through education and skills training

Indicator Title	2010/11	2011/12	Direction of Travel	National Comparator 2011/12	Comparison to national position	Comment
Achievement of at least 78 points across EYFS with at least 6 in each of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication, Language and Literacy	52%	52%	Amber	56%	Red	
The attainment gap between FSM and their peers at KS2	22%	17%	Green	-	-	The attainment gap between those pupils that qualify for FSM and those who do not has improved steadily over the past 4 years.
The attainment gap between FSM and their peers at KS4	27%	29%	Red	-	-	The overall direction of travel for this measure is positive. In 2011, the gap increased slightly as a result of a 3% point increase in the attainment of the wider cohort- whilst the FSM cohort increased by only 1% point
The attainment gap between Pakistani children and their peers at KS2 (rolling 3-year average)	14%	27%	Red	-	-	This measure is a 3-year average due to the small number of children in the cohort at KS2. The gap increased in 2011/12 due to a significant drop in attainment for that cohort.
The attainment gap between Pakistani children and their peers at KS4 (rolling 3-year average)	23%	12%	Green	-	-	This measure is a 3-year average due to the small number of children in the cohort at KS4.
Achievement rate of level 4 or above in both English and Maths at KS2	71%	73.7%	Green	74%	Amber	The attainment rate has continued to climb over the last 2 years and is now at a similar level to national results
Achievement rate of 5 A*-C GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	55.9%	57.9	Green	58.4%	Amber	Attainment continues to improve and narrow the gap on the national position.
Achievement rate of a level 2 qualification by the age of 19	77.1%	78.2	Green	83.8%	Red	This figure is now at a 5 year high, but is still 5 points below the national average.
Achievement rate of a level 3 qualification by the age of 19	48.8%	51.1	Green	56.7%	Red	This figure is now at a 5 year high, but is still 5 points below the national average.
Percentage of workforce with level 3 qualifications	15.6%	Not available	Red (see comment)	16.2%	Red	Most recent figures available are for the year 2010 (see below). The rate of those holding qualifications to NVQ L3 or equivalent rose to 19.6% in 2007 but has since fallen; the latest rate of 15.6% is the lowest it has been in the six years since (& including) 2005.
Percentage of workforce with level 4 qualifications	28.4%	Not available	Green (see comment)	35.6%	Red	Most recent figures available are for the year 2010 (see below). The rate of those holding qualifications to NVQ L4 is at its highest level in the six years since (& including) 2005.

Ensure that neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained

Indicator Title	2010/11	2011/12	Direction of Travel	National Comparator 2011/12	Comparison to national position	Comment
Overall Crime rate per 1000 pop	69.8	67.6	Green	70.6 (England & Wales)	Green	A small reduction on the previous year, both in numbers and rate of offences – remains better than the national position. This is due to the ongoing multiagency approach in tackling crime and disorder.
Overall ASB rate per 1000 pop	80.9	66.0	Green	49.04 (England & Wales)	Red	2011/12 number and rate represents a significant improvement on the previous year's figures - although the rate remains above the national position. This improvement is due to our multi-agency approach in tackling crime and disorder and our support to victims.
% of resident with a fear of crime	54%	45%	-	38.1 (West Mercia average)	Red	West Mercia Crime Survey saw a change in definition between 10/11 and 11/12. The current Borough rate is above the West Mercia force-wide result. Telford has had a high number of criminal cases in the national spotlight which has added to the perception of crime.
Rate of recycling within the borough	43%	43%	Amber	40.08%	Green	No growth. Both gross recycling tonnages and residual waste are down on last year, possibly as a result of the recession.
Percentage of residents who feel that their neighbourhood is one where people of different backgrounds get on well together	75%	-	-	-	-	These baseline measures are all from the 2010 Citizen Survey. Progress against these measures will be benchmarked through the Community Panel.
Resident satisfaction with recycled and household waste collections	81%	-	-	-	-	
Resident satisfaction with cleanliness of local neighbourhood	61%	-	-	-	-	
Resident satisfaction with the conditions of roads	34%	-	-	-	-	
Resident satisfaction with the conditions of pathways	38%	-	-	-	-	
Resident satisfaction with District parks	82%	-	-	-	-	
Resident satisfaction with Town Park	88%	-	-	-	-	

Regenerate those neighbourhoods in need and work hard to ensure that local people have access to suitable housing

Indicator Title	2010/11	2011/12	Direction of Travel	National Comparator 2011/12	Comparison to national position	Comment
Number of new home built per annum	511	776	Green	-	-	This figure is 30% up on last year. Net completions have now grown for 5 years in a row, with last year the biggest increase.
% of properties that meet the "decent homes standard"	-	78.0%	-	72.9%	Green	Taken from Stock Condition Survey 2008 which is completed every 5 years
Number of Homeless acceptances per 1000 households	1.61	2.04	Red	2.03	Amber	The rate has worsened and is now worse than the national position, this is due to the current economic environment.
% of all homeless households which were of 16 to 24 year olds	68.5%	56.6%	Green	36.2%	Red	This rate has improved - although the rate remains worse than the national position. We have worked to improve monitoring and early intervention for this age group.
The number of nights that B&B's are used per annum	5,107	6,139	Red	-	-	B&B usage has increased on the previous year. This is mainly down to a recording issue which has been rectified and the 11/12 figure is a more accurate number regarding usage. There has also been an increase in homeless presentations for all age groups with limited options to move them out of B&B. However further work is underway to look at the way the council delivers Social Housing and put in further prevention measures.

Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and address health inequalities

Indicator Title	2010/11	2011/12	Direction of Travel	National Comparator 2011/12	Comparison to national position	Comment
Percentage of reception children who are obese	10.6%	10.4%	Green	9.4	Amber	Shows continued reduction in obesity levels year on year from 2006-07 (12.5%) to current (10.4%). T&W is currently rated amber against the national average of 9.4%.
Percentage of year 6 children who are obese	20.1	18.7	Green	19	Amber	Latest results for Year 6 children shows obesity prevalence is slightly, but not significantly lower than the England rate of 19%.
Premature death rate from cardio vascular disease	313.82	308.02	Green	280.65	Red	Although falling, the rate continues to be statistically significantly higher than the national rate.
Premature death rate from cancer	122.9	122.55	Green	110	Red	Although improving, our performance is statistically significantly higher than the national average
Male life expectancy	77.4	77.5	Green	78.6	Red	Male life expectancy is statistically significantly lower than the England average. However the trend shows life expectancy is improving year on year from 73.1 years in 1991-93 to the currently 77.5 years.
The under 18 conception rate per 1000 girls	52.7	47.5	Green	35.4	Red	Although statistically significantly higher than the national rate, this measure is falling (improving)
Number of smoking related deaths	248.8	238	Green	211	Red	Showing improvement but statistically significantly higher than the England Average
Number of hospital admissions attributable to smoking	1381	1579	Red	1417	Red	Latest data shows that this has increased and that the Borough is statistically significantly higher than the England Average
Rate of smoking in pregnancy	23.6	22.7	Green	13.1	Red	Target set for the current year was 20%, Although falling, continue to be rated red against local target and the England average.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12

REPORT OF INTERIM AD SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR PAUL WATLING

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

The purpose of this report is to raise awareness of the critical role of the Safeguarding Board to keep children and young people in the Borough safe.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- consideration be given to the focus and progress made delivering the LSCB Business Plan.
- the role of the LSCB in driving change and improvement in response to the OFSTED 'Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children' is acknowledged

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	Co-operative Council Priority: 'Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults'
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	The objectives and actions of the LSCB Business Plan impact across all sections of the Borough, in particular children, young people, parents and carers – including work to support and protect the most vulnerable in the community
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY	LSCB Annual Report April 2011- March 2012	

DATE		
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The total budget available to fund the work of the LSCB in 2011-12 is £203,810 provided by contributions from a number of partners including the PCT and the Police. Financial reports are presented bi-annually to the LSCB and are reported yearly in the Boards Annual Report
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 (2004 Act) requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). LSCB functions are prescribed by Section 14 of the 2004 Act and the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006 (as amended). Section 14A of the 2004 Act requires all LSCBs to prepare and publish a report at least once in every 12 month period about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in its local area
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	The scope of the actions in the LSCB Annual Report impacts on many aspects of the lives of children, young people, parents and carers – including work to support and protect the most vulnerable in the community.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	Borough-wide impact

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

Local Safeguarding Boards (LSCB)

The Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The LSCB is the statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

As well as the statutory requirement, the activities and focus of the Board are aligned with the Co-operative Council priorities of 'Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults' and 'Putting Children & Young People First'.

Working Together To Safeguard Children 2010 requires all LSCBs to produce an annual report which reflects the progress of its business plan as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges which will remain. The report (Appendix 1) sets out progress against its priorities including:

- Children Abused Through Exploitation – mainstreaming of the CATE service in the Targeted Youth Support and Cohesion Services – to build on the success of Operation Chalice.
- Getting the Right Help at the Right Time – this objective extends across the children and young people partnership landscape. Critical to this is the ongoing implementation of Family Connect – to provide a single front door to all children, young people and family enquiries. Another area where significant progress has been made is the development of a pre-birth pathway. It is anticipated that this will lead to early identification and support given to families at the earliest opportunity.
- Missing Children – supported the development and launch of a joint regional protocol to provide consistent information sharing across care provides and 'return interview' to enable the risk of children going missing again to be reduced. This has allowed in some instances the young person to be reintroduced to their family successfully.
- Children & Young People Feeling Safe – the work commissioned by the Board led to the development of a chatterbox leaflet to raise awareness of bullying amongst children, parents, carers and schools to ensure that children are able to identify what bullying is, what to do about it and where to seek help. It also considered domestic abuse and health relationships (low level sexual abuse). This work has been recognised as best practice by the Children's Commissioner as this was designed by children for children.

Developing the Board

Since the completion of this report, OFSTED have undertaken an Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children services (Appendix One presents a head-line summary of the judgements). This report was published on 10th August 2012. Overall, both safeguarding and looked after children services were found to be adequate in their effectiveness (meet minimum standards), and the inspectors endorsed the direction and vision for children's services following the strategic review in 2011. The OFSTED report compliments the working of the Board stating that the 'fully established LSCB successfully demonstrates a culture of appropriate challenge resulting in effective governance of safeguarding issues by the Council and its partners'.

Whilst recognising the Board's strengths, the OFSTED report is also very clear where the role and effectiveness of the Board can be strengthened. OFSTED consider that the Board has a critical role in ensuring that their (OFSTED's) recommendations are effectively and speedily implemented. The Board will agree and then monitor the implementation of the action plan to improve all the areas identified.

The Board is moving quickly to update its Business Plan in response to the OFSTED report. It is critical that the Board is self aware and continues to develop its role as a result. Two particular areas which the Board will focus on as a result of the inspection are:

- training – ensuring that all identified staff are compliant with safeguarding training
- ensuring that the recommendations made by the Board are linked more directly in front-line social work practice.

As the lead organisation for Safeguarding and Children in Care, the Council is taking action to address the recommendations identified by OFSTED – the 'immediate' recommendations have already been addressed. The Council will be responsible to the independent LSCB for the delivery of these recommendations and ensuring that they deliver the necessary outcomes and improvements. As the OFSTED report has highlighted, the Board offers an appropriate level of challenge to the Council and its partners and is therefore well placed to ensure the necessary actions are effectively implemented.

**Report prepared by Clarissa Kris Woodcock
Safeguarding Children Partnership Development Officer
Telephone: 01952 telephone extension 385656**

APPENDIX ONE: OFSTED INSPECTION OF SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN: SUMMARY JUDGEMENTS

Safeguarding services	
Overall effectiveness	Adequate
Capacity for improvement	Adequate
Safeguarding outcomes for children and young people	
Children and young people are safe and feel safe	Adequate
Quality of provision	Inadequate
The contribution of health agencies to keeping children and young people safe	Adequate
Ambition and prioritisation	Good
Leadership and management	Adequate
Performance management and quality assurance	Adequate
Partnership working	Good
Equality and diversity	Adequate
Services for looked after children	
Overall effectiveness	Adequate
Capacity for improvement	Adequate
How good are outcomes for looked after children and care leavers?	
Being healthy	Adequate
Staying safe	Good
Enjoying and achieving	Adequate
Making a positive contribution, including user engagement	Good
Economic well-being	Adequate
Quality of provision	Inadequate
Ambition and prioritisation	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Performance management and quality assurance	Adequate
Equality and diversity	Adequate



Annual Report
April 2011- March 2012

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2011-2012 outlining the achievements and assessments of the Board during the last twelve months, during which time there has been a particular focus on the voice of the child with the 'I Stay Safe' initiative. A summary of the LSCB Key Priorities and how they have impacted on the lives of children and young people can be found over the page.

Since April 2010 there has been a new statutory responsibility for Local Safeguarding Children Boards to produce and publish a report that provides an assessment on the effectiveness of our local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In essence, it provides an analysis of how well the key agencies responsible for child safety are performing their duties both individually and collectively. Whilst this report recognises the achievements and the progress that has been made it also makes a realistic assessment of the challenges that still remain.

The last twelve months have been very demanding for all front line services as they have been working in a rapidly changing environment. The public sector landscape has altered significantly and partners have had to redesign their organisations in response to the new financial climate.

Nationally Professor Eileen Munro has published her independent review to improve child protection and produced a comprehensive report to the Government. We have welcomed their response and are now eagerly awaiting the revision of 'Working Together' our statutory guidance. There have been fundamental changes in the National Health Service and these have created uncertainties about safeguarding and its future framework within the Health Community.

In Telford and Wrekin there is a strong culture that recognises the requirement for continuous development, transparency and accountability by all the partners. There is no doubt that the agencies take their responsibilities very seriously and this was clearly acknowledged by action in response to the Munro Report, OFSTED Good Practice Guide, Peer Review and the Section 11 Audit. Having said that, there is no room for complacency and therefore we must continue to focus resources on front line delivery and also ensure that our quality assurance framework has a key role in our improvement cycle.

Finally I would like to thank the Board, its staff and all practitioners for their commitment and professionalism in what has been a challenging year.

Chris Brannan



Independent Chair

2011-2012 LSCB Priorities Key Activity and Impact on the lives of children & young people

Board Priorities	LSCB Key Activities	Impact on the lives of C& YP
Children Abused Through Exploitation (CATE) Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a draft 5 step model which helps identify localities where there maybe an emerging problem 	Known intelligence of sexual exploitation activity and related crime which helps us put our resources where needed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Sexual Violence Advisory (ISVA) Service implemented in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. 	2 full time ISVAs and 2 Sexual Violence Support Workers have supported 30 clients in their first 7 months of operation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for children, young people and families who are victims of child sexual exploitation 	More young people and parents are engaging and accepting support. Reduced level of risk from sexual exploitation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muslim Forum 	Highlighted problems ,challenged behaviours and cultural issues and tailored services to local Pakistani Muslim needs..
Getting The Right Help At The Right Time Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing between Early Intervention Teams and Social Care Team. 	Improved decision making means that appropriate support to children & families is now provided earlier
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing CAF Performance Framework 	Measures the outcomes for the early intervention teams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Birth Pathway 	Vulnerable children are identified and supported earlier
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Connect consultation events with all stakeholders 	Knowledge and views are captured to shape the service.
Missing Children Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing Children data analysis 	Analysis of what is working well and what is not
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Regional Protocol launch 	Robust mechanism for information sharing across all children in care providers both private and public
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop process for Children & Young People missing from care 	Return interviews will be a way for them to discuss feelings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement of Early Intervention and Cohesion services 	Early identification means we provide the right services at the right time
Children & Young People Feeling Safe Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti- Bullying consultations with young people, the Care Council, Youth Projects ,Play Groups and Disabled Children’s Groups 	How were doing comments for our communications and anti-bullying strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents Protect (sexual abuse) Events 	Raising parents awareness of sexual abuse
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary School mentoring by West Mercia Police Cadets 	Positive role models for Years 4 – 6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refreshed the LSCB website using a I Stay Safe campaign during anti-bullying week by Holmer Lake School on Beacon radio 	Promotion of anti-bulling week & LSCB website to 250,000 listeners. In first week of launch 600 hits on new website
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10,500 anti-bullying chatterboxes created by children for children plus supporting curriculum delivered to schools 	Raising awareness of bullying amongst children, parents and schools. Recognised by the Children’s commissioner as primary school safeguarding best practice.	

BOARD OBJECTIVES

The Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) was created under The Children Act 2004.

The work of the LSCB has a focus on keeping children safe: including the prevention of significant harm as well as the wider remit of improving the wellbeing of all children in Telford & Wrekin.

The specific objectives of the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board are:

1. To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development

2. To ensure that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe effective care and undertaking that role as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

3. To improve safety for children by promoting the development of safe environments in which children can grow, for example improved cyber safety, reducing death from injury from fires and reducing deaths in infancy.

4. To promote a community involvement in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare by raising awareness through publicity and training.

LSCB MEMBERSHIP

The Board

Name	Agency
Mr C Brannan	Independent Chair
Ms M Bayley	Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust
Mr J Bedesha	T&WC: Family & Cohesion Services
Mr M Bennett	Lead Joint Commissioner and Contracting Manager of Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Adults with Learning Difficulties and Employment
Mr G Branch	West Mercia Probation Trust
Mr J Collins	T&WC: Head of School Improvement
Ms G Eatough	Secondary Schools
Dr Ganesh	Shropshire Community Trust
Ms K Hancocks	SCB Community Board Member
Ms H Hipkiss	NHS Midlands and East SHA
Ms C Hobbs	Primary Schools
Mr S Hosking	Youth Offending Service, Group Manager
Mrs C Hughes	T&WC: SCB Training
Ms B Jackson	Telford College of Arts and Technology
Ms L Johnston	T&WC: Director of Children and Family Services
Mr C Jones	Family & Community Services
Ms G Knox	Special Schools
D Supt M Lakeman	West Mercia Police
Ms M Lee	South Staffordshire & Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust
Ms V Morris	SATH – Director of Quality & Safety
Ms S North	SCB Community Board Member
Ms K Perry	T&WC: Interim Assistant Director: Children's Safeguarding
Mr D Robson	T&WC: Service Delivery Specialist (Adult Safeguarding & Quality)
Ms A Scott-Ryan	Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire PCTs
Mr R Thomson	Public Health – Shropshire County PCT
Supt J Tozer	West Mercia Police
Cllr P Watling	T&WC Lead Member
DCI J Wells	West Mercia Police

Executive Group

Name	Agency
Mr J Bedesha	T&WC: Family & Cohesion Services
Mr M Bennett	Lead Joint Commissioner and Contracting Manager of Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Adults with Learning Difficulties and Employment
Mr C Brannan	Independent Chair of T&W SCB
Mr G Branch	West Mercia Probation Service
Ms S Dean	Holmer Lake School
Dr M Ganesh	Designated Doctor
T/DI H Gordos	West Mercia Police
Mr S Hosking	T&WC: Youth Offending Service
Ms L Johnston	T&WC: Director of Children and Family Services
Ms D Lloyd	T&WC: Family Connect
Ms K Perry	T&WC: Interim Assistant Director: Children's Safeguarding (Chair)

Ms A Scott-Ryan	Shropshire & Telford and Wrekin NHS Trust
Mrs S Vale	Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust – Vice Chair
Ms M White	T&WC: SDM Child Protection and Assessment
Ms W Williams	Wrockwardine Wood Arts College

Board Officers

Name	Agency
Miss E Boddison	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Mrs J Britton	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service, Service Delivery Manager
Ms C Hughes	TWSCB: Interagency Training Co-ordinator
Ms T Knight	T&WC: Safeguarding & Community Social Work
Mr M Turner	T&WC: Safeguarding Advisory Service
Ms K Woodcock	T&WC: Safeguarding Children Partnership Development Officer

Annual Report 2011-2012

Introduction

The Purpose of this Report

- To report work progress against T&W SCB Business Plan 2011-12.
- To analyse safeguarding practice within the Borough, focussing on T&W SCB agreed performance data and information relating to inspection, audit and needs analysis.
- To inform the T&W SCB business planning process 2012-15.

Background

The Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The LSCB is the statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

Working Together To Safeguard Children 2010 (WT2010) requires all LSCBs to produce an annual report which reflects the progress of its business plan as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges which still remain.

The core content for annual reports is outlined in WT2010. This report complies with that guidance.

As well as the statutory requirement, the activities and focus of the Board are aligned with a core priority of the 2011-12 refresh of Telford & Wrekin's Children and Families Plan: *"Keep children safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation"*.

This **Annual Report** is divided into three sections:

- Governance and Operational Arrangements
- Performance and Audit
- Progress against Business Plan - Improving Practice and Service Delivery

The 2011/12 Business Plan had four safeguarding priorities together with a number of sub-groups and work streams and its two Professional Practice Themes. These are detailed below.

Board Priorities

- * Children Abused Through Exploitation (CATE)
- * Missing Children
- * Getting The Right Help At The Right Time
- * Children and Young People Feeling Safe

Sub-groups

- * Child Death Overview Panel
- * Policies & Procedures
- * Performance Management
- * Serious Case Review
- * Training

Professional Practice Themes

- * Invisible Men' The role of men in children's lives
- * Cultural Competence

Work Streams

- * Communication Strategy
- * Munro Report Response
- * Funding
- * Structure & Membership

Governance and Operational Arrangements

This has been a period of reflection, challenge and change for the LSCB. The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report - A child-centred system was published July 2011. The Munro Report set challenges for improvements in service delivery especially early intervention and the quality of social work practice and the role of the LSCB in driving these improvements across all partner agencies. In response to the 15 Munro recommendations a strategic steering group has been set up to drive the implementation forward.

All the organisations who work with Children and Young People (C&YP), share a commitment to safeguard and promote their welfare have specific roles and responsibilities to do so which are underpinned by statutory duty or roles. These are outlined in WT2010.

Chris Brannan is the Board's Independent Chair. This is his third year of tenure.

The Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Young People regularly attends LSCB meetings.

During 2011-12 the membership of the Executive Group and Sub-groups has been reviewed and approved by the SCB.

Two Community Board Members were appointed in January 2011 and under took a comprehensive induction programme. In addition to attending the main Board both serve on the Children and Young people Staying Safe Sub-group. The Community Board Members have been able to contribute to the scrutiny and oversight of various policies and procedures and in developing work with children and young people.

All statutory member agencies completed Section 11 Audits in 2011. They all report having safer recruitment policies and procedures which comply with T&W SCB guidance. Members also have in place policies and procedures to address the management of Allegations Against Adults Who Work With Children.

LSCB Financial Summary 2011-12 / 2012-13 is Appendix A

Performance and Audit

The SCB approved a comprehensive performance management framework and calendar of reporting, which enables it to fulfil the expectations outlined in the business plan. The framework covers five core areas: Section 11 Self-Audits, performance reporting and performance indicators on a range of safeguarding issues, single agency focused audits, multi-agency practice audits and themed reviews.

The **Annual Unannounced Inspection** of contact, referral and assessment arrangements took place in May 2011. Ofsted found two areas of strength: an innovative and effective multi-agency approach to protecting children at risk of sexual exploitation which is recognised nationally as a practice leader in this area and the investment in business support officer posts who provide extensive, individualised support for social workers. The level and quality of this support enables workers to efficiently manage their casework and spend more time with children and families. The introduction of this support has had a very positive impact on social worker morale.

OFSTED found the service met statutory guidance in child protection enquiries, arrangements for the screening of contacts and referrals, thresholds for children's social care are well understood and operate effectively across partner agencies, use of the common assessment framework and a Team around the Child approach, partnership arrangements for working with children at risk of significant harm are strong, the needs of disabled children are responded to in a sensitive manner, children and young people are routinely seen and spoken to as part of the assessment process, at the time of the inspection all cases were appropriately allocated, out-of-hours arrangements are well established and responsive with effective communication between daytime and out-of-hours services. Standards for the service are defined and monitored through a clear service level agreement, the local authority seeks user feedback on their experience of its duty and assessment services which informs service development and senior managers have a good understanding of the strengths and vulnerabilities of the service.

Areas for development were identified as: children's ethnicity and diverse needs being considered in assessment and care planning, the quality of analysis in assessments, up to date comprehensive case recording, timely initial assessments for children in need and consistent good quality supervision.

To move forward and action the findings of the Ofsted Unannounced Inspection, the Munro Report recommendations and the Peer Review which took place in 2011, Telford & Wrekin Council has established a Transforming Social Care initiative.

Progress against Business Plan Improving Practice and Service Delivery

The LSCB has made considerable progress towards achieving its Business Plan objectives. Key progress includes:

- Ongoing support to children and families affected by Operation Chalice investigation into sexual exploitation
- Development of the draft 5 steps model for identifying potential CATE issues in a particular geographic area with potential for regional and national implementation.
- A Regional Joint Protocol for Missing Children to enable improved support to be given to the children, young people and families affected.
- During the year the Board ratified the following policies: The 2011-12 Communications Campaign, Anti-Bullying Policy and Guidance.

Further examples of work are listed at **Appendix B**.

Key to the effectiveness of the LSCB is the involvement and engagement of children and young people throughout the Borough, particularly vulnerable groups. These activities have included:

- Anti-bullying consultations with the Care Council, Youth Play and Activity Groups, Disabled Children's Groups and Youth Projects. These consultations informed the refreshed Anti-bullying Policy and Guidance.
- Consultations involving 5 Primary Schools and 1 Infants School with the purpose of the children producing an anti-cyber bullying and domestic violence tactile communications tool for all primary school children in the borough. This piece of work was recognised by the Children's Commissioner as best safeguarding practice for primary schools.
- Beacon Radio Broadcast. The focus of which was anti-bullying. The script was created and performed by the children of Holmer Lake Primary School and was transmitted 62 times to a listening audience of 250,000 during the last two weeks of November to coincide with national anti-bullying week.
- Groups of children commented on the refresh of the LSCB website
- Other examples of activities and those planned for the future are summarised at **Appendix C**.

What difference have we made to children, young people, parents and carers?

Significant differences include:

- The raised awareness of children in terms of their own safeguarding environment; anecdotal evidence suggests children are questioning their own environment and how this reflects on their wellbeing
- Child deaths have reduced since 2008
- The role of significant men in children's lives and the impact is better taken into account in assessment and care planning
- Hospital paediatric staff are better able to identify potential safeguarding issues within apparent Life Threatening Events
- The reflective question, 'How has the work of this meeting contributed to keeping children and young people safe?' has become an integral part of all T&W SCB meetings.

Other achievements are set out at **Appendix D**.

Serious Case Review (SCR) During 2011 -12 the Group continued to meet on a bi monthly basis. It has co-ordinate the production of a number of discretionary reviews, received and considered reports of serious incidents from the Youth Offending Service. The group has received and considered a report analysing Child Protection Plans over 2 years. It has also considered published Executive Summaries from other LSCBs to ascertain any potential local learning and nationally published summary documents collating themes from SCRs [e.g. Ages of Concern], good practice and framework guidance. The group will continue to look at future arrangements for the SCR Process as and when guidance is published.

There have also been specifically convened Panel meetings to progress and address the recommendations from the individual SCR (Child A) initiated in 2010 and to successfully addressed the inadequacies which were identified in Ofsted's evaluation,

Key examples of the impact of addressing the learning from Child A

- Increased visibility of men who are significant figures in children's lives and the role they play (as evident from care plans for court and notes of legal planning meetings)
- Increased awareness by hospital doctors of the differential diagnosis of Apparent Life Threatening Events, that child maltreatment should be considered as one of its important potential causes (as evident from safeguarding training delivered by Designated Doctor).
- Reduction in frequency of missing children from local children's homes (data from COMPACT system, the West Mercia Police missing person database that automatically shares information with key agencies)
- Schools have comprehensive advice on good practice for record keeping and archiving (development and use of Designated Persons workbook and follow-up health checks)

- Agreement by A&E to flag additional vulnerable children (those subject to Supervision Orders or Care Orders but Placed with their Parents)
- Information regarding child protection concerns is shared when a child is moved to specialist hospital. (As evident from Paediatric Intensive Care Retrieval Forms).
- Improved safeguarding governance for all members of Shropshire health family including Ambulance and GPs as member of the Health Safeguarding Governance Children's Committee (as evident in notes of meetings)
- Recognition of the importance of involving someone with the right specialist knowledge in conducting management reviews (as evident from proposal to commission specialist assistance for current discretionary management reviews)

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). There were 25 deaths reported to the Shropshire/T+W CDOP in 2010-11, 17 fewer than the 42 deaths during the year 2009/10, 30 fewer than the 55 which occurred in 2008/09. There were no homicides or suspicious deaths. The appointment of the Lead Nurse for CDOP in May 2011 increased the cover for the Rapid Response during the week and an option appraisal has been carried out to look at covering evenings and weekends. CDOP has been involved in developing the T+W accident prevention strategy. The CDOP information leaflet has been reviewed and updated.

Interagency Training In year 2012 /13 each statutory agency will be required to provide a single agency safeguarding training plan, identifying their staff requirements for interagency training. Currently the Training Sub-group are conducting an audit ensuring all partners are compliant with this WT2010 requirement.

Training courses During the reporting year training offered 12 different course titles which included: the 'Hidden Sentence', and 'Somebody Else's Child' and 'Developing Practice', which extended learning around the four categories of abuse. In total, 27 interagency courses were delivered by the training pool, 309 learners attended. 4 new courses have been developed by the training pool for 2012, titles include: Parental Mental Illness in a Child's World and Interagency Working to Safeguard Children Living with Parental Substance Misuse. The Peer Review acknowledged multi-agency training was well regarded and a particular strength of the LSCB.

Conferences Training also hosted 3 conferences: Parent Protect which provided practitioners with information to be shared with parents enabling them to protect their children from sexual abuse and provide information about e-safety. Fabricated and Induced Illness, jointly hosted with Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board. The outcomes from this event are currently being discussed by the Serious Case Review Sub-group and further work will be developed in 2012/2013. The third conference: Assisted Voluntary Return, introduced issues relating to illegal migrants and provided information which could be offered to people to assist them to return to their home country, the session was led by the Refugee Migrant Centre

Schools Child Protection training which includes statutory, private and independent provision All Schools in the Telford & Wrekin area have received Board approved training which is refreshed every 3 years. The Designated Persons have attended role specific training and update sessions are provided every term. A large number of schools access interagency training on a regular basis.

Voluntary Sector Training The Training Sub Group undertook the commitment to provide free training for the Voluntary Sector. Organisations who have received child protection training include: Street Pastors, Home Start, Woodside Family Group, small Volunteer Youth Groups, Chaperones, Stay Project, Shropshire Girl Guides and the Police Cadets

The Local Authority Designated Officer dealt with 142 allegations during 2010-2011 eight people were dismissed and three received criminal convictions. The numbers of allegations are slightly up on the previous year (138); this is also reflected in regional and National trends”

Safeguarding in schools During the year there were eleven Ofsted inspections. As part of the overall inspection process Safeguarding is taken into account as a limiting judgement. Of the eleven, two were rated as Outstanding and the others as being good (six) or satisfactory (3). As an officer of the Board the Principal Officer for Child Protection visited two of the schools who took up the option of a “health check” on their Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures. One of the schools achieved outstanding prompting the Head teacher to write: *“Just had a very successful Ofsted. Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Strategies were considered to be exemplary and we were awarded an Outstanding Judgement. Thank you for all your help and guidance in these matters”*

A **“Designated Persons Workbook”** was submitted and approved by the SCB. For the first time this set out roles, standards, practice and performance for Designated Persons in Schools and was subsequently adopted as good practice model at the Regional Midland Association Safeguarding in Education Officers Network (MASIE). It is hoped our lead will shape practice across the wider regional safeguarding agenda. The “Workbook” sits alongside model template policies that the SCB produces yearly for schools.

Police Protecting Vulnerable people which includes children is a strategic key priority for West Mercia Police; a theme which is embedded within our training for all of our staff.

West Mercia Police has five local authority aligned territorial policing units and within each there is a dedicated public protection team with specialist staff that address key areas which include Child Abuse and Domestic Abuse. Each Public Protection Unit is lead by a dedicated Detective Inspector, with West Mercia Police HQ having strategic control and leadership but delivering a localised service.

Partnership working is fundamental to effective public protection and West Mercia Police are committed to this process of working with all agencies that have an ability to provide protective services. A demonstration of that commitment is the current engagement to pursue co-location working within the Telford and Wrekin Family Connect project. New data analysis and assessment now addresses the wide agenda area of children who may be abused through exploitation. West Mercia Police data is provided to allow agencies to proactively identify any early indications of abuse through exploitation and therefore implement early prevention strategies.

Professional Practice themes Information relating to the two practice themes has been disseminated across agencies and partners of the LSCB. An LSCB training event

(Missing Men Conference) has been held which assisted in the launching of the two practice themes. This Conference was well attended and received by professionals across the LSCB Partnership.

A baseline audit has assessed how partner agencies have incorporated the two themes into professional practice. Further developments will include embedding the themes in all work, policy/procedures and quality assurance frameworks.

Child Protection Trends

The number of children with Child Protection Plans is measured as a rate per 10,000 population aged 0 to 17. Telford & Wrekin continues to have a higher rate of CP Plans per 10,000 than All England and Statistical Neighbours. At year end we were also the highest of all West Midlands Authorities per 10,000 (35.13). Telford & Wrekin's children subject to a CP Plan per 10,000 at 31 December 2011 was 56.5.

The percentage of Children who have been made subject to a CP Plan who have previously been subject to a plan at 31 December 2011 was 14.8%. At the same time in 2010 Telford & Wrekin's figure was 14.1%. As overall registrations increase this figure may come down. At year end, March 2011, Telford & Wrekin's outturn was 12.4%, which was just above the statistical neighbour average of 12.3% and lower than All England average of 13.3%.

There has been an increase of 31.2% in the number of children becoming subject to a CP Plan between 01 April 2011 - 31 December 2011 compared to the same period in 2010. There has also been an increase of 72.3% in the number of children ceasing to be subject to a CP Plan between 01 April 2011 -31 December 2011 compared to 01 April 2010 – 31 December 2010.

The percentage of children who ceased to be subject to a Child Protection Plan within 6-12 months was lower than the All England Average. 33.2% of Telford & Wrekin children ceased to be subject to a plan within 6-12 months and the All England outturn was 38.2%. 31.2% of Telford & Wrekin children ceased to be subject to a Plan within 1-2 years, this was higher than the All England outturn.

Whilst the number of children becoming subject to a Plan has increased, further analysis of sibling groups has shown that whilst we do have some larger sibling groups the trend has not changed dramatically in recent years. In 2009/10 there were 10 sibling groups which included 4 or more children, in 2010/11 there were 13 and from 01 April 2011- 31 December 2011 there have been 11 sibling groups of 4 or more children made subject to a CP Plan. In 2010/11 there was a 61% rise from 2009/10 in boys aged between 1 and 4 becoming subject to a CP Plan. There was also a rise of 67% in boys aged 5 to 9 in 2010/11 compared to 2009/10. The ratio of boys to girls being made subject to a CP Plan is generally consistent over the last 5 years. The category of abuse that children are being made subject to CP Plans under has not changed dramatically, however since 2009/10 the predominant change has been an increase in the number of boys becoming subject to a Plan under the category of Sexual Abuse. In 2010/2011 there was a rise in the number of boys being made subject to a Plan under the category of Physical Abuse. It rose from 22 in 2009/2010 to 48 in 2010/2011.

Referral rates in Telford and Wrekin in comparison to Statistical Neighbours and All England have been lower per 10,000 however this year (2011/2012) there has been a significant rise which is mainly attributed to improved recording mechanism. The number of Referrals as at 31 December 2011 was 1684, this is 446.7 per 10,000.

In terms of the number of Children Looked After, the trends in Telford & Wrekin have continued to increase and exceed the All England Average since 2007. The current number of Children in Care per 10,000 is 79.6.

The percentage of children who were subject to a CP Plan who subsequently became Looked After within 12 months of being subject to a CP Plan has increased year on year since 2007/08 to 2010/11 and is expected to continue this year with the percentage as at 30/09/2011 being 42%.

Available data suggests that Telford & Wrekin have had a high rate of children subject to child protection plans for the last 10 years, however, up to 2007, this was counter balanced by a lower rate of CIC in comparison to all England average and statistical neighbours. It could be suggested that prior to 2007 Telford & Wrekin attempted to retain children on child protection plans as opposed to bringing children into care. From 2007 this trend began to change, and along with high rates of child protection plans, we began to see an increasing rise of CIC. There could be a number of reasons for this trend:-

- The establishment and bedding in of the TAC process and Early Intervention Services, leading to improved information sharing and a collective approach to safeguarding children and young people within Telford & Wrekin.
- The identification of long term neglect cases, particularly identifying large sibling groups. This could be a relevant factor when considering the conversion rate from child protection to CIC rate.
- The impact of 'Baby Peter' on safeguarding practice.
- The introduction of the Public Law Outline, resulting in consistent management oversight of significant cases, and decisions being made earlier regarding long term care plans for children & young people.

Telford & Wrekin continues to have a higher rate of CP Plans per 10,000 than All England and Statistical Neighbours. We need to explore the reasons behind this trend. One of the reasons for the rise could be a change in our practice in relation to unborn children. Instead of children becoming subject to a child protection plan at birth, they can now be made subject to the child protection plan up to 12 weeks before the birth.

When we explore why our rate of child protection plans continuing to rise, we particularly need to focus on the reasons behind the rise in repeat child protection plans. We are in the process of undertaking audits jointly within both Safeguarding and the Early Intervention services of those children who have been made subject to a child protection plan within a 12 month period, in order to identify themes within this area. Jointly with our safeguarding partners, we also need to review our safeguarding practices in relation to children where there is a dual status, i.e. children being subject to a child protection plan and being a CIC, as this has an impact on the numbers of children subject to a child protection plan.

Telford & Wrekin have continued to consider new approaches to targeting services for our vulnerable children – particularly in light of increased referrals, the number of children with a child protection plan, and increasing numbers of CIC. The development and introduction of Family Connect Model will bring together key professionals in one place in order that there is early identification of vulnerable children and improving the speed to which those children receive the most appropriate help from single agencies or several agencies. This approach will avoid unnecessary duplication of assessments by agencies, simplify processes and improve communication and information sharing between professionals.

Conclusion & Looking Forward

Whilst operational safeguarding arrangements remain robust, organisational change and restructuring within key partners' agencies both nationally and locally has impacted on the momentum for local delivery of the strategic objectives in some areas. For example, these have affected the comprehensive development of the local missing children and pre-birth pathways. However, partner agencies have continued to monitor the effectiveness of operational child protection services through a range of mechanisms; supervision of staff, internal meetings with leads and less formal discussion with staff and young people, management and performance information, managers signing off assessments, care plans and statements for court, and case file and theme audits, sometimes on a multi-agency basis. Relationships between frontline professionals remain strong, and energy is being put into redeveloping them where changes in personnel require it. Where any professional disagreements cannot be resolved informally on a day to day basis, the role of the Designated and Named professionals and Safeguarding Advisory Service is well known.

The SCB has had a productive year. In response to national developments we have spent time reviewing how we deliver our core functions. This will contribute to improving outcomes for children and their families and ensure that agencies continue to work effectively together to plan, commission and deliver services.

The SCB has not just looked inward; we are developing strategies to improve operational practice throughout the Borough. This work has required extensive discussion and collaboration between board member agencies.

Given the current economic climate, next year will be particularly challenging for all partner agencies. The SCB have agreed a new budget to address the impact of partnership restructuring and the recommendations of the Munro Review.

2012-15 Business Plan Looking forward.

Telford & Wrekin is about working smarter. We know that boards which concentrate upon a limited number of priorities are more likely to make a difference to children and young people. We also understand that in order to lead to improvements, priorities need to be relevant to the local area. To ensure the Board has a proper overview of activity relating to vulnerable groups of children including those living with domestic violence, hidden harm, parents/carers with mental health issues, children with disabilities and to identify any possible gaps, the Board will be undertaking a scoping exercise identifying the numbers of partnership meetings where these groups are identified and supported. It is imperative that the Board has this overview and that there are established linkages in terms of reporting and sharing information.

The LSCB has set three priorities for the coming year: **Children Abused Through Exploitation, Missing Children, and Children and Young People Feeling Safe.** On going actions from this year's SCB Business Plan will be subsumed into the 2012-15 Business Plan. Whilst the ongoing development of the T&W Family Connect Service will be overseen by the Council's Children Young People and Families Board.

Strong practice is seen where LSCBs review regularly and update their priorities to meet changing needs and pressures. To this end there will be a board development day

towards the end of this year where we can collectively review our priorities and the learning from the scoping exercise.

Future Board work will continue to focus on positive outcomes for and the continued engagement of children and young people, performance and holistically integrating our professional practice themes: 'Invisible Men' and Cultural Competence into the Boards work.

The SCB priorities, sub-groups and work streams for 2012-3 are at **Appendix E**.

Appendix A – LSCB Financial Summary 2011-12 / 2012-13

LSCB FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2011-12 / 2012-13

2011/12			
2011/12 ORIGINAL BUDGET	2011/12 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS	2011/12 REVISED BUDGET	2011/12 ACTUAL OUTTURN

(inc Partners payment holiday)

£ £ £ £

EXPENDITURE

Salaries	147,486	0	147,486	158,630
Non Salaries	52,504	-12,674	39,830	18,096
CEC/DEC's	10,008	5,769	15,777	15,777
	209,998	-6,905	203,093	192,502

INCOME

Shropshire & Telford Hospital	-5,000	1,250	-3,750	-3,750
Telford & Wrekin PCT	-38,000	9,500	-28,500	-28,500
West Mercia Constabulary	-14,000	3,500	-10,500	-10,500
West Mercia Probation	-4,340	1,085	-3,255	-3,255
CAFCASS	-550	137	-413	-413
YOS	-500	125	-375	-375
Education	-29,606	7,401	-22,205	-22,205
T&W Base Budget	-65,706	-5,042	-70,748	-70,748
Schools	-25,000	0	-25,000	-25,000
Training Fees	-4,560	0	-4,560	-4,910
Non Attendance Fees	-1,200	0	-1,200	-660
Daphne	-8,000	0	-8,000	
Funded from reserve	-13,536	-11,051	-24,587	-22,186
	-209,998	6,905	-203,093	-192,502

LSCB - RESERVES

2011/12

Opening Reserves 11/12 (as at 01/04/2011)	-109,679	
Actual Reserves used 11/12	22,186	
Closing reserves 11/12 (as at 31/03/2012)		-87,493

2012/13

Opening reserves 12/13 (as at 01/04/2012)	-87,493	
Planned use of reserves 12/13	50,433	
Current Serious Case Review	16,000	
Planned closing reserves 12/13 (as at 31/04/2013)		-21,060

2012/13		
2012/13 ORIGINAL BUDGET	2012/13 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS	2012/13 REVISED BUDGET

(inc Partners payment holiday)

£ £ £

Salaries	160,996	0	160,996
Non Salaries	39,420	0	39,420
	24,580	0	24,580
	224,996	0	224,996

ACCOUNTING NOTES:

Partners payment holiday agreed 2011/12 and 2012/13
 DAPHNE income not expected - taken out
 Salary costs 11/12 higher than budget due to incremental drift

Appendix B: Sub-group and work streams achievements

	Sub-Group/Work Stream	LSCB Achievements
	Priority Areas	
1	Children Abused Through Exploitation (CATE) Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of the draft 5 steps model for identifying potential CATE issues in an area. This is part of the launch of the Regional Missing Children Joint Protocol. 2. Implementation of Independent Sexual Violence Advisory (ISVA) Service. In the first 7 months, the service has supported 30 clients, 2 full time ISVAs and 2 Sexual Violence Support Workers. Service available throughout Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. Key agencies have received referral packs. 3. Support for Chalice victims and their families. 4. Strong links established with two voluntary organisations – Axis and Calla. 5. Menu of activities agreed with Muslim Forum – which includes working with young people and Community Safety including Chalice, proposal to establish supplementary schools to focus on raising aspirations for young men.
2	Getting The Right Help At The Right Time Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family Connect Service recruitment complete. 2. Information sharing of Early Intervention Teams data with Social Care Data Team and Safeguarding: including Common Assessment Framework and Team Around the Child data. 3. Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Performance Information Framework completed and ready to use. 4. Development of Family Connect PR and Communication strategy including consultation with all stakeholders. 5. Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) being developed. Commissioned April 2012. 6. Pre-Birth Pathway complete. Implemented April 2012.
3	Missing Children Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missing children data analysis. 2. Developing robust process for children and young people missing from care. 3. Launch of the Joint Regional Protocol 4. Involvement of Early Intervention and Cohesion Services
4	Children & Young People Feeling Safe Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produced creative outcomes whilst navigating around financial constraints. 2. Anti- Bullying consultations with young people: Care Council, Youth Activity & Play Groups, Disabled Children’s Groups & Youth projects. Anti-Bullying Strategy approved by the Safeguarding Children Board. 3. Distribution of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Chatterboxes to 11k primary school children within Telford & Wrekin supported by an enriched curriculum. This work was nationally recognised by the Children’s Commissioner and the NSPCC. 4. Safeguarding Concertina Card consultation taken place with 5 secondary schools. The work will be implemented in all secondary schools later this year with an enriched curriculum. 5. Parents Protect Event: 72 people attended September’s events. 6. Primary School mentoring by West Mercia Police Cadets for Years 4 – 6 positive role models. 7. Trial of voluntary sector NSPCC accreditation.

Functions with Sub-groups		
5	Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CDOP Lead Nurse appointment and is now qualified in Rapid Response for child deaths . 2. Submitted CDOP national data prior to deadline (May 2011). 3. Increased partnership working with coroner.
6	Performance Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ratified: Performance Management Framework and Calendar of Reports to LSCB.
7	Policies & Procedures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missing Children Joint Protocol has been agreed by Council and LSCB. 2. Refresh of the Schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies agreed by LSCB.
8	Serious Case Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SCR action plan submitted to Ofsted and deemed satisfactory
9	Training Sub- Group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chair and Action Plan Lead of Training Sub Group retained giving the sub-group continuity. 2. Membership of training pool increasing. 3. Expectations of statutory agencies clearly set out and progress report process in place.
Work Streams		
10	Communication Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production of Children & Young People chatterbox communication tool. 2. LSCB Members E Site. 3. Refresh of LSCB Website. 4. Beacon Radio anti-bullying jingles broadcast – Holmer Lake School: By Children For Children.
11	Funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding for 2012-13 agreed.
12	Munro Report Response	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summary report produced which incorporated government’s response to the Munro Report. 2. Implications for T&W identified. 3. Interim Director of Children and Families has established an interagency strategic group to look at the implementation of the Munro Report within Telford & Wrekin.
13	Structure and Membership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Induction of Community Board Members. 2. Organisational change has become a standard agenda item at both LSCB and Executive Group Meetings. 3. Membership of LSCB and the Executive Group is being monitored and maintained through organisational change.
Professional Practice Themes		
14	Cultural Competence	Theme incorporated into the LSCB Performance Management Framework.
15	‘Invisible Men’ The role of men in children’s lives	Theme incorporated into the LSCB Performance Management Framework.

Appendix C: LSCB Involvement of children and young people

	Sub-Group/Work Stream	LSCB Involvement of children and young people
	Priority Areas	
1	Children Abused Through Exploitation (CATE) Priority	1. Bid made to Home Office by Axis for young persons advocate for victims of sexual violence and exploitation.
2	Getting The Right Help At The Right Time Priority	1. Children and young people involved in the development of the Family Connect Service through consultations. 2. Planned involvement with C&YP during the 90 day consultation of phase 2 of the restructure. 3. Representative from the Parents Forum now sits on the sub-group.
3	Missing Children Priority	1. Jigsaw have discussed service provision with children and young people, as part of this process ways of encouraging children and young people to accept a contract from an independent person have been indentified.
4	Children & Young People Feeling Safe Priority	1. Anti-bullying consultations with the Care Council, Youth Play & Activity Groups, Disabled Children's Groups, Youth Project. 2. Chatterbox Consultation: 4 Primaries & 1 Infants School. 3. Borough Primary and Secondary Schools. 4. C&YP consultations regarding the new LSCB website. 5. Police cadets 'positive role model 'mentoring scheme with Years 4-6. 6. Holmer Lake School delivered an anti-bullying workshop to the January LSCB.
	Functions with Sub-groups	
5	Training Sub- Group	Discussions held with a view: 1. To delivering child protection awareness sessions suitable for young people. 2. To include young people in the development of the training pack.
	Work Streams	
6	Communication Strategy	1. Communications Tool consultation with primary and secondary schools within the borough. 2. C&YP consultations regarding the new LSCB website. 3. Beacon Radio broadcast – enabled the views, thoughts and feelings of children to be heard, created into a cohesive radio broadcast which will be transmitted 62 times during the last 2 weeks of November to coincide with anti-bullying week commencing 14.11.11.

Appendix D: What difference are we making to children, young people, parents and carers?

	Sub-Group/Work Stream	LSCB What difference have we made to children, young people, parents and carers?
	Priority Areas	
1	Children Abused Through Exploitation (CATE) Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of draft 5 steps model for identifying potential CATE issues in an area. Identification of potential sexual exploitation activity: intelligence about related crime and risk factors, where & how much. Range of data key sources; education & police which enables targeting of resources 2. Implementation of Independent Sexual Violence Advisory (ISVA) Service. Service available throughout Shropshire, T&W. First 7 months of operation, the service supported 30 clients, 2 full time ISVAs and 2 Sexual Violence Support Workers. 3. Support for Chalice victims and their families. Anecdotal evidence: parents report victims feel safer & parents appreciate support. Difficult to reach young people are engaging and accepting of support. Reduction in level of risk from sexual exploitation for individual young people. 4. Raised awareness of problems within the community. Regular meetings with the Muslim forum to tailor services and address local Pakistani Muslim needs. The process enables us to challenge behaviours and cultural issues.
2	Getting The Right Help At The Right Time Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information sharing between Early Intervention Teams and Social Care Team. Improving informed decisions to ensure that children and families are receiving appropriate and proportionate support at the earliest opportunity. 2. Developing CAF Performance Framework to capture outcomes measures for early intervention teams 3. Pre-Birth Pathway ensures vulnerable children are identified and supported at the earliest opportunity 4. Family Connect consultation events with all stakeholders to ensure practice knowledge and opinions are captured to inform design of the service.
3	Missing Children Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missing Children data analysis of what is working well and what is not 2. Joint Regional Protocol launch - Robust mechanism for information sharing across children in care providers: private and public and link into Family Connect 3. Developing robust process for C&YP missing from care. Improved processes for Safeguarding C&YP. Return interviews will provide a forum for C&YP to express feelings 4. Involvement of Early Intervention and Cohesion services. Early identification of issues for C&YP and their families to provide relevant services/interventions early at the right time
4	Children & Young People Feeling Safe Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anti-Bullying consultations with young people: Care Council, Youth Projects & Play Groups, Disabled Children's Groups. Needs & gap analysis to inform communications & anti-bullying strategy 2. Parents Protect (sexual abuse) Events. Raising parents awareness of sexual abuse 3. Primary School mentoring by West Mercia Police Cadets. Positive role models for Years 4 – 6 4. Launch of refreshed LSCB website – I Stay Safe during anti-bullying week supported by media coverage and Radio Beacon jingles created and performed by Holmer Lake School. Promotion of anti-bullying week & LSCB website to an audience of 250,000 listeners. In first week of launch 600 hits on new website 5. Consultation, Creation and delivery of anti-bullying chatterboxes by children for children. 10,500 KS1 & 2 Chatterboxes plus enrichment curriculum sponsored by LSCB. Key messages: what it is, what to do, where to seek help. Raising awareness of the multi

		<p>facets of bullying amongst children, parents , careers and schools. Recognised by the Children’s commissioner as primary school safeguarding best practice.</p> <p>6. LSCB Anti-bullying strategy - Raising awareness, long term reduction in bullying</p>
	Functions with Sub-groups	
5	Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)	<p>1. Child deaths have reduced since 2008.</p> <p>2. Bereavement midwife post developed by SaTH – to commence September 2011.</p> <p>3. Lead Nurse for CDOP panel due to workload of panel members.</p>
6	Policies & Procedures	1.The refresh of the Schools Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies have been agreed by the LSCB
7	Serious Case Review	<p>1.The role of significant men in children’s lives and the impact on their lives is better taken into account in assessment and care planning</p> <p>2.Hospital paediatric staff better able to identify potential safeguarding issues within Apparent Life Threatening Events</p> <p>3.Reduction in multiple episodes of missing YPs from single establishments</p>
8	Training Sub- Group	1. Raised awareness of Child Protection issues and informed via the use of Child Protection procedures across the Telford & Wrekin area with practitioners in statutory organisations and the voluntary sector.
	Work Streams	
9	Communication Strategy	<p>1. Raised awareness of safeguarding issues and the role of the LSCB.</p> <p>2. Demonstrated the LSCBs desire to listen to the views of children.</p>

Safeguarding Children Board

Executive Group

Outcomes
Priorities With
Sub-Groups

Children Abused
Through
Exploitation

Missing Children

Children &
Young People
Feeling Safe

Functions With
Sub-Groups

Child Death
Overview Panel
- Joint

Performance
Management
Inc Section 11 Audit

Policies &
Procedures

Serious
Case
Review

Training

Health
Governance

Work Streams

Communications
Strategy

Funding

Munro Report
Response

Structure &
Membership

Professional
Practice
Themes –
embedded in all
we do

'Invisible Men' The Role Of Men In Children's Lives

Cultural Competence

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

CABINET – 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

PUBLIC HEALTH TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – SOCIAL CARE SPECIALIST

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR RICHARD OVERTON

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The report updates members on the implications of transferring public health functions and lack of clarity on funding levels for the first year - 2013/14.

1.2 Commissioned activity under contract to the PCT makes up the largest proportion of current spend. Current contracts are due to expire on the 31 March 2013 so we are currently in a position where we have to plan for the continuation of some key services upon transfer to the Council.

1.3 This gives the Council some flexibility about deciding which services to continue with but there is much work to be done to put in place arrangements to secure the procurement of activities that will meet these new responsibilities.

1.4 The report sets out the suggested approach and seeks approval to delegate responsibility for letting the contracts to Officers in consultation with the Lead Member.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members note the uncertain situation, the tight timescales and support the prudent approach being recommended towards the award of future public health contracts**
- 2.2 **Members approve delegation of responsibility to the Director of Adult & Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Public Health, and Cabinet Lead/Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board Chair to: progress the consideration of future commissioned services, the award of relevant contracts for those public health services within the finances available once the Public Health ring fenced grant is announced and enter into any appropriate documentation to enable and give effect to the transfer of public health functions to the Council.**

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and address health inequalities
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	Will impact on all of our community but in particular people living in in more deprived communities with higher levels of poor health
DELIVERY DATE	2012-2015	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	<p>The financial implications of public health transition are detailed in the body of the report. Key factors to note include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When public health functions transfer to the council on 1st April 2013 they will be funded by a new ring-fenced grant that can only be used to support public health activities. • The recent consultation on a proposed distribution method for the new grant (see Appendix 1 for a copy of the response) indicates that the Council may only receive £7.25m grant against current spend by the PCT of £10.4m. However, it is likely that transitional arrangements will be put in place by the DoH that would limit the “pace of change” to a new settlement or that the actual allocation may be higher than that indicated in the consultation document. <p>We will not know the actual grant allocation until very late in the calendar year and it is therefore essential that a cautious approach, as set out in the report, is taken to entering in to commitments until the level of funding is confirmed.</p>

LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	It is a statutory requirement that certain public health functions transfer from the PCT to this authority in April next year. Of principal concern at the moment is the establishment of the legal position vis a vis existing contractual arrangements for the commissioning of public health services and to what extent and how existing responsibilities are transferred or procured by this authority. We are currently asking the PCT to provide us with due diligence to enable us to ascertain the extent of these arrangements (and the risks/ liabilities) and we are still awaiting guidance that will support the transfer process from central Government. Furthermore, more work is required on the employment side regarding TUPE transfer of certain NHS staff, ICT systems and the broader governance issues regarding decision-making and delegations A key risk is the short timescale in which this work is to be completed
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	Any other risks and opportunities will be appropriately managed and reported if necessary.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	<i>Borough-wide impact.</i>

4.0 INFORMATION

4.1 Cabinet received a report on the 29 March 2012 updating them on transfer of public health responsibilities to local authorities with effect from April 2013 (as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 which received royal assent on the 27 March). The report set out the transferring functions and commissioning responsibilities, the role of the Director of Public Health (DPH) and the transitional arrangements being put in place.

4.2 The report highlighted the work that was being progressed at a national and local level to identify the current public health budgets, the likely level of ring-fenced grant funding the council would receive and the current local spend on public health. Even then there were concerns about the timelines for confirmation of the grant income (November 2012) as this, it was felt gives us insufficient time to adequately plan for transfer. Since then however, officers have been working closely with colleagues in the PCT to plan the transfer of staff and commissioned services.

4.3 In July the Department of Health published *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update on Public Health Funding*, for consultation. This document sets out current thinking on local authority public health finance. In particular:

- the next steps on moving from estimates of baseline spend published in February

- to actual allocations for 2013-14;
- conditions on the ring-fence grant; and
- the health premium incentive (the element of non-mandated expenditure that is dependent upon the local authority making progress against certain public health indicators).

Officers have responded to the consultation and a copy is attached as Appendix 1.

4.4 In respect of the exact sums that each local authority will receive there is still uncertainty. Government has said, “We estimated that in 2012-13 around £5.2bn will be spent on the future responsibilities of the public health system, including £2.2bn on services that will be the responsibility of local authorities. To support planning, we have committed that the amount allocated to local authorities for 2013-14 will not fall below these estimates in real terms, other than in exceptional circumstances”. These funding assumptions were based on PCT returns for spend in 2010/11

4.5 However this leaves Telford & Wrekin Council (T&W) in a difficult position in planning for the potential transition of approximately £10.4m of public health related activities currently delivered or commissioned by either NHS T&W’s Public Health unit or Joint Commissioning (in respect of Sexual Health and Drugs and Alcohol responsibilities that also pass to local authorities). Applying T&W’s indicative percentage of a national share of £2.2bn would suggest an indicative figure of around £7.25m for the Council, a potential shortfall of over £3m.

4.6 Some colleagues in the NHS suggest the gap will not be so great, particularly once there is a recalculation based on the 11/12 NHS spend and that our grant allocation is likely to be nearer £10m. However, we will not know the exact figure until much later in the Autumn when it will potentially be too late to actively consult as part of the budget process. Whilst this may be of some reassurance, we will have to have plans in place that can accommodate the worst case scenario, with particular reference to the main areas of current spend which can be broken down approximately as follows:

Area of Spend	Amount of Spend - £
Activity commissioned with NHS providers or GP Practices	£5.2m
Activity commissioned with the Council	£1.2m
Activities commissioned with other providers	£1.1m
Total commissioned services	£7.5m
Public Health Unit and Joint Commissioning Staff	£1m
Other	£1.9m
Total Spend	£10.4m

4.7 The biggest proportion of spend is on commissioned services, with all the contracts between T&W PCT and the providers expiring on the 31 March 2013. As all contracts are due to expire on transfer our current understanding is that the contracts will not be transferred from the PCT to the Council . Whilst this potentially gives the local authority some flexibility that could help resolve any funding shortfall it also creates significant problems, in particular how to complete a procurement process in the available time, relating to nearly 100 activities currently delivered by 20 different providers. There are added problems associated with giving providers 6 months notice of any significant potential changes (particularly where staff are employed), which means that communications with providers will need to commence as soon as possible. Such communications would need to include an indication of:

- Services that are to be transferred to a new contractual framework with the local authority
- Services that may continue subject to funds being available
- Services that we require to be delivered for a defined period giving notice that a tender process will then be undertaken
- Services that will be decommissioned.

4.8 Council officers working with Public Health colleagues are exploring our best procurement options within these timescales, keeping risk of legal challenge to a minimum. At the same time we are awaiting further national guidance on how public health related contracts can be transferred to the Council which hopefully will inform this work.

4.9 Commissioners have already evaluated each existing contract let by the PCT against criteria which will give us an open and fair framework to use to make decisions about the future of each existing contract. The criteria includes factors such as mandated and non-mandated public health services, performance against contract and value for money.

4.10 This initial analysis suggests that:

- Contracts to the value of £112,503 should be ended on 31 March and the activities not continued
- Contracts to the value of £770,311 should be de-commissioned (more work needs to be done to establish whether any of the services in this group need to be recommissioned)

4.11 Further work is also being done across the remaining commissioned services to the value of £6.5m, to determine, the length of period the Council should offer contracts to existing providers. Subject to available funding commissioners favour an approach based on spreading contract awards across a number of different time scales (suggested 6 or 12 or 18 or 24 months maximum) with notification of a tender process which can be phased depending on the length of award, thus making the process manageable within the available procurement workforce.

4.12 Public Health Commissioners value the opportunity to test the market that the transfer of responsibility provides but also acknowledge that the Council may be best placed to deliver some services directly in due course.

4.13 On this basis it is recommended that Members approve delegation of responsibility to the Director of Adult & Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Public Health and Cabinet Lead/Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board Chair to progress the consideration of future commissioned services and the award of relevant contracts for those public health services within the finances available once the Public Health ring fenced grant is announced.

4.13 Whilst this process in itself will be challenging, members should be aware that the Government has indicated that over time it plans to realign allocation of public health funding on a formula basis that could mean that the Council's grant will be reduced. A prudent approach is therefore all the more advisable.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 Cabinet Report – 22.12.2011 – NHS Transformation and Implications for the Council

5.2 Health & Wellbeing Board Report - 22 February 2012 – Public Health Update

5.3 Cabinet Report – 29.3.2012 – Public Health Update

5.4 Health and Wellbeing Board – 13.6.2012 - Development of the Public Health Vision and building the team in Telford and Wrekin

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update on Public Health Funding

TELFORD AND WREKIN RESPONSE

Introduction

This document summarises the Telford and Wrekin response to the proposals set out in the Department of Health's Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update on Public Health Funding, published in July 2012. The response has been developed and approved by the Telford and Wrekin Public Health Transition Board, which includes the following as core members:

- Managing Director, Telford and Wrekin Council (PH Transition Steering Group chair)
- Director of Public Health, NHS Telford and Wrekin
- Deputy Chief Executive, West Mercia PCT Cluster (Cluster PH Transition Lead)

Overarching Comments

- It is our view that the commitment to provide adequate funding to Councils for their new public health functions given in the Public Health White Paper, Healthy Lives, Healthy People must operate at a local, rather than a national level. Locally, we know that current spend on public health activities that will transfer to the Council are in the region of £10.4m in 2012/13. However, applying Telford and Wrekin's indicative percentage of national share to the national figure available for public health functions transferring to local authorities of £2.2bn would suggest an indicative figure of around £7.26m for the Council. This clearly falls significantly short of current spend and unless the pace of change is controlled and phased over a long period – at least 10 years as a minimum, unacceptable cuts to local services will have to be made at very short notice.
- Certainty of funding for next year is required as soon as possible as notice to terminate contracts needs to be reasonable – six months notice is considered the norm and yet the grant allocation is not expected until December. It would be very helpful if a guarantee could be provided at an earlier stage that the grant available for next year will not be lower than the current 2012/13 figure reported as part of recent PCT financial returns.
- Councils clearly have the opportunity to make cuts to other services to invest in public health, but given the 28% cuts to local authority grants made in the CSR 2010, the very challenging front loading of many of these cuts in the grant settlements for 2011/12 and 2012/13 together with the uncertainties facing local authority resource levels for future years given the fundamental changes being made to the local government finance system with the localisation of business rates and local support for council tax it would be very difficult for councillors to identify scope to invest additional funding in public health services for next year.
- The Department should ensure that an Equalities Impact assessment is completed that considers the cumulative impact of proposed Government changes on vulnerable groups. For example the changes to public health responsibilities and funding will be introduced at the same time as councils are required to implement a Government cut to council tax benefits and the universal credit is implemented. These changes will all potentially impact on sections of the population that suffer health inequalities and are a further reason that stability of funding for public health at a local level needs to be guaranteed as soon as possible and that the pace of change should be phased over at least a 10 year period.

Response to ACRA's Interim Recommendations

- A formula based principally on a measure of population health best meets the criteria by which resource allocation formulae are determined.
 - The principle of a formula based on a measure of population health rather than based on demographic indicators is supported
- The standardised mortality ratio (SMR) for those aged under 75 years should be used as the population health measure. This has been applied on a small area basis to take account of localised health inequalities, and aggregated to local authority level.
 - The principle of selecting the premature (under 75) SMR is strongly supported for the following reasons:
 - Availability of nationally published statistics which are consistent, reliable and sufficiently robust at a small area level
 - In preference to the all-age, all-cause mortality rate as the premature mortality ratio is more closely reflective of population health and associated inequalities
- To help reduce inequalities, the SMR measure be incorporated into the public health formula so that the decile of small areas with the highest SMRs have received a weight per head, three times greater than the decile of small areas with the lowest SMRs.
 - The principle of applying a greater weight per head for areas within the decile with the highest SMRs in the context of tackling health inequalities is fully supported
- The adjustment used in the local government funding formula for unavoidable differences in costs due to geographical location should be included.
 - We do not agree that an Area Cost Adjustment factor should be applied outside London. Excluding London, where it is accepted that London weighting is generally applied and does increase costs, salaries for staff working in these services (whether in the public or private sectors) do not currently vary significantly between different parts of the country. However, if a regional cost factor is implemented we would support the use of the ACA as opposed to the MFF as this would be consistent with other local authority services.
- The ONS projected resident population for 2012 should be used as the population base. This is the same approach as followed in the local government funding formula.
 - It is considered vital that the forthcoming new SNPPs based on the 2011 Census are used as the population base for the formula from the outset, rather than relying on the 2010 based figures, which although uplifted, date back to the 2001 Census and are therefore less accurate
- The current methodology for the PTB includes components relating to activity (successful completions and maintaining in effective treatment) and need. This provides a level of certainty of resourcing and is therefore sound and encourages effective, targeted service delivery. Replacing the needs based methodology to an SMR based calculation potentially poses a number of risks: it is unclear how the current SMR profile equates to the needs component currently used and whether this change would increase or decrease funding locally and also whether this need factor will be ranked or apportioned across LA's or solely based on SMR for the area. However, pragmatically there is logic to adopting a similar methodology to the PH budget allocation formula for the PTB.

Response to conditions and reporting for the Public Health Grant

- Telford and Wrekin support the use of the RO and RA forms to report use of the ring-fenced grant, but consider that 15-20 rows would be a disproportionate level of detail on these returns
- Annex E states that payments in respect of finance leases and statutory fines should not count as eligible expenditure against the proposed grant. We disagree with these proposals as any revenue expenditure directly related to the provision of public health services by local authorities should count as eligible expenditure
- Paragraph 13 of Annex E sets out a suggestion that the grant should effectively operate on a cash rather than an accruals basis which is not in accordance with normal local authority accounting practise and would prefer consistency with standard accounting practice

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

CABINET – 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

CARE AND SUPPORT WHITE PAPER & BILL

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – SOCIAL CARE SPECIALIST

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR LIZ CLARE

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report summarises Government proposals for adult care and support contained in the recently published Care and Support White Paper, Care and Support Bill and Caring for our Future progress report on funding reform.
- 1.2 Generally there is support for the proposals contained in the White Paper and Bill.
- 1.3 However there are significant concerns about the delay in addressing the adult social care funding situation for at least another 3 years at a time when budgets are already under such pressure.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members note the content and implications of the Care and Support White Paper, Bill and Progress Report on Funding Reform and consider whether they want to comment on the Care and Support Bill by the 19 October deadline.**

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	In particular people who are ill or disabled, but their informal carers will be dispersed across our population
DELIVERY DATE	2012-2015	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The key financial aspects of the proposals and vision included in the white paper and Bill are included in the body of this report. The 2012/13 expenditure forecasts reveal a continuation in the recent trend of increasing care costs and resulting pressure on the Care and Support budget. The costs of care have escalated in recent months due to; (i) the review of eligibility of clients for NHS

	<p>funded care and (ii) in some client groups a continued increase in demand. The “additional funding”, referred in the white paper etc made available from Government through the NHS has resulted in around £2m of funding being made available to the Council in 2012/13, and forms part of funding totals to 2014/15, but this has not been sufficient to meet pressures on budgets of around £5m. In addition this funding has been made available at a time of significant real term cuts of 28% in the grant settlement to Local Authorities over four years, and to this Council of around £27m over four years.</p> <p>The objective of improving all aspects of the care experience to those in need is laudable, but is likely to push up costs on LA’s both in front line care costs from the impact of changes to market provision (such as removing home care charging by the minute), and the transfer of risk into the private sector with the implementation of personal budgets and in back office functions to manage the changes proposed in the funding report. Some additional funding is proposed with the announcement of £100m in 2013/14 and £200m 2014/15 but it is not possible to determine at this stage what level of funding is actually required to meet the additional costs.</p> <p>The forecast financial impacts of the proposed changes to the funding of Social Care from the Dilnot report recommendations are documented in the body of this report. It is not possible to evaluate the local impacts except to say that the costs of care locally will continue to rise in the light of demographic changes. The current strategy being pursued in Telford & Wrekin is to improve and enhance preventative services. This is in order to avoid a reactive approach to providing care when a client has costly high needs. This strategy, should prove to be successful in helping to contain cost increases in future but unlikely to reduce care costs overall. Therefore, cost pressures are likely to remain and will require additional Government resource. Delay in the implementation of funding reform and the placing of Social Care funding on a sustainable footing will result in the continuation of increasing pressure on Local Authority Care budgets. One further key point to note is the proposal to extend the availability to use of deferred payments in order for clients to meet costs once a property has been sold. An increase</p>
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		in the use of this scheme will require debt to be resourced during the period the property remains unsold for whatever reason. The charging of interest is proposed to offset any financing costs.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	<p>On 11 July 2012, the Government published a White Paper <i>Caring for our future: reforming care and support</i> and the draft Care and Support Bill 2012 Bill setting out reforms for the care and support system in the UK.</p> <p>The draft Bill was announced in the Queen’s Speech on 9th May , and proposes a single, codified law for adult care and support which will replace existing legislation. The Government says that the draft Bill aims to consolidate “provisions from over a dozen different Acts into a single, modern framework for care and support” and to enact “a fundamental reform of the way the law works.”</p> <p>The Bill sets out the responsibilities for local authorities in relation to the provision of care and support (including charges for such care) and sets out plans to establish Health Education England and the Health Research Authority.</p> <p>Consultation on the draft Bill closes on 19 October 2012.</p> <p>This draft Bill, if it receives Royal Assent , will radically overhaul the current care and support system and its progress through Parliament will need to be closely monitored. Many of the proposals , which are summarised in the body of this report and in the background papers/factsheets detailed at paragraph 6, are aimed at increasing independence but at the same time encouraging personal autonomy and less reliance on state-provided care and support.</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	Any other risks and opportunities will be appropriately managed and reported if necessary.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	<i>Borough-wide impact.</i>

4.0 **INFORMATION**

- 4.1 On the 11 July the Government published the Care and Support White Paper, the draft Care and Support Bill and a progress report on Funding Reform

4.2 Care and Support White Paper (For electronic link see Section 6 below)

4.2.1 The White Paper updates the Vision for Adult Social Care that the Government released in November 2010 and follows on from more recent consultation.

4.2.2 The White Paper confirms that local authorities will “sit at the heart of how care and support will work in the future”. Central to the vision is the principle of promoting wellbeing and independence instead of waiting for people to reach crisis point, availability of better information and high quality services.

4.2.3 Actions identified in the White Paper include:

- development of initiatives that help people share their time, talents and skills with others in their community.
- establishing a new capital fund, worth £200 million over five years, to support the development of specialised housing for older and disabled people.
- establishing a new national information website, to provide a source of information on care and support, and investing £32.5 million in better local online services.
- introducing national minimum eligibility threshold to ensure consistency in access to care and support, and ensuring that no-one’s care is interrupted if they move.
- extending the right to an assessment to more carers, and introducing a clear entitlement to support to help them maintain their own health and wellbeing.
- Working with a range of organisations to develop comparison websites that make it easy for people to give feedback and compare the quality of care providers.
- Placing dignity and respect at the heart of a new code of conduct and minimum training standards for care workers.
- Training more care workers to deliver high-quality care, including an ambition to double the number of care apprenticeships to 100,000 by 2017.
- Appointing a Chief Social Worker by the end of 2012.
- Legislating to give people an entitlement to a personal budget.
- Improving access to independent advice to help people eligible for financial support from their local authority to develop their care and support plan.
- Developing, in a small number of areas, the use of direct payments for people who have chosen to live in residential care, to test the costs and benefits.
- Investing a further £100 million in 2013/14 and £200 million in 2014/15 in joint funding between the NHS and social care to support better integrated care and support.

4.3 Care and Support Bill (For electronic link see Section 6 below)

4.3.1 Underpinning many of the above proposals will be a complete overhaul of care and support law as recommended by the Law Commission’s review which reported in 2011. The Bill if it becomes law would replace nearly all the existing adult social care law that has been built up on an ad-hoc basis since the National Assistance Act, 1948 which is still applied today. The Bill has

been published in draft for public consultation (deadline for comments is the 19 October 2012) and Parliamentary pre-legislative scrutiny.

4.3.2 Eight Factsheets (for electronic link see Section 6 below) have been produced to summarise the main components of the Bill:

- **Assessments & Eligibility** – Will create duty on local authority to carry out assessments and determine eligibility against a new national threshold
- **Charging and Financial Assessments** – Will bring all charging for social care together, using a single approach. Also extends right for people to use a deferred payments scheme against the value of their property and will allow local authorities to charge interest.
- **Who is entitled to care & support?** – will clarify in a single piece of legislation the entitlements of people and their carers for eligible needs to be met as opposed to current legal duty to provide certain services
- **Personalising care and support planning** – Will set out new duty, following establishing eligibility, to provide a care and support plan, including legal entitlement to a personal budget and/or direct payment
- **The law for carers** – Creates a single duty for local authorities to undertake carers assessments, whilst removing requirement that they must provide “a substantial amount of care on a regular basis”. Carers would be put on same legal footing as the adults they care for.
- **Protecting adults from abuse or neglect** – For the first time will introduce a legal framework for adult safeguarding, requiring establishment of a Safeguarding Adults Board with a core membership, publication of a Safeguarding Plan and requirement for local authorities to make enquiries where there are concerns. A separate consultation exercise, ending on 12 October 2012 is taking place as to whether a specific power of entry is required - <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/safeguardingadults/>

The other 2 factsheets summarise a small number of health measures which have been included in the Bill concerning establishing Health Education England and the Health Research Authority as non-departmental public bodies

4.4 Caring for our future: progress report on funding reform (For electronic link see Section 6 below)

4.4.1 This report makes it clear that the Government agree with the principles of the Dilnot Commission’s recommendations published in 2011 which were:

- Government should put a cap on the lifetime care costs (less general living costs) that people face, and raise the threshold at which people lose means tested support; and

- There should be universal access to deferred payments for people in residential care

4.4.2 The report models the estimated costs to the nation depending on the different levels of cap and capital limits. Currently there is no cap, upper capital limits are set at £23,250 and individuals pay an assessed contribution based on level of annual income. Dilnot estimated that a cap set at £35,000, an upper capital limit of £100,000 and an annual average contribution of £10,000 a year by each individual towards general living costs associated with residential care would cost an additional £2.2billion in 2015/16, rising to £3.6billion by 2025/26 (at today's prices).

4.4.3 However in taking the matter forward they add some very significant riders, in particular "if a way to pay for them can be found". In addition they make it clear that no announcements can be expected until the outcome of the next spending review is known, which is outside the planned life of the current parliament (2015)

4.5` Response to announcements

4.5.1 Generally the response to the principles in the White Paper have been positive though there is a need for more clarity, certainty and a definite time frame. In respect of the Care and Support Bill the simplification of the legislative framework for Adult Social Care is seen as a big step forward though there is a lot of work is still to be done, which will be led by an Implementation Group (on which the Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) will be represented)

4.5.2 However there are some significant concerns being expressed by ADASS, which we would support about the delay in addressing the funding issues at a time when adult social care budgets are already under pressure. There is a risk that in the medium term the funding gap could widen as expectations are further heightened by the White Paper & Bill and demographic trends. However it is important to recognise that the idea of capping individual's liability for care costs and extending the means test threshold would cost billions of pounds and requires a shift in the priority given to adult social care nationally.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 A Vision for Adult Social Care – Capable Communities and Active Citizens, DH, 16 November 2010
- 6.2 Care and Support White Paper – HM Government, 11 July 2012
- 6.3 Care and Support Bill – HM Government, 11 July 2012,
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/careandsupportwhitepaper/>
- 6.4 Factsheet 1 – Assessments and eligibility
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/files/2012/07/Care-and-Support-Bill-Factsheet-1-Assessments-and-eligibility.pdf>
Factsheet 2 – Charging and financial assessments
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/files/2012/07/Care-and-Support-Bill-Factsheet-2-Charging-and-financial-assessment.pdf>
Factsheet 3 – Who is entitled to care and support?
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/files/2012/07/Care-and-Support-Bill-Factsheet-3-Who-is-entitled-to-care-and-support.pdf>
Factsheet 4 – Personalising care and support planning
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/files/2012/07/Care-and-Support-Bill-Factsheet-4-Care-and-support-planning.pdf>
Factsheet 5 – The law for carers
http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/files/2012/07/2900021-Fact-sheet-5-v1_1W-21.pdf
Factsheet 6 – Protecting adults from abuse or neglect
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/files/2012/07/Care-and-Support-Bill-Factsheet-6-Protecting-adults-from-abuse-and-neglect.pdf>
Factsheet 7 – Health Education England
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/files/2012/07/Care-and-Support-Bill-Factsheet-7-Health-Education-England.pdf>
Factsheet 8 – Health Research Authority
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/files/2012/07/Care-and-Support-Bill-Factsheet-8-Health-Research-Authority.pdf>
- 6.5 Consultation on new safeguarding power, DH
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/safeguardingadults/>
- 6.6 Caring for our future: progress report on funding reform – HM Government
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/scfunding/>

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TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 20th SEPTEMBER 2012

FOSTER CARERS ALLOWANCES FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

REPORT OF INTERIM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR PAUL WATLING

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

This report outlines the proposal to increase current Telford and Wrekin foster carer allowances for children in care. These allowances are subject to annual review; they have not been increased since October 2009. Comparisons made with nearby local authorities show that our allowances are currently lower than two neighbouring authorities. The level of allowances is a factor which influences the recruitment and retention of foster carers.

Telford and Wrekin need to attract more foster carers to keep children local and reduce external foster placements in the independent sector.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To seek approval to raise fostering allowances paid to foster carers for each child/young person looked after by them to a competitive level i.e. by 7.5% as from 01/10/2012.

2.2 To seek delegated authority to the Interim Assistant Director: Children's Safeguarding to approve proposals for the remodelling of foster carer fees element of the payment to Foster carers to reflect the different level of skills needed to care for children according to the complexity of their needs. The proposals will be developed by October 2012 for consultation with Foster Carers for approval by December 2012.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	1. Improved Life Chances for All 2. Vulnerable Children and Adults Protected
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	Implementation of these proposals will facilitate a greater proportion of children in care being cared for in foster homes near their families and school.
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	1 st October 2012	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	<p>The impact of a 7.5% increase on these fees results in a part year cost in 12/13 of £43,605 and for 2013/14 a full year cost is £87,210. The savings generated on current spending levels by a small change in the current mix of placements resulting in a reduction in external placements and an increase in internal placements would fund the level of additional costs identified. It is anticipated that the implementation of this increase will support the retention of existing internal foster carers as well as the strategy of increasing the current number of children in care placed with internal foster carers. The success of the placement strategy will contribute to the longer term plan to significantly reduce the overall cost of children in care placements reflected within the Council's current medium term strategy.</p> <p>The financial implications of any future remodelling of fee structure will need to be considered when proposals are fully developed. TAS/GS 27.6.12</p>

LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	<p>The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 and accompanying guidance came into force in April 2011.</p> <p>The National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services (NMS) apply to local authority fostering services, independent fostering agencies and voluntary organisations. The NMS, together with the above regulations and guidance form the basis of the regulatory framework under the Section 23 Care Standards Act 2000 (CSA) for the conduct of fostering services.</p> <p>Standard 28 governs payments to carers and includes that each foster carer receives at least the national minimum allowance for the child, plus any necessary agreed expenses for the care, education and reasonable leisure interests of the child, and that allowances and any fees paid are reviewed annually and the fostering service consults with foster carers in advance of any change to the allowance and fee.</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	<p>It stimulates the local economy in offering opportunities for adults to consider fostering as an active occupation choice which complements family commitments – and provides an additional point of potential entry through into the children's paid workforce.</p>
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	<p>Supports the recruitment and retention of foster carers across all ward areas and contributes to local people to come forward to consider fostering with Telford and Wrekin instead of going to another Local Authority area.</p>

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

Standard 28 of the National Fostering Minimum Standards 2011 governs payments to carers and includes that each foster carer receives at least the national minimum allowance for the child, plus any necessary agreed expenses for the care, education and reasonable leisure interests of the child, and that allowances and any fees paid are reviewed annually and the fostering service consults with foster carers in advance of any change to the allowance and fee.

The payment structure for foster carers in Telford and Wrekin has three elements.

- **A Fee:** This recognises the foster carers' skills, experiences, attendance at training, supervision, meetings related to the child, and meetings with the fostering service. The fee is paid for each child if one of the members of the household is at home on a full time basis caring for children placed by Telford & Wrekin Fostering Service. It is this element that is going to be reviewed later this year.
- **An Allowance:** Paid to foster carers to care for each child/young person which reflects the cost of looking after a child. This includes clothing, food, pocket money, leisure and fun, heating etc. See [Appendix 1](#) for list of what an allowance covers.

Central Government sets minimum annual fostering allowance rates which vary according to the age of the child. The National Fostering Network (which represents foster carers) also has a set of recommended allowances. Payments to foster carers for looking after children in their care vary between local authority areas. This has resulted in placing added pressure to recruit and retain foster carers at a time of national shortage of foster carers where rates are highly competitive between local authorities.

To see how Telford & Wrekin compares [see Appendix 2](#).

- **Discretionary payments:** These are paid to support foster carers and children and /or young people placed in their care. These may include, for example; agreed respite provision at the outset of a placement, funding the transport of children placed with foster carers for a time limited period, financial contribution towards a particular piece of equipment.

The Council has over the past 12 months prioritised the recruitment of foster carers in order to increase the number and choice of locally available foster carers to maintain children in our borough. This strategy improves outcomes for children in care in respect of access to local health and educational provision, and contact with family where appropriate. It also reduces the travel costs for the range of council staff who support children.

Increasing the Foster carer's allowances:

This report recommends the increase of Telford & Wrekin Foster carers allowances for 2012/13 by 7.5% from 1st October 2012, whilst a general review is undertaken between October 2012 to December 2012 which will involve extensive consultation on the options for remodelling our Fostering services to meet new emerging service needs and proposals for placement costs and fee structures for foster carers. Regarding the proposals to increase allowances, a written and face to face consultation exercise was carried out with foster carers and the Chair of the Telford & Wrekin Fostering Association in May 2012. Foster carers felt the proposal to raise allowances was necessary and appropriate.

Financial Implications

If internal foster care placements are not available to the Council then an external fostering place will need to be found. The average cost per week for an external placement where the needs of the child or young person could have been met by an internal placement is £804 per week compared to an average unit cost per week of £251 for an internal placement. The additional annual cost of making an external placement instead of an internal placement would be £28,756. Based on current numbers of children placed with Telford & Wrekin carers, increasing the allowance paid to internal foster carers by 7.5%, to the recommended Fostering Network rate, would result in additional costs for 2012/13 (part year effect) of £43,605 and in 2013/14 a full year cost of £87,210. These additional costs could be met if the increased fee resulted in not only retaining but attracting additional internal foster carers. The increased cost in 2012/13 could be met from a reduction of two in the current usage of external placements, the cost in 2013/14 would require an ongoing reduction of four. This would therefore require a relatively small change in placement types to produce a net impact of nil on current spending levels.

It is anticipated that the implementation of this increase will support the retention of existing internal foster carers as well as the strategy of increasing the current number of children in care placed with internal foster carers. The success of the placement strategy will contribute to the longer term plan to significantly reduce the overall cost of children in care placements reflected within the Council's current medium term strategy.

The financial cost for 2012/13 of increasing the child's allowances by 7.5% is at table 1 Appendix 3. The financial cost for 2013/14 onwards is in table 2 Appendix 3, this also includes analysis of the potential cost if increases were implemented at a different percentage to 7.5%.

Current numbers of fostering placements for the most recent 6 weeks of 2012/13 can be found in table 3 Appendix 3.

5. **IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Not applicable

6. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Not applicable

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

National Fostering Network, external fostering framework contract, other Local Authority responses to enquiries to their current foster carer allowance rate, consultation with foster carers

Report prepared by:

**Angela Yapp, Service Delivery Manager Fostering
01952 385885**

Appendix 1

Allowances paid to foster carers to meet the needs of children in care

The allowance is paid to cover:

- Basic furnishing (bed, wardrobe, chest of drawers etc)
- New and replacement clothing and shoes
- Pocket money
- Food
- Transport to and from nursery /school /college(under 6 miles return journey)
- Attendance to medical appointments
- Purchase of equipment for school i.e. musical instruments, lessons, stationery, computer software
- 50% of the costs of school trips which are integral and necessary to fulfil curriculum or examination, requirements
- School dinner money
- Out of school activities- brownies, cinema, swimming, playgroups
- Gas and electricity
- Telephone calls and mobile phones
- Haircuts and hair products
- Glasses
- Toys
- Toiletries
- Cost of school holiday activities when the child or young person is not attending school during vacation periods
- Furniture
- Bedding
- Contribution towards life story work
- Adoption introductory visits
- Specialist food

In addition carers receive:

- One week's payment to support a birthday – if child is under 4 years we recommend that some of this funding is placed in a saving account for the child.
- One week's payment to support the purchase of a Christmas present.
- Two week's additional payment to cover the costs of annual holiday for each child – i.e. contribution towards the costs of a holiday – this may be taken during the summer holidays, Easter holidays, half term, Christmas but not during term time.

Appendix 2

Snapshot of how Telford & Wrekin compare with the other neighbouring local authorities in our area.

Other neighbouring local authority's allowances as at 01.4.2012:

Age	T&W	Shropshire	Dudley	Walsall
0-4	£125.09	£134.49	£125.09	£134.49
5-10	£142.49	£153.20	£142.49	£153.20
11-15	£177.38	£190.72	£177.38	£190.72
16+	£215.74	£232.00	£215.74	£232.00

Shropshire and Walsall pay recommended fostering allowances to their foster carers for internal fostering. See above.

Comparator table with Government recommendations and fostering network current from 1st April 2012

Age	T&W	Government recommendations for base rate	Fostering Network outside London rates
0-4	£125.09	£114	£134.49
5-10	£142.49	£129	£153.20
11-15	£177.38	£148	£190.72
16+	£215.74	£172	£232.00

N.B. for Local Authorities in South East and London rates are higher apart from children 0-4 years which are lower than fostering network rates.

Appendix 3

The projected costs of Increasing T&W Fostering Allowances – projected costs 2012/13:

The table below outlines the projected additional financial costs of increasing Telford & Wrekin fostering allowances by 7.5% for caring for children placed in our internal fostering placements (not the fee to foster carers) for 2012/13.

Table 1- Revised forecast for foster carer allowances 2012/13

		<u>01/04/12 to 30/09/12 (26 weeks Forecast Old Rate)</u>	<u>01/10/12 to 31/03/13 (26 weeks Forecast 7.5% additional)</u>	<u>Total Forecast</u>	<u>Cost of 7.5% allowance increase for 26 weeks (01/10/12 to 31/03/13)</u>
<u>Fostering Age group</u>	<u>No:</u>				
0-4	38	£123,922	£133,216	£257,137	£9,294
5-10	33	£122,586	£131,779	£254,365	£9,194
11-15	26	£120,232	£129,249	£249,481	£9,017
16+	8	£44,995	£48,369	£93,364	£3,375
	105	£411,734	£442,614	£854,347	£30,880
<u>Relative Carers</u>					
0-4	9	£29,350	£31,551	£60,901	£2,201
5-10	19	£70,580	£75,873	£146,453	£5,293
11-15	9	£41,619	£44,740	£86,359	£3,121
16+	5	£28,122	£30,231	£58,353	£2,109
	42	£169,670	£182,395	£352,065	£12,725
TOTAL	147	£581,403	£625,009	£1,206,412	£43,605

Table 2 – Forecast for Fostering Care Allowances 2013/14 onwards

<u>Fostering Age Group</u>	<u>No:</u>	3% Increase	5% Increase	7.5% suggested Increase
0-4	38	£7,435	£12,392	£18,588
5-10	33	£7,355	£12,259	£18,388
11-15	26	£7,214	£12,023	£18,035
16+	8	£2,700	£4,499	£6,749
	105	£24,704	£41,173	£61,760
<u>Relative Carers</u>		3%	5%	7.50%
0-4	9	£7,435	£12,392	£4,402
5-10	19	£4,235	£7,058	£10,587
11-15	9	£2,497	£4,162	£6,243
16+	5	£1,687	£2,812	£4,218
	42	£14,167	£23,612	£25,450
TOTAL	147	£38,871	£64,785	£87,211

Table 3 – Current Fostering Placement Type by number 2012/13

	18/05/2012	25/05/2012	01/06/2012	08/06/2012	15/06/2012	22/06/2012
External Fostering	95	95	97	98	96	96
Internal Fostering	100	100	101	101	104	105
Relative Carers	42	42	43	43	42	42
Grand Total	237	237	241	242	242	243

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

FUTURE USE OF LAND OFF CONCORDE, DAWLEY BANK

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS & HOUSING

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR RICHARD OVERTON

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 That Cabinet consider the two requests from community groups in relation to the future use of an area of vacant land off Concorde in Dawley Bank and decide how this land will be used.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet are requested to consider the four options below and to determine the future use of the area of land off Concorde in the Dawley Bank area as shown on the plan attached at Appendix 1.
- Option 1** – That the area of land is used to develop a raised bed community garden by Dawley Bank Horticultural Society
- Option 2** – That the area of land is used to develop a Jubilee Wood by Dawley Bank Residents Association
- Option 3** – That there is no development of this area of land and that it remains in its current condition.
- Option 4** – That the development of the site for residential development is investigated and the site be sold if planning permission is granted for this use.
- 2.2 That delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing to deal with the above area of land in accordance with Cabinet's recommendation about the future use of this site including potential disposal of the land or development of a lease agreement as appropriate.
- 2.3 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy Public Protection be authorised to agree and execute all necessary documentation.

SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Priorities	
	Yes	Ensure that neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	The decision on the use of the land will impact specifically on Dawley Bank Horticultural Society and Dawley Bank Residents Association.
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	The completion date in relation to implementing any changes to the land will depend upon Cabinet's recommendation regarding future use of the site.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The financial impact of the four options are as follows: Option 1 – There would be legal costs associated with the creation of the lease agreement. In addition there will be costs associated with a deed of variation with the HCA to vary the restrictive covenant. The total costs associated with this option are estimated to be in the region of £2,000. Option 2 - There would be legal costs associated with the creation of the lease agreement estimated to be in the region of £750. Option 3 - Any maintenance liability would remain with the Council. Option 4 – If planning permission was granted for residential development then this could generate a net receipt in the order of £20,000 to £40,000 (after deductions for fees and HCA clawback).
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	The Council has powers to dispose of land in the way described in this report but has an obligation to obtain best consideration for the land if it chooses to dispose of it but there is the ability to dispose of

		land at an undervalue if it promotes the social, environmental or economic well-being of the area.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	Malinslee Ward

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

3. INFORMATION

3.1 Background

3.1.1 The Council were originally approached in 2009 by Dawley Bank Horticultural Society (DBHS) about the possibility of the site being used for allotments (a copy of the officer letter in response to this request to DBHS is attached as Appendix 2).

3.1.2 In 2011 the Council were informed by DBHS that they were in a position to submit a planning application for the proposed use and full planning permission was granted in July 2012.

3.1.3 Following the submission of the planning application by DBHS, the Council were approached by another community group (who were interested in developing the same site for community use to create and maintain it as a Jubilee Wood).

3.1.4 The area of land is currently within the ownership of Telford & Wrekin Council (the extent of the site is shown outlined in red on the plan attached at Appendix 1), however the Council carries out no work to maintain the area. There have been two expressions as to the future use of this site. It was agreed to seek the views of local residents who live within 400m of the site. A survey was sent to the 833 properties that fell within this 400m boundary of the area of land off Concorde. The full results of the survey are shown in Appendix 3.

3.2 Survey Results

3.2.1 The results show that of the 833 surveys that were sent out 263 were returned completed. In addition to the original surveys that were sent out, a further 346 photocopied surveys were returned. Due to the large number of photocopied surveys, the results have been analysed for both original surveys and photocopied responses.

3.2.2 The original surveys showed that 140 of the 263 respondents currently used the area of land off Concorde. The most common use of the land was as a cut through to school or other facilities (72.1%) or dog walking (37.9%). The photocopied surveys showed that 29 of the 346 respondents currently used this area of land. The most common use of the land was for dog walking (62.1%) with 31% using the area as a cut through to access other facilities.

3.2.3 The majority of respondents who completed the original survey (75%) and photocopied survey (79.3%) agreed or strongly agreed that the land should be developed for community use (it should be noted that not every respondent answered each question and therefore the total number of respondents for each question varies). However, respondent's opinions over the preferred use of the land were divided. The preferred option of those respondents who completed original surveys was the Jubilee Wood (68.1%), whereas the preferred option for those who completed photocopied surveys was the Raised Bed Community Garden (94.7%) A small number of participants identified that their preferred option would be for the area of land to be left as it is (original surveys 11.7%, photocopied surveys 0%)

3.2.4 Participants were asked to identify if they were a member of either of the two Community Groups which had expressed an interest in developing the land. The majority of respondents didn't indicate that they were a member of either of these Community Groups.

3.3 Options for Future Use of the Land

3.3.1 There are a number of options in relation to the future use of this area of land; four potential options for Cabinet to consider are set out below.

3.3.2 **Option 1** - The proposal made by DDBHS involves developing the land off Concorde into a raised bed community garden and the group are seeking grants to develop the project with the aim of providing people with the opportunity to learn to grow their own food.

3.3.3 **Option 2** - The proposal made by Dawley Bank Residents Association involves developing the land off Concorde into a Jubilee Wood which would involve tidying the woodland, removing diseased trees, planting wild flowers and creating footpaths that would facilitate a nature trail.

Although the DBRA was recently formed to coordinate the proposal it has appointed Officers, a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, to administer the Association, collected funds and opened a bank account. The Association will have the legal authority to enter in to a lease with the Council.

3.3.4 **Option 3** - Cabinet may wish to consider that the land isn't developed for either of the two community options but that it remains as an area with informal access for the community. The results of the survey suggest that people currently use this area of land as a cut through to access school and other local facilities as outlined in 3.2.2 above.

3.3.5 **Option 4** - Cabinet may wish to consider that the land isn't developed for either of the two community options but instead the site is promoted for residential use, which would ultimately lead to a planning application. This decision would be conditional on a favourable decision at Plans Board.

3.3.6 If either of the two community proposals is chosen (option 1 and 2) as the preferred option then it is proposed that the property would be leased to the organisation/organisation secretary for a term of 20 years. The lease would also require obligations of the organisation to undertake certain works in accordance with their proposal all of which would be dealt with after Cabinet take the decision.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

6. Ward Implications

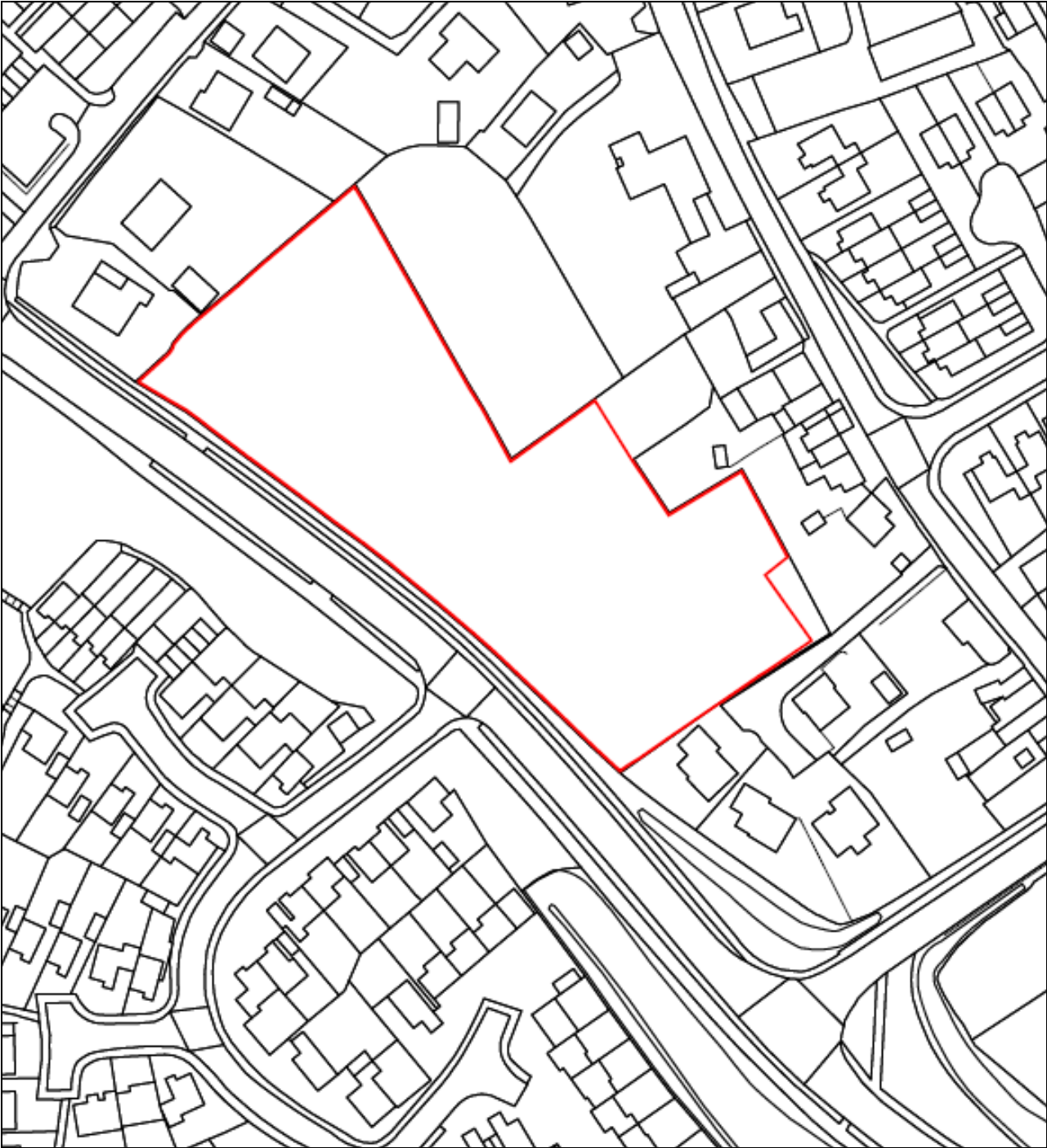
6.1 The site is located within the Malinslee Ward. The ward members are:

Councillor Shaun Davies
Councillor Kuldip Sahota

It should be noted that the site is located at the edge of Malinslee Ward in close proximity to the wards of Lawley & Overdale, Horeshay & Lightmoor and Dawley Magna.

Report prepared by James Dunn, Team Leader Estates & Investment and Rachel Jones, Community Engagement Equalities and Action Manager

Appendix 1 – Site Plan



Appendix 2 – Letter



Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL

David Sidaway **Head of Asset & Property Management**

Environment & Regeneration
Civic Offices, P.O. Box 215,
Telford TF3 4LF

DX: 712122 Telford 5

Date: 4 June 2009

www.telford.gov.uk

Contact: James Dunn
E-mail: james.dunn@telford.gov.uk

Telephone: (01952) 284321
Fax: (01952) 284312

Our Ref: DUNN09
Your Ref:

Dear Mrs Higginson

DBHS ALLOTMENT STRATEGY

Following your submission of an Allotment Strategy for Dawley Bank I write to confirm that following an appraisal of the site as well as alternatives within the area and my discussions with Cllr Andrew Eade and Cllr Vic Tonks the Council are happy to allocate the land as an allotment site.

Now that the Council has designated this site you will now need to ensure you have the relevant funding for the capital investment needed including access road, pathways, water and fencing.

Once you have the capital in place we will then be able to put in place a formal lease between yourselves and the Council, which would in essence lease the land to you at a peppercorn rent (£1 per annum) in exchange that the society manage and maintain the site.

The grant of a lease is however subject to the society obtaining the necessary planning permission for change of use of the site. I am happy to assist in dealing with the planning application if that would be helpful.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

JAMES DUNN BSc (Hons) MRICS
TEAM LEADER (DEVELOPMENT)

Appendix 3 – Survey Results

1 Introduction

Following interest by two separate community groups in developing land off Concorde in Dawley Bank a survey was developed to help understand current uses and opinions of the land and what local residents felt it would be best used for.

The survey was sent to 833 households in the Dawley Bank area, identified by a 400m buffer around the land in question. 263 of these surveys were returned completed, a response rate of 31.6%. In addition to these original surveys we received a further 346 photocopied surveys. Due to the large number of photocopied responses results have been separated into original and photocopied for the purpose of this report. As not every respondent answered each question, the total number of respondents for each question will vary. **Percentages have been calculated based on the number of responses to each question.**

2 Survey results

The majority of respondents were familiar with the piece of land in question.

Are you familiar with the parcel of land off Concorde which is under discussion?

	Original surveys		Photocopied surveys	
Yes	248	97.3%	283	82.7%
No	6	2.4%	36	10.5%
Don't know	1	0.4%	23	6.7%
<i>Total number of responses</i>	255	100.0%	342	100.0%
<i>Missing responses</i>	8		4	
<i>Total respondents</i>	263		346	

140 of the respondents were already using the land, as a cut through, for dog walking or for other reasons including bird watching, enjoying the natural environment and blackberry picking. Some respondents used the land for more than one purpose.

Do you currently use the land for any of the following reasons?*

	Original surveys		Photocopied surveys	
As a cut through i.e. walking to school, shops or pub etc	101	72.1%	9	31.0%
Dog walking	53	37.9%	18	62.1%
Other	25	17.9%	4	13.8%
<i>Number of respondents</i>	140		29	
<i>Total number of responses</i>	179		31	

*The percentage for this question have been calculated based on the number of respondents who indicated that they used the land. As respondents could identify more than one use, the percentages do not add-up to 100.

The majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the land should be developed for community use.

How strongly do you agree or disagree that the land should be developed for community use?

	Original surveys		Photocopied surveys	
Strongly agree	120	46.9%	134	39.8%
Agree	72	28.1%	133	39.5%
Neither	25	9.8%	37	11.0%
Disagree	10	3.9%	4	1.2%
Strongly disagree	27	10.5%	5	1.5%
Don't know	2	0.8%	24	7.1%
<i>Total number of responses</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>337</i>	<i>100.0%</i>
<i>Missing responses</i>	<i>7</i>		<i>9</i>	
<i>Total respondents</i>	<i>263</i>		<i>346</i>	

Respondent's opinions over the preferred use of the land were divided.

What would you prefer the land to be used for?

	Original surveys		Photocopied surveys	
Raised bed community garden	40	16.1%	323	94.7%
Jubilee Wood	169	68.1%	0	0.0%
Left as it is	29	11.7%	0	0.0%
Other	5*	2.0%	1**	0.3%
Don't know	5	2.0%	17	5.0%
<i>Total number of responses</i>	<i>248</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>100.0%</i>
<i>Missing responses</i>	<i>15</i>		<i>5</i>	
<i>Total respondents</i>	<i>263</i>		<i>346</i>	

* Two of these five gave written suggestions "Allotments" and "Playground – something for the kids to use"

** Written suggestion was "Allotments"

Participants were asked to identify if they were a member of two community groups which are interested in developing the land. The majority of respondents identified that they were not a member of these groups.

Are you a member of Dawley Bank Horticultural Society?

	Original surveys		Photocopied surveys	
Yes	1	0.4%	68	21.7%
No	243	96.4%	198	63.1%
Rather not say	8	3.2%	48	15.3%
<i>Total number of responses</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>314</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

<i>Missing responses</i>	11		32	
<i>Total respondents</i>	263		346	

Are you a member of The Dawley Bank Residents Association?

	Original surveys		Photocopied surveys	
Yes	19	7.6%	9	3.2%
No	222	88.4%	232	81.7%
Rather not say	10	4.0%	43	15.1%
<i>Total number of responses</i>	251	100.0%	284	100.0%
<i>Missing responses</i>	12		62	
<i>Total respondents</i>	263		346	

The surveys were received between 18 June 2012 and 6 July 2012. A breakdown by dates is shown below.

Date surveys received

	18/06/2012	19/06/2012	20/06/2012	21/06/2012	22/06/2012	23/06/2012	24/06/2012	25/06/2012	26/06/2012	27/06/2012	28/06/2012	29/06/2012	30/06/2012	01/07/2012	02/07/2012	03/07/2012	04/07/2012	05/07/2012	06/07/2012	Total received
Original surveys	0	12	51	37	27			14	58	15	7	0			0	27	6	4	5	263
Photocopied surveys	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	23	42	0			0	157	74	48	2	346

Counts are for the date on which a survey was received in the Co-operative Council Delivery Team.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

DISPOSAL OF DAWLEY WAR MEMORIAL HALL, KING STREET, DAWLEY

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS & HOUSING

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR BILL McCLEMENTS

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

1.1 To obtain approval for the disposal of Dawley War Memorial Hall as detailed in this report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the disposal of the asset as detailed within this report in accordance with terms to be agreed by the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources & Service Delivery
- 2.2 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to be authorised to agree and execute all necessary documentation
- 2.3 The capital receipt be retained within the Property Investment Portfolio for reinvestment

SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Priorities	
	Yes	As a Co-operative Council, working with the Community
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	Dawley Memorial Hall has been established in Dawley since around 1930. Primarily members are from Dawley and surrounding areas, but, some come from as far as Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth. The club provides a focal point for the Community and provides a meeting place for local clubs with licensed premises for the playing of snooker, pool, darts and dominoes. The function room caters for weddings, funerals, christenings etc. It is a well used facility for both the Dawley Community and further afield within Telford
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	Target completion – December 2012	
FINANCIAL/ VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	Dawley Memorial Hall is held within the Property Investment Portfolio (PIP) and is occupied by Dawley Social Club. The Memorial Hall was purchased in 2010 and the monies for the purchase, £50,000 (valued by independent Valuers for The Trust Board in 2007) was distributed to charitable bodies in Dawley following the decision of the Trust Board to sell the property. The funds were invested in schemes at: The Royal British Legion £21,500 1 st Dawley Bank Scouts £20,000 Dawley Baptist Church £8,000 In 2011, over £10,000 was invested on the Dawley Memorial Hall for general improvements, with 50% payable by the Club. Earlier this year an area of roofing within the hall collapsed and the reinstatement of this is estimated at circa £150,000. The Clubs' Insurance Company refused to accept liability and whilst liable under the terms of their lease the Club is unable to fund the repairs and the Council considers any further investment unacceptable. The Club pays a current rent of £2,000 pa. In establishing the freehold market value of the property, an independent valuation has been undertaken by the Valuation Office. This concluded a market value of £21,000 based upon a sale with the use restricted to a "Social Club" for the land shown in red and blue in Appendix 1. A copy of the Valuation Report is attached as Appendix 2. The income from the sale of the property will be used to reinvest in better performing assets where there is greater scope for

		rental growth. AM
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	The site is subject to a 20 year lease from 1st August 2010 to the “Trustees of Dawley Social Club”. The site itself is made up of two titles. The first of which covers the building, access and limited parking (as shown edged red in Appendix 1). This area is registered to the Council as freehold owner. A proportion of the property is subject to a restrictive covenant limiting the use of that portion of the site to “a permanent memorial”. The second element of the site comprises of the associated car park (as shown edged blue in Appendix 1). This site is not currently registered but the Council are in the process of applying for possessory title. It is proposed that the land currently registered to the Council will be transferred for the sum of £21,000 and if possessory title is obtained for the other portion of the site then this would be transferred at a later date at £1. The site being transferred in red will be restricted by covenant to use as a “Social Club only” in addition if the land in blue is registered to the Council then it would be transferred freehold with a restriction on use to “car parking associated with a Social Club only”. EH
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	The sale of the property to the “Trustees of Dawley Social Club” safeguards the future use of this community asset.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	The site is located in the Dawley Magna Ward

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

3.0 INFORMATION

- 3.1 Dawley Social Club has been a part of Dawley Community for many years. Founded around 1930 in a former hall gifted to the Community, it has gradually been extended and currently provides a base for a range of social functions. It currently has around 600 members primarily from the Dawley and surrounding areas but with some members from as far as Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth.
- 3.2 The independent valuation carried out for The Trust Board is dated August 2007, the terms of which were agreed with the Charities Commission and based on an open market value with the restrictive covenant as to use lifted. At that time the investment of £50k was spent on three schemes in the area at The Royal British Legion, 1st Dawley Bank Scouts and Dawley Baptist Church. The recent valuation carried out by the valuation office is based on the restrictive covenant for use as a club remaining in place.
- 3.3 Dawley Social Club rent the land and buildings edged red on the attached plan (Appendix 1) from the Council on a 20 year lease from 1 August 2010 on full repairing and insuring terms. The current rent is £2,000 per annum.
- 3.4 In establishing the freehold market value of the property an independent valuation has been undertaken by the Valuation Office. This concluded a market value of £21,000 based upon a sale with the use restricted to a “Social Club”. The valuation report is included in Appendix 2.

4.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Financial Implications (A Massey 17/08/2012)

- 4.1 The disposal of this asset is in accordance with the PIP Strategy.
- 4.2 Proceeds raised from the sale of poor performing assets within the PIP will be used to reinvest in modern property or in improvements to existing property to ensure both rental and capital growth is protected.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 The site is subject to a 20 year lease from 1 August 2010 to the “Trustees of Dawley Social Club”. The site itself is made up of two titles. The first of which covers the building, access and limited parking (as shown edged red in Appendix 1). This area is registered to the Council as freehold owner. A proportion of the property is subject to a restrictive covenant limiting the use of that portion of the site to “a permanent memorial”. The second element of the site comprises of the associated car park (as shown edged blue in Appendix 1). This site is currently un-registered but the Council are in the process of applying for possessory title.
- 4.4 It is proposed that the land currently registered to the Council will be transferred for the sum of £21,000 and if possessory title is obtained for the other portion of the site then this would be transferred at a later date at £1.
- 4.5 The site being transferred in red will be restricted by covenant to use as a “Social Club only” in addition if the land in blue is registered to the Council then it would be transferred freehold with a restriction on use to “car parking associated with a Social Club only”.

5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

6 PREVIOUS MINUTES

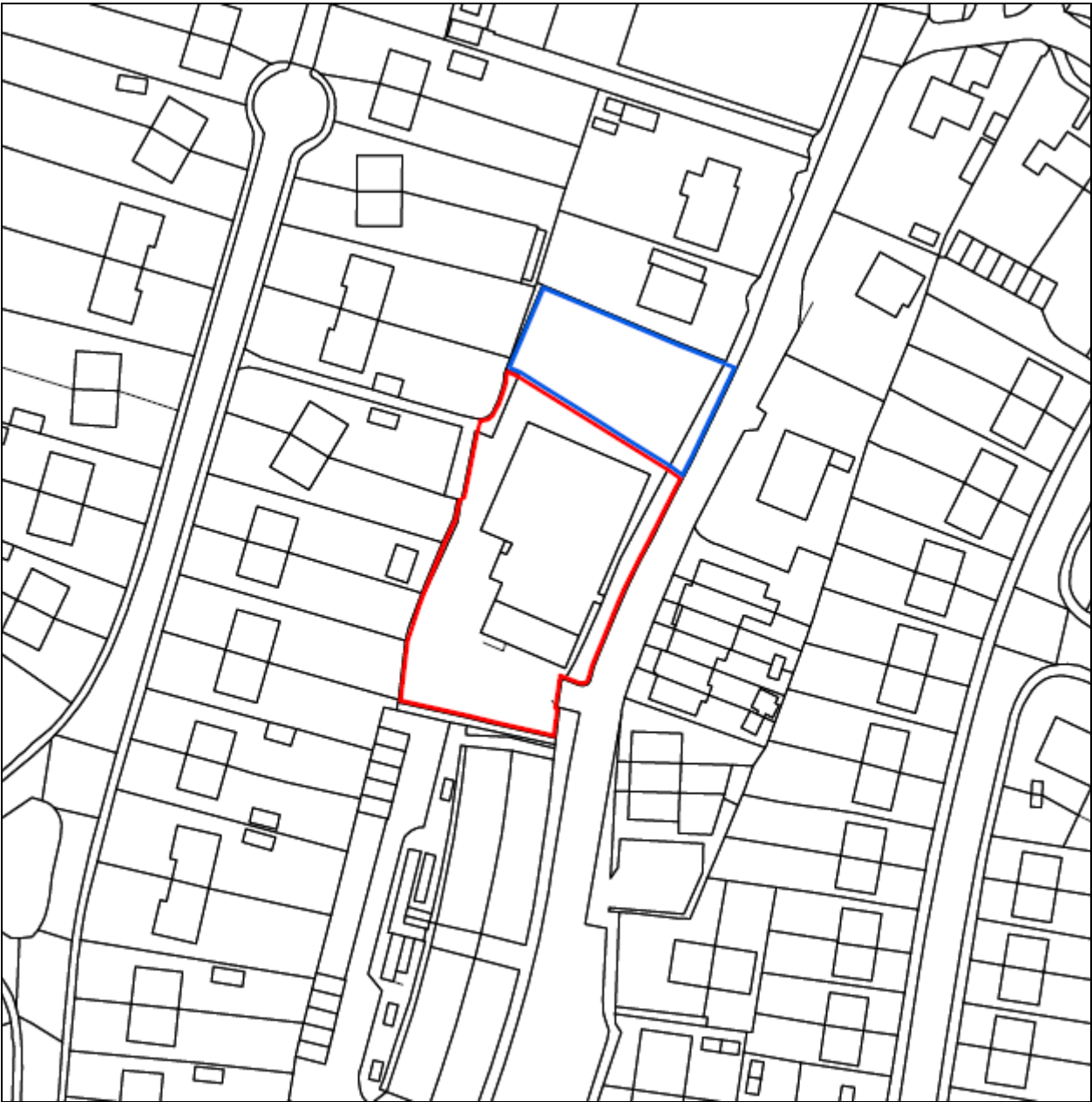
None

7. Ward Implications

- 7.1 The site is located within the Dawley Magna Ward. The ward members are:
- Councillor Frances Bould
Councillor Clive Elliott
Councillor Brian Duce

Report prepared by James Dunn, Estates & Investment Team Leader

Appendix 1 – Site Plan



Appendix 2 - Valuation Report



Valuation Office Agency
District Valuer Services

Alan Fox
Estates and Investments Manager
Telford & Wrekin Council
Wellington Civic and Leisure Centre
2nd Floor Upper
Larkin Way off Tan Bank
Wellington
Telford
TF1 1LX

5th Floor
Crown House
Birch Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 4DS

Direct: Dial: 03000 507221
Fax: 03000 507250
E-mail: phil.d.chapman@voa.gsi.gov.uk

Your Reference :
Our Reference : PDC/1416964
Please ask for : Phil Chapman

Date : 5 July 2012

Dear Alan

Dawley Memorial Hall, King Street, Dawley TF4 2AG

With reference to your request dated 19 June 2012, I have given the matter careful consideration and would report as follows: -

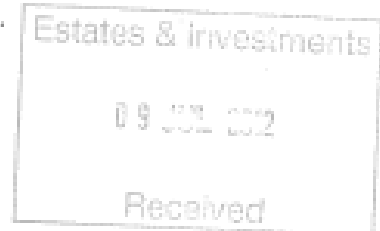
INTRODUCTION: Telford and Wrekin Council lease Dawley Memorial Hall to the Trustees of the social club. The lessee wishes to purchase the freehold.

SITUATION and DESCRIPTION Single storey brick building with a part pitched/part flat roof constructed originally inter war with later additions. The original part was used as a clinic but now converted to a social club. The building is dated and the roof in the function room requires urgent attention; this is the responsibility of the lessee.

NATURE OF INTEREST: I have valued the Freehold interest subject to the existing lease and on the basis that the property will continue to be used as a social club. The lease is for 20 years commencing on 1 August 2010 at a commencing rent of £2,000 pa with 5 year rent reviews based on increases in RPI. It is understood that if the freehold were not to be disposed of there would be at a further concessionary rent on renewal. Under the terms of the lease the lessee is responsible for all repairs.

EASEMENTS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING VALUE: None known.

DATE OF INSPECTION: An inspection of the site was carried out on 27 June 2012.



DATE OF VALUATION:	The date of valuation is the date of this report.
PLANNING:	It is assumed that the present use complies with all necessary planning permissions.
ENVIRONMENT AND CONTAMINATION MATTERS:	I have not undertaken an environmental survey on the sites and am not able to state that the sites are free from contamination or noxious weeds infestation etc.
FLOODING:	I have assumed that the site has no history of flooding.
OPINION OF VALUE:	I am of the opinion that the freehold value, subject to the existing lease and on the assumptions mentioned in this report, is in the order of £21,000 (Twenty One Thousand Pounds) exclusive of any VAT which may be payable.
V.A.T.:	The stated opinion of value is exclusive of any VAT which may be payable.
VALIDITY:	This report should not be considered valid for a period exceeding 6 months from the date hereof nor if the circumstances should alter.
BASIS OF VALUATION:	The basis of valuation adopted is Market Value which is:- <i>"The estimated amount for which a property should exchange on the date of valuation between a willing buyer and a willing seller in an arm's-length transaction after proper marketing wherein the parties had each acted knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion."</i>

VALUATION ASSUMPTIONS AND CAVEATS

<u>Title</u>	The title deeds have not been inspected and it has therefore been assumed for the purposes of this valuation that the freehold interest is unencumbered and free from any onerous or unusual easements, restrictions, outgoings or conditions, likely to have an adverse affect upon the value of the premises.
<u>Searches</u>	No local searches have been carried out nor any enquiries made of the local authority and it has therefore been assumed for the purposes of this valuation that any searches or enquiries would not reveal any detrimental factors.
<u>Contamination</u>	I am not aware of the content of any environmental audit or other environmental investigation or soil survey, which may have been carried out on the property, which may draw attention to any contamination or the possibility of any such contamination. In undertaking my work I have been instructed to assume that no contamination or potentially contaminative uses have been carried out in the property. I have not carried out any investigation into past or present uses, either of the property or any neighbouring land, to establish

whether there is any contamination or potential for contamination to the subject property from these uses or sites, and have therefore assumed none exists.

However, should it be established subsequently that contamination, seepage or pollution exists at the property or on any neighbouring land, or that the premises have been or are being put to a contaminative use, this might reduce the value now reported.

Site Stability

I have not carried out or commissioned a site investigation or geophysical survey and in preparing my valuation I have assumed that the ground has sufficient load bearing strength to support the existing construction or any other construction that may be erected upon it in the future and that there is no fault or disability underground which could or might affect the property or any construction thereon.

Planning Licences Approvals or Certificates to operate

I have not made any investigation as to the planning position of the property.

Sources Extents and Non Disclosure of Information

This valuation has been carried out on the basis of the information supplied by the client in respect of the nature of the interest and location of sites.

V.A.T. Taxation and Costs of Acquisition and Realisation

No allowance has been made for liability to taxation, which may arise on disposal, whether actual or notional e.g. V.A.T. and Capital Gains Tax nor does the valuation reflect costs of acquisition or realisation.

**MINERAL VALUERS REPORT:
RICS APPRAISAL AND
VALUATION STANDARDS:**

A Report has not been requested.

The valuation has been prepared in accordance with the RICS Valuation Standards, 8th Edition. It is confirmed that the valuer has the appropriate knowledge, skills and understanding to undertake the valuation competently.

THIRD PARTY REFERENCE:

This report is provided for the stated purpose and for the sole use of the named Client. It is confidential to the client and their professional advisers and no responsibility is accepted whatsoever to any other person.

CONSENT TO PUBLICATION:

Neither the whole nor any part of this Valuation Report or any reference hereto may be included in any published document, circular or statement, or published in any way, without my written approval of the form and context in which it may appear.

Yours sincerely



Phil Chapman MRICS Dip LA
Senior Surveyor
RICS Registered Valuer
DVS

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 20th September, 2012 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER, 2012

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 1ST OCTOBER, 2012)

PRESENT: Councillor K.S. Sahota (Leader and Chair), E.A. Clare, S. Davies, A.R.H. England, W.A.M. McClements, R.A. Overton, H. Rhodes, C.F. Smith and P.R. Watling

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) and Councillor G.M. Green (Lib Dem/Independent Group Deputy Leader)

CB-34 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26th July 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor W.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Independent Group Leader)

CB-36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors K.S. Sahota, S. Davies and A.R.H. England declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11 – Disposal of Dawley War Memorial Hall, King Street, Dawley.

CB-37 SERVICE & FINANCIAL PLANNING UPDATE

Key Decision identified as **Service & Financial Planning Update** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 14th September 2012 (Regulation 10 General Exception applies)

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance, which provided an update on changes to the local government finance system, as well as the Council's saving proposals for 2013/14 and future years.

The Government was consulting (or had consulted) on a number of key changes, including:

- a scheme allowing the retention of an element of business rates locally, with it being proposed that business rates collected be split equally into a local and central share;

- a 10% reduction in the grant received by the Council to fund the cost of Council Tax Benefit. Local authorities were required to establish their own local Council Tax support scheme by 31 January 2013 (for implementation in April 2013). This support would be given as a council tax discount with funding being provided via the new business rates retention scheme. It was estimated that this would result in a funding shortfall of £3.1m in 2013/14.
- education funding – the Dedicated Schools Grant was to be retained, but with some changes in how it could be allocated. This would result in less flexibility in how funding was allocated to schools, with the local formula moving to more of a national model. Most funding would flow to schools via pupil numbers and this was likely to have a significant financial impact on some smaller secondary schools and those with falling numbers;
- the introduction of a ring-fenced grant to fund the cost of Public Health responsibilities being transferred to Councils when Primary Care Trusts were abolished.

All of these changes were due for implementation on 1 April 2013 and the details of how these schemes would operate were currently very unclear. There was unlikely to be much more clarity until after the funding settlement was announced by the Government in November or December.

The report also re-stated the Council's Service and Financial Planning Strategy, and the process of identifying further savings on top of the £40m pa of ongoing savings achieved since 2009/10. Full details of these additional savings proposals (amounting to over £12m by 2016/17) were appended to the report. It was proposed that targeted service user engagement would commence where appropriate on the savings proposals. Further work to identify additional savings would be undertaken and details included in a report to Cabinet in December 2012 following receipt of the grant settlement.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted, and that targeted consultation on the savings proposals included within Appendix 1 of the report be commenced in accordance with the approach set out in section 7 of the report.

CB-38 DRIVING DELIVERY OF THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

Non-Key Decision

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery presented the report of the Managing Director, which provided information on baseline performance against the Council's priority outcome measures.

The Council's Medium Term Plan identified a proposed basket of outcome measures which would be used to assess the progress in delivering the community focussed priorities outlined in the Plan. Appended to the report was the baseline 2011/12 performance against these outcome measures. As a whole, there was a positive direction of travel, with 71% of the measures 'improved' between 2010/11 and 2011/12. However, compared to the national

picture, 68% of these measures were ranked 'worse'. A summary of outcomes for each priority was provided in the report.

To ensure that the Council was focussed on driving the improvement of these measures, each one would be assigned to a Corporate Director to drive and challenge performance. Progress reports would be presented to Cabinet on a quarterly cycle. .

Members welcomed the improvements in priority outcomes against national levels as set out in the report. During the debate, Members stressed that homelessness figures would be especially vulnerable to the economic climate and, as this was inter-related with a number of priorities, focus should remain on all measures.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the baseline performance against the Council's priority outcome measures be noted; and**
- (b) that Cabinet Members and Corporate Directors continue to drive improvement of all the priority outcome measures assigned to them**

CB-39 LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

Non-Key Decision

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, presented the report of the Interim Assistant Director: Safeguarding Children which referred to the critical role of the Safeguarding Board to keep children and young people in the Borough safe. A copy of the Board's Annual Report for 2011/12 was tabled at the meeting.

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) was the statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations would co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the Borough, and to ensure the effectiveness of what they do. The annual report reflected the progress of the Board's business plan as well as providing a realistic assessment of the remaining challenges.

OFSTED had recently undertaken an Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked-After Children services, with a report published in August 2012. Overall, services were found to be adequate in their effectiveness (meet minimum standards), and the inspectors endorsed the direction and vision for children's services following the strategic review in 2011. A headline summary of the judgements was appended to the report. The LSCB was updating its business plan in response to the OFSTED report – in order to reflect the Board's role in ensuring the OFSTED's recommendations are effectively and speedily implemented. Two particular areas that the Board would focus on were

training for staff and linking any recommendations more directly to front line social work practice.

Members expressed their thanks to the team involved in supporting the demands of the OFSTED inspection.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **that the focus and progress made in delivering the LSCB Business Plan be noted;**
- (b) **that the role of the LSCB in driving change and improvement in response to the OFSTED inspection of Safeguarding and Looked-After Children be acknowledged.**

CB-40 PUBLIC HEALTH TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

Non-Key decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Deputy Leader and Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Social Care Specialist which updated Members on the implications of transferring public health functions to the Council, and on the potential funding levels for 2013/14.

In July 2012, the Department of Health published a consultation document setting out current thinking on local authority public health finance. Officers had submitted a response to the consultation, a copy of which was appended to the report. There was still uncertainty as to the exact sum each local authority would receive for public health responsibilities. However, an indicative figure of around £7.25m for Telford & Wrekin would leave a potential shortfall of over £3m based on current public health related activities.

Commissioned activity under contract to the Primary Care Trust made up the largest proportion of current spend. Current contracts were due to expire on 31 March 2013, which gave the Council some flexibility about deciding which services to continue with. However, there was much work to be done to put in place arrangements to secure the procurement of activities that would meet these new responsibilities. Initial analysis suggested that contracts to the value of £112,503 should be ended on 31 March 2013 and the activities not continued, and contracts to the value of £770,311 should be de-commissioned. Further work was also being done to look at the remaining commissioned services in order to determine the length of period the Council should offer contracts to existing providers. The report set out the suggested approach and sought approval to delegate responsibility for letting the contracts to Officers in consultation with the Lead Member.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **that the uncertain situation and tight timescales be noted, and that the prudent approach towards the award of future public health contracts be supported;**

- (b) **that authority be delegated to the Director of Adult & Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Public Health and Cabinet Lead/Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board Chair, to progress the consideration of future commissioned services; the award of relevant contracts for those public health services within the finances available once the Public Health ring-fenced grant is announced; and to enter into any appropriate documentation to enable and give effect to the transfer of public health functions to the Council.**

CB-41 CARE AND SUPPORT WHITE PAPER AND BILL

Non-Key Decision

Councillor E.A. Clare, Cabinet Member for Adult & Social Care, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Social Care Specialist which summarised Government proposals for adult care and support contained in the recently published White Paper, Bill and progress report on Funding Reform.

The Care & Support White Paper and Bill were published in July 2012, and set out reforms for the adult care and support system in the UK. The White Paper confirmed that local authorities would be at the heart of how care and support would work in the future, and had a central vision of promoting wellbeing and independence instead of waiting for people to reach crisis point; availability of better information; and high quality services. The Care & Support Bill, if it became law, would replace nearly all the existing adult social care law. Eight factsheets had been produced to summarise the main components of the Bill – details of which were included in the report. Generally, the response to the principles in the White Paper had been positive, though there was a need for more clarity, certainty and a definite time frame. The proposed simplification of the legislative framework was seen as a big step forward, although there was a lot of work still to be done.

The “Caring for our Future: Progress report on Funding Reform” made clear that the Government agreed with the principles of the Dilnot Commission’s recommendations published in 2011. However, there were significant concerns being expressed about the delay in addressing the funding issues at a time when adult social care budgets were already under pressure. There was a risk in the medium term that the funding gap could widen.

Members acknowledged that adult social care was a difficult issue subject to a long running debate. Members were particularly concerned that the proposals would increase public aspirations before the funding situation had been adequately addressed.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **that the content and implications of the Care & Support White Paper, Bill and Progress Report on Funding Reform be noted; and**

- (b) that the Local Authority respond to the consultation on the draft Bill to express concern regarding the delay in addressing the adult social care funding situation for at least another 3 years at a time when budgets are already under pressure.**

CB - 42 FOSTER CARERS ALLOWANCES FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

Non-Key Decision

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, presented the report of the Interim Assistant Director: Children's Safeguarding, which outlined proposals to increase current foster carer allowances for children in care. An amendment to recommendation 2.2 was proposed, by adding the words "in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families" after the words "Interim Assistant Director: Children's Safeguarding".

The payment structure for foster carers in Telford & Wrekin had three elements – a fee, an allowance and discretionary payments. The allowances were subject to annual review, but had not been increased since October 2009. Comparisons with neighbouring authorities showed that the allowances paid were lower in Telford & Wrekin. It was recognised that the level of allowances was a factor that influenced the recruitment and retention of foster carers – something that was an important priority for the Council in order to maintain children in the Borough. It was proposed that the foster carers allowance be increased by 7.5% from 1 October 2012, whilst a general review was undertaken between October and December 2012 which would involve extensive consultation on the options for re-modelling Fostering services to meet new service needs, and proposals for placement costs and fee structures for foster carers. The financial implications of the proposed increase were set out in the report and appendices. The part-year cost in 2012/13 would be £43,605, with a full year cost in 2013/14 of £87,210. However, it was anticipated that the additional costs could be offset by savings from reduced use of external placements if the numbers of foster carers within the Borough could be retained and increased.

Members welcomed the report and recognised that attracting local foster carers would not only provide long-term savings but would also crucially broaden the pool of available care matches for children. Members praised the endeavours of the foster carers who played such a vital role in the wellbeing of the children and young people placed in their care.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the fostering allowances paid to foster carers for each child/young person looked after by them be increased by 7.5% from 1 October 2012;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Interim Assistant Director: Children's Safeguarding, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, to approve**

proposals for the remodelling of the fees element of payments to foster carers to reflect the different level of skills needed to care children according to the complexity of their needs.

CB-43 FUTURE USE OF LAND OFF CONCORDE, DAWLEY BANK

Key Decision identified as **Future Use of Land off Concorde, Dawley Bank** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 14th September 2012 (Regulation 10 General Exception applies)

Councillor R.A. Overton, Deputy Leader, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing which set out options for the future use of an area of vacant land owned by the Council off Concorde in Dawley Bank, Telford. A site plan was appended to the report.

The Dawley Bank Horticultural Society (DBHS) had progressed a proposal to use the land for allotments/raised bed community garden. Following the submission of a planning application by DBHS, the Council was approached by another community group who were interested in developing the same site for community use by creating a Jubilee Wood. It was agreed to seek the views of local residents who lived within 400 metres of the site, and 263 survey forms were completed and returned. In addition, a further 346 photocopied surveys were returned. Due to the large number of photocopied surveys, the results had been analysed for both original surveys and photocopied responses – and details were appended to the report. The preferred option of those respondents who completed original surveys was the Jubilee Wood (68.1%), whereas the preferred option for those who completed photocopied surveys was the Raised Bed Community Garden (94.7%). A small number of participants said that their preferred option was for the area of land to be left as it was.

Cabinet were presented with four options for the future use of the site:

Option 1 – development of a raised bed community garden by Dawley Bank Horticultural Society;

Option 2 – development of a Jubilee Wood (involving tidying the woodland, creating paths and planting wildflowers) by the Dawley Bank Residents Association;

Option 3 – there is no development of the land, and it remains in its current condition for informal access for the community;

Option 4 – the use of the land for residential development be investigated, and the site sold if planning permission was granted for this use.

Members gave careful consideration to all the options, taking into account the proposals submitted by the two community groups, results of the residents survey, the financial implications of each option, and the terms under which the land would be leased if options 1 or 2 were chosen.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the area of land off Concorde, Dawley Bank be used to develop a Jubilee Wood by Dawley Bank Residents Association (Option 2);
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing to deal with the land in accordance with the above resolution, including development of a lease agreement;
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to agree and execute all necessary documentation.

CB-44 DISPOSAL OF DAWLEY WAR MEMORIAL HALL, KING ST, DAWLEY

Non-Key Decision

Councillors S. Davies, A.R.H England and K.S. Sahota withdrew from the meeting room. Councillor R.A. Overton (Deputy Leader) took the chair for this item.

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing which sought approval for the disposal of Dawley War Memorial Hall. The 'Legal Issues' comments shown in the Summary Impact Assessment section of the report were amended by way of a tabled document.

The Hall was purchased by the Council in 2010 from a charitable trust, with the proceeds from the purchase being distributed to charitable bodies in Dawley. The Hall was occupied by Dawley Social Club, which had been part of the Dawley community for many years. The Club rented the land and buildings (as shown on the plan appended to the report) from the Council on a 20 year lease on full repairing and insuring terms. An area of roofing within the hall collapsed, and the reinstatement of this was estimated at around £150,000. The Club's insurance company refused to accept liability and whilst liable under the terms of the lease, the Club was unable to fund the repairs and the Council considered any further investment unviable. It was therefore proposed to sell the property to the Trustees of Dawley Social Club, based on a freehold market value of £21,000, with the use restricted to a "Social Club" for the land shown on the appended plan. The income would be used to reinvest in better performing assets with better scope for rental growth – in accordance with the PIP Strategy.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the disposal of Dawley War Memorial Hall as detailed in the report be approved in accordance with terms to be agreed by the

Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources & Service Delivery;

- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to agree and execute all necessary documentation;**
- (c) that the capital receipt be retained within the Property Investment Portfolio for reinvestment.**

The meeting ended at 6.08pm.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

**Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection
Date: 26th September 2012**

Signed:

Date: