

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 18th October, 2012 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 24th OCTOBER, 2012

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 29TH OCTOBER, 2012)

PRESENT: Councillor R.A. Overton (Deputy Leader and Chair for the meeting), 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-45 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 20th September 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor K.S. Sahota (Leader)

CB-47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CB-48 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY CENTRES

Key Decision identified as **Response to Scrutiny Report - Review of the Management of Community Centres** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 20th September 2012

Councillor A.D. McClements, Chair of the Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee, presented the Committee's report and recommendations following their in-depth review of the management of Council-run community centres. The review was carried out following concerns being raised that community centres were under-used and not being developed to their full potential to meet the needs of local communities.

The Committee had visited 11 community centres (both Council and non-Council managed facilities) in the Borough and gathered evidence from a number of partners, local residents, Cabinet members and officers. This included looking at alternative management models and best practice. The Committee found that there was a lot of good work going on in the individual centres, but there was room for improvement in terms on engaging local communities. It was clear that the centres had suffered from a lack of

investment, and that the existing staffing levels meant there was limited capacity to develop the centres. The recent transfer of community centre management to the Priority Action Team was welcomed, as this gave an opportunity to draw on the skills within the wider team.

The Committee had concluded that overall the centres should remain in the immediate future within Council ownership and management because of their strategic importance for their communities. However, it was felt that the management model must be based on a partnership arrangement with local communities and residents. A business plan should be developed for each centre based on local needs. The Committee had made 18 detailed recommendations for consideration by Cabinet. Councillor McClements thanked the members of the Committee for their hard work on this review, and thanked Tracy Clarke (Scrutiny Officer) and other officers for their contribution.

Cllr A.R.H. England, Cabinet Member: Leisure & Wellbeing, presented the Cabinet's response to the Scrutiny recommendations. He thanked the Scrutiny Members for their report, and Tracy Clarke, Rachael Jones and Wendy Tonge for the Officer support. It had been acknowledged that there was a need to develop a different approach to the management of community centres, and the Scrutiny Review had been valuable in identifying different models and some key areas for improvement. The strategic recommendations were supported, and it was proposed to establish a Project Steering Group (including a member of the Scrutiny Committee) to oversee the review of community centres. There would be a flexible approach rather than "one size fits all", and different solutions might be developed for each centre. Appended to the report was the Cabinet's detailed response to all the Scrutiny recommendations. This included agreement that the centre at Priorslee should no longer be managed as a community centre.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the recommendations made by the Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee be noted, and the response set out in paragraph 3.2 and Appendix 1 of the report be approved;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Managing Director, following consultation with the Cabinet Member: Leisure & Wellbeing and Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services & Co-operative Council, to implement the proposals made as a result of the review of community centres.**

CB-49 2012/13 FINANCIAL MONITORING

Key Decision identified as **2012/13 Financial Monitoring** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 14th September 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 £4.4m of the budgeted contingency. Pressures arising from contractually committed inflation would be addressed using much of the remaining contingency. There were still a number of significant pressures on the budget, including the cost of Children in Care placements and use of agency staff in the Safeguarding service (projected variation of £2.3m); the cost of Adult Care and Support services following withdrawal of PCT funding (projected variation of £1.5m), the cost of Specialist Education (net projected overspend of £0.250m); along with income shortfalls of £1.4m relating to a number of services. 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 a one-off refund of £0.351m from the Government in relation to academies funding.

The capital programme totalled £114m, which included approved changes for slippage and new approvals. Spend was currently standing at 11%, and 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 August 2012.

Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) expressed concern at the significant rise in the amount of the contingency being used to cover the gap in the current year's budget. The Cabinet Member responded that the 2012/13 budget had included additional contingency provision to help address any revenue shortfalls. The Council was doing as much as it could to reduce costs, while protecting front-line services for the most vulnerable, but that continued cuts in funding from central Government were putting considerable strain on key services.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that it be noted that the 2012/13 revenue spend is projecting to be within budget at year end;**
- (b) that the proposed uses of the budgeted contingency detailed in paragraph 6.1 of the report be approved;**
- (c) that the position in relation to capital spend be noted, and TO RECOMMEND to COUNCIL that the slippage, virements 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-50 PLANNING OF SCHOOL PLACES: HOLLINSWOOD INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS

Key Decision identified as **Hollinswood Infant and Junior Schools** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 14th September 2012

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Education, Culture & Skills, which sought a final decision on whether to merge Hollinswood Infant and Junior Schools.

Cabinet, at its meeting on 26 July 2012, agreed to publish Statutory Public Notices in respect of the merger of the two schools and the establishment of a primary school from January 2013. The Notices were published on 30 August 2012 in the local press and copies sent to interested parties and displayed locally. The formal Statutory Notice period ended on 11 October 2012, and the Cabinet Member confirmed that no responses or representations had been received.

Members were satisfied that the process for the amalgamation of the two schools had been completed thoroughly, and that all parties had had an opportunity to express their views. As the Public Notice period had not produced any further comments, Members were satisfied of the benefits of merging the two schools, as outlined in previous reports.

RESOLVED – that the closure of Hollinswood Infants School, and the expansion and alteration of the lower age range at Hollinswood Junior School to form a primary school from January 2013, be approved.

CB-51 DISPOSAL OF THE FORMER GOWER STREET YOUTH CENTRE, ST GEORGES

Non-Key decision

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, which set out proposals regarding the site of the former Youth Centre at Gower Street, St Georges.

The Youth Centre closed in September 2005, following the failure of the heating system. It was then discovered that the building needed significant further maintenance works, which made its re-opening unviable. The property had been on the market since planning permission for both conversion and new build dwellings was secured in 2008, but no purchaser had been found. In the meantime, the building had been subject to vandalism and was in a poor state of repair.

However, there had been recent interest from residential and commercial developers which met the Council's expectations of value. In addition to the capital receipt, the Council would benefit from the New Homes Bonus of circa £1,000 per annum for six years per unit built. It was proposed that £75,000 of the proceeds from the disposal be made available to reinvest in Youth provision within the St Georges area, subject to consultation.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, to negotiate terms to dispose of the former Gower Street Youth Centre as recommended within the report;**
- (b) **that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection, to sign or seal any documentation to give effect to the above resolution;**
- (c) **that it be noted that the net capital receipt is built into the Council's budget strategy;**
- (d) **TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that a capital estimate of £75k for Youth Provision in the St George's area, following consultation with the local community, be approved.**

CB-52 DESIGNATION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA FOR MADELEY

Key Decision identified as **Designation of Neighbourhood Area – Madeley Parish** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 14th September 2012

Councillor C.F. Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Housing which outlined an application from Madeley Parish Council for designation of their Parish as a Neighbourhood Area.

The Localism Act 2011 introduced Neighbourhood Planning as a mechanism to increase local engagement in plan making. In February 2011, the Council successfully bid with Madeley Parish Council for the Parish to become one of the Government's "Frontrunners". A Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had been established, and had begun to scope the issues the Plan would address through engagement with the local community, the Council and other stakeholders. The proposed Plan area reflected the boundaries of the parish, and was appended to the report. In accordance with the Regulations, the Parish Council had given public notice of its request for designation. Following a six week consultation period, no representations had been submitted.

It was noted that no concerns about the boundary area had been raised, its correlation with the parish area would assist with any future referendum, and it

provided a good model for future neighbourhood plan proposals. Once the Parish had prepared their Plan, it would be submitted to the Council to consider, and be the subject of a local examination and local referendum. Members welcomed this initiative as a good example of partnership working and of getting the community involved in their local neighbourhood.

RESOLVED – that the Neighbourhood Area application by Madeley Parish Council be supported, and that the area shown at Appendix A of the report be designated as a Neighbourhood Area.

The meeting ended at 5.28 pm.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection
Date: 24th October 2012

Signed:

Date:

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**CABINET - 8 NOVEMBER 2012****APPROVAL OF A NEW FUNDING FORMULA FOR TELFORD & WREKIN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS****REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, CULTURE & SKILLS****LEAD CABINET MEMBER – COUNCILLOR PAUL WATLING****PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT****1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 In March 2012 the Department for Education (DfE) published the document “*School Funding Reform: Next steps towards a fairer system*”. This outlined a number of changes affecting school funding, including the requirement for Local Authorities to revise their local funding formula for schools. The new formula for mainstream schools must only include the more limited range of funding factors allowed under the new arrangements.
- 1.2 The new formula needs to be submitted to the Education Funding Agency by 31 October 2012. Telford & Wrekin’s formula will be submitted (as is allowed) subject to cabinet approval on 8 November. There are other funding changes which will effect special schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) but these are not subject to the 31 October deadline and will be the subject of a future report.
- 1.3 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the proposed new funding formula for Telford & Wrekin mainstream schools.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the proposed new funding formula for Telford and Wrekin mainstream schools, to take effect from April 2013, be approved.**

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

IMPACT ASSESSMENT AT A GLANCE	
COMMUNITY IMPACT¹?	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?
	Yes By ensuring that, as far as is possible schools receive fair funding for their pupils, this supports the objective to Improve achievement and attendance at all key stages.
	Are there any measures that will be used to show the proposals are making a difference?
	Yes Sustaining as much financial stability for schools as is possible within the new requirements.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?
Yes Children, young people, parents and the wider community served by schools.	

TARGET COMPLETION /DELIVERY DATE?	The new funding formula will take effect from April 2013. Details of the new formula have to be provided to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) by 31 October, but ours will be provided on the basis of being 'Subject to Cabinet approval'.	
FINANCIAL (VALUE FOR MONEY) IMPACT?	Yes	The new funding formula redistributes funds between schools as discussed in the report below.
LEGAL IMPACT?	Yes	The new arrangements have to comply with the new School Finance Regulations.
OTHER RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES?	Yes	The national Minimum Funding Guarantee, currently set at minus 1.5% per pupil, offers schools protection from significant losses of funding per pupil as a result of formula changes. However, no such protection is available for losses of funding in individual schools arising from reductions in pupil numbers. As a result, some of T&W's secondary schools, with large reductions in pupil numbers, will experience large reductions in funding in 2013/14 and subsequent years. More detail is provided in Section 9 of this report.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS?	Yes	The new formula will affect all schools, including academies, with the exception of nursery schools, special schools, Thomas Telford school and independent schools and so will impact upon all Wards across the Borough.

4 SUMMARY

- 4.1 The DfE requires Local Authorities to implement a simpler funding formula for schools from April 2013. The DfE plans this to be the first stage towards a national funding formula for schools, to be implemented in the next spending review period (i.e. at some point in the period from 2015/16).
- 4.2 The DfE has set the rules for the new formula to ensure that it is predominantly pupil led and requires more delegation to schools.
- 4.3 The new funding formula affects how much of the total funding received by T&W is allocated to individual schools. The amount per pupil that is allocated to T&W via the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is not changed by these proposals.

5 INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The new 2013/14 funding formula can only be based upon the the following factors:
- 1 *Basic per pupil allocation*
 - 2 *Deprivation* – measured by eligibility for Free School Meals or the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI).
 - 3 *Looked After Children*
 - 4 *Low cost, high incidence SEN*
 - 5 *English as an Additional Language (EAL)* - for no more than 3 years after the pupils enter the school system
 - 6 *Pupil mobility* - relating to pupils who didn't start in school in September
 - 7 *Lump Sum* - no more than £200,000 & the same lump sum must apply to all primary and secondary schools
 - 8 *Split site allowance*
 - 9 *Rates* - at actual cost

- 10 *PFI contracts*
- 11 *London Fringe factor* - not applicable to T&W
- 12 *Post 16 funding* - where LAs have used DSG to provide additional support for 6th Forms, not applicable to T&W
- 13 *Exceptional premises factors* – each has to be individually approved by the Education Funding Agency (EFA – a new DfE agency). T&W have applied for and had approved an exceptional funding factor for schools making significant financial contributions to joint use leisure centres.

- 5.2 Only 11 of the standard factors are therefore applicable for T&W schools.
- 5.3 The new funding formula must also include some funds previously held centrally by the Local Authority for the provision of services to schools. For T&W this amounts to £1.1m.
- 5.4 The national Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will continue to apply for 2013/14 and 2014/15, which guarantees that no school can lose funding of more than 1.5% per pupil compared to the previous year. The DfE has also stated that the MFG will continue beyond 2014/15, although the rate has not been specified and this would clearly be subject to decisions made by a future government. Whilst the MFG offers funding protection at a pupil level the formula cannot be used to protect schools against losses arising from reductions in pupil numbers.
- 5.5 As part of the changes, the DfE are also making changes to the funding of SEN, with schools expected to pay for the first £6,000 of additional needs from their general budget. As a result, from April 2013, statements of up to and including 15 hours will no longer deliver additional funding to schools – instead the funding previously distributed in this way will be distributed via the formula factors identified under paragraph 5.1 above.
- 5.6 Pupil premium is outside the new funding arrangements. Pupil premium is allocated based on every pupil that has ever registered as eligible for free school meals at any point within the last six years, or is a looked after child, or comes from an armed forces family. Pupil premium will continue to increase as previously announced by the government – to £900 per eligible pupil in 2013/14 (from £619 in 2012/13) with a further increase in 2014/15. The exception to this is the armed forces premium which is currently £250 per eligible pupil.
- 5.7 Since March a number of different options for the new formula have been modelled. They have been discussed in meetings held since March with the Schools Forum (schools representative body with regard to finances), with the Forum's School Funding Formula Sub-Group and with all schools in two consultation processes, in May and September.
- 5.8 The formula recommended to Members seeks, as far as is possible within the new constraints, to offer budget stability to schools and to support those schools most financially vulnerable in forthcoming years. In order to go as far as is possible to achieve these aims we have:
- Chosen a relatively high lump sum, (£175,000 compared to the maximum allowable £200,000) as this offers the most stability to our smaller primary schools. With a smaller lump sum, in most cases they would experience the maximum allowable decrease under the Minimum Funding Guarantee (minus 1.5% per year for the next 2 years) and then a much greater fall if protection arrangements ceased or were loosened.
 - Maintained a comparatively high ratio of funding between secondary and primary schools at over 1.4 compared to a national average, according to the DfE, of 1.27. The secondary sector and in particular specific schools within it, are losing

significant funding due to reducing pupil numbers and a move towards the national average ratio would increase the financial pressures experienced in the schools.

- Maintained funding driven by deprivation at current levels. There was a strong feeling in some of our schools that any decrease risked undermining the impact of pupil premium funding.
- Included funding factors for split sites and English as an Additional Language (EAL) in order to recognise unavoidable extra costs for schools associated with these factors.
- Limited gains for any individual school to 2.5% per pupil, so as to create more funds to be available for other schools and reduce the differential between schools that gain under new arrangements and schools that will experience reduced funding.

5.9 The new funding formula has to be more pupil driven than previous arrangements, which is the clear intention of the DfE. For example, no funding based on premises is allowed, unless approved as an exceptional factor. The minimum funding guarantee, described in paragraph 5.4 above, offers protection to schools with stable pupil numbers, but not for reductions in pupil numbers. The result is that despite our desire for stability, and protection for schools with the most difficult budget circumstances, funding for individual schools increases or decreases based mainly on changes in pupil numbers.

5.10 It should be noted that schools receive funding that is outside the scope of these funding changes, namely early years funding, 6th form funding, special units attached to mainstream schools and individual funding for high needs pupils. These sources of funding are not included in the prior year baseline or the modelled funding for 2013/14.

Additional Delegation of Funding to Schools

5.11 Schools are funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Under the new arrangements this will be split into three notional blocks: Schools, Early years and High Needs (covering SEN). Compared to now, £1.1m more of the Schools Block will need to be delegated to schools.

5.12 These newly delegated funds are currently used to support a number of services, including the Schools Catering service, the Multicultural Development Team, non home to schools transport etc. For some of these funds, the Schools Forum can decide to then de-delegate, i.e. return the funds to the Local Authority for central provision of services. Decisions on whether any of the funds will be de-delegated will be made at the Schools Forum to be held on 20 November.

5.13 In general, the implications of this change are that apart from historic commitments and statutory functions, any other central expenditure from the Schools Block will have to be explicitly agreed with the Schools Forum, rather than, as now, the agreement just being based around the proportion of the overall Schools Budget that is held centrally. Forum approval is by phase – so only primary members can agree for primary de-delegation, secondary members secondary de-delegation etc.

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

6.1 The new funding formula includes additional funding for pupils from deprived backgrounds, pupils with low prior attainment and pupils for whom English is an

Additional Language. It therefore aims to allocate funding as fairly as possible to schools taking into account the characteristics of pupils.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.1 There is no direct environmental impact from the proposed funding changes.

8 LEGAL

8.1 The DfE is issuing new Finance Regulations which will document the legal requirements for the new funding system for schools.

9 OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

9.1 The Authority has no choice but to implement a new funding formula which is compliant with the new Regulations.

9.2 However, there is a risk that because the new funding formula has to be more pupil led than previously, it does not support a planned approach to the provision of school places. The DfE's view that successful schools should be able to expand underpins the allowable factors in the new formula and potentially creates problems for other schools that contract. Schools with reductions in pupil numbers will feel a stronger financial impact of this, just as expanding schools will experience a larger increase in funds.

9.3 The requirement for more delegation does place more emphasis on trading with schools and could more fully expose services to the open market.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Schools

10.1 The re-distributive impact of the new funding formula in 2013/14 is limited on a per pupil basis to between minus 1.5% (by the national Minimum Funding Guarantee) to +2.5% (a proposed cap within the local funding formula).

10.2 Some schools experience much more significant changes in funding in 2013/14, but these are driven by changes in pupil numbers. Even after the MFG, modelling suggests that funding changes will range from -10% to plus 13% in the secondary sector and from -4% to +17% in the primary sector

10.3 In the longer term, more schools will experience significant changes in funding, as the cumulative impact of MFG reductions take effect. Some primary schools, would experience large losses without MFG protection. In some of these cases, this is a continuation of existing protection provided in the current formula and in that sense is not a new issue.

10.4 It should also be noted that:

- It is the DfE's stated intention is implement a national funding formula for schools in the next spending review period, which would replace local formulas;
- In a recent letter date 10 October 2012, the DfE have also stated their intention to continue with national MFG protection beyond 2014/15, as follows: "*Although we cannot give an exact figure for the Minimum Funding Guarantee in future years until after the next spending review, we can reassure you that a Minimum Funding Guarantee will continue to operate, in order to offer protection against unmanageable falls in school budgets.*"

- In the same letter the DfE have also promised to “*carry out a careful review in early 2013 of the impact of simpler funding formulae*” in order to “*advise ministers on making any necessary adjustments to avoid unacceptable consequences for schools.*”
- 10.5 Because of the first two points in particular, for some schools it is doubtful whether they will ever reach the point of being allocated the budget that they would receive in 2013/14 if there was no protection. MFG protection seems likely to continue up to the point that a national funding formula (or change of policy from a future government) takes effect.
- 10.6 From an LA perspective, the requirements for additional delegation means that services provided to schools, unless related to core provision (for example SEN) will need to move to a more fully traded basis.
- 11. WARD IMPLICATIONS**
- 11.1 There are implications for the all the wards in T&W as the funding changes affect all maintained primary and secondary schools and academies.

Background Papers

Minutes of the Schools Forum meetings held on 16 May, 12 July and 19 September
http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/100005/education_and_learning/279/schools_forum/2

DfE, March 2012, ‘School Funding Reform: Next steps towards a fairer system’

DfE, July 2012, ‘2013/14 Revenue funding arrangements: Operational guidance for Local Authorities’

Letter from Sarah Healey (DfE) to Local Authorities dated 10 October 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance>

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18 October 2012

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

CABINET – 8 NOVEMBER 2012

TELFORD AND WREKIN CRISIS HELP NETWORK

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – COUNCILLOR SHAUN DAVIES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Today there are people across the UK who are struggling to cope with the cost of living and supporting themselves and their families. Redundancy, homelessness, illness, domestic violence, debt, family breakdown and paying for rising fuel and food costs are just some of the reasons why some people are in crisis.
- 1.2 This problem is expected to bring increased pressures with the impending changes to welfare benefits that will take effect from April 2013. Nationally, this has resulted in a number of local authorities preparing to invest in charity-run food banks and other support mechanisms, to cope with increasing demand for crisis help.
- 1.3 Until recently, emergency response in Telford and Wrekin had been delivered by individual organisations at the point of need, providing shelter and/or food and other basic essentials for people to live. However, it had not been co-ordinated and it had become increasingly difficult to meet rising demand.
- 1.4 In response, a number of local service providers have come together to agree how they can work together more effectively. This has resulted in Telford and Wrekin Crisis Help Network being established to provide a co-ordinated crisis response for people living in the borough. This work has also become a project in the Co-operative Council Work Programme.
- 1.5 Network members cover all sectors – private, voluntary and public – and currently consist of the KIP- in Place (KIP) Project in Wellington, Maninplace, the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA), Telford Christian Council, Dawley Christian Centre, British Red Cross, Wrekin Housing Trust (WHT), Lyreco, King Street Cafe in Wellington and the Council. The lead organisation is Telford & Wrekin Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).
- 1.6 Within the Network there is a wealth of experience and understanding of the complex needs of individuals and families in acute financial crisis. Network agencies already provide a range of established and respected services including emergency food, emergency shelter, temporary accommodation and advice and support to resolve financial crises.

- 1.7 The Network's overall vision is that '*No one in the borough of Telford and Wrekin should need to go without the basic essentials to keep themselves and their families sheltered, fed, clean, clothed, warm and healthy*'.
- 1.8 By using a 'mixed economy' approach, the Network has developed a business plan and associated costs for implementing a co-ordinated, cost effective and efficient crisis provision for the people of Telford and Wrekin.
- 1.9 The Network recognises that this will form an essential part of the Council's plans for crisis support, following the transfer of crisis loans from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and changes to the Council Tax Benefits from April 2013. As this will require a great deal of work within a tight timescale, it has been agreed to work in phases, on a priority basis.
- 1.10 To begin with, the Network needs to employ a project co-ordinator to drive the project, the first priority being to open a central food depot and distribution system by the end of December 2012. It has been agreed that this post will be recruited and managed by Telford CAB.
- 1.11 To deliver the project an appropriate level of sustainable funding is required. The Council is one of a number of partners who are proposing to contribute to this, along with regular donations of food etc from local people, fundraising activities and bids for external funding, some of which have already been applied for.
- 1.12 As part of the Council's own social responsibilities, we will be encouraging employees to make voluntary donations of non-perishable food items, starting in October, to support the project.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Cabinet notes the progress being made to develop a suitable crisis provision for people living in the borough, and;**
- 2.2 **That Cabinet approves the Council's proposed funding to support the project, as described in Section 4.**

3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 3.1 All Network agencies have reported increased demand over the last 2 years, for help from clients with immediate need for shelter and/or food and other basic essentials. For example, in the first quarter of 2012/13, Telford CAB dealt with 67 enquiries from people in acute financial crisis, providing 36 food parcels in addition to advice and support to resolve the issues.
- 3.2 Comparing the first quarter of 2012/13 to the same quarter in 2011/12, Telford CAB reported a 114% increase in clients presenting themselves as homeless and an 80% increase in clients threatened with homelessness. The same period also showed a 171% increase in enquiries about crisis loans and 133% about budgeting loans.

- 3.3 National statistics show that there were 7, 700 applications for crisis loans and community care grants from people in Telford in 2010/11, and 3,150 in the first half of 2011/12.
- 3.4 This increase is mostly due to reductions and changes in the welfare benefits system, starting with the phased transition from Incapacity Benefit to Employment Support Allowance in 2010.
- 3.5 In this process, many ill and disabled people found their benefit stopped due to poor work capability assessments or lack of understanding of the requirement to attend the assessment. Others found that the assessment deemed them fit for work and Employment Support Allowance was stopped, but the Job Centre deemed them not fit to work and therefore not eligible for Job Seekers Allowance, leaving them without any income at all. These issues particularly affected people with mental health issues.
- 3.6 With further changes yet to come we are now in a situation where many organisations and local authorities up and down the country are preparing to increase crisis support, for example, the opening of Foodbanks.
- 3.7 Foodbanks are non-profit, charitable organisations that provide emergency food parcels, advice and support to help people get their lives back on track. The food and other essential items are donated by the public and sorted/distributed by volunteers. Research shows that Foodbanks have a positive impact on local communities as they can help prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems.
- 3.8 Telford and Wrekin Crisis Network have considered the options and looked at local need. It has been agreed that rather than setting up a separate Foodbank, it would be more effective to work co-operatively, better utilising existing resources.
- 3.9 People are already aware of local service providers that are well established across the borough, and are well used. By opening a central depot, increased provisions could be accommodated, to support these services. Items such as food, furniture, clothing, and baby products could be stored and distributed as and when required.

4. FUNDING PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Back in July, Cabinet approved the inclusion of the Foodbank project in the Co-operative Council work programme, recognising the important role the Council could play in supporting crisis provision across the borough.
- 4.2 At the time, the Council proposed to allocate up to £5,000, as a one-off contribution, towards the costs of developing this project. Overall costs have now been estimated at around £85,200.
- 4.3 Due to the tight timescales we are working to, we are now seeking approval to commit the Council's £5,000 originally proposed for the project. The funds have been identified from the Co-operative Council budget.

- 4.4 It has been confirmed that Telford CAB will administer the project, including financial management and monitoring arrangements. It will be the responsibility of Telford CAB to report back to the Network on a regular basis, regarding all financial matters.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Community Impact	Yes	Homelessness, debt, food and fuel poverty are all increasing and the impact is evident across the borough, particularly amongst young people, migrant workers, people with mental health issues and families on low incomes. Research shows that Foodbanks have a positive impact on local communities as they can help prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems.
Financial & Value for Money Impact	Yes	<p>The financial contribution towards the Crisis Help Network is £5,000. This will be funded from the Cooperative Council budget which was created to pump prime community projects.</p> <p>The estimated costs for the whole project are £85,200 and a funding shortfall is currently projected. Further contributions are actively being sought from other partners, external funding bids, donations and future fund raising activities. Some of the costs are likely to be offset by in-kind support and all parties are clear that the Council's contribution is a cash limited one-off sum to help 'pump prime' the project.</p> <p>As mentioned in paragraph 4.4 above, CAB will have responsibility for financial management and monitoring arrangements.</p> <p>In relation to operating costs, charities are currently granted mandatory NNDR relief of 80% and can apply for 20% top-up relief which is awarded on a discretionary basis by the Council. The Council has to fund 75% of any discretionary relief granted.</p>
Legal Issues	Yes	<p>The General Power of Competence under the Localism Act 2011 provides that councils are specifically empowered to do anything not prohibited by legislation and subject to public law principles and due process.</p> <p>Legal Services advice will be obtained as necessary and any appropriate contract documentation put in</p>

		place to protect the Council's interests.
Other impacts, risks and opportunities	Yes	The ongoing programme of work will be evaluated by the Project Co-ordinator to ensure risks are identified and managed and any associated opportunities are maximised.
Environmental	Yes	The project should result in a reduction of food waste and an increase in the recycling of furniture and clothing.
Impact on specific wards	Yes	Borough-wide impact

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Minute number CB25 - 26 July 2012

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

Report prepared by Louise Stanway, Senior Policy Officer, Tel: (01952) 380135.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL
CABINET – 8 NOVEMBER 2012
WEST MERCIA ENERGY
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 For members to consider updated management arrangements for West Mercia Energy in the light of the sale of part of West Mercia Supplies earlier this financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Cabinet authorises the Managing Director to:

2.1.1 Terminate the existing West Mercia Supplies Joint Agreement

2.1.2 Authorise the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to agree and execute a new Joint Agreement under the terms of the Local Authority (Goods and Services) Act 1970 with the other three owning authorities to establish a Joint Committee of the executives of the four authorities to manage the activities of West Mercia Energy.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	<i>The Council currently purchases its energy supplies from West Mercia Energy and secures good value for money by doing so</i>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	<i>Agreement is required from all 4 participating authorities, Herefordshire Council, Worcestershire County Council, Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council. We would expect this agreement to be fully agreed and executed before the end of this calendar year.</i>	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes/No	The Joint Agreement sets out the basis for the distribution of accumulated surpluses each year: member authorities will receive a proportionate share, the calculation of which is detailed in section 8 of the agreement. A target of £200,000 is already included in the budget strategy in relation to this dividend. Variations against this will be reported through financial monitoring as appropriate. The agreement also highlights that Member Authorities are jointly liable in

		equal shares for any liabilities of WME.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	The sale of the stationery side of West Mercia Supplies was realised earlier this financial year. This arrangement was covered by a Joint Agreement that now needs updating to reflect the actual position regarding West Mercia Energy.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes/No	Any decisions about the future development of the West Mercia Energy business are determined by a Joint Committee upon which Telford & Wrekin Council are represented by Councillors B McClements and Cllr A England, acting upon advice from a management group comprising of senior officers.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

At its meeting on 26th July 2011 Cabinet authorised the sale of West Mercia Supplies.

The sale of the catalogue/warehouse division of West Mercia Supplies to The Consortium for Purchasing and Distribution Ltd for the sum of £6.74m (which, after deductions of selling expenses, was distributed equally between the four owning authorities) was completed on 18 April 2012.

It did not prove possible to sell the Utilities Division of West Mercia Supplies and this has been retained by the four owning authorities and continues to trade as West Mercia Energy.

West Mercia Energy has transferred to Shropshire Council premises in Shrewsbury and employs 11 staff (who are employees of Shropshire Council).

West Mercia Energy turnover in 2012/13 will be approximately £53m and the operating surplus is likely to be approximately £1.25m which will be distributed amongst the four owning authorities according to a formula which recognises the differing levels of turnover and contribution to that surplus made by the four owning authorities.

Customers of West Mercia Energy include, as well as the four owning authorities, Gloucestershire County Council, Swindon Borough Council, South Gloucestershire Council, Cheshire East Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council and a number of District Councils.

The existing Joint Agreement was developed to manage the activities of a warehousing and distribution operation for the purchase and supply of office and educational products and, as such, is no longer fit for purpose.

The new Joint Agreement will be appropriate for the ongoing activities of the re-structured business going forward.

The agreement will initially run until 31 March 2016 but may be extended by agreement between the four owning authorities. There are no provisions for withdrawal during the initial period.

Each of the four owning authorities will appoint two Members of the Joint Committee with the Secretary and Treasurer functions being fulfilled by Shropshire Council as the lead authority.

It is envisaged that the first meeting of the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee will take place during February 2013.

5. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**
Cabinet – 26/07/11

**Report prepared by Jonathan Eatough, AD: Law, Democracy & Public protection,
Telephone: 01952 383 200**

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 8th NOVEMBER 2012

WHITE RIBBON TOWN AWARD

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & COHESION SERVICES AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT & COMMUNITY PROTECTION

LEAD CABINET MEMBERS – CLLRS PAUL WATLING & HILDA RHODES

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The White Ribbon Town's Award is for Councils wishing to demonstrate their commitment to the aims of the White Ribbon Campaign. This campaign aims to raise awareness and understanding of domestic abuse and the services that are provided in order to reduce the incidence of domestic abuse and to provide the local community with increased support and understanding of this issue.
- 1.2 The campaign centres around men wearing a white ribbon, to positively promote that domestic abuse should not be tolerated and positively challenged.

2. THE PROPOSAL

- 2.1 To become a White Ribbon Town we have to meet a certain number of objectives as set by the White Ribbon Campaign. These are:
- Produce an action plan on how we will achieve its commitment to involving men in ending abuse against women
 - Appoint a senior officer responsible for leading the campaign
 - Conduct a survey of attitudes against abuse against women in the local community
 - Hold local awareness events
 - Involve our partners such as WHT, PCT, Schools, colleges etc
 - Engage with local sports groups, music venues etc to participate in the campaign
 - Implement a domestic violence policy for all Council staff experiencing domestic abuse
 - Ensure all relevant Council staff receive domestic abuse training

- Provide information and advice to all Council staff on domestic abuse
- Use publication materials such as leaflets, flyers and posters and plasma screens in public areas
- Provide additional information in at least three community languages or alternative formats
- Make information available to the general public by all relevant means i.e. websites etc
- Celebrate White Ribbon Day on 25 November

2.2 Raising awareness is said to play a huge part in changing the cultural and social norms which is recognised as being highly influential in shaping individual behaviour. Local Authorities working directly in the community are ideally placed to raise awareness and therefore save lives, increase the safety of women and children and enable friends and families to support their loved ones.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Cabinet supports the recommendation for the Council to become a White Ribbon Town.**
- 3.2 That Cabinet supports the White Ribbon Campaign (a one day event) to be held on November 25th 2012.**

4. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community Protection and Cohesion/Put our children and young people first/ensure neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained/ Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and address health inequalities / Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults</i> • Raising awareness and understanding of domestic abuse. • Reducing the number of domestic abuse incidents • Providing additional support to victims

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working directly with local communities to increase the safety of domestic abuse victims.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	Men, Women, children and young people.
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	Ongoing	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The proposal is to be met out of existing resources and supports the strategy of prevention of Domestic Abuse in the community by raising wider awareness. It is also anticipated that the proposal, may support the longer term plan of positively impacting on the number of child Protection plans being generated. GS 091012
LEGAL ISSUES	No	
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES		This proposal will further support the work of the work of the Council in increasing public awareness of domestic abuse and providing support services to address the issue. This campaign will deliver a clear message that domestic abuse should not be tolerated and positively challenged. It has been recognised within Telford and Wrekin that a significant proportion of children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan are affected by living in families where Domestic Abuse is an issue. . The White ribbon campaign through ongoing awareness can only look to positively impact and reduce the numbers of children who are witnessing such abuse.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS		Borough wide

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

5. INFORMATION

5.1 White Ribbon Campaign

5.2 The Council, working with partners to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse, is already achieving many of the requirements for a White Ribbon Town. The partnership has recently reviewed its approach to domestic abuse resulting in the changes set out below:

- A partnership led by the Police with an improved Multi Agency Risk Assessment conference (MARAC) ensuring that the most vulnerable receive enhanced support.
- The Council previously commissioned *Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)* to provide support to victims who subject to the MARAC process. Following an evaluation of the service it was recognised that this service could be carried out in house. The Council now has a Domestic Abuse Officer providing a wrap around service to victims, representing them at MARAC, keeping them informed of any developments, providing advice and guidance around civil powers and support through the court process.
- Develop and providing basic awareness training to front line practitioners.
- Developing and enhancing the rolling support programme for female victims in providing advice and guidance around domestic abuse and being in an abusive relationship (Freedom Programme)
- Developing and enhancing the support in place for victims where the abusive partner has left the property. A Crime Risk Advisor visits and will assess the property and a range of measures such as PIR lights, intruder alarms, window and door locks may be installed to reduce the risk and improve the security of the property (Sanctuary Programme).

5.3 The Council will review it's overall strategy for dealing with domestic abuse to ensure that all of our the work is coordinated to achieve maximum benefit for women and children and that we meet fully the requirements of the becoming a White Ribbon Town.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 By becoming a White Ribbon Town and supporting the associated campaign we will make a contribution to the Council's vision and priorities (see above). By raising awareness and understanding of domestic abuse and the support available the Council and its partners will be making a contribution towards:

- reducing the number of incidents of domestic abuse and provide the local community with increased support and understanding of this issue
- raising awareness across the Borough that domestic abuse should not be accepted in any form and that we must look to change the cultural and social norms associated with this abuse.
- increasing the safety of women, men and, children enabling their own family networks to support loved ones and therefore potentially save lives

6.2 The white ribbons will be worn and promoted by males who will give a clear message that domestic abuse should not be tolerated in any form and residents of Telford and Wrekin should be able to fulfil their own individual potential and encourage healthy and positive lifestyles

7.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

REPORT PREPARED BY

Jas Bedesha Service Delivery Manager Cohesion Services

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 8 NOVEMBER 2012

INVESTIGATION OF ILLEGAL MONEY LENDERS (LOAN SHARKS)

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: LAW, DEMOCRACY &
PUBLIC PROTECTION**

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – COUNCILLOR H. RHODES

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

To seek members approval for Birmingham City Council to be authorised to undertake enforcement of Part III of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 insofar as it applies to the regulation of illegal money lending, within Borough of Telford & Wrekin

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That members approve, by virtue of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 13(7) of the Local Government Act 2000 the delegation of a function, namely, enforcement of Part III of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, to Birmingham City Council subject to terms and conditions contained in an agreement to be entered into with Birmingham City Council relating to the said delegated function.
- 2.2 That the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy and Public Protection be authorised to undertake the necessary legal procedures to bring the proposal in 2.1 (above) into effect.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	Cooperative priority - Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	Vulnerable adults and in particular those in a low income bracket or with little or no access to bone fide credit providers
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	The project is current and enforcement and investigations will be determined by illegal money lender activity within the borough	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	The project is funded by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills/ HM Treasury.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	The enforcement of Part III of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 in so far as it applies to the regulation of illegal money lending within the Borough of Telford & Wrekin can be delegated to Birmingham City Council by virtue of section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and section 13(7) of the Local Government Act 2000.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide impact

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

The primary legislation governing the Consumer Credit Industry is the Consumer Credit Act 1974. 'The Act' imposes a duty upon local weights and measures authorities to enforce its provisions and regulations made under it.

Responsibility for detecting and investigating unlicensed money lending rests with Trading Standards services, but such investigations and prosecutions are rare as the offence is difficult to investigate as the services do not have adequate resources to specifically target such activities.

Under the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 13(7) of the Local Government Act 2000, it is possible for a local authority to delegate a function to another local authority. In this instance, it would be to authorise Birmingham City Council to undertake enforcement of Part III of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 in relation to illegal money lending.

The Tackling Illegal Money lending pilot project was set up by the Government in 2004, with teams in Scotland and Birmingham to investigate and prosecute illegal money lenders. In 2007 the project was expanded to create three national teams based within Trading Standards, covering England, (Birmingham Team) Scotland and Wales.

This project seeks to protect the public from activities of illegal money lending. It is funded by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills/ HM Treasury and has a dedicated team equipped with the necessary resources to actively target illegal money lenders with a long term prospect of removing illegal money lenders who target vulnerable members of our communities.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

CB163 Cabinet 28 February 2005

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Report prepared by Anita Hunt, Public Protection Team Leader – Trading Standards , Public Protection, Law, Democracy and Public Protection, Telephone no. 01952 381998

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 8th November, 2012 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 14th NOVEMBER, 2012

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER, 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 W.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Independent Group Leader)

CB-53 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18th October 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

CB-55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A.R.H. England declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 - Telford & Wrekin Crisis Help Network – in relation to his role as a member of the Board of Telford & Wrekin Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor A.R.H. England declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 – Telford Town Centre – Car Parking for Employees – in respect of a family member being employed by the Authority.

CB-56 APPROVAL OF A NEW FUNDING FORMULA FOR TELFORD & WREKIN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

Key Decision identified as **Revised School Funding Formula from 2013/14** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 14th September 2012

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Education, Culture & Skills which sought approval for the proposed new funding formula for Telford & Wrekin mainstream schools.

The Department for Education had made a number of changes to school funding, including the requirement for Local Authorities to revise their local funding formula for schools from April 2013. The new rules were intended to

make the formula predominately pupil-led and required more delegation to schools. For mainstream schools, there was a more limited range of funding factors, and these were detailed in the report. A number of different options for the new formula had been modelled, and discussed with the Schools Forum and with all schools, in two consultation exercises (May and September 2012). A lot of work had been done to try and find as fair a formula as possible within the constraints of the new funding rules, with the aim of offering budget stability to schools and to support those schools most financially vulnerable in forthcoming years. The formula recommended to Members following the extensive consultation included a relatively high lump sum to offer stability to smaller primary schools and a comparatively high ratio of funding between secondary and primary schools to help those secondary schools experiencing falling pupil numbers. Funding driven by deprivation had been maintained at current levels.

The new funding formula affected how much of the total funding received by Telford & Wrekin was allocated to individual schools, but the amount per pupil via the Dedicated Schools Grant was not changed by these proposals. The new formula had been submitted to the Education Funding Agency, subject to Cabinet approval. There were other funding changes which would affect special schools and Pupil Referral Units, and these would be the subject of a future report.

Members expressed concern at the new funding rules from central Government, and the implications for some of the Borough's schools in terms of balancing their budgets over the coming years.

RESOLVED – that the proposed new funding formula for Telford & Wrekin mainstream schools, as outlined in the report, to take effect from April 2013, be approved.

CB-57 TELFORD & WREKIN CRISIS HELP NETWORK

Non-Key Decision

Councillor C.B.A. Elliott was invited to present the report of the Managing Director, which outlined the work being undertaken within the Borough to help individuals and families in acute financial crisis.

As part of the Co-operative Council work programme, a Telford & Wrekin Crisis Help Network had been established to provide a co-ordinated crisis response for people living in the Borough. The Network consisted of private, voluntary and public agencies, with Telford & Wrekin Citizens Advice Bureau acting as lead organisation. These agencies already provided a range of established and respected services including emergency food, shelter, temporary accommodation and financial advice. The Network would also form an essential part of the Council's plans for crisis support following the transfer of crisis loans from the Department for Work & Pensions and changes to Council Tax benefits from April 2013. A project co-ordinator was being recruited (via the CAB) to drive the scheme, with the first priority being to open a central food depot and distribution system by the end of December 2012.

In order to help towards the costs of developing this project, it was proposed to allocate the £5,000 that had been earmarked by the Council in July for a Foodbank project. The funds had been identified from the Co-operative Council budget. Thanks were extended to Louise Stanway and Wendy Tonge from the Co-operative Council Delivery Unit for their work in developing this initiative, and to Lynn Brayne of the CAB who would be leading on the project. Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services & Co-operative Council, welcomed the development of the Crisis Network as a good example of co-operative working, and thanked Councillor Elliott for his work in bringing this project forward.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the progress being made to develop a suitable crisis provision for people living in the Borough be noted;**
- (b) that the proposed use of £5,000 to support the project, as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report, be approved.**

CB-58 WEST MERCIA ENERGY

Non-Key Decision

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, which set out updated management arrangements for West Mercia Energy following the sale of West Mercia Supplies.

While the catalogue/warehouse division of West Mercia Supplies had been sold earlier in the year (with the proceeds being distributed evenly between the four owning authorities), it did not prove possible to sell the Utilities division. This had been retained by the four authorities, and continued to trade as West Mercia Energy – although it had been transferred to Shropshire Council premises in Shrewsbury.

The existing Joint Agreement, including the catalogue/warehouse operations, was no longer fit for purpose, and a new Joint Agreement was being drafted to reflect the re-structured business. The Agreement would initially run until 31 March 2016, with each of the four owning authorities appointing two Elected Members to a West Mercia Energy Joint Committee, and the importance of Members' involvement was emphasised. The Secretary and Treasurer functions would be fulfilled by Shropshire Council.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the existing West Mercia Supplies Joint Agreement be terminated.**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to agree and execute a new Joint**

Agreement under the terms of the Local Authority (Goods and Services) Act 1970 with the other three owning authorities, and to establish a Joint Committee of the executives of the four authorities to manage the activities of West Mercia Energy.

CB-59 WHITE RIBBON TOWN AWARD

Non-Key decision

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, and Councillor H. Rhodes, Cabinet Member: Transport & Community Protection, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Family & Cohesion Services, which provided information on the White Ribbon Town Award for Councils wishing to demonstrate their commitment to the aims of the White Ribbon Campaign.

The campaign aimed to raise awareness and understanding of domestic abuse and the services that were provided in order to reduce the incidence of domestic abuse, as well as providing the local community with increased support and understanding of this issue. White Ribbon Day was on 25 November 2012, when men would be encouraged to wear a white ribbon to positively promote that domestic abuse should not be tolerated and positively challenged.

To become a White Ribbon Town a number of objectives, as set out in the report, had to be met. These included producing an action plan on how the Council's commitment would be achieved, holding local awareness events and providing information on domestic abuse to the public and staff. The Council, working with partners, was already achieving many of the requirements for a White Ribbon Town, with a number of recent initiatives detailed in the report.

Members expressed strong support for the White Ribbon campaign, and highlighted the importance of challenging abusive behaviour of all kinds and to support the victims of abuse.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Cabinet support the Council becoming a White Ribbon Town;**
- (b) that the White Ribbon Campaign on 25 November 2012 be supported;**

CB-60 URGENCY RESOLUTION – SECTION 100B(4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The Chair made the following statement:

“I am of the opinion that the following item of business should be dealt with as a matter of urgency at this meeting in order to avoid any unnecessary delay”.

CB-61 INVESTIGATION OF ILLEGAL MONEY LENDERS (LOAN SHARKS)

Non-Key Decision

Councillor H. Rhodes, Cabinet Member: Transport & Community Protection, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection concerning arrangements for the investigation of illegal money lenders and the taking of any enforcement action.

Responsibility for detecting and investigating unlicensed money lending rested with Trading Standards services, but such investigations and prosecutions were rare as the service in Telford & Wrekin did not have the resources to specifically target such activities. It was therefore proposed to delegate this function to Birmingham City Council – specifically to undertake enforcement of Part III of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 in relation to illegal money lending. Birmingham was one of the national teams set up by the Government to tackle illegal money lending, and had the necessary resources and expertise to take action against such lenders.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that, by virtue of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 13(7) of the Local Government Act 2000, authority be delegated to Birmingham City Council to enforce Part III of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 on behalf of the Authority, subject to terms and conditions to be agreed;
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to undertake the necessary legal procedures to bring the resolution above into effect.

CB-62 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they may involve the disclosure of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

CB-63 BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE – APPROVAL OF FINAL BUSINESS CASE FOR ERCALL WOOD TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND APPROVAL TO ACQUIRE A SITE IN PRIORSLEE FOR A NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

Key Decision identified as **BSF – Ercall Wood Technology College Final Business Case and Land Acquisition for Holy Trinity Academy, Priorslee** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 9 October 2012.

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing which updated Members on progress on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

The report outlined the work that had been undertaken to progress the approval for a new-build school for Ercall Wood Technology College, and summarised the amendments to the original Outline Business Case. The Final Business Case now had to be approved by Cabinet for submission to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and the Department for Education (DfE). Shepherd Construction Ltd, who had been appointed for the construction of the new Ercall Wood Technology College, were progressing with proposals for the scheme, and had secured planning approval for the site. Once the FBC submission was approved and the funding allocated, the Council would be in a position to enter into a contract with Shepherd Construction. The BSF framework also allowed for that contractor to be appointed to carry out further work on the BSF Programme without having to go through another competitive process.

The report also provided information on negotiations to acquire a site for the proposed multi-denominational Christian Academy in Priorslee. The Council had worked closely with local residents to find a suitable site for the new school. Also detailed were the proposed arrangements for the transfer of land at the existing Blessed Robert Johnson (BRJ) site to the Council in order to facilitate further phases of the BSF programme. Further information on the negotiations with the Governing Body of the BRJ Catholic College and the Diocese of Shrewsbury were provided at the meeting.

Members welcomed the progress being made on the BSF programme, and thanked the Lead Cabinet member and the Officers for all their work.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the submission of the Ercall Wood Technology College Final Business Case to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) be approved, and that, subject to subsequent approval by the EFA (thereby releasing BSF funding) authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, to award the Single School Design and Build contract and the Future Schools Agreement to Shepherd Construction Ltd and to enter into all related contract documents;**
- (b) that the acquisition of land at Priorslee, as shown in Appendix 3 of the report, and land transfer arrangements with the Governing Body of Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College and the Diocese of Shrewsbury be approved, and that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, to agree the land acquisition and transfer arrangements, and to enter into all related contract**

documents provided that the cost is considered by the Assistant Director of Finance, Audit & Information Governance to be affordable within the existing overall BSF funding envelope;

- (c) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to agree and execute all necessary documentation, including the affixing of the common seal of the Council to contractual documentation as is appropriate under article 14.06 of the Constitution.**

CB-64 TELFORD TOWN CENTRE – CAR PARKING FOR EMPLOYEES

Key Decision identified as **Telford Town Centre – Car Parking** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 9 October 2012.

Councillor W.A.M. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, which set out options for car parking in Telford Town Centre for employees based at Darby House, Addenbrooke House and, from 2014, the new Southwater One building.

The report detailed the likely number of car parking spaces that would be required (including visitor and customer parking), and outlined an approach to achieve this through a combination of use of existing staff car parks, purchase of a land asset and the lease of other spaces on a rental basis. The report also detailed the financial implications of this approach, and advised that all employees and elected members in Telford Town Centre that had access to parking would need to contribute to the costs through an annual payment. Some of the likely criteria for a charging scheme were set out in the report, but there would be negotiations with staff on the details and final cost before a scheme was finalised.

Members recognised that charging employees for car parking was difficult, but that in the financial climate facing the Council the provision of car parking spaces had to be cost neutral.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the acquisition of all or part of the land asset as recommended within the report (and shown at Appendix 3) be approved, in accordance with terms to be agreed by the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery;**
- (b) that the leasing-in of additional car parking spaces (as shown in Appendix 1 of the report) be approved, in accordance with terms to be agreed by the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery;**

- (c) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection to agree and execute all necessary documentation to give effect to the resolutions above and below;
- (d) that the principle of charging employees for parking, with the objective of covering the total cost of borrowing and therefore presenting a break-even position, be approved;
- (e) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Customer & People Services to agree the annual charge and payment structure for the allocation of car parking passes to employees working at Darby House, Addenbrooke House and the new Southwater One building, in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery.

The meeting ended at 5.40 pm.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection
Date: 14 November 2012

Signed:

Date: