

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday 24th May 2012 at 6.30 p.m. at 'The Place', Oakengates, Telford, Shropshire

PRESENT:

Councillors M.J. Smith (Mayor) , R.K. Austin, S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell, F.M. Bould, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, E.A. Clare, S. Davies, B.H. Duce, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, C.B.A. Elliot, A.R.H. England, N.A.M. England, R.C. Evans, I.T.W. Fletcher, V.A. Fletcher, G.M. Green, E.J. Greenaway, K.R. Guy, T.J. Hope, M.B. Hosken, M.G. Ion, A.S. Jhavar, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, J. Loveridge, A.A. Mackenzie, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, W.A.M. McClements, J.C. Minor, C.P.R. Mollett, L.A. Murray, R.A. Overton. F.R. Picken, G.C.W. Reynolds, S. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota, J.M. Seymour, R.J. Sloan, C.F. Smith, A.J. Stanton, B.J. Thompson, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling and D.R.W. White.

1. WELCOME FROM MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed civic dignitaries, Members and invited guests to the Annual Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin. He began the meeting by asking Members and guests to observe 1 minutes silence to mark the passing of both RAF Corporal Brent McCarthy from Priorslee, who lost his life in Afghanistan on 12 May and former Councillor for Haygate ward, Rosemary Chaplin who had passed away on 11 May.

2. DECLARATION

Councillor C.N. Mason read the following declaration:

"Colleagues, aware of our responsibilities to promote democracy and the well-being of all local people, on behalf of the Council, I make this re-commitment to our office as elected representatives.

Elected to serve the public good, we recognise that public office is a privilege granted by the people and not a right.

We, elected representatives of the people of Telford & Wrekin, declare that we will, to the best of our ability, uphold the Council's constitution and serve the community above any private or personal interest."

Members signified their affirmation of the Declaration.

3. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

It was moved by Councillor C.B.A. Elliott, seconded by Councillor S. Davies that Councillor K.R. Guy be appointed as Mayor of the Council.

Councillor S. Bentley moved that Councillor M.J. Smith be appointed Mayor, this was seconded by Councillor M.B. Hosken. Councillor Smith, although honoured and surprised to be nominated, asked Members to note that it was traditional practice for the Deputy Mayor to move in to the Mayoral role and that he could not accept the nomination. A vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor K.R. Guy be appointed as Mayor of the Council for the municipal year 2012-13.

4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was moved by Councillor M.J. Smith, seconded by Councillor R.K. Austin, that Councillor L.A. Murray be appointed as Deputy Mayor. A vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor L.A. Murray be appointed as Deputy Mayor of the Council for the municipal year 2012-13.

5. VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR & MAYORESS

A vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor M.J. Smith, was proposed by Councillor E.A. Clare and seconded by Councillor C.F. Smith. Councillor Smith told the meeting that the retiring Mayor had carried out his Mayoral role with dedication and panache. A number of other Members also paid tribute to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress, Mrs. Christine Smith, for all their hard work in representing the Borough over the past year.

RESOLVED – that the Council recorded its thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor M.J. Smith, and to the retiring Mayoress, Mrs. Christine Smith, for their service over the 2012-13 term of office.

6. REPLY TO VOTE OF THANKS

In response, the retiring Mayor thanked his Deputy Mayor, fellow Members and Mayoral staff for their support during the year. He told Members that it had been an enjoyable and rewarding year. He had been privileged to serve the Borough. In particular, he wished to thank his wife and Mayoress, Mrs Christine Smith, for her invaluable help and constant support. The Mayor's chosen charitable appeals had raised around £7.3k. Pat Grubb, Chairman of Diabetes UK (Telford branch) received a cheque for this amount from the retiring Mayor.

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors D.G. Davies, A.A. Meredith and R.G. Scammell.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3rd May, 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Councillor K.J. Guy, told the meeting that it was a great honour to be Mayor of the Borough. He thanked the outgoing Mayor for passing on his invaluable knowledge and experience of the Mayoral role. Within his first month of office the Mayor would have the privilege of welcoming both the Queen and the Olympic flame. A large part of the Mayoral year would be dedicated to raising funds for the Mayor's chosen charity, the paediatrics ward of Princess Royal Hospital. Funds would be raised to enhance the educational and play area at the hospital site. He looked forward to working with Mr. Adrian Osborne of Shrewsbury & Telford NHS Trust throughout the year.

Alongside the ceremonial role there was also the equally important role of chairing Council meetings, ensuring that meetings were conducted in a civilised and constructive manner. In closing, he reminded Members that it was the duty of the Council to serve the people of the Borough and, in doing so, to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities were looked after in difficult economic times. The hard working residents of the Borough would continue to receive every possible opportunity to succeed and emerge from this period, stronger and more prosperous.

11. APPOINTMENT OF CABINET

Councillor K.S. Sahota, leader of the Council, welcomed Members and guests to the Annual meeting and notified the meeting of Cabinet appointments.

Councillor Sahota discussed reconfiguration proposals for Shropshire hospitals, announcing that that a full business case for the £35m proposals had been approved by the Midlands and East Strategic Health Authority. The plans by Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust would see women and children's services centred at Telford's Princess Royal Hospital, while acute surgery would be based at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

He congratulated AFC Telford on maintaining their status in the Blue Square Premier League He urged residents to line the streets when the Olympic torch arrived in the Borough on 30 May and wished the GB Olympic team the best of luck. He highlighted some of the key milestones and achievements of the Co-operative Council, these included:

- Sustainable staff accommodation plan
- Reduction in inherited capital debt
- Largest ever budget consultation process
- Appointment of a Director of Children's Services
- Reductions in senior management and in back office costs

- Procurement savings
- Voluntary 10% cut in Cabinet Member allowances
- Ice Rink refurbishment
- Investment in 6 new schools
- Regeneration of Brookside, Hadley, Oakengates
- £18m spent on road improvements
- Committing funding towards the stabilisation of The Gorge

RESOLVED – that the Membership of the Cabinet, as notified by Councillor K.S. Sahota, be appointed for the municipal year 2012-13 as set out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes.

12. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, BOARDS, ETC.

Proposals for the appointment of Committees, Commissions and Boards, etc. in accordance with the political balance of the Council had been submitted. A vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED – that the internal bodies for the municipal year 2012-13, (including the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen) be appointed as set out in Appendix 2 to these Minutes.

13. WEST MERCIA POLICE & CRIME PANEL (PCP)

The report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection, attached at Appendix D, sought approval for the establishment, proposed membership and arrangements of a West Mercia Police & Crime Panel (PCP) as a joint committee of the 10 principal local authorities in the West Mercia Police Force area, to be administered by Worcestershire County Council as the lead authority.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill which had received Royal Assent on 15th November 2011 set out provisions for Police and Crime Commissioners to be directly elected in force areas across England and Wales. A Police and Crime Panel, comprised of local councillors and independent members, would also be established in every force area, including West Mercia, to scrutinise the performance of the Commissioner, providing both support and challenge. The intention was that the Panels would operate in shadow form from summer 2012 in advance of the election of the Commissioners in November 2012.

The Mayor noted that 2 nominations had been made to serve on the Panel. The nominated persons were Councillors C.B.A. Elliott and R.K. Austin. A vote was taken and it was approved that Councillors Elliott and Austin be appointed to serve on the PCP.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the establishment of a West Mercia Police and Crime Panel (PCP) as a joint committee of the 10 principal local authorities in the West Mercia Police Force area, to be administered by Worcestershire County**

Council as the lead authority be approved.

- b) That the proposed membership of the Panel, as shown at paragraph 5.4 of the report, the Panel arrangements and any consequential actions required under the Act be approved.**
- c) That the Managing Director be authorised to agree the final details of the proposals in consultation with the Leader.**
- d) That Councillors C.B.A. Elliott and R.K. Austin be appointed to represent Telford & Wrekin Council on the West Mercia Police & Crime Panel (PCP)**

14. PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

An amended programme of ordinary meeting was tabled at the meeting. The programme of dates for ordinary meetings of the Council for 2012/13 would be as follows:

2012	2013
Thursday 12 July * Thursday 13 September Thursday 22 November	Thursday 24 January Thursday 7 March Thursday 2 May

Councillor I.T.W. Fletcher asked the Mayor if consideration could be given to moving the date of the proposed 12 July * Council meeting. The Queen, as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations would be visiting RAF Cosford on that day and Councillor Fletcher believed that a number of Members may want to attend such an important event.

The Mayor told Councillor Fletcher that he understood that arrangements had been made for the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to brief Members on that date, prior to the Council meeting. These arrangements had been made prior to the announcement of a Royal visit. However, the Mayor would of course look at this issue and notify Members if it was possible to reschedule the July 12 meeting.

Mayor:

Date:

The meeting ended at 7.43 p.m.

APPENDIX 1

Cabinet Member	Area of Responsibility
Cllr Kuldip Sahota	Leader
Cllr Richard Overton	Deputy Leader with special responsibility for Borough Town Development & Public Health
Cllr Paul Watling	Children, Young People & Families
Cllr Shaun Davies	Neighbourhood Services & Co-operative Council
Cllr Liz Clare	Adult & Social Care
Cllr Charles Smith	Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development
Cllr Arnold England	Leisure & Wellbeing
Cllr Bill McClements	Resources & Service Delivery
Cllr Hilda Rhodes	Transport & Community Protection

Cllr Clive Elliott: Lead Member – Communications & Tourism (Ex-officio and without remuneration)

APPENDIX 2

GOVERNANCE

Standards Committee – 7 Seats	
Cllr S. Davies (Lab) – Vice Chair (w/e from 1/7/12) Cllr R.C. Evans (Lab) – Chair (w/e from 1/7/12) Cllr T.J. Hope (Con) Cllr M.B. Hosken (Con) Cllr A.D. McClements (Lab) Cllr R.J. Sloan (Lab) Cllr A.J. Stanton (Con)	

Audit Committee – 7 Seats	
Cllr R.K. Austin (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr I.T.W. Fletcher (Con) Cllr A.A. Meredith (Con) Cllr S.A.W. Reynolds (Lab) Cllr R.J. Sloan (Lab) - Chair Cllr W.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/I) Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab)	

Council Constitution Committee – 7 Seats	
Cllr A.J. Eade (Con) Cllr I.T.W. Fletcher (Con) Cllr G.M. Green (Lib Dem/I) Cllr F.R. Picken (Lab) Cllr K.S. Sahota (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr R.J. Sloan (Lab) Cllr M.J. Smith (Lab) - Chair	

Boundary Review Committee - 7 Seats	
Cllr K.T. Blundell (Lib Dem/I) Cllr S. Davies (Lab) Cllr N.A. Dugmore (Con) Cllr A.J. Eade (Con) Cllr A.D. McClements (Lab) Cllr R.A. Overton (Lab) Cllr R.J. Sloan (Lab) – Chair	

REGULATORY

Plans Board – 9 Seats	
Cllr N.A. Dugmore (Con) Cllr I.T.W. Fletcher (Con) Cllr R.T. Kiernan (Con) Cllr J. Loveridge (Lab) Cllr J.C. Minor (Lab) – Chair Cllr G.C.W. Reynolds (Lab) Cllr S.A.W. Reynolds (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr M.J. Smith (Lab) Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab)	<u>Lab Subs</u> Cllr F.M. Bould Cllr A.S. Jhawar Cllr A.A. Mackenzie Cllr L.A. Murray Cllr R.J. Sloan Cllr B.J. Thompson <u>Cons Subs</u> Cllr V.A. Fletcher Cllr A.A. Meredith Cllr C.P.R. Mollett

Licensing Committee – 10 Seats	
Cllr B.H. Duce (Lab) Cllr T.J. Hope (Con) Cllr A.A. Mackenzie (Lab) Cllr C.N. Mason (Lab) – Chair Cllr L.A. Murray (Lab) Cllr F.R. Picken (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr R.G. Scammell (Con) Cllr J.M. Seymour (Con) Cllr B.J. Thompson (Lab) Cllr K.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/I)	

SCRUTINY

Scrutiny Management Board – 7 Seats	
Cllr V.A. Fletcher (Con) Cllr M.G. Ion (Lab) Cllr A.D. McClements (Lab) Cllr C.P.R. Mollett (Con) Cllr S.A.W. Reynolds (Lab) Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab) Cllr D.R.W. White (Lab) – Chair	

Scrutiny Committee – Finance & Budget – 8 Seats	
Cllr R.K. Austin (Lab) Cllr R.C. Evans (Lab) Cllr A. Lawrence (Con) Cllr C.P.R. Mollett (Con) Cllr S.A.W. Reynolds (Lab) - Chair Cllr R.J. Sloan (Lab) Cllr M.J. Smith (Lab) Cllr A.J. Stanton (Con)	

Scrutiny Committee – Children & Young People – 8 Seats	
Cllr S.P. Burrell (Con) Cllr G.M. Green (Lib Dem/I) Cllr E.J. Greenaway (Con) Cllr M.G. Ion (Lab) - Chair Cllr J. Loveridge (Lab) Cllr A.A. Mackenzie (Lab) Cllr M.J. Smith (Lab) Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab)	

Scrutiny Committee – Co-operative & Community – 8 Seats	
Cllr N.A.M. England (Lab) Cllr E.J. Greenaway (Con) Cllr T.J. Hope (Con) Cllr A.S. Jhawar (Lab) Cllr J. Loveridge (Lab) Cllr A.D. McClements (Lab) – Chair Cllr G.C.W. Reynolds (Lab) Cllr K.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/I)	

Scrutiny Committee – Health & Adult Social Care – 8 Seats	
Cllr V.A. Fletcher (Con) Cllr J. Loveridge (Lab) Cllr A.A. Meredith (Con) Cllr J.C. Minor (Lab) Cllr F.R. Picken (Lab) Cllr J.M. Seymour (Con) Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab) Cllr D.R.W. White (Lab) – Chair	

**Scrutiny Committee – Housing, Economy & Infrastructure –
8 Seats**

Cllr F.M. Bould (Lab)
 Cllr E.J. Carter (Con)
 Cllr C.N. Mason (Lab)
 Cllr C.P.R. Mollett (Con)
 Cllr F.R. Picken (Lab)
 Cllr J.M. Seymour (Con)
 Cllr K.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/I)
Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab) – Chair

Joint Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee – 3 Seats

Cllr V.A. Fletcher (Con)
 Cllr J.C. Minor (Lab)
Cllr D.R.W. White (Lab) – Chair

PERSONNEL

Appeals Committee – 7 Seats

Cllr C.B.A. Elliott (Lab)
 Cllr R.C. Evans (Lab)
Cllr G.M. Green (Lib Dem/I) – Chair
 Cllr A. Lawrence (Con)
 Cllr A.A. Meredith (Con)
Cllr M.J. Smith (Lab) – Vice-Chair
 Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab)

Lab Subs

Cllr E.A. Clare
 Cllr B.H. Duce
 Vacancy
 Vacancy

Con Subs

Cllr S.P. Burrell
 Cllr S. Bentley

Personnel Board – 7 Seats

Cllr S.P. Burrell (Con)
 Cllr A.J. Eade (Con)
 Cllr R.C. Evans (Lab)
 Cllr W.A.M. McClements (Lab)
Cllr R.A. Overton (Lab) – Vice Chair
Cllr K.S. Sahota (Lab) – Chair
 Cllr C.F. Smith (Lab)

Employee JICF – 7 Seats	
Cllr K.T. Blundell (Lib Dem/I) Cllr S.P. Burrell (Con) Cllr A.J. Eade (Con) Cllr W.A.M. McClements (Lab) Cllr R.A. Overton (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr K.S. Sahota (Lab) – Chair Cllr R.J. Sloan (Lab)	<u>Lab Subs</u> Cllr R.C. Evans Cllr F.R. Picken

OTHER

Combined Fire Authority	
Cllr K.T. Blundell (Lib Dem/I)* Cllr F.M. Bould (Lab) Cllr E.J. Carter (Con) Cllr R.T. Kiernan (Con) Cllr G.C.W. Reynolds (Lab) Cllr B.J. Thompson (Lab)	

*N.B This is a seat allocated to the Labour Group under political balance rules, but has been “gifted” to Cllr Blundell

Telford & Wrekin Parishes Forum – 8 Seats	
Cllr S. Bentley (Con) Cllr S. Davies (Lab) Cllr N.A. Dugmore (Con) Cllr A.R.H. England (Lab) Cllr M.B. Hosken (Con) Cllr J. Loveridge (Lab) Cllr C.N. Mason (Lab) Cllr B.J. Thompson (Lab)	

Development Plan Steering Group – 7 Seats	
Cllr R.K. Austin (Lab) Cllr S. Bentley (Con) Cllr E.J. Carter (Con) Cllr G.M. Green (Lib Dem/I) Cllr F.R. Picken (Lab) Cllr H. Rhodes (Lab) Cllr C.F. Smith (Lab) - Chair	

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday 24th May 2012 at 7.45 p.m. at 'The Place', Oakengates, Telford, Shropshire

15. HONORARY FREEMAN OF THE BOROUGH

The Special Meeting of the Council had been convened specifically for the purpose of admitting Corporal Ricky Furgusson MC (Military Cross) of 4 Rifles as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough, he being a person of distinction who was considered to have rendered eminent service to Telford & Wrekin.

His admittance as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough was proposed by Councillor A.R.H. England and seconded by Councillor J. Loveridge. In 2010 Corporal Furgusson had travelled to Buckingham Palace to be awarded the Military Cross, the 3rd highest honour a British soldier could receive for gallantry in the field. Councillor England told the meeting that in 2010 Corporal Furgusson, whilst serving with 4 Rifles in Afghanistan, had gone to the aid of injured comrades on 4 separate occasions before he himself had been seriously injured in a bomb blast. Corporal Furgusson's leadership and quick reactions had helped to save a number of lives. The meeting gave a standing ovation to Corporal Furgusson in recognition of his bravery.

Councillor K.S. Sahota, Leader of the Council, spoke of Corporal Furgusson's incredible courage and indomitable spirit. The Borough recognised his bravery and determination and honoured the sacrifice he had made, the town of Telford was proud of him.

Councillor A.J. Eade was in awe of Corporal Furgusson's achievements and told the meeting that such bravery and fortitude was an example to all. Councillor W.L. Tomlinson paid tribute to Corporal Furgusson's spirit and outstanding professionalism. Councillor S. Bentley noted that everyone present owed a debt of gratitude to the nation's servicemen and women.

A number of Members paid further tribute to Corporal Furgusson's courage, tenacity and outstanding leadership.

In response Corporal Furgusson thanked the meeting for granting such an honour and for the kind words that had been spoken on his behalf. He was keen to point out that the work he had done had been as part of a team and that any credit for those actions should be shared by the soldiers of his section.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED – that Corporal Ricky Furgusson (MC) be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin.

MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS
21st APRIL 2012 – 24th MAY 2012

CLLR MALCOLM SMITH

April	21st	M	Annual St George's Day Concert at Hadley Methodist Church
	22nd	M	Service in Celebration of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee at The Abbey, Shrewsbury
	24th	M	Telford Samaritans AGM at King Street, Wellington
	27th	M	Mayor's Charity Ball at The Valley Hotel, Ironbridge
	28th	M	St George's Family Fun Day at The Arena, Telford Town Park
		M	Newport Town Council Civic Ball at Queen Mother Hall, Harper Adams College, Newport
	29th	M	Telford Hornets Rugby Festival at Telford Hornets Rugby Club, Dawley
	30th	M	Launch of the Emergency Response Carers Scheme at The Place, Oakengates
		M	Visited Telford Drive at Hadley Park Road Industrial Estate Hadley
May	2nd	M	Crucial Crew VIP Day at Buildwas Abbey, Nr Ironbridge
	4th	M	Community Games: Wellington Muslim FC v West Mercia Police at AFC Telford United Bucks Head Stadium, Wellington
	6th	M	Broseley Mayor's Charity Luncheon at The Lion Hotel, Broseley
	9th	M	Young Enterprise Celebration of Achievement at Greenhous Meadow Stadium, Shrewsbury
	10th	M	Bridgnorth Town Council Annual Meeting at the Town Hall, Bridgnorth
	11th	DM	Phoenix Learning Community Celebration at Paddock Mount Site, Dawley
	M	Civic Reception for 1 st Ketley Boys Brigade	

at The Mayor's Parlour, Civic Offices

- 12th** **M** Wem Mayor's Charity Ball at Wem Town Hall, Wem
- 13th** **M** Bridgnorth Town Council Civic Service at St Mary Magdalene Church, Bridgnorth
- M** Market Drayton RBL Annual Town Parade & Church Service, St Mary's Church, Market Drayton
- 14th** **M** Shrewsbury Town Council Annual Council Meeting at Walker Theatre, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
- M** Age UK (T&W) Afternoon of Entertainment at The Place, Oakengates
- 16th** **M** Shropshire Fire & Rescue Long Service and Good Conduct Awards at Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
- 20th** **M** Shrewsbury Town Council Mayor's Sunday at St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury
- 22nd** **M** UK A-Z Landmarks at The River Room, House of Lords, London
- 24th** **M** Annual Council Meeting at The Place, Oakengates

MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS
25th MAY 2012 – 30th JUNE 2012

CLLR KEVIN GUY

May	25th	M	Army Cadet Force League Enginuity Party at Enginuity Museum, Coalbrookdale
	26th	DM	Telford Elim Church Centre Official Opening at Telford Elim Church
	29th	M	Oakengates Youth Council Waste Recycling Centre Promotion at Oakengates Town Council Offices, Oakengates
	30th	M	Olympic Torch Relay at The Ironbridge
	31st	M	Funeral of the late Rosemary Chaplin at All Saints Church, Wellington
June	3rd	DM	Wolverhampton City Council Civic Service at The Mayor's Parlour, Wolverhampton and St Peter's Church
		DM	Oswestry Town Council Civic Diamond Jubilee Service at St Oswald's Church, Oswestry
		M	Telford Kabaddi Tournament at TCAT Sports Hall, Wellington
	5th	M	Madeley Baptist Church Jubilee Celebrations
		M	Telford & Wrekin Arthritis Support Group Diamond Jubilee Party at St Georges Sports and Social Club
	6th	M	Madeley Day Centre Group Jubilee Coffee Morning at the Park Lane Centre
	7th	M	Busy Bees Nursery Jubilee Party at Telford Land Registry, Telford
	8th	M	Sutton Hill Local Centre Photocall and Presentation at Sutton Hill Local Centre
		M	Millbrook Day Centre Jubilee Celebrations at the Park Lane Centre
9th	M	Wrekin and Telford Singers Charity Concert at Centenary Theatre, Wrekin College	

- 14th DM** North Telford Childminders Group –
Childminding Week Celebration at Sure Start
Building, Donnington Wood Infant School
- 15th DM** Diamond Jubilee Pre-School Tea Party at
Wellington Methodist Church
- M** Frontier Crops Centre & Frank Parkinson
Education Centre Opening at Harper Adams
University College, Newport
- M** Wolverhampton Mayor’s Charity Queen’s
Diamond Jubilee Banquet at Bilash
(Wolverhampton Ltd), Wolverhampton
- 16th DM** The Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust
AGM at Wappenshall Wharf, Wappenshall
- DM** Re-dedication of Leegomery Methodist
Church at Hadley Park Road, Leegomery
- M** Cub 2000 Sports Day at Abraham Darby
Sports & Leisure Centre, Madeley
- 17th DM** Cosford Air Show at RAF Cosford
- 21st M** Headteachers Leadership Forum at the
Business Development Centre, Stafford Park
- 22nd M** Wellington Civic & Leisure Centre official
opening at Wellington Civic Centre
- 24th DM** Newport Civic Sunday at St Nicholas’
Church, Newport
- M** Malinslee Shops Opening at Malinslee Local
Centre
- M** Wellington Town Council Civic Service at St
Patrick’s Church, Wellington
- 30th M** Celebration of Woodside & Carnival at Park
Lane Centre, Woodside
- M** DFEST at Sutherland Business & Enterprise
College, Trench

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 12 JULY 2012

REPORT OF CABINET – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

MATTERS DETERMINED BY THE CABINET

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report sets out those matters determined by the Cabinet at its meetings on 26th April 2012, 31st May 2012 and 28th June 2012.

2.0 CABINET BUSINESS

Matters that have been determined by Cabinet are listed below:

2.1 26th April 2012

- 2.1.1 Encouraging Growth – A New Way of Working
- 2.1.2 Inward Investment – A Business Winning Council
- 2.1.3 Planning for School Places: Revised Plans for Secondary School Provision under Building Schools for the Future
- 2.1.4 Outcome of the Library Service Review
- 2.1.5 Shop Fronts and Signage Design Guidance in Conservation Areas – Supplementary Planning Document
- 2.1.6 Police and Crime Commissioners and West Mercia Police & Crime Panel
- 2.1.7 Asset Management Plan – Land Strategy
- 2.1.8 Provision of Housing at Telford Millennium Community (TMC)
- 2.1.9 School Organisation – Jigsaw School

2.2 31st May 2012

- 2.2.1 Waste Management Services Procurement
- 2.2.2 Planning for School Places – Hollinswood Infant and Junior Schools
- 2.2.3 Annual Governance Statement 2011/12
- 2.2.4 Representation on Outside Bodies 2012/13 – English Severn & Wye Regional Flood & Coastal Committee
- 2.2.5 Update on Configuration of Hospital Services in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin
- 2.2.6 Southwater Energy Services Provision

2.3 28th June 2012

- 2.3.1 Service & Financial Planning – 2011/12 Outturn
- 2.3.2 Service & Financial Planning Update

- 2.3.3 Youth Offending Service Review
- 2.3.4 Civic Offices Site – Appropriation
- 2.3.5 Representation on Outside Bodies 2012/13
- 2.3.6 Telford International Railfreight Park

3.0 DELEGATION OF POWERS GRANTED BY THE CABINET

REPORT HEADING	DELEGATION GRANTED TO	DETAIL OF DELEGATION GRANTED
Encouraging Growth – A New Way of Working	Assistant Director: Development Business & Housing Assistant Director: Development Business & Housing and Assistant Director: Environment & Leisure	In conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development amend the Business and Development Charter following consultation with various stakeholders; Establish and lead a steering group to monitor the approach relating to the Charter, and also to co-ordinate management of planning obligations in line with Planning Policy and Council Priorities.
Inward Investment – A Business Winning Council	Assistant Director: Development Business & Housing Assistant Director: Development Business & Housing	In consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources & Service Delivery to develop a policy regarding business rate relief, as details in Section 5 of the report; In consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development, to amend and complete the document before the formal launch.
Planning for School Places: Revised Plans for Secondary School Provision under Building Schools for the Future	Assistant Director: Education, Culture and Skills	In consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, to co-ordinate the implementation of any interim governance arrangements as may be required.

Police and Crime Commissioners and West Mercia Police & Crime Panel	Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection	In consultation with the Leader of the Council to nominate two Councillors to serve on the West Mercia Police & Crime Panel.
Asset Management Plan – Land Strategy	Assistant Director: Development Business & Housing Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection	In consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Service Delivery for the disposal of assets as identified within the report be approved To agree and execute all necessary documentation.
Provision of Housing at Telford Millennium Community (TMC)	Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection	In consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development to dispose of the freehold interest in the land off Ketley Park Road, East Ketley, as shown in Appendix 1 of the report; To execute all legal documentation to dispose of the freehold interest in the land, and to grant-funded Sanctuary Housing Group for the provision of Extra Care housing on the site at TMC as detailed in the report.
Waste Management Services Procurement	Assistant Director: Environment & Leisure Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection	In consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Service & Co-operative Council and Cabinet Member for Resources & Service Delivery, to progress the procurement process until the Council is in a position to award the contract; To execute any document necessary to give effect to the above recommendations.
Planning for School Places –	Assistant Director: Education, Culture and Skills	To engage in formal consultation with key partners

Hollinswood Infant and Junior Schools		and stakeholders regarding the possible merger of Hollinswood Infant & Hollinswood Junior Schools.
Southwater Energy Service Provision	<p>Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing</p> <p>Assistant Director: Development, Business & Housing</p> <p>Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection</p>	<p>In consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development to conclude contract negotiations and enter into a lease with Vital;</p> <p>In consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development to conclude contact negotiations and enter into a Service Level Agreement with Vital Energi Utilities Ltd for the supply of energy to Council owned buildings;</p> <p>To seal or sign any documents required to give effect to the resolutions above.</p>
Service & Financial Planning Report – 2011/12 Outturn	Managing Director	To approve bids against the Capacity and Environmental works reserves after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Service Delivery.
Service & Financial Planning Update	Managing Director	To approve Invest to Save bids after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Service Delivery.
Youth Offending Service (YOS) Review	<p>Director of Children's Services</p> <p>Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection</p>	<p>To negotiate and agree the terms of the "clinical lead" agreement in consultation with the portfolio holder for Children, Young People and Families.</p> <p>To sign or seal any such agreement</p>

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 12 JULY 2012

SERVICE & FINANCIAL PLANNING REPORT – 2011/12 OUTTURN

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: FINANCE, AUDIT &
INFORMATION GOVERNANCE (C.F.O.)**

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1.0 SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

1.1 2011/12 Financial Outturn

The gross revenue budget for 2011/12 was £409m and the net budget for reporting purposes just over £129m. The revenue outturn position is within budget with a final net underspend of £1.8m (-1.42% of net budget).

It has been a very challenging year with government grant funding being cut by £13.6m and the major programme of restructuring and services reviews, which began in 2010, continuing across all Council services to deliver the level of savings required. The outlook promises to be equally difficult with local government facing a period of significant pressure on resources and increasing demands on services due to the recession. Given this context it is a particularly positive year end position which demonstrates the stringent financial management in place throughout the year and the efforts of employees across the Council to make efficiency savings wherever possible and to deliver planned savings as early as possible. Within the overall position provision has also been made for the £2.1m required as part of the 2012/13 budget strategy and to create an Invest to Save fund totalling £1m (including £0.5m approved at Cabinet in February) which will assist with the delivery of future savings.

The main pressures experienced during 2011/12 were :

- The cost of Adult Social Care purchasing - a net overspend of £0.993m which is after offsetting other funding available from vacancies and one off reserves and additional NHS grants against the impact of the PCT's withdrawal of funding for some cases of continuing healthcare needs and the use of one off balances available in 2011/12. Most of the cost of supporting these people then falls on the Council. It also takes into account the £0.490m one off winter pressure funds announced by the Government in early January.
- The cost of Children in Care – an overspend of £1.5m relating to both placements and the use of agency workers

- The cost of Specialist Education – an overspend of £0.664m relating to stated provision
- Income shortfalls – a shortfall of £1.9m, the majority relating to PIP rentals, planning fees, building control fees and school meals income.

There are benefits from restructure savings, vacant posts, concessionary transport, treasury management and New Homes Bonus (unringfenced grant).

1.2 Capital

Capital spend ended the year at £71m against an approved estimate of £84m which was in the main due to re-phasing into 2012/13.

1.3 Income Monitoring

Council Tax (£59m), business Rates (£65m) and sales ledger income collection (£35m) were slightly behind target for the year.

1.4 General

The draft formal statement of accounts will be available in July as KPMG begin the external audit and will also be available for public inspection for 20 working days from 2 July over the same period.

- 1.5** Summaries of the outturn on revenue and capital along with major variations are shown as appendices.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** In relation to the 2011/12 Financial Outturn, the following recommendations from Cabinet are presented to Full Council for approval:

- (i) The Revenue outturn position and related virements in Appendix III for 2011/12 which is subject to audit by the Council's external auditors. This includes the following transfers into provisions and reserves: £2.145m to support the 12/13 budget strategy; £1m to create an Invest to Save Fund (including the £0.5m approved in February's financial monitoring); £0.330m to support Council Wide Capacity/Training; £1.5m to fund severance costs associated with the delivery of ongoing revenue savings; £0.400m to address Environmental issues.
- (ii) Authority to approve bids against the Capacity and Environmental works reserves be delegated to the Managing Director after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Service Delivery.
- (iii) Approve the Capital outturn position and related supplementary estimates, virements and re-phasing shown in Appendix IV as summarised in the report.
- (iv) Note performance against income targets

3.0 SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	Delivery of all priority objectives depend on the effective use of available resources. Financial management ensures best use of resources.
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	Outturn forms the basis of the formal statement of accounts which are audited during July and will be published by the end of September.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The financial impacts are detailed throughout the report.
LEGAL ISSUES	No	None directly arising from this report. The S151 Officer has a statutory duty to monitor income and expenditure and take action if overspends /shortfalls emerge. There is a requirement to publish the Statement of Accounts by the end of September.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough Wide

4.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

03/03/11 – Full Council, Service & Financial Planning Strategy
 26/7/11 – Cabinet, 2011/12 Financial Monitoring
 20/10/11 – Cabinet, 2011/12 Financial Monitoring
 24/11/11– Council, 2011/12 Financial Monitoring
 22/12/11 – Cabinet, 2011/12 Financial Monitoring
 23/2/12 – Cabinet, 2011/12 Financial Monitoring

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

5.0 2011/12 REVENUE BUDGET

5.1 The Council had a gross revenue budget of £409m for 2011/12 and the final net revenue outturn position is as follows (a summary is provided in Appendix I):

	£m
Net Budget	129.452
Net Expenditure	127.609
Net Underspend	-1.843
Percentage Net Variance	-1.42

5.2 Variations by Service Delivery Unit are summarised below and further detail is provided in Appendix II.

Service Area	Budget	Outturn	Variance
	£	£	£
Safeguarding	17,961,780	19,602,997	1,641,217
School Improvement	4,889,410	7,950,582	3,061,172
Family & Community Services	15,574,260	13,703,142	(1,871,118)
DSG	0	281,931	281,931
Property & ICT	(3,870,190)	(3,075,954)	794,236
Economy & Skills	3,044,650	2,884,352	(160,298)
Environmental Services	27,606,760	26,651,511	(955,249)
Housing & Planning	5,017,740	4,879,184	(138,556)
Care & Support	43,808,166	44,801,584	993,418
Customer, Leisure & Libraries	8,939,090	8,046,820	(892,270)
Governance	679,350	285,179	(394,171)
Finance	0	(424,770)	(424,770)
Core Services	1,175,590	805,603	(369,987)
Council Wide	4,625,334	(4,158,082)	(8,783,416)
Total Projected Variation	129,451,940	122,234,079	(7,217,861)
Required for 2012/13 budget strategy - Approved at Full Council in March 2012		2,145,000	2,145,000
Creation of Invest to Save Fund - £0.5m approved at Cabinet in February 2012		1,000,000	1,000,000
Creation of Council Wide Environmental Fund		400,000	400,000
Transfer to Council Wide Capacity/Training Fund (Total Fund £698k in 12/13)		330,000	330,000
Transfer to Severance Fund		1,500,000	1,500,000
Projected Year End Position	129,451,940	127,609,079	(1,842,861)

Notes: the above figures are before pensions accounting entries (IAS 19) and impairment costs which will be finalised for the production of the Statement of Accounts – these are technical entries which are reversed out in the Income &

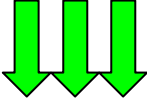








Expenditure Account and do not impact on the overall outturn position shown above. DSG represents the net adjustment to General fund to carry forward unspent DSG to 12/13.











5.3 The position includes the following transfers into provisions and reserves: £2.145m to support the 12/13 budget strategy; £1m to create an Invest to Save Fund; £0.330m to support Council Wide Capacity/Training; £1.5m to fund severance costs associated with the delivery of ongoing revenue savings; £0.400m to address Environmental issues.











5.4 Variances over £0.100m are highlighted below.



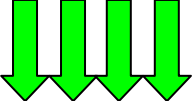
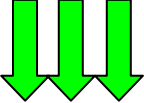


Key		
£0 to £100k	↑	● (Green)
£101+to £250k	↑↑	● (Red)
£251+to £500k	↑↑↑	
over £500k	↑↑↑↑	

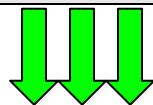





Service Delivery Unit	Actual Variation £m	
<p><u>Safeguarding</u></p> <p>Children in Care – there were 302 children in care at the end of the year. The overspend is after taking into account the additional £1.4m invested in Looked After Children as part of the 11/12 budget strategy.</p> <p>Agency Staff – overspend arising from the use of agency staff to cover vacancies during the year; the position is net of the savings arising from the vacant posts being covered.</p>	+1.062	↑↑↑↑
	+0.462	↑↑↑
<p><u>School Improvement</u></p> <p>School/Premature Retirement/Redundancy Costs – overspend arising from approved schools' redundancies due to the need to reduce costs and mitigate the ongoing financial pressure on schools.</p> <p>Schools Multicultural Development Service/ Alternative Education Provision and Behavioural Partnership – saving arising</p>	+0.294	↑↑↑
	-0.343	↓↓↓

Service Delivery Unit	Actual Variation £m	
<p>from posts being held vacant pending restructure.</p> <p>School Improvement – savings arising from restructures implemented earlier than budgeted.</p> <p>Delegated Schools Budgets – underspend resulting from the change in admission policy for early year children under 5 for the maintained sector.</p> <p>Standard Fund Allocation – flexible use of standards fund grant applied in 2011/12.</p>	<p>-0.420</p> <p>-0.264</p> <p>-0.463</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p>
<p><u>Family & Community Services</u></p> <p>Specialist Education – the majority of the overspend relates to stated provision, which reflects the costs of new statements and additional support hours required during the year.</p> <p>Specialist Education – the overspend is a combination of a shortfall in recoupment income as fewer pupils are placed within T&W schools and the cost of pupils placed outside Telford & Wrekin i.e. in other Local Authority schools.</p> <p>Nursery Provision – the effect of single point of admission to Early Years settings.</p> <p>Restructure Savings – savings arising from restructures delivered earlier than budgeted.</p> <p>Employees – reduced expenditure across a number of service delivery units due to vacancies being held pending finalisation of restructures.</p> <p>Transport – savings resulting from a number of operational efficiencies and demographic changes.</p>	<p>+0.260</p> <p>+0.404</p> <p>-0.261</p> <p>-0.669</p> <p>-0.901</p> <p>-0.323</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p>

Service Delivery Unit	Actual Variation £m	
<p>DSG – the impact of single point of admission for Nursery age children affects both the maintained and independent sectors. The underspend against these budgets (included in Family & Community and School Improvement above) will be carried forward as unspent DSG and re-invested in the schools budget. The £282k is the net adjustment to the General Fund required to carry forward the correct amount of DSG.</p>	+0.282	
<p>Property & ICT</p> <p>PIP Properties – shortfall in rental and service charge income due to the higher level of voids in the current economic climate.</p> <p>Catering – shortfall of income received from paid meals</p> <p>Property & Design – underachievement of fee income; the target will be reviewed in 2012/13.</p> <p>Employees – reduced expenditure arising from vacancies due to restructures.</p> <p>ICT – shortfall in income from schools and council project work relating to a change in policy on internal charging</p> <p>ICT – capitalisation of project related capital costs to mitigate the fee income shortfall above.</p>	<p>+0.199</p> <p>+0.160</p> <p>+0.388</p> <p>-1.164</p> <p>+0.747</p> <p>-0.350</p>	<p>       </p>
<p>Housing & Planning</p> <p>Employees - reduced expenditure arising from vacancies and restructures</p> <p>Planning – shortfall in planning fees due to the downturn in the economy.</p> <p>Building Control – shortfall in fee income</p>	<p>-0.726</p> <p>+0.199</p> <p>+0.188</p>	<p>    </p>

Service Delivery Unit	Actual Variation £m	
Temporary Accommodation – loss of housing benefit due to drop in demand of temporary accommodation	+0.216	
Temporary Accommodation – savings in leasehold rents on temporary accommodation.	-0.161	
<u>Economy & Skills</u>		
Employees – savings from vacancies and restructures	-0.382	
Railfreight – cost of interim management arrangements.	+0.110	
<u>Environmental Services</u>		
Concessionary Transport – net benefit arising from the change in methodology in the scheme administration.	-0.324	
Highways & Transport – New ways of working project (total place) relating to up front enhancement and maintenance of road infrastructure enabling efficiencies in future years	+0.177	
Winter Maintenance – costs in excess of available budget	+0.151	
TWS Staff Oncosts – increased costs due to change in methodology used by Shropshire Pension Fund	+0.112	
Waste Enforcement – replacement costs for refuse and recycling containers across the borough.	+0.218	
Employees - savings from posts held vacant due to restructures	-0.802	

Service Delivery Unit	Actual Variation £m	
<p><u>Care & Support</u></p> <p>Purchasing budgets - the reported overspend is against a gross purchasing budget of £33.8m across all client groups, including residential care, home care, day care and adult placements. The pressure has mainly arisen from the withdrawal of funding by the PCT from clients previously receiving NHS funding due to their ongoing primary health need. These costs are now falling either on the individual or in most cases on Council budgets. This projection is over and above costs impacting and funded ongoing in previous years and reflects the full year impact of clients reassessed by the PCT in 2010/11 and those reassessed in 2011/12. The position is being kept under close review and continues to be discussed with the PCT. The overall position takes into account the use of one-off monies available in 2011/12.</p> <p>Loss of internal services income due to PCT review of CHC clients.</p> <p>NHS Funding – a mix of additional one off and ongoing funding from the Government and PCT to fund Local Authority Social Care, and having to be deployed against displaced PCT spending.</p> <p>Winter Pressures Funds – one off funds in recognition of the care pressures experienced during the winter period; given to the PCT and transferred to Local Authorities to support Social Care Services.</p> <p>Other funding available to offset the purchasing overspend including vacancies and the use of one off reserves</p>	<p>+4.749</p> <p>+0.475</p> <p>-2.108</p> <p>-0.490</p> <p>-2.040</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p>
<p><u>Customer & Leisure Services</u></p> <p>Restructure savings – employee savings arising from restructures across the whole service area.</p>	<p>-0.911</p>	<p></p>

Service Delivery Unit	Actual Variation £m	
Finance – employee savings arising from the service restructure	-0.318	
Governance – employee savings arising from the service restructure	-0.101	
Core Services – employee savings arising from the service restructure	-0.187	
Treasury – benefits from the re-phasing of schemes from 2010/11 to 2011/12 and the impact of new investments taken early in the year, together with the impact of the 100 day budget and changes to the investment portfolio	-0.496m	
New Homes Bonus - Unringfenced grant	-0.741m	
Accelerated Non-Staff Savings – 2012/13 savings proposals delivered early in 2011/12.	-0.576	

6.0 **RESERVES & BALANCES**

6.1 The main General and Special Fund balances were £3.686m at 31st March 2012. Subsequent to closedown the full risk based evaluation of all balances will be undertaken to determine an updated view of balances available for the budget strategy.

6.2 The position on the main General and Special Fund Balances is:

	£m
Balances at 1 st April 2011	3.263
Contribution to General Fund Balances	0.423
Balances at 31st March 2012	3.686

The General/Special Fund balance forms part of the Council's overall reserves and balances.

- 6.3 As agreed at Full Council in March 2012, £2.145m funds have been carried forward as part of the 2012/13 budget strategy.
- 6.4 Following a detailed review, it is proposed that the following transfers to reserves are approved:
- (i) **Council Wide Environmental Fund:** £0.400m; resources to meet a range of environmental issues across the borough, such as pot-holes and fly-tipping.
 - (ii) **Council Wide Capacity/Training Fund :** £0.330m (together with other available reserves this gives a total of £0.698m to invest in capacity/training); to provide capacity in the Council, to support major projects and deliver savings, together with training as part of the Corporate Training Programme.
 - (iii) **Severance Fund :** £1.5m; to meet one-off costs associated with the Council restructure programme which is delivering ongoing savings of over £9.6m in 12/13.
 - (iv) **Invest to Save Fund :** £1m to create an Invest to Save Fund which will be used to support projects to deliver future savings (note £0.5m of this was approved by Cabinet in February)
- 6.5 Transfers to reserves and balances are included in the overall financial outturn position shown. Another review of reserves and balances will be undertaken over the Summer.

7.0 2011/12 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 7.1 The capital programme for 2011/12 was £84.2m; spend at year end was £71.7m giving a year end variation of £12.6m which is summarised in the table below:

Priority	Budget	Spend		Variance
	£m	£m	%	£m
Adult Care & Support	1.270	0.558	44	-0.712
Active Lifestyles	0.738	0.640	87	-0.098
Community Protection & Cohesion	1.938	1.751	90	-0.187
Children & Young People	40.341	28.529	71	-11.812
Housing, Regeneration & Prosperity	24.958	23.318	93	-1.640
Efficient, Community Focussed Council	4.778	4.394	91	-0.384
Environment	10.246	12.478	122	+2.232
Total	84.269	71.668	85	-12.601

7.2 The main scheme delays/re-phasing to 2012/13 are shown below with detail included in Appendix IV.

	£m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People - Building Schools for the Future: programme delays resulting in re-phasing to 12/13 	9.342
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People – Schools: various schemes which will be re-phased into 12/13 including St Georges Primary extension, Muxton Primary extension, Teagues Bridge Primary extension. 	2.470
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Care & Support - Social Care ICT Review: review commenced later than anticipated and plans have been updated which has resulted in re-phasing 	0.588
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks & Play Areas – re-phasing due to consultation activities 	0.228
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment - Highways Maintenance: a combination of: the A442 drainage scheme being delayed due to traffic management implications; a review of the column replacement programme (due to be completed in July 2012); the need for road closures for other small scale maintenance schemes; and other minor schemes 	0.518
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment – Transport: a combination of: DfT grant funding received late in 11/12 and therefore being slipped to 12/13; consultation ongoing on a number of projects; work on illuminated signs and bollards on roundabouts which will be combined with resurfacing work in 12/13; other minor schemes. 	0.372
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment – Property Investment Portfolio: acquisitions under delegated authority (covered by new approval requests in this report) 	-3.460
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, Regeneration & Prosperity: market engagement fund and housing strategy – schemes progressing through legal process 	1.173

- Housing, Regeneration & Prosperity - Sutton Hill: re-phased to 12/13 0.368
- Housing, Regeneration & Prosperity - Town Centre: spend profile updated in line with current plans; the overall project is within budget. -0.953

7.3 There are a number of new approvals and virements which are also detailed in Appendix IV and require formal approval.

7.4 The funding for the capital programme in 2011/12 included £2.683m estimated income from capital receipts . The actual income received in year was lower at £1.214m which was attributable in the main to the Council's share of the receipt from the sale of West Mercia Supplies completing in 2012/13 and not 2011/12 as anticipated.

8.0 CORPORATE INCOME MONITORING

8.1 The Council's budget includes significant income streams which are regularly monitored to ensure they are on track to achieve targets that have been set and so that remedial action can be taken at a very early stage. The three main areas are Council Tax, NNDR (business rates) and Sales Ledger. The Council pursues outstanding debt vigorously, until all possible recovery avenues have been exhausted, but also prudently provides for bad debts in its accounts.

8.2 In Summary, the overall position shows collection of NNDR and Council Tax collection Sales Ledger debt behind the target set for the year.

INCOME COLLECTION – 2011/12 YEAR END			
	Actual	Target	Performance
Collection Levels:			
Council Tax Collection	97.8%	98.0%	0.2% Outside Target
NNDR Collection	98.3%	99.1%	0.8% Outside Target
Debt Levels:			
Sales Ledger	6.39%	4.50%	1.89% outside target

8.3 Council Tax (£59.2m)

The percentage of the current year liability for council tax which the authority should have received during the year, as a percentage of annual collectable debit. The measure does not take account of debt that continues to be pursued and collected after the end of the financial year in which it became due. The final collection figure for all financial years exceeds 99%.

Year end performance 2010/11	98.0%
Year End Target for 2011/12	98.0%

Performance is cumulative during the year and expressed against the complete year's debit.

Year End Target	Year End Actual	Last year Actual
98.0%	97.8%	98.0%

The actual percentage collection for 2011/12 equates to payments received of £57,972,012 against a gross liability of £59,204,111. Performance is below target and behind performance in 2010/11. The benefits case load has exceeded 20,000 live cases for the first time which is a reflection of the current financial climate. This is an indication of the impact of the economic climate on the citizens of the borough and that people within the area are genuinely struggling to pay their bills.

8.4 **NNDR-Business Rates (£64.8m)**

The % of business rates for 2011/12 that should have been collected during the year. This target, as for council tax, ignores our continuing collection of earlier years' liabilities.

The measure does not take into account the debt that continues to be pursued and collected after the end of the financial year in which it became due. As a general rule the final collection figure for any financial year exceeds 99%.

Year end performance 2010/11	99.1%
Year End Target for 2011/12	99.1%

Year End Target	Year End Actual	Last year Actual
99.1%	98.3%	99.1%

The actual percentage collection for 2011/12 equates to payments received of £63,616,766 against a gross liability of £64,828,803. Performance is below target and behind performance in 2010/11. Benchmarking with other local authorities shows that this follows a national trend, with most authorities experiencing an average one percent decrease in performance from this time last year.

8.5 Sales Ledger (£34.9m)

This includes general debt and Social Care debt. Debt below 2 months is classified as a normal credit period.

The target percents is set relating cumulative debt outstanding from all years to the current year annual debit. The targets and performance of income collection are as follows:

Age of debt	Annual Target %	March 2012	
		£m	%
Total	4.50	2.23	6.39

There is £2,230,038 outstanding which is older than 2 months, which is 6.39% of the rolling debt figure. Performance is outside target on all debt categories, however there are plans in place to reduce the debt outstanding over the coming months.

9.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

2011/12 Budget Strategy and Financial Ledger reports
2012/13 Budget Strategy

Report Prepared by:

Ken Clarke, Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance – 01952 383100; Pauline Harris, Corporate Finance Manager – 01952 383701

FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES OF**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

1. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the Council.
2. To support Town and Parish Councils within the Borough to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the Council.
3. To recommend to Council the adoption of a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the Authority.
4. To keep the code of conduct under review and recommend changes/ replacement to Council as appropriate.
5. To publicise the adoption, revision or replacement of the Council's Code of Conduct.
6. To oversee the process for the recruitment of an Independent Person (and 2 reserves) and make recommendations to Council for their appointment.
7. To receive quarterly reports from the Monitoring Officer about:-
 - 7.1 complaints;
 - 7.2 the progress and outcome of investigations; and
 - 7.3 the establishment and maintenance of the register of interests of members and co-opted members of the Borough and Town and Parish Councils within the Borough boundaries;
 - 7.4 dispensations granted to members and co-opted members of the Council

HEARINGS SUB COMMITTEE

1. To consider complaints referred to them by the Monitoring Officer to decide if the complaint should be referred for investigation.
2. To consider investigation reports in respect of Code of Conduct complaints that are referred to them by the Monitoring Officer.
3. To report its findings to the Borough Council, Town or Parish Council, as appropriate for information.
4. Where a breach is found. to make decisions about sanctions including:-
 - 4.1. To make recommendations to the relevant Group Leader regarding future membership of committees and sub committees;
 - 4.2. To make recommendation to Council regarding the removal of a non aligned member from membership of committee and sub-committees;
 - 4.3. To make recommendations to the Leader of the Council regarding the removal of a member from Cabinet, or the removal of portfolio responsibilities;
 - 4.4. To instruct the Monitoring Officer to arrange training for a Borough Council member;
 - 4.5. To remove a member from all outside appointments to which he/ she has been appointed or nominated by the Council; and

- 4.6. To withdraw facilities provided to the member or exclude the member from defined premises (except as necessary for the member to attend formally constituted council meetings).
5. To consider applications for dispensations where:-
 - 5.1. The dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Borough of Telford & Wrekin area; or
 - 5.2. It is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

Telford & Wrekin Council's Councillors' Code of Conduct 2

Standards of Conduct

Members (including all voting co-opted members) of Telford & Wrekin Council will at all times promote and maintain high standards of conduct when they are acting in that capacity. To do this they will:-

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Members should serve only the public interest and should treat everyone that they deal with equally and with respect. <i>Link to co-operative value of Fairness and Respect</i> 	Selflessness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Members should not place themselves in a position where they either are or give the appearance that they are under any financial or other obligation to anyone that might seek to influence them in the performance of their duties as a Member. ✓ Members should only use the resources of the Authority in accordance with reasonable requirements set out for their use from time to time ✓ Members should declare their interests in accordance with the law and with the provisions of this Code of Conduct ✓ Members should declare gifts and hospitality that they receive in accordance with the Council's Rules on Gifts and Hospitality <i>Link to co-operative value of Fairness and Respect</i> 	Integrity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Members should make decisions on merit and in the public interest, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits. <i>Link to co-operative value of Fairness and Respect</i> 	Objectivity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Members should be accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and should co-operate fully with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular role or office. <i>Link to co-operative value of Ownership</i> 	Accountability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Members should be as open as possible about their decisions and actions and should give reasons for their decisions and actions. They should not disclose information given to them which they can reasonably be expected to know was either exempt or confidential and is not to be disclosed to protect the wider public interest. <i>Link to co-operative value of Openness and Involvement</i> 	Openness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Members have a duty to declare any private interests that relate to their duties as a Member and do whatever is necessary to resolve any such conflict in a way that protects the public interest <i>Link to co-operative value of Honesty</i> 	Honesty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence 	Leadership

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests



Telford & Wrekin Council's Councillors' Code of Conduct 2

The Monitoring Officer of Telford & Wrekin Council will maintain a Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests which can be found at *[insert link to Council web-site]* or viewed by appointment with the Monitoring Officer *[insert contact details]*

What	When	How	Impact on Meetings
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Within 28 days of election or re-election (if not already entered)	In writing to the Monitoring Officer detailing the existence and nature of the interest	Member cannot participate in or vote on the matter
Previously undeclared Disclosable Pecuniary Interest			
Outside a meeting	Within 28 days of the date of disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest at a meeting	In writing to the Monitoring Officer detailing the existence and nature of the interest	Member cannot participate in or vote on the matter
During a meeting	As soon as the Member is aware that they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Verbally to the meeting detailing the existence and nature of the interest	Member cannot participate, participate further, vote or further vote on the matter
Sensitive Interests – ie where the Monitoring Officer agrees that the disclosure of the interest could lead the Member being subject to violence or intimidation	As above – depending upon the circumstances	As above but detailing the existence but not the nature of the interest	As above

Dispensations

Dispensations can be granted by the Monitoring Officer (for 1 & 2) / Hearings Sub Committee (for 3 & 4), if, after considering the relevant circumstances:-

1. The number of Members precluded from transacting the business is so great that it would impede the business of the Council, committee or Executive
2. The political balance is affected to the extent that it could affect the outcome of a vote relating to the business
3. The dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Borough of Telford & Wrekin area
4. It is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation



Telford & Wrekin Council's Councillors' Code of Conduct 2

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests may be amended from time to time by regulation but at 1st July 2012 they were:-

Employment, office, trade or profession	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried out for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by a person in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of that person
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person(or body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority- (a) Under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) Which has not been fully discharged
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority
Licenses	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the persons knowledge)- (a) The landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) The tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where- (a) That body (to the persons knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) Either- (i) The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares in any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL – ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINATION OF ALLEGATIONS MADE IN RESPECT OF THE COUNCIL'S MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

COMPLAINING ABOUT A COUNCILLOR

All Councillors, whether a Borough, Town or Parish Councillor have to comply with a code of conduct that details what is expected of them when they carry out their role as a Councillor.

This document explains how to make a complaint about a Councillor if you think that they might have breached a code of conduct that applies to them and also how the complaint is dealt with.

The Code of Conduct

Telford & Wrekin Council has adopted a code of conduct that applies to all members and co-opted members of the Council. You can get a copy by following this link [*insert link*] or by contacting the Monitoring Officer whose contact details are provided below.

All Town and Parish Councils have their own code of conduct which you can obtain from their individual web-sites or, if there isn't one, by contacting the Clerk directly. If you are not sure which Council a Councillor belongs to then you can obtain help and support from the Monitoring Officer.

Can I be confident that my complaint will be properly dealt with

The law requires the Council to appoint an Independent Person: a person who has nothing to do with the Council other than in this role who is consulted at various stages during the complaints process and whose role is to ensure that all complaints are dealt with fairly, a role that can also include giving views to the Councillor who is the subject of the complaint.

Making a Complaint

Write to the Monitoring Officer, Civic Offices, PO Box 215, Telford, TF3 4LF or alternatively by e-mail at monitoring.officer@telford.gov.uk

The Monitoring Officer is the person responsible for administering this complaints system. There is a form for you to use [*insert link*] but you do not need to use it as long as you include all the information that is included on the form.

What happens next?

The Monitoring Officer will acknowledge receipt of your complaint within 5 working days of receiving it.

The Monitoring Officer will review your complaint, discuss it with the Independent Person and write to you to inform you whether or not he/she has decided to refer it for investigation. Normally this will be within 14 working days of receiving your complaint.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL – ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINATION OF ALLEGATIONS MADE IN RESPECT OF THE COUNCIL’S MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Monitoring Officer might ask for more information, he/ she might also ask for information from the Councillor who you are complaining about or the Council that the Councillor is a member of.

The Monitoring Officer might seek to resolve the complaint informally, ie before deciding to refer your complaint for investigation. Obviously your views are important here but if the Monitoring Officer believes that the proposed solution is reasonable, for example acceptance that behaviour was unacceptable and an offered apology, this might affect the decision of the Monitoring Officer about whether or not the complaint merits formal investigation.

Investigations

If referring for formal investigation the Monitoring Officer will appoint an Investigating Officer who will contact you and the Councillor that you have complained about and undertake any other such investigations as he/she considers appropriate for the purposes of the investigation. In exceptional cases your identity will be protected for some or all of the investigation. If you consider that it would be appropriate to do this in your case you must let the Monitoring Officer know when you make your complaint. (This would generally only be done where providing your details might prejudice the investigation).

The Investigation Officer will publish a draft report for consideration by you and the Councillor that you have complained. Once any comments have been considered by the Investigating Officer a Final Report will be produced and sent to the Monitoring Officer. The Final Report will then be considered by the Monitoring Officer who may either accept the report or ask the investigating Officer to re-consider his/ her report.

Investigation finding of No Breach

The Monitoring Officer will write to you and the Councillor who you have complained about enclosing a copy of the Final Report and confirming that no further action is required. If it is a complaint about a Town or Parish Councillor then a copy will also be sent to the Clerk of the relevant Town or Parish Council.

Investigation finding of Breach

The Monitoring Officer will write to you and the Councillor who you have complained about enclosing a copy of the Final Report and will either seek local resolution or will convene a hearing of the Council’s Hearings Committee.

Local Resolution

If the Monitoring Officer, the Independent Person and you all agree a fair resolution of the complaint in a way that promotes high standards of conduct and the Councillor complies with the suggested resolution then the Monitoring Officer will report the matter to the Standards Committee for information but will take no further action.

Hearing

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL – ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINATION OF ALLEGATIONS MADE IN RESPECT OF THE COUNCIL’S MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

If local resolution is not possible then the Monitoring Officer will convene a meeting of the Council’s Hearings Sub Committee for it to consider the Investigating Officer’s Report and the views of the Independent Person on the allegation and determine whether or not there has been a breach of the Council’s Code of Conduct and if so what action, if any, to take in respect of the Councillor.

Hearing Procedure

A copy of the Hearings Procedure is set out below:-

Pre Hearing

1. Notification of hearing date (Investigation Report already provided to the Councillor)
2. Invitation to Councillor to submit list of further documents/ witnesses that he/she wishes to call
3. Circulation of papers

Hearing

4. Introductions
5. Chair explains the process to be followed
6. Investigating Officer present his/ her report (and may ask witnesses to attend if necessary)
7. Panel may ask questions
8. Councillor or his/ her representative may ask questions
9. Councillor or his/ her representative presents his/ her case (and may ask witnesses to attend if necessary)

Decision – no breach

10. The complaint is dismissed.

Decision - breach

11. After offering the Councillor complained about an opportunity to speak

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL – 12th JULY 2012

THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND THE NEW ETHICAL FRAMEWORK

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider final arrangements for the new standards regime at Telford & Wrekin Council in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and regulations made under it which have come into force since this matter was last considered by full Council on the 3rd May 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council endorses its decisions made on the 3rd May 2012 to:

- 2.1 Create a Standards Committee and a Hearings Sub Committee, (approving the terms of reference as set out in Appendix 1) to come into effect immediately;**
- 2.2 Approve the Code of Conduct for adoption (as attached at Appendix 2 of this report) as the Council's Code of Conduct to come into effect immediately;**

Further decisions for Council:

- 2.3 That Council approve the payment of an allowance of £3,935 to the Chair of the Standards Committee**
- 2.4 That Council approve the arrangements for the investigation of allegations and for decisions on allegations to be made as detailed in Appendix 3:**
- 2.5 That the appointment of the Independent Person be considered by Council at its next meeting on 13th September 2012.**

3. SUMMARY

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 and regulations have replaced the Council's existing standards regime. This report finalises the arrangements for the new arrangements to be adopted.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Standards Committee 21st September 2011
Standards Committee 21st April 2009 (ST-39)
Standards Committee 18th June 2009
Standards Committee 17th June 2010
Standards Committee 16th June 2011
Standards Committee 8th December 2011
Standards Committee 8th February 2012

5. INFORMATION

5.1 What is new

Regulations published on the 8th June 2012 included provisions which mean that Council has to re-visit a number of decisions made previously and make some further decisions in the light of the Regulations.

5.2 Breaches of the code

The Borough Council has to have in place arrangements for investigations and consideration of investigation reports for both complaints against its members and members of Town and Parish Council. A copy of the proposed arrangements are included in Appendix 3 for Members' approval. Members will note that discretion is given to the Monitoring Officer to decide what to do with a complaint although proposed amendments to the terms of reference for the Hearing Sub Committee now include power to consider complaints referred to them by the Monitoring Officer. The Standards Committee will be considering a protocol for how this works when it next meets in September.

5.4 The Independent member

We are currently recruiting the Independent Member and the appointment, which must be approved by Council. This approval will be sought from members in September 2012.

5.5 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and the Register of Interests

Regulations have now defined Disclosable Pecuniary Interests which must be disclosed. Generally this will be required within 28 days of taking office or at a meeting when it becomes apparent that a member or their spouse or partner has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. Members have already been circulated with details of these interests, how they work and forms to facilitate the disclosure of these interests. The Monitoring Officer recommends that these forms are completed and returned by 27th July 2012.

Notwithstanding this the requirement to declare these Disclosable Pecuniary Interests exists from tomorrow both for members and their partner.

A Register of Interests is already available for public inspection and on the authority's web-site that also includes the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests of Town and Parish Councillors.

5.6 Offences

West Mercia Police have been briefed about the new criminal offences.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

6.1 The draft code and arrangements have been subject to an equality impact assessment and the conclusion was that this Code and procedure are classed as low impact and accordingly a full impact assessment is not required

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.1 No implications.

8. LEGAL COMMENT

8.1 At present the regime for the assessment and determination of Code of Conduct complaints (as set out in the Local government Act 2000 (as amended) and associated legislation) is in a transitional phase. The current system at a local level remains in force without provision for referrals to Standards for England which has now been abolished. The published timetable envisages that the changes will take effect from 1st July 2012 at which point the current regime will cease completely and the new framework will come into force.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The cost of standards investigations together with the management and administration of the Standards Committee are currently met from within the Legal Services revenue budget. The Independent Chair of Standards Committee receives a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) of £3,935 p.a. There are also 4 co-opted members who each receive £260 p.a. in accordance with the Members' Remuneration Scheme and as set out in the Constitution.

9.2 It was agreed at Annual Council that Councillor Rae Evans would become Chair of this committee and it is proposed that the Chair receives the same SRA as the Independent Chair previously received. There will be no co-optee allowances thus there will be a saving of £1,040. (This would be subject to review by a remuneration panel in due course)

9.3 There are costs associated with the role of Independent Person. It is proposed that this role receives expenses only but may need some professional support from time to time for which there is no budget.

10. WARD IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Borough wide

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 The Localism Act 2011 and regulations made under it

11.2 Local Government Association template code of conduct and guidance note

End of Report

Report prepared by Jonathan Eatough, Assistant Director: Law, Democracy and Public Protection Tel: 01952 383200 and Matthew Cumberbatch, Legal Services Manager Tel: 01952 383255

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL

12 JULY 2012

FAIRTRADE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS & HOUSING

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

1.1 Achieving Fairtrade status for the Borough is a priority for the Cooperative Council and is supported by the Employee Commission for Social Responsibility. In 2011 the Council renewed its commitment to Fairtrade with the appointment of a Cabinet Lead for Fairtrade, Cllr Clive Elliot and a Fairtrade Champion, Cllr Veronica Fletcher. This Report provides an update on the Council's Fairtrade activities during 2011/12.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Council note the progress that has been achieved.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	- improve local people's prospects through education and skills training - improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and address health inequalities
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	n/a – information report only	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	This report seeks only to provide an update on the progress made to date and outline priorities for 2012/13. Any financial implications will be covered from existing resources.
LEGAL ISSUES	No	There are considerations to be made when 'social issues' such as the use of Fairtrade products are incorporated into public sector purchasing, but the EU Procurement Rules do not apply to situations where staff or members of the public buy goods direct from the contractor.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	The commitment and leadership TWC is taking reflects the Council's sense of social responsibility, cooperative principles and commitment to promote sustainable development
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Potential to impact on all wards.

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

4.1 Fairtrade guarantees a better deal for third world producers through fair wages, good working conditions and assistance with the development of products and marketing. Through the work of the TWC Fairtrade Group initiatives including Fairtrade Friday, and the annual programme of events and activities focussed around Fairtrade Fortnight have continued to raise the profile and support for Fairtrade.

4.2 Between 27th Feb and 11th March **Fairtrade Fortnight** included a range of events and activities:-:

- An exhibition in Telford Town Centre during which over 100 people completed a questionnaire winning prizes donated by partners including ASDA and Body Shop

- Fairtrade stalls at various Council Offices.
 - A Fairtrade 5-a-side football tournament involving Members and Officers with proceeds donated to a Fairtrade Charity.
 - Events in schools including Redhill Primary School, already accredited as a Fairtrade School, who compiled and sold 'The World in our School Cookbook' and undertook a webcast on the benefits of cooperative working on the lives of the children in Ghana.
- 4.3 On 28th February local businesses, schools and organisations attended an event to explore how to work collectively to promote Fairtrade in the Borough. Subsequently, 17 organisations have expressed interest in forming a Borough Fairtrade Partnership. The Asian Business Association have taken a step further preparing a Memorandum of Understanding committing to promote Fairtrade signed by Cllr Veronica Fletcher in her role as Fairtrade Champion and the Association Chair Sherrel Fikeis.
- 4.4 The Council promoted World Fairtrade Day in May via the Council's webpages and through targeted emails to businesses and schools.
- 4.5 **Moving Forward in Partnership** - The first meeting of the Telford & Wrekin Fairtrade Partnership took place on 11 June chaired by Harper Adams University College. Attendees included schools, retailers including Marks & Spencers and ASDA, TWC Officers and Members and Harper Adams. The Partnership will take a lead developing an action plan to widen support and commitment to Fairtrade across the borough and planning for promotions at Christmas and during Fairtrade Fortnight 2013. TWC will provide administrative support and in relation to communications and promotion.
5. **PREVIOUS MINUTES** Council held on 28 January 2010 & 11 January 2011
6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS** – None

Report prepared by Harjot Rayet, Environmental Policy Officer, Telephone: 01952 384219

BUDGET AND FINANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Budget and Finance Scrutiny Committee held on Monday, 23rd April 2012 at 6.30pm in the Scrutiny Meeting Room, Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors R. Sloan (Chairman), K. Austin, R. Evans, A. Lawrence, C. Mollett, A. Stanton, C. Turley and R. Williams (Co-optee).

Also attending: Cllr. P. Watling, Cabinet Member Children & Young People; L. Johnson, Interim Director of Children's Services; K. Perry, Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding; C. Jones, Assistant Director Family & Cohesion Services; Stephanie Jones, Scrutiny Group Specialist.

BFSC-39 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Finance Scrutiny Committee held on 1st February 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

BFSC-40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. S. Reynolds.

BFSC-41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

BFSC-42 CARE PLACEMENTS

The Chairman reminded members that this meeting had been arranged to look at the costs of care placements in more detail following questions raised at the previous meeting. The key question Members wanted to address was what steps were being taken to ensure that the provision of care placements remained within budget in 2012/13. The Cabinet Member and officers were invited to present reports relating to the issue.

Cllr. Watling, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, said that he welcomed the opportunity to speak to the Committee and felt that responsibility for children in care was an issue for all members as corporate parents and cut across party lines. He was confident that a clear preventative strategy was in place which would lead to a reduction in the number of children needing to come into care. He could not guarantee that care placements would remain within budget as this was an uncontrolled cost, and there was an upward national trend in the number of children coming into care during the recession. However, he assured members that children and young people needing help would get the right service at the right time, and over time this would have an impact on care numbers.

Laura Johnston, Director of Children's Services, said that the service restructures had been completed with teams now in place and ready to start work. The number of children in care in Telford & Wrekin had been benchmarked against All England, regional and statistical neighbour averages which showed that Telford & Wrekin was performing slightly better than all other non-shire authorities in the West Midlands except Birmingham.

Karen Perry, Assistant Director Children's Safeguarding, presented a "scorecard" which had been developed to monitor the effectiveness of the strategy over time. This provided data in three key areas:

Numbers: this showed the monthly trend in the total number of children in care, the number of new children in care (CIC) by age and as a % of the CIC population and the number of children leaving care by age range and reason. Admissions data would monitor patterns so that the approach could be adapted e.g. towards key age ranges. The reasons for discharge would help identify how discharge could be supported, focussing on safe return home or to alternative permanent placements eg adoption.. It was noted that 60 of 123 children discharged in 2011/12 had returned home safely.

Costs: a cost analysis showed total placement costs, the number of children by placement type as a proportion of overall spend, monthly spend against budget by placement type and average weekly unit costs. A key aim was to bring overall costs down and to reduce the average weekly unit cost of care (currently £832) in particular by increasing the number of internal foster care placements (average weekly unit cost £279) and reducing the number of residential care placements (average weekly unit cost £3,493). Costs were also high due to the length of care placements, and there would be a focus on returning children home safely more quickly. Research had shown that children should not be moved home too quickly before it was safe, but that there could be a tendency for placements to "drift" and the longer a child remained in care, the more difficult it became to return them home. Placement duration would be monitored closely.

Performance: a number of indicators had been selected to monitor performance. Some were national indicators sets (NIs) which Telford & Wrekin continued to monitor, although national targets no longer existed. A RAG rating had been applied to each indicator to compare performance in 2012 with 2011.

- The % of CIC aged 10-16 in foster placement or placed for adoption was positive, although performance was slightly lower than 2011.
- Performance on adoptions within best interest timescales was very good and significantly better than All England and Statistical Neighbour (SN) averages. The 100% target had only been missed due to one case where complex health needs had caused an acceptable delay.
- 30 new fostering households had been approved, including 20 mainstream foster carers and other kinship and respite carers. Nine mainstream foster carers had de-registered making a net gain of 11 against a target of 14. However, there was a good on-going recruitment campaign and ideas to speed up the process.
- Performance on all other indicators had improved and was better than All England or SN averages where data was available.

- Additionally, the characteristics of children and carers were monitored so cultural and ethnic backgrounds could be taken into account as part of the matching process

Karen explained that the scorecard was work in progress and further refinements may be made to ensure the right data was collected.

Members then received the Action Plan which set out the range of activities for proactively managing the number and costs of care placements, showing the anticipated impact on numbers and outcomes, the anticipated financial impact and progress against implementation for each activity. Clive Jones, Assistant Director Family & Cohesion, highlighted two key work streams which were fundamental to delivering both service and cost improvements:

- The focus on commissioning e.g. the reconfiguration of Jigsaw provision, the implementation of a regional residential framework contract, looking at local commissioning to support families with the most complex as part of Strengthening Families.
- Family Connect, the single point of contact to children's services. This would enable earlier intervention and problem resolution delivered through a multi-agency approach which would reduce the need for expensive care placements. The model has been implemented in other authorities including Devon and Knowsley where it had made a positive impact on outcomes. Family Connect will be launched fully in Telford & Wrekin over the next few months.

Following the reports, further information was provided in response to Members' questions and comments:

- With regard to the increase in the number of children in care, the criteria for bringing children into care had not changed since the Baby P case, but agencies did have a greater awareness of the signs of neglect and abuse and were more prompt in making referrals. Advice had been sought from a local judge as to whether unnecessary applications were being made by Telford & Wrekin, and assurance had been given that the cases referred were appropriate. The criteria would not be changed to reduce costs: the safety of the child and integrity of the Council were paramount. Even with marginal cases, finance was not a factor. From a budget point of view, the focus was on funding preventative work to reduce the need for care placements and on better ways of providing support for families, and not on whether a child should come into care or not.
- There were many different types of intervention. Services had been joined up to take a "whole family" approach to tackling presenting issues. Family Connect Advisors and the Triage team will be aware of all available interventions, including adult services. Given the budget situation it is necessary to use resources effectively targeted resources towards pockets of disadvantage and families with the most complex problems. We also plan working with the voluntary sector and people in their local communities to develop low level preventative support such as the kind provided by extended families and neighbours. Cllr. Lawrence suggested that a creative approach to developing community support networks was required.

- Members wanted to know whether the Council used the register of births to routinely contact or mail-shot families with information about children’s services including nurseries: Cllr. Lawrence felt it was important to reach all families and that by targeting resources at pockets of deprivation, families with problems in more affluent areas could be missed. Officers responded that the issue was not how many people were contacted, but how effective that contact was. Resources were limited, and concentrated on engaging the most disadvantaged children with universal services to reduce the risk of them slipping through the net, and (through the Strengthening Families strategy) on supporting the most challenging families . Early Years provision was essential, and the children’s centres and nurseries had received continued funding. The idea of registering births in children’s centres was being explored.
- Paul Watling again emphasised that the Council needed to meet its statutory duties, but that the budget for preventative services needed to be protected to mitigate against incurring avoidable statutory care costs. Karen Perry said that it was also important to ensure that children in care received the best possible service from social workers and that efforts were being made to provide consistency of support and to minimise changes of social workers. Cllr. Stanton was pleased to hear this as the issue of changing social workers had been raised by children and young people in care at a previous scrutiny meeting.

At the end of the discussion, Members agreed that although the spend on the care placements budgets was difficult to control the , the Committee needed to be assured that what was being spent was being spent in the right way. A further report was requested to come back to the Committee in six months.

RESOLVED - that a further report be brought to the Committee in six months.

BFSC-43 FORWARD PLAN

The next meeting would be at 6.30pm on 15th May was agreed for the next meeting to look at the costs of Supporting People services, subject to confirmation by the Scrutiny Officer.

The meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 19th April 2012 at 6.00 pm in the Scrutiny Meeting Room, Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors G Green (Chair), S Burrell, J Greenaway, M. Ion, C Turley

Co-optees: Mr A Atkinson

Officers: Jim Collins (Assistant Director: Education, Culture & Skills); Clive Jones (Assistant Director for Family & Cohesion Services); Guy Kershaw (Project Director for BSF); Christine Marsh (Service Delivery Manager- Early Intervention); T Clarke (Scrutiny Officer).

CYPSC-45 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 26th March 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CYPSC-46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor A Mackenzie, J Loveridge
Co-optee: Dr S Ali, Ms M Ward and Ms E Ofori

CYPSC-47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CYPSC-48 BSF UPDATE

The Project Director explained that the Building Schools for Future (BSF) update would be delivered in two parts, firstly by himself Guy Kershaw Project Director and secondly by Jim Collins Assistant Director of Education, Culture & Skills who would update Members on the consultation of the Secondary School provision under the BSF programme.

The Project Director for Building Schools for Future (BSF) gave a verbal update to the Committee Members on the progress of the BSF project.

- The new canopy had been put in place at the Abraham Darby School and the internal work for the school has started.
- The Primary school and Leisure centre had successfully been completed and all minor problems had been resolved.
- Traffic and parking issues had caused annoyance with the local neighbourhood and yellow lines had been put in to resolve this. The Head had been acting as a traffic warden to ensure the safety of the children and a pedestrian crossing has been added to the project.
- The School handover date was 25th June 2012 and the official opening would be 7th July 2012. The project was due for completion in December 2012.

- Residents of Canonbie Lea had experienced flooding before Christmas and a request had been received to check the level of the playing fields. An independent surveyor had been appointed to complete this work and the drainage engineer will speak to the residents and the landscape architect to ascertain what can be done to resolve the issue of flooding.
- At the Phoenix School, Kier Moss had erected the site cabins and the piling was due to start on 30th April. The proposed completion date had been set as September 2014.
- At the Newport Girls' High School the demountable structures are due to be replaced during the Summer holidays.
- Work commenced on the 1st April to build the skills centre at the back of the Mount Gilbert school.
- The procurement process for Ercall Wood had nine bidders apply and of these two have been shortlisted. These preferred bidders will be informed next week and will compete on the design of the Ercall Wood School over the next eight to nine weeks. The aim will be for the project to build the new school to be started in November.
- Following the appointment of the preferred Ercall Wood bidder in early July, the remainder of the programme would be taken forward. If necessary, the remainder of the programme could be accelerated to ensure that completion takes place as early as possible.

Members asked the Project Director of the BSF a number of questions.

When will the HSE report be available?

The Project Director explained that in the interim it was unlikely that the Council would have access to the report to ensure that there would be no prejudice in the event of a future prosecution taking place.

How are we going to reassure the parents that there is no danger of injury from the new canopy?

Safety checks have been carried out on the Primary School and the Leisure centre and everything has passed the required standards. The new canopy design is supported by 7 columns rather than the previous design of 1 column. There are ongoing safety checks which will continue to take place until the school is handed over in June.

Was the flood identified as a risk at the start of the development?

Following a heavy downpour in October/ November 2010 residents of Canonbie Lea experienced flooding. At the time, this was attributed to the fact that the site drainage had not been completed and the water off the fields and the temporary car park ran into the residents gardens. Following this incident full drainage and additional drainage to the standard of a 100 year event and an additional 30% volume has been constructed and approved by the Telford & Wrekin Council engineers. A CCTV report had been commissioned as part of this work to ensure that there were no blockages in the drains.

Members suggested that residents on the periphery of new developments would benefit from having a separate meeting with Council Officers prior to the residents meeting to raise their individual issues with the project.

The Project Director explained that the Council would be working with residents to resolve local issues as each project commenced, for example working with the residents of Golf Links Lane on the existing parking issue around the Ercall Wood School.

Is it possible to confirm the number of secondary school places in the Borough?

There would be 12,500 school places across the Borough, which has been calculated to take into account the proposed new developments plus 3.5%.

The Assistant Director for Education, Culture & Skills gave a verbal report to Members.

The results of the consultation were:

- The Faith School received 6 positive responses, 9 negative responses and 37 general concerns
- The move from the current Charlton site to the site of the BRJ received 16 positive responses and no negative responses
- The merger of the Sutherland and the Wrockwardine Wood School 2 negative responses, 7 general concerns and 1621 negative photocopied letters which were from either teachers, children or parents.
- Lord Silken School 9 positive responses, no negative responses.

A number of key concerns had been raised during the consultation and the Assistant Director for Education explained to Members what had been done to address these concerns.

- The consultation was extended to accommodate the diocesan engagement with the parishioners regarding the Faith School in Priorslee and to clarify the transport arrangements for the children already attending the Blessed Robert Johnson (BRJ) school and their siblings.
- An analysis of projected pupil numbers was provided to the Diocesan partners which demonstrated that the reduction in the size of the Faith school from 1050 to 900 would still provide ample places for those seeking a place on the grounds of faith.
- The dioceses were also informed that the contract for each project included the option to add extra classrooms onto the schools accommodating 150 pupils should the number of pupils rise in the future.
- Following the consultation, the original provision for places, had been increased at the new Oakengates Leisure Centre site school from 1050 to 1200 to accommodate the current projected numbers for pupils attending the school. The parents and staff from the Wrockwardine Wood and Sutherland Schools acknowledged that they wanted the lessons from a previous merger to be taken into consideration in this merger. .
- The third concern raised by the residents of Salisbury Avenue was the site of the new Faith school. The proposed sites were initially the site owned by Ricoh, the site on Salisbury Avenue and the old Celestica site by the lake. To assist in the decision making, representatives of the Priorslee Action Group had been invited to meet officers to discuss their concerns. Since the start of the consultation the Ricoh site was no longer available and the preferred site is the site to the right of

the Garden Centre on Salisbury Avenue. As part of this proposal a traffic survey would be completed.

- Engineers had been asked about the potential to put the Southall School onto the site of the Lord Silkin, but the site analysis highlighted that it would not be large enough to fit all the schools and the skills centre together.
- The 16+ Centre based at the Lord Silkin School was considered a necessary part of the regeneration assisting in tackling unemployment in Brookside and Stirchley.
- The Head of Southall School had been assured that Southall School would continue to be developed as an important part of the programme, although it could not be amalgamated onto the same site as a mainstream school.

Following the report, a number of issues were raised by Members:

Sue Harris the Headteacher at the Shortwood Primary School had raised the issue of ensuring that the consultation takes place with the primary schools that feed into the proposed new secondary schools.

All feeder schools had been invited to take part in the consultation and 11,000 invitations were sent to parents.

The Committee had previously recommended that the Headteacher's and staff did not lead the consultation meetings. Has this been taken into consideration for the next phase of the consultation?

This has been taken into consideration and all meetings had since been led by Council Officers.

There have been concerns raised that the people who have taken part in the consultation have not received feedback.

The staff at both the Wrockwardine Wood and the Sutherland Schools are both onboard with the merger and the school now needs to market its vision for the future.

As areas are developed and pupil numbers increase, at what point does the project receive more money from the government to support the rising pupil numbers?

The current projections allow for the housing developments up until 2018 plus an additional 3.5% of children. Also there is already a reduction in revenue for primary aged children so there would not be an increase in the money available to the Council.

Can academies dictate the numbers of pupils they enrol?

The academies are able to dictate the number of pupils they accept which could be a problem if school places have been projected. However, we have maintained good relationships with the academies and will continue to work to do so.

What is the split between the age ranges for the Faith school?

There will be places for 750 pupils aged 11-16 years and 150 sixth form places.

How many year 6 pupils are eligible to go to the Faith School and will there be enough places if all the pupils from Priorslee Primary and Redhill Primary want to attend?

Having assessed previous trends only about 50% of the pupils from the Priorslee would be applying to attend the Faith School. However, as with all BSF schools should the pupil numbers increase in the future then the school could be extended as part of the brief that the developers have received to design buildings with the potential to expand.

While it is superb that the Faith school will have post 16 provision and it is understood why there is no post 16 provision on the Oakengates Leisure Centre site, it is still a concern that there is no post 16 provision at Oakengates.

The reason that there is no post 16 provision at Oakengates is that the site could not accommodate 16 + provision.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Director for Education, Culture & Skills provides an update to the Committee in 6 months time.

CYPSC-49 CHILD POVERTY

The Service Delivery Manager for Early Intervention updated Members on progress made following the workshop in October and highlighted that child poverty is the symptom of something else that is happening to the child or the family which could be one or a number of factors such as low aspirations, the community that they live in, failing to engage in school or financial difficulties.

- The Assistant Director for Family & Cohesion Services said that the Council would be using the principles of the Government's Social Justice Strategy to tackle worklessness, family poverty, education issues, drug or alcohol dependency and debt.
- A Strengthening Families Task Force had been set up to oversee early intervention projects aimed at improving life chances by supporting families to reduce their need to access more costly personalised intervention, such as child protection.
- The Service Delivery Manager for Early Intervention reiterated that part of the early intervention is to strengthen existing projects supporting families by engaging with communities and exploring ways of creating community ambassadors.
- The Woodside & Sutton Hill Family Groups had existed for over 20 years and had continued to flourish. Telford & Wrekin Council had continued to support the Family Groups in partnership with the Children's Centre for the last 8 years. The Family Groups had provided a necessary contact into the community which had led to families who needed support then going on to trust the Council and be able to gain access to more services. The difficulty in the current climate for small groups was to identify funding opportunities as lottery funding is normally accessed by larger groups..
- A need had been identified to strengthen the bid writing capacity of small groups involved in early intervention. A brief had been put together to help enable groups to bid for funding as not-for-profit organisations.

- In the recent allocation of early intervention funding several bids were received and a combined bid from the Woodside/ Sutton Hill groups and Home Start allowed them to meet the funding criteria.
The funding amount received by the Sutton Hill group will be lower than previously but they will continue to engage with the hard to reach communities but with a narrower range of services.

The Assistant Director for Family & Cohesion Services gave the Members an update on what has happened since December's meeting.

- The service restructure had been completed and a new approach was being undertaken to tackle the issues..
- The Government is making £380,000 of funding available for the Council to tackle troubled families. These are families who may be involved in crime, anti social behaviour, truanting from school, or be out of work. These families can be a high cost to the public purse.
- The Government has also set aside £500,000 as part of the European Social Fund to tackle worklessness.
- The Council would be required to identify families that need intervention. The finances available will mean there are gaps in provision which would mean that the Council would be working in partnership with other organisations.
- Once the Council had identified the families most in need of support, they would be checked against the list held by Job Centre Plus.
- The strengthening Families Task Force would work with the Community Engagement Team to engage with communities
- Family Connect the first point of contact for Children's Services would aim to ensure that the public have enough confidence in the service to contact the Council.
- The findings from the Poverty workshops would be fed into the work of the Strengthening Families Task Force

Following the report, officers responded to a number of questions and comments made by Members:

Young people living in poverty outside one of the areas named as being an area of social deprivation may not get access to the resources of other young people in an area of social deprivation.

The Assistant Director for Family & Cohesion Services said that this would be tackled using the new approach to considering poverty.

Members recommended that the Telford Council of Churches is contacted regarding the fact that there is no diocese representation in the Strengthening Families Task Force,

This information will be forwarded to the Director of Children Services.

Members know the issues in their wards and it would seem sensible to work with them. Often residents will call the Member so that they remain anonymous rather than calling the Police.

The Assistant Director for Family & Cohesion Services said that the Members and the Police would be engaged.

Members remarked that Home Start had been successful in securing funding and had assisted the community with parenting skills and developing volunteering skills.

The acceptance by the community is something that is essential which is why local volunteers and Ambassadors are crucial.

How will we know that the Project had made any impact?

What indicators have been written into the project?

Each of the five areas will have to identify approaches and indicators to ensure that the project is a success. The Family Intervention Project measures the level that the family starts on and continues to monitor success throughout the project. This or a similar model may be used.

Families have multiple factors that affect the reason why they are in poverty, how would these be addressed?

An holistic approach will be taken to tackle multiple problems such as attendance at school, long term unemployment, crime and anti-social behaviour. The cost effectiveness of the approach would be measured.

In the past troubled families had cost the government around £9bn a year, £8bn of which was spent on the effects or impact that the families had caused in the community and £1bn was spent on supporting the families. The aim was to re address the balance of this by increasing expenditure on supporting young people. For each of the troubled families identified by the Council a total of £4,000 would be paid, of which £3,200 would be the attachment fee and £800 would be awarded if the intervention was successful which would be measured by each child achieving 60% attendance at school and not been involved in any anti social behaviour for the last 6 months.

Would it be possible for Scrutiny to receive this data quarterly as long as it is anonymous?

It is possible for Scrutiny to have this information but the benefits are not expected to be seen until the 2nd year.

Is there a Member of staff in school who will be working with the Council to tackle issues of low attendance?

Family Connect has been launched as a single point of contact for children's and family services. Schools have been encouraged to contact Family Connect to report truancy issues which would feed into the overall picture about problem families. The single point of contact which has been launched and encourages schools to contact them, to ensure that the whole picture is captured for problem families. It is thought that either the Headteacher or the Learning Mentor would contact Family Connect.

A member commented that it is important is to set realistic targets and there needs to be a realisation that the Council would not be successful with every family.

Members commented that an opportunity has been raised that Magistrates may be available to work with excluded young people to stop them getting in to further trouble.

Have you thought about the people who have been involved in anti social behaviour but have then become model citizens?

This is what the Strengthening Families Task Force will be aiming to achieve working alongside professionals such as the Adult Social Workers who for example will support those involved in drug abuse.

A sub group of Members from the Committee made a site visit to the Sutton Hill Family Group which seemed to be the kind of model that the Council were looking to support. However, a few weeks later in the local press it said that the group had run out of funding and was closing. How can this have happened?

Unfortunately for the group it had not been successful in securing funding. It then turned to the Council who were not able to offer assistance without contravening the procurement processes that are in place. The group were invited to bid for early intervention funding and merged with Home Start and the Woodside Family group in a bid, which was successful.

There are groups with great volunteers that lack the management or financial skills to put together funding bids. How can the Council support volunteers to acquire these skills?

The Council is considering how to support voluntary groups to develop their capacity to secure funding, possibly through CVS.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Director for Family & Cohesion Services reports back to Scrutiny quarterly.

CYPSC-50 FORWARD PLAN

Cllr Mike Ion requested that the Children in Care performance monitoring information should be included on the agenda for future meetings. The Chair agreed that this would be included on the agenda for the next meeting. .

The next meeting was scheduled for 22nd May 2012 for Members to receive a report on the Children's Autism Strategy.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm

Chairman:

Date:

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday,
14th March 2012 at 6.00 p.m. in the Civic Offices, Telford, Shropshire**

PRESENT:

Councillors D. White (Chairman), V. Fletcher, J. Seymour, C. Turley. Scrutiny Co-optees, D. Davies, J. Gulliver, R. Shaw.

Also Present: Cllrs. G. Green, J. Greenaway (Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee); Kate Race, Development Manager Autism West Midlands; Jessica Cook, Research Manager Autism West Midlands; Michael Bennett, Lead Joint Commissioning and Contracting Manager; Sara Heath, Autonomy Shropshire; Karen Kalinowski, Assistant Director Care & Support; Richard Smith, Access & Enablement Manager; Stephanie Jones, Scrutiny Group Specialist.

HSC-17 MINUTES

RESOLVED - The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th November 2011 be agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

HSC-18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. J. Loveridge

HSC-19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

HSC-20 AUTISM WEST MIDLANDS AND AUTISM STATUTORY GUIDANCE

Kate Race, Development Manager, and Jessica Cook, Research Manager, briefed members on the work of Autism West Midlands. A briefing note on the Autism Statutory Guidance issued in 2010 had been circulated to members.

Autism West Midlands (AWM) is a registered charity providing specialist autism care and support to people in the West Midlands and works with nationally and regionally to support the development and implementation of Autism strategies.

Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) are very complex and range from high functioning conditions to a requirement for full-time, one-to-one support. The Autism Act 2009 was the first disability specific legislation. The statutory guidance issued in 2010 set out clear guidelines for local authorities and health bodies and aimed to close gaps in services. AWM was working to address issues in several key areas:

- Training – awareness training for health and social care workers and for other staff in key roles e.g. GPs, practice managers and receptionists, police etc. Specialist training for assessors so they ask the right questions to diagnose conditions and assess needs.
- Diagnosis and assessment – there is an issue with autism going undiagnosed or misdiagnosed so that individuals do not access support or are directed to the wrong kind of support which is not in their interests and can be unnecessarily costly

for the authority. There was a lack practitioners in the region qualified to diagnose autism – only 2 in the West Midlands. AWM and Birmingham University are working to secure funding for a regional Autism Diagnostic and Assessment Centre, drawing on experts and qualified professionals from across the region, to provide pre- and post-diagnosis support. Further updates on this would be provided to members.

- Employment – work with partners and businesses to help people with autism – especially Aspergers and higher functioning conditions – into work. 85% of adults diagnosed with autism are not in full-time paid employment.
- Transition – training transition teams to ensure young people are referred for assessment once they reach adulthood. Many individuals are not diagnosed until adulthood and miss out on key stages of support.
- Criminal justice system – a disproportionate number of people end up in the criminal justice system because of autism linked behaviour. Awareness training is being given to the police to help them recognise the condition and deal with individuals appropriately. In some areas people carry “Attention!” cards to let the authorities know they have been diagnosed with autism.
- Data gathering – work with Birmingham City Council to map provision and identify which individuals are accessing different types of support so that outcomes can be monitored over time. The data recorded will inform future commissioning and service configuration decisions.

A Regional Autism Implementation Board made up of 14 West Midlands Authorities, including Telford & Wrekin, meets quarterly to share information and ideas. The Board had flagged up employment as a key issue.

The key message was that early identification of ASC and the right preventative support leads to better outcomes for the individual and can save the authority money.

Following the presentation there was further questioning and discussion about various points. The following further information was given:

- Start-up funding for the regional diagnostic and assessment centre was being agreed and it was hoped the centre would be open within 12 months. Commissioning leads had been supportive and there had been discussions about releasing experts to the centre to pool expertise. Work was being done to show the cost-benefit of diagnosis and early intervention support. The centre would be a research facility and models were being developed for authorities to do their own research. There would be sign-posting to other services. Alternative sources of funding were being looked at but funding remained an issue with cuts to public health budgets. Local authorities would be able to buy into the service – further information about services would be provided.
- Members raised the issue of ASC not being recognised or diagnosed in school so that children with autistic linked behaviour are labelled as naughty and disruptive and miss out on the right support. The Autism Act does not cover children. AWM was lobbying for this to be changed in future. There was a need for more awareness training with teachers and GPs and to have clear referral paths.
- A member asked whether there were people who choose not to have a diagnosis

and what is being done to help them. KR replied that decisions about diagnosis remain a personal choice and this has to be respected. There was a far greater number who do want a diagnosis but cannot get one and therefore cannot access support and this was one of the reasons for the diagnostic and assessment centre.

HSC-21 TELFORD & WREKIN ALL AGE AUTISTIC SPECTRUM
CONDITIONS STRATEGY

Michael Bennett, Lead Joint Commissioning and Contracting Manager, gave a presentation highlighting the key elements of the Telford & Wrekin All Age Autism Spectrum Conditions Strategy as circulated to members. The presentation summarised the local context, key priorities for adults and children, the self-assessment and progress to date. Key priorities had been identified as training and needs analysis.

Addressing concerns about the loss of the Aspergers' Senior Practitioner post, members were informed that the rationale in the new structure was to embed skills and knowledge across the team to provide a more consistent approach across the service. The specialist post had been extended to transfer skills during the transition and was involved in staff training. A skills audit had identified two members of staff with Autism degrees who would become part of a virtual team. The Council had commissioned training for all front-line staff. Champions had been identified across the Council to raise awareness and transfer knowledge to other service areas such as housing, employment etc.

The Evaluating Progress self assessment framework had been used to measure progress against 7 quality outcomes for adults and had also been applied to children. A number of gaps in service had been identified and were shown in section 11 of the Strategy. The development of pathways and the need to do more work with parents and teachers had also been flagged up.

It was emphasised that although there had been progress, this work was in the very early stages and it would take time for the new structure to bed-in and for the plans to be implemented. Some non-recurring development funding had been identified for this year, but no new money was available and the service must be delivered within existing resources.

The Draft Strategy was out for consultation and once finalised would go to the Council's Cabinet and full Council for ratification.

Following the presentation there was further questioning and discussion. Members were particularly concerned about children and young people with autistic conditions who are not diagnosed and are not eligible for support. Members heard from a parent of a child with autism who was present at the meeting about the difficulties parents face in getting a diagnosis. In this particular case, support had only been put in place when the parent had pushed the case to a tribunal. There was also concern that young people disappear out of the system at 16+ and without the necessary support could reappear later in hospital, mental health services or the criminal justice system. The following points were made in response:

- The Young People Transition & Enablement team had been moved from CYP to adult services to align the service with adult care. This included the old 16+ team which supports care leavers. Workshops were being held to develop clear transition pathways from CYP through to adult services.
- It was recognised that schools have a key role to play in recognising autistic conditions so that children can be diagnosed and statemented and are not labelled as naughty and disruptive. Children with autistic conditions may have different behaviour which leads to bullying and harassment. The transition team was working with Deputy Heads to reach into schools and identify a champion in each school. The intention was to work with teachers and parents to map the needs of children down to age 14. The Autism Act did not cover education and the legislation made this challenging. The transition team was taking an enabling approach to put the right support in place for the long term. Members suggested that governors could provide another route into schools and could play a monitoring role.
- An audit had flagged up the need for more training with the probation service and magistrates and this was happening in Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire.
- It was acknowledged that low level preventative services can make a big difference and are cost effective, and that voluntary groups have their own energy. However, funding was an issue as there was no new money for autism and from the commissioner's point of view voluntary groups did not have the required governance or accountability structures to enable them to access public money. Support could be provided to help voluntary groups to become formally established.
- Sara Heath from Autonomy commented that there is a diagnostic service in Telford & Wrekin but that it is not specifically commissioned. There are clinicians with a good understanding of autism but there is an issue with capacity.
- There had been some slippage on the Implementation Plan because the lead officer had left, but the vacancy had now been filled and it was hoped that most actions could be pulled back on track although there may be some that would be behind. The plan would be updated.

HSC-22 AUTONOMY SHROPSHIRE

Sara Heath presented members with information about Autonomy Shropshire. Autonomy was an independent voluntary self-help and social group for young people and adults with Asperger's Syndrome (AS) and high functioning autism spectrum conditions (HFCs). The group was set up about 8 years ago and was run by Sara and her son who had been diagnosed with autism age 14. The group was not for adults with learning difficulties who were eligible for support and filled a gap in provision for people who were not eligible.

AS was complex and not well-understood. Characteristics are poor communication and social skills, rigid thought patterns and behaviour, sometimes associated with alcohol problems, but often with special talents and potential. This made it a challenge motivating people to attend social events and they would only return if they really got what they wanted.

Autonomy provides advice and support, mentoring and advocacy, a telephone help line, a bi-monthly newsletter, a website with a photo-gallery, regular social activities and outings such as pubs, folk evenings, bowling, chess and board games.

There were around 185 members across Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin and membership was increasing. The Telford pub socials attracted upward of 20 each month, and upward of 15 in Shrewsbury.

Activities helped members to learn communication and social skills and appropriate behaviour, engendered a sense of community and, importantly, enabled people to make friends. Most people with AS live with their parents and the group provided respite for carers knowing their child is safe, happy and enjoying themselves. The social events also helped to increase the public's understanding about AS – incidents which were interpreted as inappropriate behaviour could be explained as AS linked.

The low level support provided was key to enabling people to live fulfilling lives and preventing them from slipping into mental health services or into the criminal justice system.

Autonomy Plus+ Training had been set up as a social enterprise which drew on the skills and experience within the group to provide training in autism and AS. This included professional training and personal insights into living with the condition. Trainers were charged out at the going rate and the profit was used to fund social activities so they could remain free of charge to members.

The annual budget was less than £2,000 which came from grants, donations and training. A grant from Shropshire Council had been used to fund Autonomy for Women.

The group was developing pre- and post-diagnostic support. Pre- diagnostic assessments were offered in Telford and Wrekin, but the services were embryonic and there was less provision than in Shropshire.

Members considered all the information that had been provided, and agreed a number of recommendations relating to the Autism Strategy and Action Plan.

RECOMMENDED

- **That the CYP Scrutiny Committee should look at the children's autism strategy in more detail.**
- **That commissioners should look at what support, financial or otherwise, could be provided to voluntary organisations to help them deliver low level support services.**

- **That commissioners should look at utilising low level support providers to help give staff appropriate hands-on training.**
- **That autism mapping and needs analysis information gathered must feed into the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.**
- **That a progress report will be brought back to the Health Scrutiny Committee within 12 months of the meeting in March 2012.**

HSC-23 FORWARD PLAN

Members noted the date of the next meeting on 1st May which would be to look at the Health & Wellbeing Board, HealthWatch and the transition of Public Health. The Chairman of the Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Board would also be invited.

Members discussed scrutiny of Quality Accounts. All NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts are required to publish annual Quality Accounts and have a duty to consult with Scrutiny Committees. There were four Quality Accounts relevant to the Telford & Wrekin Health Scrutiny Committee: the Shrewsbury & Telford NHS Hospital Trust (SaTH), the Community Trust, the West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) and the South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (SSSFT). Each organisation has their own timetable for consulting on the Quality Accounts, but the drafts were due out for consultation from April onwards, prior to publication in June. Members agreed that scrutiny of all Quality Accounts would require a large amount of time and resource and therefore prioritised the work as follows:

- Sub-group meetings would be set up to look at the SaTH and Community Trust draft Quality Accounts and to formulate a response.
- The SSSFT draft Quality Account would be circulated to members to decide whether a response would be made.
- The Committee had no overriding concerns about the WMAS and would therefore not respond to the Quality Accounts.

The Chairman drew the members' attention to a discussion at the West Midlands Regional Health Scrutiny Chairs' meeting which he had attended the previous day. It had been reported that a CfPS Health Accountability meeting had been held on 12th March to look at the role of scrutiny in the new health arrangements, and what should be included in the regulations and guidance from the Bill. The Chairman from Warwickshire Council had attended the meeting to represent the West Midlands network. A response had been drafted and individual authorities were asked to consider and support the comments which would then be submitted to the CfPS and Department of Health on behalf of the West Midlands network authorities. The response would be to inform the draft regulations and guidance which would then go out for consultation.

The comments from the meeting were tabled and discussed. Members supported the comments and agreed that the Scrutiny Officer would confirm with that the Telford & Wrekin Health Scrutiny Committee supported the submission of the response.

Cllr. Fletcher brought up a suggestion which she had made at the previous Scrutiny Management Board meeting to look at Ophthalmology Services. Problems had come to her attention with very long waiting times at the clinic with no refreshments, issues with transport, and a recent press report about claims that waiting times had led to people going blind. Members agreed that this should be referred to the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to look into.

RESOLVED

- **That the Committee support the West Midlands Health Scrutiny network response to the scrutiny regulations and guidance from the Health & Social Care Bill.**

- **That Ophthalmology Services be referred to the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee for investigation.**

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

Chairman:

Date:

PLANS BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Plans Board held on Wednesday, 25 April 2012 at 6.00pm in the Reception Suite, Civic Offices, Telford, Shropshire

PRESENT: Councillors J C Minor (Chairman), N A Dugmore, K R Guy, I T W Fletcher, R T Kiernan, J Loveridge, S A W Reynolds, R J Sloan (as substitute for Councillor A S Jhwar) and C R Turley

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors A J Eade and A A Meredith (for planning application TWC/2011/0916)

PB-104 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Board held on 11 April 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman

PB-105 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor A S Jhwar

PB-106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors J Loveridge and C R Turley declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in planning application TWC/2012/0203, being Members of Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council.

PB-107 DEFERRED/WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED – that planning application TWC/2012/0011 be withdrawn at the applicant's request.

PB-108 SITE VISITS

RESOLVED – that the following applications be deferred for Site Visits to take place on Wednesday, 16 May 2012:

- (a) TWC/2012/0109 – 3.45pm – The Swan, A442, Waters Upton, Shropshire, TF6 6NP; and
- (b) TWC/2012/0128 – 4.30pm – 16 Frame Lane, Doseley, Telford, Shropshire, TF4 3BQ

PB-109 PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR DETERMINATION

Members had received a schedule of planning applications to be determined by the Board and fully considered each report and the supplementary information tabled at the meeting regarding planning applications TWC/2011/0916, TWC/2012/0203 and TWC/2012/0228.

(a) TWC/2011/0916 Land To The West Of, Station Road, Newport, Shropshire

This was an application for the erection of a new food store, highway works and associated infrastructure and landscaping. The proposed development would be served by a new access from Station Road formed by a proposed three arm roundabout. This access would also serve the adjoining land that formed part of the site of an outline application for mixed use housing and employment uses (application reference TWC/2011/0871). An important part of the application was the proposal to divert footpath CA2, Hutchison Way around the edge of the site. Full details of the proposals were set out in the report. In addition, a lengthy update report was tabled at the meeting which addressed additional consultation responses and further issues raised and Members were given some time to read this in detail. The Planning Officer also reminded Members of the site visit undertaken on 22 February 2012 which included the proposed development sites at Audley Avenue and Station Road in conjunction with an overview of the High Street.

The Planning Officer reminded Members that the principle of Station Road being the sequentially preferable site for development had been considered at the meeting of the Plans Board on 28 March 2012 when the Board unanimously voted to oppose development at Audley Avenue on the basis that Station Road as a sequentially preferable site could also accommodate the store of the size proposed at Audley Avenue. It was explained that an appeal against non-determination of the Audley Avenue application had been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate and that this appeal was due to be heard at an inquiry commencing mid-May. Members were, therefore, asked to consider whether the Station Road site could accommodate the larger development proposed by this application in terms of retail impact and planning considerations.

Cllr R Parsons representing Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish Council spoke in opposition to the application focussing upon the impact on drainage infrastructure and ecology.

Cllr S Stacey representing Church Aston Parish Council spoke to oppose to the application which he considered to be contrary to the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and, subject to the outcome of the Mere Park and Audley Avenue applications, there may be a cumulative impact. There was also an outstanding Village Green application for the site.

Cllr R Pitt representing Newport Town Council spoke against the application which he considered would impact upon the vibrancy of the town. He expressed concern that the land was being sold to fill a funding gap and also regarding the cumulative impact of possible development at three sites in the town. He was concerned that the edge of centre location would have a detrimental impact upon the High Street. He also raised issues of predetermination and personal liability.

Cllr A A Meredith, Borough Ward Member for Newport South spoke in opposition to the application, highlighting the potential impact on the High Street and existing supermarkets and the subsequent effect on local residents. He argued that the

potential loss of jobs on the High Street would not be off set by the jobs created by the development which would not be guaranteed for local people.

Cllr A J Eade, Borough Ward Member for Church Aston & Lilleshall spoke to oppose the application, on the grounds of it being a departure from the LDF and contrary to the NPPF, local need had not be adequately demonstrated, the site was Greenfield land, planning balance and the issue of job creation versus job loss on the High Street.

Mr A Ingram, of Barton Willmore representing Waitrose and Mr M Saunders, of NJL Consulting representing the Co-Operative Group both spoke in opposition to the application. Mr Ingram raised the impact the development would have upon the town centre businesses in terms of reducing linked trade which was currently provided by Waitrose, need and cumulative impact. Mr Saunders echoed these comments and also referred to the written submissions made by the Co-Operative. He suggested that the proposals compromised the LDF, failed the sequential test and requirements of NPPF. He concluded that the proposed development did not present a commercially attractive situation for the existing Co-Operative supermarket.

Mr M Robeson, the Applicant's Agent, spoke in support of the application highlighting consumer choice, competition, retail trade clawback, enhancement to bus services, improved highway safety and traffic flow and job creation. He referred to the extensive public consultation which had taken place. With regard to cumulative impact, he asserted his opinion that it was unlikely that another supermarket chain had contractually committed to the Mere Park site.

The Legal Advisor addressed Members regarding the issue of personal liability which had been raised during the public speaking presentations and advised that any threat of claims against individuals should be disregarded.

The Planning Officer provided a verbal summary of the main report and summarised the consultation responses set out in the update report tabled at the meeting, particularly drawing attention to Highways issues, comments of the Arboricultural Officer, planning considerations in relation to the NPPF and LDF, ecology, the Village Green application, rights of way, the position with regard to the Mere Park site and planning obligations regarding an appropriate highways infrastructure contribution.

The Planning Officer reaffirmed Plans Board's previous decision that the Station Road site was sequentially preferable in principle and that it was also sequentially preferable for the size of store proposed in this application. He also advised that the site was available, suitable and viable. Turning to the impacts tests in NPPF, the Planning Officer advised that Members should concentrate on the second impact test relating to the impact on town centre vitality and viability, consumer choice and trade diversion from the town centre. The addition of the Mere Park Garden Centre as a potential open-ended A1 retail use had been considered by the Council's retail consultants and Members were advised that the likely impacts arising from a combination of Mere Park and the application site on the town centre would not be significantly adverse. The Planning Officer advised Plans Board that the proposal would result in qualitative improvements and improve consumer choice. In addition,

as set out in the update report, it was believed that the requests for sums for monitoring contributions and Public Art were CIL compliant and should be paid.

Councillor K R Guy noted that the report stated that the proposals would provide employment for 274 fte posts and asked whether the White Young Green (WYG) Retail Appraisal report provided a figure for the potential loss of jobs which was referred to in the speakers' presentations. The Planning Officer confirmed that this figure was not given in the appraisal.

Councillor N A Dugmore raised concerns regarding the retail impact assessment, acceptance of the sequential test at the meeting on 28 March 2012, the potential challenge to the Mere Park application, the lack of an Environmental Impact Assessment, drainage and questioned the weight of the site visit in the absence of a full report. He concluded that the application was contrary to planning policy (particularly referencing the NPPF and Core Strategy Policies CS6 and, CS9) and would impact the viability of the town centre and impact upon existing retailers.

Councillor R J Sloan considered that this was a difficult decision, particularly in assessing the potential adverse impact on existing local retailers. However, he believed that the sequential test was satisfied by unanimous vote and asked for clarification.

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist confirmed that a unanimous vote accepting Station Road as more sequentially preferable site had been recorded in the approved minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2012. He also advised that he had been in attendance at the site visit on 22 February 2012 when all relevant information regarding all relevant sites had been provided. He advised that the advice in WYG's Retail Appraisal was clear and that, although the Planning Inspector's decision on the Mere Park application was open to challenge, development at the application site was acceptable whether or not the proposals for Mere Park proceeded.

Councillor I T W Fletcher considered that the application was contrary to planning policy CS6, CS7 and CS8. He acknowledged that in refusing planning permission for the nearby Audley Avenue site, a sequential preference had been expressed for this application site at Station Road on the basis that transport links were marginally better, however, he considered that the impact that the larger proposals before the Board would have on the vitality and viability of the town should be considered. After carefully considering all the information available to him, he felt that the proposals would create a severe adverse impact which would undermine efforts to strengthen Newport as a market town.

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist reminded the Board that the Retail Appraisal was clear in recognising that the potential impact on the town centre would not be so detrimental as to justify refusal of the application. He also advised that in the Planning Officer's opinion, the application was consistent with the LDF and could, therefore, be supported on those grounds.

Councillor S A W Reynolds noted comments regarding developing Greenfield land over Brownfield and asked whether there was a Brownfield site anywhere within the

Town Centre which would accommodate the proposals, or if the application site was the only location which could accommodate the proposals. The Planning Officer advised that Officers and the Retail Consultants had considered other sites available and concluded that there were no other sites available which would accommodate a development of this size.

Councillor R T Kiernan advised that he had visited the site on the day of the meeting and he had noted a lot of flooding at the site due to the inclement weather. He noted the views of the local residents who were largely not in favour of a large supermarket, but rather a smaller low-cost option to provide competition and consumer choice. He believed that the proposals would result in a net loss of jobs and was concerned that the proposals represented industrial rape of a Greenfield site. He concluded that the site should be preserved.

Councillor K R Guy acknowledged the comments made during the debate and whilst he had sympathy with some of the views expressed and noted local opposition to the proposals. However, he concluded that on the basis of planning policy and strategy the application should not be refused.

At the end of the debate, Councillor Guy proposed, seconded by Councillor R J Sloan, the recommendations set out in the update report. In accordance with Committee Procedure Rule 12 and at the request of Councillors I T W Fletcher and K R Guy, a recorded vote was taken, the voting being as follows:

For: 6
Councillors K R Guy, J Loveridge, J C Minor, S A W Reynolds, R J Sloan and C R Turley

Against: 3
Councillors N A Dugmore, I T W Fletcher and R T Kiernan

Abstentions: 0

RESOLVED – that the application be referred to the Secretary of State under ‘The Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009’ and subject to confirmation from the Secretary of State that he does not wish to call-in the application for determination and subject to the Council as landowner providing an appropriate memorandum prior to the issue of the planning permission agreeing that the land will be bound by the obligations in the event of the sale of the land in respect of the provision of a sum of monies comprising a contribution of up to £907,508 for the provision of major highway schemes, £600,000 towards public transport; £10,000 towards public transport infrastructure; £5,000 for monitoring of the store travel plan £50,000 for the commissioning of public art on or off site as may be subsequently agreed, an appropriate commuted sum for open space maintenance if required to be adopted and £15,000 for monitoring of financial and planning covenants, the Assistant Director: Planning Specialist is authorised to grant planning permission, subject to the conditions detailed in the report and other conditions deemed necessary (authority to finalise conditions and reasons for approval to be delegated to the Assistant Director – Planning Specialist).

(b) TWC/2012/0203 The Rose & Crown PH, Stirchley, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 1DY

This was a full planning application seeking the change of use of part of an existing car park into a hand car wash facility at The Rose & Crown public house off Stirchley Road in Stirchley.

Ms G Bailey, Deputy Clerk of Stirchley & Brookside Parish Council spoke in opposition to the proposals. The Parish Council considered that the site was inappropriate for this development and raised concerns that a further application would be made for signage. She raised issues regarding highway safety, loss of amenity, noise, water contamination and the lack of an Environmental Impact Assessment, parking and the possibility of the site becoming an unofficial taxi rank.

Mr R Breeze and Mr A Watkin, local residents also spoke against the application. Mr Breeze asserted that the site would have an adverse impact upon the bridleway, highways issues, noise associated with increasing traffic and questioned whether the planning permission in place for the site to the North of the proposed site had been taken into consideration. Mr Watkin echoed these comments, particularly expressing concern for the potential for statutory noise nuisance and the lack of consultation with the Environment Agency.

The Planning Officer referred Members to the report which indicated that the Highways Authority had no objection and that consultation with the Environment Agency was not necessary in this case. Issues regarding use as a taxi rank and noise nuisance would be addressed, if they occurred, by the Licensing Authority and Environmental Health respectively. The applicant was keen to work with the Council's drainage engineer to reach satisfactory drainage conditions. She further noted a restriction on the hours of operation. The Planning Officer had, therefore, recommended that the application be granted on a temporary basis, with renewal being subject to assessment.

Councillor N A Dugmore noted that Severn Trent Water had strongly recommended that the applicant contact the Trade Effluent Support Desk and questioned whether this had been done. He also considered that the photographs illustrated the site to be much closer to the nearest residential property than set out in the report. The Planning Officer advised that contact between Severn Trent and the applicant had not yet occurred but her understanding was the applicant did intend to make contact. She also confirmed that the measurement from the drying area to the nearest corner of a residential property was 30m. Councillor J C Minor asked how any proposed drainage conditions would be enforced and was advised that the drainage engineer would work with the applicant to agree conditions. Councillor R J Sloan questioned the status of the bridle path and the nearby planning permission referred to. The Planning Officer advised that this information was not known. Upon questioning by Councillor C R Turley, the Planning Officer advised that the proposals had not met the consultation criteria set by the Environmental Agency and they had, therefore, not been approached.

A proposal to defer the application was made and seconded from the floor. Following a vote it was unanimously:

RESOLVED – that determination of planning application TWC/2012/0203 be deferred to allow the Local Planning Authority to seek confirmation as to whether Northwood Terrace or other nearby track is designated as a bridle path and whether there is a site subject to an active planning permission to the near North of the site.

(c) TWC/2012/0228 Highway Verge, St Georges Square, Gower Street, St Georges, Telford, Shropshire

Members had received a report setting out the details of this application which sought determination as to whether prior approval was required in relation to the siting and appearance of a 15 metre high slim line telecommunications monopole on the North West corner of the mini-roundabout in the centre of St Georges, with a new equipment cabinet at its base. This would be a site sharing facility for Vodafone and O2, companies which had entered into a sharing agreement applicable across the country to reduce the overall number of installations required and thereby reduce the environmental impact of network development. The application was submitted to seek to find an alternative location following the refusal of a 15 metre high monopole in Gower Street (planning application reference TWC/2011/0158) in April 2011. Additional consultation responses were summarised in an update report tabled at the meeting.

St Georges and Priorslee Parish Council had requested that the determination should be considered by the Plans Board.

Councillor R Williams representing St Georges and Priorslee Parish Council spoke to oppose the application on the grounds that it was in close proximity to a care home and primary school, the site was a focal point for local people to congregate, the height of the proposed monopole was disproportionate to existing buildings and street furniture, and concluded that this application was only marginally better than the application refused on 18 January 2012.

The Chair reminded Members that the decision whether to give or refuse prior approval had to be based on the siting and appearance of the installation and that whilst there was much public concern concerning the possible adverse health impacts of telecommunication development, consideration of this application should follow the advice given in PPG8, paragraph 98, which detailed the Government's view that the planning system was not the place for determining health safeguards.

Councillor K R Guy noted the limited grounds for refusal but was concerned that the proposed monopole did not compare visually with existing street furniture and would dominate the busy highway. Whilst he acknowledged the need to develop network coverage to meet evolving technological needs, he considered that this application would be visually intrusive. He noted that other monopoles in the borough were shorter in height. The Chair noted that the developer had sought to locate alternative sites in the vicinity but considered that the size of the proposed monopole was out of keeping with existing street furniture. Councillor I T W Fletcher also considered that the proposals adversely affected the street scene and was an inappropriate development at the site. Councillor N A Dugmore echoed comments about the height of the proposed monopole and also considered that the site was inappropriate due to its location in a dense residential area.

There being no proposer that the application be given prior approval, it was proposed and seconded that prior approval not be given.

DETERMINATION:

The Local Planning Authority considered that the proposed 15 metre high slim line telecommunications monopole and its equipment would be unacceptable by reason of being visually intrusive in this location and not in keeping with the street scene. Members were particularly concerned with the height of the monopole and indicated that a shorter monopole would be more acceptable in this location, due to the visual impact at the busy roundabout and the density of residential properties. Prior approval was therefore not given.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm

Chairman:

Date:

PLANS BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Plans Board held on Wednesday, 16 May 2012 at 6.00pm in the Reception Suite, Civic Offices, Telford, Shropshire

PRESENT: Councillors J C Minor (Chairman), N A Dugmore, K R Guy, I T W Fletcher, R T Kiernan, J Loveridge, A A Mackenzie (as substitute for Councillor C R Turley), S A W Reynolds and R J Sloan (as substitute for Councillor A S Jhawar)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor S Bentley (for planning application TWC/2012/0109)

PB-110 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Board held on Wednesday, 25 April 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman

PB-111 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors A S Jhawar and C R Turley

PB-112 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PB-113 DEFERRED/WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

None.

PB-114 SITE VISITS

None.

PB-115 PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR DETERMINATION

Members had received a schedule of planning applications to be determined by the Board and fully considered each report.

(a) TWC/2012/0109 The Swan, A442, Waters Upton, Shropshire, TF6 6NP

This was an outline application for residential development (up to 5 houses) on part of the public house car park and beer garden, with amended access off River Lane. This application had been deferred at the meeting of the Board on 25 April 2012 to enable Members to undertake a site visit. Additional consultation responses had been received since the main report to members, including extensive comments from the Parish Council, and these were detailed in an update report tabled at the meeting.

Ms K Baker, representing Waters Upton Parish Council spoke against the proposals highlighting the use of the public house as an important community facility and the threat to its future viability. Ms Baker also raised highways issues, rapid housing growth and questioned the need for additional affordable housing in the area. The Parish Council were concerned that granting permission for this application would lead to uncontrolled development at the site.

Councillor S Bentley, Borough Ward Councillor, spoke to oppose the application which he viewed as a threat to the long-term future of The Swan as a long-established community

focal point. He raised questions as to whether the plans would impact the viability of the public house as a business, and expressed concern regarding housing need and highways issues pertaining to the proposed entrance to the site.

The Planning Officer referred the Board to the report and displayed plans, which detailed the site and surroundings and clarified the removal of trees and the status of the Right of Way which was not publicly defined. The application was compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework and Policy CS7 of the Core Strategy. The proposed 40% affordable housing was in line with policy requirements. With regard to concerns about the loss of pub car parking spaces, the plan had been amended to reduce the number of houses from 6 to 5 shown on the indicative layout and increase the spaces available to 20. Access to the site could be conditioned and there were no objections from the Local Authority's Highways Engineers

Initially, Members considered that whilst there were valid concerns raised by the Parish Council and Borough Ward Member, the application was in outline only and those concerns could be addressed at a reserved matters application. However, during the debate there was clear lingering concern about the topography of the site and, more particularly, the viability of the public house business should the application be granted, as the application would reduce available parking, available beer garden, and leave no room for future expansion. Members also expressed concern as to whether 40% affordable housing would be financially viable, and did not want this to be approved now and reduced at a later date. In response, the Development Management Planning Manager advised Members that requesting a viability study would assist in providing answers to Members' concerns in order to better inform the decision making process and facilitate a clear decision being made at a future meeting.

RESOLVED – that determination of planning application TWC/2012/0109 be deferred to allow a viability study to be undertaken to demonstrate that the public house would remain a viable business, and that 40% affordable housing is financially viable should the proposals to remove part of the car park and beer garden be approved.

(b) TWC/2012/0116 The Paddock, Arleston Lane, Arleston, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 2LY

This was an application for renewal of extant planning permission W2008/1029 for the demolition of the existing dwelling and redevelopment to provide 12no. dwellings. The original application, W2008/1029 had been allowed by the Planning Inspector at an Inquiry, subject to a Unilateral undertaking that the Applicant provided contributions towards community recreation provision and further subject to conditions. Full details of the Planning Inspector's decision were set out in the report which concluded that the principle of development was acceptable in light of that decision.

Councillor I T W Fletcher noted the details of the Planning Inspector's decision and, in light of that, he proposed planning permission be granted as set out in the officer's recommendation, and this was seconded by Councillor R J Sloan.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2012/0116 planning permission be granted subject to the applicant entering into a Section 106 Agreement to pay £7200 towards the upgrade of community recreation facilities within the vicinity and further subject to the conditions set out in the report.

(c) TWC/2012/0128 16 Frame Lane, Doseley, Telford, Shropshire, TF4 3BQ

This was an application for alterations to a garden boundary (amendment to Planning Permission W2007/0773). This application had been deferred at the meeting of the Board on 25 April 2012 to enable Members to undertake a site visit.

Mr M Humphries, neighbouring resident, spoke in opposition to the application on the grounds that the ownership of the site was in question and he provided some historical background detail to support this claim. He also referred to his desire to erect a garage to the rear of his boundary which had not received approval and that a tree in his ownership would be felled under the plans.

The applicant, Mrs E Hancock, spoke to support the proposals, providing some historical background to explain the reasons for making the application.

The Planning Officer advised the Board that the application represented a material minor amendment as the principal of development had already been agreed under the previous Planning Permission and confirmed that the associated processes, including consultation, reflected that of a new application and had been properly carried out. Referring Members to the Planning History set out in the report, the Planning Officer confirmed that no neighbour comments had been received to the original permission reference W2007/0773. With regard to the neighbour's desire to build a garage to the rear of his boundary, she advised that this would require a change of use application as a section of land was included that had not previously been associated with either dwelling, had not received approval and, therefore, could be afforded little weight. Furthermore, the proposed amended boundary would provide additional garden land offsetting the loss and concerns with overlook could be offset by obscure glazing. The tree referred to by Mr Humphries was not protected and ownership issues could not be considered by the Board, and was therefore left for the applicant and neighbour to resolve.

Members acknowledged that the neighbour dispute could not impact upon planning considerations. Both Councillors N A Dugmore and K R Guy noted the chequered history to this application and following the site visit, on balance Members did not consider that this small amendment would significantly impinge upon the neighbouring site at 16A Frame Lane.

RESOLVED – that that with respect to planning application TWC/2012/0128 planning permission be granted subject to the conditions as set out in the report.

(d) TWC/2012/0203 The Rose & Crown PH, Stirchley, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 1DY

This was an application for change of use from car park to car wash facility. This application had been deferred at the meeting of the Board on 25 April 2012 to allow officers to update Members on several issues. This information, set out in the main report, clarified that the bridleway would not be affected by the proposals since it fell outside the red line, set out details of an outline planning permission for an adjacent site, confirmed that there was no requirement to consult with the Environment Agency as the site did not meet the Agency's checklist criteria, the Environment Agency had since been consulted, but declined to comment and also confirmed that the Council's Drainage Engineer had no objections to the proposal but had requested that a scheme for foul and surface water was submitted and that Severn Trent Water were notified of the proposed car wash facility prior to commencement. The report also detailed an objection received from Stirchley Parish Council.

Mr R Breeze and Mr A Watkin, both local residents, spoke against the application. Mr Breeze considered that the issues he raised at the last meeting had not been satisfactorily answered. He maintained that existing problems with car parking would be exacerbated by the proposals, that the proposals would impact upon an outline planning permission for a site to the North, drainage issues had not been adequately addressed and that the access for emergency vehicles to the Town Park would be hindered. Mr Watkin objected to the proposals on the grounds of potential noise nuisance and a detrimental impact on the environment.

Members were satisfied with the responses to their queries which were detailed in the report and outlined verbally by the Planning Officer and were, therefore, able to support the recommendation to grant planning permission for a temporary period of one year.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2012/0203 planning permission be granted subject to the conditions as set out in the report and further subject to receipt of satisfactory drainage details.

The meeting ended at 7.02pm

Chairman:

Date:

PLANS BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Plans Board held on Wednesday, 16 May 2012 at 6.00pm in the Reception Suite, Civic Offices, Telford, Shropshire

PRESENT: Councillors J C Minor (Chairman), N A Dugmore, K R Guy, I T W Fletcher, R T Kiernan, J Loveridge, A A Mackenzie (as substitute for Councillor C R Turley), S A W Reynolds and R J Sloan (as substitute for Councillor A S Jhawar)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor S Bentley (for planning application TWC/2012/0109)

PB-110 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Board held on Wednesday, 25 April 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman

PB-111 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors A S Jhawar and C R Turley

PB-112 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PB-113 DEFERRED/WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

None.

PB-114 SITE VISITS

None.

PB-115 PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR DETERMINATION

Members had received a schedule of planning applications to be determined by the Board and fully considered each report.

(a) TWC/2012/0109 The Swan, A442, Waters Upton, Shropshire, TF6 6NP

This was an outline application for residential development (up to 5 houses) on part of the public house car park and beer garden, with amended access off River Lane. This application had been deferred at the meeting of the Board on 25 April 2012 to enable Members to undertake a site visit. Additional consultation responses had been received since the main report to members, including extensive comments from the Parish Council, and these were detailed in an update report tabled at the meeting.

Ms K Baker, representing Waters Upton Parish Council spoke against the proposals highlighting the use of the public house as an important community facility and the threat to its future viability. Ms Baker also raised highways issues, rapid housing growth and questioned the need for additional affordable housing in the area. The Parish Council were concerned that granting permission for this application would lead to uncontrolled development at the site.

Councillor S Bentley, Borough Ward Councillor, spoke to oppose the application which he viewed as a threat to the long-term future of The Swan as a long-established community

focal point. He raised questions as to whether the plans would impact the viability of the public house as a business, and expressed concern regarding housing need and highways issues pertaining to the proposed entrance to the site.

The Planning Officer referred the Board to the report and displayed plans, which detailed the site and surroundings and clarified the removal of trees and the status of the Right of Way which was not publicly defined. The application was compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework and Policy CS7 of the Core Strategy. The proposed 40% affordable housing was in line with policy requirements. With regard to concerns about the loss of pub car parking spaces, the plan had been amended to reduce the number of houses from 6 to 5 shown on the indicative layout and increase the spaces available to 20. Access to the site could be conditioned and there were no objections from the Local Authority's Highways Engineers

Initially, Members considered that whilst there were valid concerns raised by the Parish Council and Borough Ward Member, the application was in outline only and those concerns could be addressed at a reserved matters application. However, during the debate there was clear lingering concern about the topography of the site and, more particularly, the viability of the public house business should the application be granted, as the application would reduce available parking, available beer garden, and leave no room for future expansion. Members also expressed concern as to whether 40% affordable housing would be financially viable, and did not want this to be approved now and reduced at a later date. In response, the Development Management Planning Manager advised Members that requesting a viability study would assist in providing answers to Members' concerns in order to better inform the decision making process and facilitate a clear decision being made at a future meeting.

RESOLVED – that determination of planning application TWC/2012/0109 be deferred to allow a viability study to be undertaken to demonstrate that the public house would remain a viable business, and that 40% affordable housing is financially viable should the proposals to remove part of the car park and beer garden be approved.

(b) TWC/2012/0116 The Paddock, Arleston Lane, Arleston, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 2LY

This was an application for renewal of extant planning permission W2008/1029 for the demolition of the existing dwelling and redevelopment to provide 12no. dwellings. The original application, W2008/1029 had been allowed by the Planning Inspector at an Inquiry, subject to a Unilateral undertaking that the Applicant provided contributions towards community recreation provision and further subject to conditions. Full details of the Planning Inspector's decision were set out in the report which concluded that the principle of development was acceptable in light of that decision.

Councillor I T W Fletcher noted the details of the Planning Inspector's decision and, in light of that, he proposed planning permission be granted as set out in the officer's recommendation, and this was seconded by Councillor R J Sloan.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2012/0116 planning permission be granted subject to the applicant entering into a Section 106 Agreement to pay £7200 towards the upgrade of community recreation facilities within the vicinity and further subject to the conditions set out in the report.

(c) TWC/2012/0128 16 Frame Lane, Doseley, Telford, Shropshire, TF4 3BQ

This was an application for alterations to a garden boundary (amendment to Planning Permission W2007/0773). This application had been deferred at the meeting of the Board on 25 April 2012 to enable Members to undertake a site visit.

Mr M Humphries, neighbouring resident, spoke in opposition to the application on the grounds that the ownership of the site was in question and he provided some historical background detail to support this claim. He also referred to his desire to erect a garage to the rear of his boundary which had not received approval and that a tree in his ownership would be felled under the plans.

The applicant, Mrs E Hancock, spoke to support the proposals, providing some historical background to explain the reasons for making the application.

The Planning Officer advised the Board that the application represented a material minor amendment as the principal of development had already been agreed under the previous Planning Permission and confirmed that the associated processes, including consultation, reflected that of a new application and had been properly carried out. Referring Members to the Planning History set out in the report, the Planning Officer confirmed that no neighbour comments had been received to the original permission reference W2007/0773. With regard to the neighbour's desire to build a garage to the rear of his boundary, she advised that this would require a change of use application as a section of land was included that had not previously been associated with either dwelling, had not received approval and, therefore, could be afforded little weight. Furthermore, the proposed amended boundary would provide additional garden land offsetting the loss and concerns with overlook could be offset by obscure glazing. The tree referred to by Mr Humphries was not protected and ownership issues could not be considered by the Board, and was therefore left for the applicant and neighbour to resolve.

Members acknowledged that the neighbour dispute could not impact upon planning considerations. Both Councillors N A Dugmore and K R Guy noted the chequered history to this application and following the site visit, on balance Members did not consider that this small amendment would significantly impinge upon the neighbouring site at 16A Frame Lane.

RESOLVED – that that with respect to planning application TWC/2012/0128 planning permission be granted subject to the conditions as set out in the report.

(d) TWC/2012/0203 The Rose & Crown PH, Stirchley, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 1DY

This was an application for change of use from car park to car wash facility. This application had been deferred at the meeting of the Board on 25 April 2012 to allow officers to update Members on several issues. This information, set out in the main report, clarified that the bridleway would not be affected by the proposals since it fell outside the red line, set out details of an outline planning permission for an adjacent site, confirmed that there was no requirement to consult with the Environment Agency as the site did not meet the Agency's checklist criteria, the Environment Agency had since been consulted, but declined to comment and also confirmed that the Council's Drainage Engineer had no objections to the proposal but had requested that a scheme for foul and surface water was submitted and that Severn Trent Water were notified of the proposed car wash facility prior to commencement. The report also detailed an objection received from Stirchley Parish Council.

Mr R Breeze and Mr A Watkin, both local residents, spoke against the application. Mr Breeze considered that the issues he raised at the last meeting had not been satisfactorily answered. He maintained that existing problems with car parking would be exacerbated by the proposals, that the proposals would impact upon an outline planning permission for a site to the North, drainage issues had not been adequately addressed and that the access for emergency vehicles to the Town Park would be hindered. Mr Watkin objected to the proposals on the grounds of potential noise nuisance and a detrimental impact on the environment.

Members were satisfied with the responses to their queries which were detailed in the report and outlined verbally by the Planning Officer and were, therefore, able to support the recommendation to grant planning permission for a temporary period of one year.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2012/0203 planning permission be granted subject to the conditions as set out in the report and further subject to receipt of satisfactory drainage details.

The meeting ended at 7.02pm

Chairman:

Date:

PLANS BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Plans Board held on Wednesday, 20 June 2012 at 6.00pm in the Reception Suite, Civic Offices, Telford, Shropshire

PRESENT: Councillors J C Minor (Chairman), N A Dugmore, R T Kiernan, J Loveridge, A A Meredith (as substitute for Councillor I T W Fletcher), G C W Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, M J Smith, C R Turley

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor A A McClements (for planning application TWC/2012/0240) and Councillor R J Sloan (for planning application TWC/2012/0103)

PB-007 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Board held on Wednesday, 30 May 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman

PB-008 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor I T W Fletcher

PB-009 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C R Turley declared a personal interest in planning applications TWC/2012/0075 and TWC/2012/0261.

Councillor M J Smith declared a personal interest in planning application TWC/2012/0219.

PB-010 DEFERRED/WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

None

PB-011 SITE VISITS

RESOLVED – that:-

- (a) in accordance with minute number PB-005 (30 May 2012), a Site Visit takes place on Wednesday, 11 July 2012 at 3.00pm in respect of planning application TWC/2012/0145 Maddocks Sports & Social Club, Church Street, Oakengates, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 6BP; and
- (b) that the following applications be deferred for Site Visits to take place on Wednesday, 11 July 2012:
 - (i) 3.30pm - TWC/2012/0261 - Land off Wrekin Course, Wellington Road, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire; and
 - (ii) 4.00pm - W2008/0473 - Former Dale End Garage, Dale Road, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire; and
 - (iii) 4.30pm - TWC/2012/0075 - Land off Concorde, Dawley Bank, Telford, Shropshire, TF4 2QB

PB-012 PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR DETERMINATION

Members had received a schedule of planning applications to be determined by the Board and fully considered each report and also the supplementary information tabled at the

meeting regarding planning applications TWC/2012/0075, TWC/2012/0103, TWC/2012/0219, TWC/2012/0240, and TWC/2012/0261.

(a) TWC/2010/0771 9 Park Street, Madeley, Telford, Shropshire, TF7 5LA

This was an application for planning consent for the demolition of a detached dwelling, and the erection of a row of four terraced properties fronting Park Street Madeley.

Councillor G Green, Ward Member, had requested that the application be determined by the Plans Board and the application had been deferred at the meeting of the Board on 30 May 2012 to enable Members to undertake a site visit.

The Planning Officer clarified that access to the site was an adopted highway. Referring to the site visit, Members considered that there was sufficient land on the site to accommodate the proposals, further noting that the size of the parking bays were larger than the required standards.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2010/0771 planning permission be granted subject to the conditions as set out in the report.

(b) TWC/2012/0103 Land off Grooms Alley, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire

These proposals sought full planning permission for the erection of 40 dwellings with associated roads, access, sewers and external works.

Councillor R J Sloan, Ward Member, had requested that the application be determined by the Plans Board.

Councillor R J Sloan, Ward Member, welcomed the proposed development of this site but represented the concerns of the owner of 20 Saville Close (situated adjacent to the site access) regarding noise and disturbance during construction.

Mr S Smythe, Applicant, spoke in support of the proposals and indicated that the company operated with sensitivity towards residents' needs and would seek to limit inconvenience and disruption during construction. He would, therefore, not object to operational management conditions.

The Planning Officer suggested that if Members were minded to approve the application, additional conditions could be applied regarding operational management, construction management and mud on road.

Members generally welcomed the proposals but were keen to ensure that disturbance to residents from the previously approved single access point would be limited. Members also welcomed provision of affordable housing units.

RESOLVED – that with regard to planning application TWC/2012/0103 planning permission be granted subject to the applicants entering into a Section 106 agreement to provide £52,549.20 towards education provision, £2000 towards provision of additional footway link, the transferral of open space to Telford & Wrekin Council, contribution towards future maintenance of open space, and provision of 4 affordable units of accommodation; and further subject to the conditions set out in the update report and additional conditions relating to operational management, construction management and mud on road.

(c) TWC/2012/0219 8 High Street, Hadley, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 5NL

This was an application for change of use from a Youth Project Centre (Sui Generis) (of its own kind) to an Islamic and academic education centre (D1 - non-residential Institutions). The premises was owned by the Council and was currently being marketed for sale and the Al Huda Trust had agreed commercial terms to purchase the property from the Council subject to planning permission being obtained for the change of use. The proposals for the operation of the education centre were set out in the report together with extensive comments from the Parish Council and neighbour consultation responses.

The application had been deferred at the meeting of the Board on 30 May 2012 to enable Members to undertake a site visit. An update report was tabled which set out a local resident's views regarding the timing of the site visit.

Cllr A Twyford, representing Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council spoke in opposition to the application, stressing that the Parish Council did not object to the service provided by the Trust, but considered that the proposed site was inappropriate. Cllr Twyford indicated that the Parish Council's objections centred upon inadequate parking provision which could result in road hazards and subsequent risk to the safety of young people using the proposed Education Centre, and would also result in an adverse impact upon amenities.

Mrs A Scott, a local resident, spoke against the application on the grounds that there was insufficient parking to accommodate increased activity at the site; she considered that there was a need for parking during lessons, and that the opening hours coincided with the busiest hours from the adjacent takeaway and that the proposals would, therefore, have a negative impact upon highway safety and residential amenity.

A representative of the Al Huda Trust spoke in support of the application to explain the community benefits brought by the Charity and allay any fears regarding Trust activity. He considered that the supporting information demonstrated a sustainable transport approach and reminded members that some of the services provided by the Trust could take place under the existing use permission with no emphasis on alleviating parking issues. The Trust had worked closely with the Council to bring this application to Board.

The Planning Officer drew Members' attention to the consultation responses received to date and advised that in Policy terms the proposals were compliant with Policy CS10 which supported the provision of new community facilities and, as the premises are in close proximity to the immediate local centre, the proposals met policy criteria. The Council's Highways Engineer accepted the details for travel arrangements. Referring to the site visit undertaken earlier in the afternoon, the Planning Officer noted that road users ignored double yellow lines but indicated that this was a police enforcement issue rather than a planning issue. She also confirmed that only a 1m access strip at the side of the building was Council owned and not the site to the rear of the premises. The Planning Officer further informed Members that consent for the premises to be used as a Youth Centre and cafe was given in 1980; use was, therefore, long-established but needed conversion to allow the Trust's teaching activities to take place as the proposal would no longer be a mixed use.

Councillor M J Smith, who was also one of the Local Ward Members, clarified his reasons for proposing a site visit at the last meeting to put consultation responses into context. He was disappointed that the Board had not been able to view the inside of the premises in order to equate the size of the building for the proposed use. He considered that there were considerable parking issues and considered that this could be alleviated if some agreement could be reached with the owner of the site at the rear to allow it to be used as a turning space. The Planning Officer indicated that she had been passed a letter, dated 20 June, from the neighbouring supermarket owner which confirmed that the land at the rear of the

premises was in their ownership and that, as they saw benefits to 8 High Street being occupied, they would be pleased to allow the Trust to use this space as a drop off and pick up point.

Councillor G C W Reynolds was encouraged by the overwhelming support that the Trust had from its students; she considered that the Trust should be supported in providing its services which were of great community benefit. She noted that the building was currently an eyesore and considered that its occupation would be an improvement to the street scene.

Councillor C R Turley also considered that the Trust provided a valuable community service and fully supported the change of use to sustain this.

Councillor S A W Reynolds echoed comments regarding the invaluable service provided by the Trust in educating young people and welcomed the neighbour's offer to allow the use of land to the rear as a drop off and pick up point.

Councillor N A Dugmore noted that the building already had permission for use as a youth centre, but he did have some concern regarding parking on double yellow lines and he questioned whether the bus route would be diverted away from the building following the regeneration of Hadley Centre.

The Planning Officer confirmed that the regeneration of Hadley would not affect the bus route.

Councillor J C Minor welcomed the application and considered the applicant had taken responsible steps to address the issue of parking.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2012/0219 planning permission be granted subject to the conditions as set out in the report.

(d) TWC/2012/0240 Land at Arleston, Telford, Shropshire

This application sought outline planning permission for residential development on 7.26 hectares of land for up to 103 dwellings (Use Class C3) and 50 extra care units (Use Class C2), provision of two new access roads and associated drainage, open space and landscaping. A site visit had taken place on the afternoon of 20 June 2012.

Councillor A D McClements, Ward Member, acknowledged that she had previously supported development of Green Network land at the Ercall Wood Technology College site (TWC/2012/0069) because, on balance, that development was of great educational and community benefit to residents in her Ward. However, she was unable to support this application as there was no such community benefit. She noted that many of the residents in the Ward opposed the loss of this valued piece of green network in their community. Councillor McClements argued that the topography of the site would result in the proposed Extra Care facility being visually dominant over Kingsland and expressed suspicions that the proposed Extra Care facility was being used to appease development at the site. She also referred to traffic flow and the potential for increased use of mini-motors, drainage issues which would also impact the nearby Bucks Head Football Ground and fears that the site would be further developed in the future resulting in long-term urbanisation of precious natural open space.

Mr G Devey spoke on behalf of local residents to oppose the proposals. He lamented the loss of green network which he considered was a valuable wildlife habitat, the destruction of which would greatly impact the ecology in the area and result in the loss of badgers, birds red-listed by the British Trust for Ornithology, rare bats and other small mammals. He

referred to the positive impact that open space had on well-being and for the development of children. He also considered that the topography of the site was unsuitable for a development of this size and that elderly people were already well served in the area.

Mr M Sitch, Applicant's Agent, spoke in support of the proposals. He stated that the applicant had worked with Council Officers to revise the application, had undertaken consultation exercises which had also resulted in changes to the proposals, that the Council's Strategy and Commissioning Officer welcomed the Extra Care provision. He advised the Board that the core business of the applicant was the provision of homes for the elderly and concluded that the development would be of significant benefit to the Borough, providing Extra Care facilities and affordable housing, creating jobs, maintaining public open space and ecological assets, retaining the public right of way and creating a play area and pedestrian crossing at Dawley Road. Mr Anthony Francis-Jones of the Bridleways Association also spoke in support of the application, welcoming the reinstatement of the public right of way to a minimum of Bridleway status and providing links to other routes. He was pleased to support the development which would maintain 50% of the site as green land.

The Planning Officer advised that, as set out more fully in the report, whilst there were policies in place to protect the green network, this proposal could be considered as an exception since the proposed development of the Extra Care facility was an appropriate community benefit which, when accompanied by the proposed environmental and ecological benefits, could be considered sufficient to outweigh the loss of 50% of the green network in this location. She reminded Members that the associated residential scheme was required for viability purposes but that 50% of the site would be maintained as public open space, increasing formal access to the site which was currently privately owned. The proposal included an acceptable level of affordable housing and the site was in an accessible and sustainable location, in close proximity to local shops and the Wrekin Retail Park together with a nearby hourly bus service to Wellington. Balance would be key to managing the ecological value of the open space with the retention of the majority of trees and, where removal was necessary, a scheme for replacement. The Council's Highways Engineer did not consider that the proposals would have an adverse impact and an improved pedestrian crossing was also proposed. With regard to drainage concerns, a flood risk assessment had been undertaken concluding that the site was at low risk of flooding; the developers had the right to discharge into the "stream" but intended to make improvements. In conclusion, the Planning Officer recommended the scheme for approval, subject to a Section 106 Agreement and conditions, as set out in the tabled update report, which included a change to condition 28 to change the Code for Sustainable Homes to Level 3 and an extra condition 33 for the proposed footpath link between Dawley Road and Arleston Lane to be a minimum of 2m wide for the entire length of the route.

Councillor C R Turley noted the history of refusal at this site and questioned whether there was capacity to build an Extra Care facility at this site since facilities would also be available nearby at Lawley and Ketley.

Councillor A A Meredith was concerned at the development of a Greenfield site, and questioned whether the availability of alternative Brownfield sites had been explored. The Planning Officer explained that sequential testing was not applicable in this case and that the Board's focus was upon the scheme presented to them.

Councillor N A Dugmore considered that there were positive elements to the proposal, including the retention of 50% of the site as public open space and undoubted economic benefits through employment opportunities. However, he also had some reservations with regard to the proposals. With regard to Highways issues, contrary to advice in the report, he felt that there would be an impact at both Cock Hotel and Bucks Head junctions and queried

the Education contribution that was limited to primary places. Councillor Dugmore also expressed disappointment that there was no affordable housing amongst the privately owned dwellings was included in the proposals and queried whether there was a pedestrian access to the Extra Care facility from Kingsland. Finally, he shared his concern that the hedgerow along Kingsland and Arleston Lane should be preserved and questioned whether it was possible to condition a limit to development at the site. The Planning Officer confirmed that the Highways Engineer's viewpoint was reached based upon information resulting from a modelling exercise. The Education contribution was calculated from a set formula and local policy was only to seek contributions for primary education. Similarly, policy did not make provision for affordable housing in use class C2; and given the high level of affordable provision, above that secured at determination on a neighbouring site under construction need was not an issue in the vicinity. The Planning Officer confirmed that pedestrian access to the Extra Care facility would be considered at reserved matters stage and that condition 16 should refer to Tree and Hedge Protection.

Councillor S A W Reynolds expressed concern that the siting of the Extra Care facility would be overbearing on Kingsland. She asked whether the proposed siting of the Extra Care facility, as shaded purple on the land use plan, could be moved elsewhere within the boundary of the whole plot. The Planning Officer advised that the Board was only being asked to consider the principle of siting the Extra Care facility within the purple shaded area on the plans before them. This location had been carefully considered taking into account the proximity to local services and the bus route together with the urban character of the immediate area. However, if they were so minded, Members could seek to defer the application for further negotiations to take place in this regard. Councillor S A W Reynolds, therefore, proposed and Councillor N A Dugmore seconded that this application should be deferred for further negotiation on this issue.

RESOLVED – that determination of planning application TWC/2012/0240 be deferred for the Planning Authority to negotiate further with the applicant regarding the position within the site boundary of the purple shaded area on the Land Use Plan which encompassed the proposed Extra Care Unit.

(e) TWC/2012/0261 Land off Wrekin Course, Wellington Road, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire

This was an application seeking planning permission to construct a 40 space car parking area and hardstanding to site a mobile catering van, with provision of a footpath link leading to the track up to The Wrekin. The application further proposed to provide additional off-road parking and a pedestrian link to The Wrekin in order to avoid the dangers of pedestrians walking along the highway.

Councillor S Hutchison, Chair of Little Wenlock Parish Council, spoke against the application on the grounds that it would result in the removal of Greenfield land and an ancient hedgerow, the area was environmentally sensitive and close to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Site of Special Scientific Interest, that the current car park provision was underused, encouraging an increase in vehicular traffic could increase the likelihood of accidents due to limited visibility and the narrow entry and egress. She also expressed concern that a caterer had not been secured to operate the site and it was not clear who would be responsible for maintenance of the site. Councillor Hutchison noted that the project was purported to be funded by the Huntington Lane Mining Community Trust Fund but that this funding had not yet been secured. Councillor Hutchison considered that a park and ride service from Wellington and Stoney Hill would be more appropriate and suggested that if Members were minded to approve the application, this should be with additional conditions to ensure that the site was used for car parking only, that written confirmation should be sought from West Mercia Police that a Traffic Regulation Order would be enforced

to restrict parking and that Telford and Wrekin Council would be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the site.

Mr A Francis-Jones, the Applicant's Agent spoke in favour of the proposals which he stated were modelled upon a similar venture at Haughmond Hill and encouraged Members to also visit that site if they were minded to undertake a site visit. He explained aspects of the sustainable design, as set out in the report, and explained that the volunteer-led application sought to address a particular problem and provide much needed facilities at this popular tourist attraction.

The Planning Officer drew Members' attention to the tabled update report which set out additional consultation responses. She advised that it was considered that the proposals would not have a detrimental impact on the adjoining Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Site of Special Scientific Interest or the designation of the land as a Wildlife Site as there would be significant screening and sensitive materials would be used. Surveys had indicated there would be little impact on habitat as replanting of removed hedgerows would take place.

Councillor R T Kiernan, one of the Ward Members for this location, had grave concerns regarding the application, particularly with regard to highways issues and whether the car park would be utilised by visitors. He firmly believed that alternative sites, for example the disused firing range, should be considered before development was approved for this site. He noted that both Little Wenlock Parish Council and Wellington Town Council preferred a park and ride approach. With this in mind, Councillor Kiernan proposed a site visit, seconded by Councillor N A Dugmore.

RESOLVED – that determination of planning application TWC/2012/0261 be deferred to allow the Board Members to make a Site Visit.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm

Chairman:

Date:

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on Wednesday, 18th April 2012 at 5.30pm in the Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors D. White (Chairman), V. Fletcher, G. Green, A. McClements, R. Sloan, C. Turley.

IN ATTENDANCE: Stephanie Jones, Scrutiny Group Specialist; Tracy Clarke, Scrutiny Officer.

SMB-36 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on the 5th March 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

SMB-37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

SMB-38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

SMB-39 CHANGES TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Scrutiny Group Specialist summarised the report on the proposed changes to the Scrutiny Committee structures, the feedback from the consultation and the timetable for making any changes agreed. Members' attention was drawn to the fact that the provisions relating to the scrutiny of health arrangements in the Health & Social Care Act 2012 would be monitored and a future report brought to the Board should changes be required to scrutiny arrangements.

The recommendations for consideration were:

- The merger of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees into the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee.
- That there will be eight elected Members on the Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee.
- That the Co-optees on the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees will automatically become co-opted members of the Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee, and that the Co-opted members of the

Health Scrutiny Committee who also sit on the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee will remain the same.

- The establishment of a Housing, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee. The remit of the Committee will include scrutiny of matters relating to housing, economic development, regeneration, environment, transport and where appropriate planning.
- That there will be eight elected Members appointed to the Housing, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee.

Members considered the feedback received during the consultation, and noted that the comments were supportive of the proposed changes. Members made the following comments in response to the points raised in the second comment:

- That the remit of health scrutiny included health services for children as well as adults. Where an issue crossed over between the Health and Children & Young People Scrutiny Committees, the issue could be reviewed jointly by both Committees.
- With regard to the powers of the Housing, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee, Members commented that the powers and influence of scrutiny depended on legislation and on building a positive relationship with partners so that they could work together. This remained the case regardless of the structure in place to carry out the scrutiny work.

The Chairman further reported that he had had an initial discussion with the Leader, Managing Director and Assistant Director for Law, Democracy & Public Protection about how scrutiny could be more effective and add greater value to the organisation with the reduced resources to support scrutiny. Key to this was to work closely with Assistant Directors to identify the major policy decisions that would be brought forward over the year, and specific areas where scrutiny could add value. This would facilitate the planning of resources for scrutiny and ensure that scrutiny was focussed on areas where it would have most effect at the right time. Members felt this was the right approach, and made the further following comments:

- That scrutiny should be more involved with policy development which depended on being involved at an early stage. A good example was of the Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee's review of the leisure concessions policy which had made recommendations to feed into the budget proposals.
- That scrutiny should move away from being an "information" forum and focus on issues where there is an identified concern. It should be assumed that Scrutiny members have read reports in advance of meetings so that officers do not spend time presenting reports and meeting time is dedicated to the investigation of issues.
- That scrutiny of the budget proposals should start earlier in the year to

allow for more in-depth work to be done on specific proposals. This depended on the budget planning process starting earlier in the year.

- That the Scrutiny Management Board should play a greater role in holding Cabinet Members to account, and that when a Cabinet Member is invited to a scrutiny meeting, scrutiny members should understand that it is their role to hold the Cabinet member to account by directing questions to the Cabinet member. This message could be reinforced by Scrutiny Chairmen.
- That members needed to play a more pro-active role in carrying out scrutiny work, and that the Member-only Meeting Protocol would be piloted and evaluated as a different way of working.
- That the Forward Plan was an important tool for scrutiny and that the Scrutiny Management Board would like to be consulted on the revised format which was under review.

The Chairman was meeting the Leader, Managing Director and Assistant Director for Law, Democracy & Public Protection again later in the week, and would bring a report to the next meeting should there be any resulting proposed changes to scrutiny arrangements.

It was noted that the deadline for consultation on the involvement of Town & Parish Councils with scrutiny was 10th May, and a report on the feedback would be brought to the next meeting for the Board to decide the way forward.

Having considered and discussed the feedback from the consultation, Members unanimously agreed the recommended changes to the scrutiny committee structure, and noted the timetable for making the changes.

RESOLVED

- **That the recommendations in section 2.1 of the report be agreed**
- **That the recommendation in section 2.2 be noted**

SMB-40 SCRUTINY AND THE MEDIA

Following the circulation of the updated Protocol for Scrutiny and the Media on 21st February 2012, Members considered the comments that had been received back from members.

- A concern had been expressed that the Protocol did not ensure that minority views in a scrutiny report would be reflected in press releases or media statements. The Scrutiny Management Board acknowledged the concern, and agreed that the Protocol should be amended as suggested in the tracked change document circulated for the meeting.
- Concerns had been expressed that the Protocol contravened Members' right to freedom of speech. The Scrutiny Management Board were not of the view that the Protocol infringed on Members' right to free speech. This was because all Members have a right to express their views on any

matter, the principle on this issue being that it must be clear that their views were individual opinions and not those of an appointed scrutiny committee or other scrutiny group unless it had been agreed that those Members may speak on behalf of the committee. The conditions for doing this are set out in the protocol. The designation of the Scrutiny Chairmen as the official spokespeople for the Scrutiny Committees ensured that communication with the media about scrutiny reports and issues was consistent and co-ordinated. This protocol had been in place for a number of years and the recent revisions to the Protocol did not seek to change this.

- Management Board did not agree that the Protocol infringed on Members' right to free speech. Members have a right to express their views on any matter, except that it must be clear that their views are individual opinions and not those of a scrutiny committee or other scrutiny group unless it has been agreed that they may speak for the committee. The conditions for doing this are set out in the protocol. The designation of the Scrutiny Chairmen as the official spokespeople for the Scrutiny Committees ensures that communication with the media about scrutiny reports and issues is consistent and co-ordinated. This protocol has been in place for a number of years and the recent revisions to the Protocol did not seek to change this.

RESOLVED

That the Protocol for Scrutiny and the Media as circulated with the agenda for this meeting be adopted with the amendment shown as a tracked change.

SMB-41 FORWARD PLAN AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Members discussed the items on the Forward Plan and agreed the following:

- That the issues relating to housing and Choose Your Home raised at the meeting in January and at the Members' Information Seminar with RSLs on 15th March would be referred to the Housing, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee to take forward once established.
- That the next meeting on 14th May would include the changes arising from the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act and the Safer, Stronger Communities Partnership; feedback from Scrutiny Members and Town & Parish Councils on the involvement of Town & Parish Councils with scrutiny; a report on the process for setting the work programme for 2012/13.
- There were four remaining items which were due to be reported at the meeting by way of written reports. It was agreed that due to pressure on resources and the fact that the agenda for the next meeting was already substantial and not allow for the issues to be given proper consideration,

that these reports would be removed from the work programme, but that members may follow up on the issues themselves if they had a particular concern.

RESOLVED

That the changes to the Forward Plan as discussed be agreed.

The meeting ended at 6.47pm.

Chairman:

Date:

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on Monday, 14th May 2012 at 2.30pm in the Scrutiny Meeting Room, Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors D. White (Chairman), V. Fletcher, G. Green, A. McClements, R. Sloan, C. Turley.

IN ATTENDANCE: Jas Bedesha, Cohesion Service Delivery Manager; Stephanie Jones, Scrutiny Group Specialist; Tracy Clarke, Scrutiny Officer.

SMB-42 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on the 18th April 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

SMB-43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Miles Hosken. Cllr. Hosken apologised that he had been unable to attend the Scrutiny Management Board meetings this year due to the fact that they had been held at times when he was not able to attend because of work commitments.

SMB-44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

SMB-45 ENGAGEMENT OF TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS WITH SCRUTINY

Members considered the report of the Scrutiny Group Specialist on the Engagement of Town & Parish Councils (TPCs) with Scrutiny which had been circulated with the agenda. Members were recommended to:

- Consider and agree the preferred option for the engagement of Town & Parish Councils with the Scrutiny Committees.
- To consider whether an allowance equivalent to that paid to existing Scrutiny Co-optees should be paid to Town & Parish Council representatives if elected to the Scrutiny Committees.
- To note the terms relating to the election of Town & Parish Council representatives as set out in section 6.2 of the report.

The report set out the feedback from Scrutiny Members and Town & Parish

Councils on the proposal to elect a Town & Parish Council representative to each of the Scrutiny Committees. This showed that 2 Scrutiny Members, 3 Town & Parish Councils, 1 Town & Parish Council Chairman, 1 Town & Parish Councillor and 1 Town & Parish Clerk had responded. The responses had been collated and four options were set out for consideration:

1. That TPC representatives are not elected to the Scrutiny Committees but:
 - TPCs are notified of about meetings and agenda items
 - Scrutiny pro-actively involves TPCs in scrutiny reviews where relevant
 - TPCs receive progress reports as provided to the Scrutiny Management Board.
2. That one TPC representative is elected to each Scrutiny Committees at the Parish Forum.
3. That one TPC representative is elected to each Scrutiny Committee at the Wrekin Area Committee.
4. That one TPC representative is elected to each Scrutiny Committees as follows:
 - Scrutiny seeks nominations from all TPCs requesting short statement of experience, knowledge and interest from nominees
 - Nominee details posted on website
 - If fewer than 5 nominees, no election will be held and nominees will be allocated to Scrutiny Committees by Scrutiny Management Board.
 - If more than 5 nominees, each TPC will be asked to vote for their preferred nominee by e-mail. Results will be published. Top scoring 5 will be appointed to the Scrutiny Committees and allocated places by the Scrutiny Management Board.

Four further responses were then tabled. These were from a Scrutiny Member, 2 Town & Parish Councils and the Scrutiny Chairman. The comments had been received subsequent to the report for the meeting being published but before the deadline for responses. The feedback tabled led to 3 further options being considered:

5. That two TPC representatives should be elected to each Scrutiny Committee.
6. That the election process should be facilitated by the Shropshire Association of Local Councils.
7. That all Town & Parish Councils select 2 Councillors to put forward as representatives. Supporting background information for each nominee is provided, including their experience, and which Scrutiny Committee they are interested in. The Scrutiny Management Board meet to consider all the candidates and select up to 2 representatives for each Committee based on experience, skills and interest. This meeting would be overseen by an independent representative of the Association of Local Councils.

Candidates will be informed about whether they have been selected or not.

There was then a discussion about the feedback and the recommended options during which the following points were made:

- It was noted that only seven Town & Parish Councils had responded in any way to the consultation which was about a quarter of the total number. Members felt this could reflect the lack of understanding or disinterest of some Town & Parish Councils in scrutiny, and felt that this was something that scrutiny should work to overcome. However, the willingness to engage of TPCs who had responded positively was warmly welcomed. Cllr. Sloan felt that the approach for scrutiny should be to focus on building relationships with local Councillors who wanted to get involved, and if shown to be effective, this may then stimulate wider interest and engagement.
- Cllr. Green drew Members' attention to Option 1 in the report which was not to elect TPC representatives to the Scrutiny Committees, but for TPCs to be more involved as part of scrutiny reviews. The Chairman disagreed with this option as he felt it may mean that TPCs were not fully involved in all scrutiny work.
- Members discussed feedback on the idea that one representative should reflect the views of all Town & Parish Councils, and agreed there was a difficulty with this given the diverse interests of the Councils, and that it was unreasonable to expect one person to feedback to all other Councils. It was noted that details of scrutiny meetings and agenda items were already sent to Town & Parish Councils, and that in future they would also receive progress reports brought to the Scrutiny Management Board.
- This stimulated a wider discussion about the role of the representatives on the Committees. In the light of the previous discussion, Cllr. Sloan suggested that it would benefit scrutiny for the role of the TPC representatives to focus less on representing the views of all TPCs as this was difficult, and more on bringing the talent and skills that reside in the Town & Parish Councils to add value to scrutiny. This would bring the role more in-line with the existing scrutiny co-optees who had been recruited for their specialist knowledge and experience to supplement that of the elected members, and to bring an external voice to scrutiny. Cllr. Fletcher noted that some of the existing Scrutiny Co-optees were also Town or Parish Councillors, and that this should be taken into consideration in any arrangements agreed. Cllr. Sloan further suggested that a "pool" of Town & Parish Councillors should be identified with whom scrutiny could work.
- There was a discussion about how TPC representatives might be elected. It was agreed that the Wrekin Area Committee was not the right forum because not all Councils were members, and this discounted Option 3. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Wendy Tonge in the Priority Action Team to find out what had happened as a result of the recent consultation on the Parish Forum. Feedback had shown that the majority

of councils responding had felt that the Forum was poorly attended and not effective. The Parish Charter Monitoring Group had considered the feedback on 10th May and it had been concluded that a further look at the Forum was required to decide how it could function more effectively in future. In the light of this uncertainty, Members agreed that the Parish Forum was not the right forum to hold an election, and Option 2 was discounted.

- There was a discussion about how many TPC representatives should be appointed to the scrutiny committees. The proposal had been to elect one per Committee, but a suggestion had been put forward to elect two. Members were of the view that allowing up to 2 representatives per Committee would help widen the pool of talent available to scrutiny, and increase opportunities for TPCs to get involved.

Drawing the discussion to a conclusion and taking all points into consideration, the Chairman proposed an option which he felt would fulfil the requirements discussed. This was that:

- Each Town & Parish Council would be invited to nominate up to 2 councillors for appointment to the Scrutiny Committees;
- All nominees would supply a statement to scrutiny highlighting their skills, experience, interests and what they feel they could contribute to scrutiny.
- The Scrutiny Management Board would consider all nominations and select up to 2 Councillors to be appointed to each Scrutiny Committee based on where the skills, experience and interests presented could add value to the expertise already on the Scrutiny Committees;
- That the selection process would be overseen by an independent observer from the Shropshire Association of Local Councils, and that Karen Roper should be invited to do this;
- That the Scrutiny Management Board would notify all nominees whether they had been selected or not;
- That Scrutiny Co-optees who are also Town or Parish Councillors would be included within the number of representatives selected.

This process was agreed by other members of the Board.

The issue of the payment of an allowance to TPC representatives was then considered. The proposal consulted on was that the TPC representatives would not attract an allowance on the basis that a budget had not been identified and because expenses could be claimed back from the Town or Parish Council. There was further discussion on this matter, and it was noted that there had been some feedback that the lack of an allowance could be a barrier to participation. Furthermore, there was an issue with equality as the existing Co-optees were paid a taxable allowance of £260 per year to cover expenses, and not paying the TPC representatives would create a two tier system which would be unfair and could create problems in future.

Cllrs. White and McClements reported that they had had further discussions regarding the payment of allowances, and confirmed that funding could be allocated from the Members' Allowances budget to pay the appointed Town & Parish Council representatives an allowance equivalent to that paid to the

serving Scrutiny Co-optees. The Chairman sought views on the payment of an allowance, and Members confirmed they were in agreement with paying the allowance.

The Scrutiny Group Specialist drew Members' attention to the terms relating to the election of the TPC representatives in section 6.2 of the report. Members were in agreement with the principles of the terms and conditions but noted that they would need to be amended to reflect the process agreed at this meeting.

RESOLVED

- **That the Scrutiny Management Board appoint up to two Town & Parish Councillors to each Scrutiny Committee according to the process agreed at the meeting**
- **That Town & Parish Councillors appointed to a Scrutiny Committee would be eligible for an allowance equivalent to that paid to serving Scrutiny Co-optees**
- **That the terms and conditions for the Town & Parish Council representatives set out in section 6.2 be noted but would be amended to reflect the agreed process.**

SMB-46 POLICE REFORM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

Jas Bedesha, Cohesion Service Delivery Manager, presented the report on Police & Crime Commissioners and the West Mercia Police & Crime Panel which had been reported to Cabinet on 26th April.

The report summarised the key changes brought about by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act with regard to the role and responsibilities of Police & Crime Commissioners and Police & Crime Panels, and the implications of the changes for the Council.

The following points were highlighted:

- Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) would replace Police Authorities.
- The PPC is an elected position, responsible for the allocation of budgets and appointment and dismissal of the Chief Constable. Elections would be held on 15th November.
- PCPs would be responsible for holding to account and scrutinising the actions and decisions of the PCC, but would not be responsible for scrutinising the performance of the police force.
- The PCP would be made up of elected councillors and lay members. Telford & Wrekin was in the West Mercia area which included Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire County Councils and 6 Worcestershire District Councils. The model agreed for the West Mercia PCP was 15 elected members and 2 lay co-opted members. The number of places allocated to each authority had been based on the population, and political balance would be required across the force area. All authorities had agreed to the proposed model as follows:
 - Herefordshire – 2 Elected Members
 - Shropshire – 4 Elected Members

- Telford and Wrekin – 2 Elected Members
- Worcestershire County Council – 1 Elected Member
- Worcestershire Districts – 6 Elected Members (one per district)
- 2 Co-opted non-elected members, one North (Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, one South (Herefordshire and Worcestershire).

Delegated powers have been given to Jonathan Eatough by Cabinet to the two Telford & Wrekin positions, as the guidance requires a political balance across West Mercia before the PCP goes into shadow form in June/July.

- Worcestershire had been appointed as the lead authority for the day to day running of the PCP, and a cross-authority officer working group had been set up to support the PCP and look at how it would work with the PCC. The Democratic Services Manager represented Telford & Wrekin on this group.
- A key issue for the Council was the impact of the changes on funding. The Community Safety Grant, and potentially Drugs Intervention Programme grant, was likely to be passed from the Council to the PCC from April 2013. Potentially this would mean the West Mercia authorities would be bidding competitively to provide services on a commissioned basis. The authorities had therefore been working together to identify the priorities which each authority would support to try to minimise competition for resources, although this may be difficult to avoid. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) had been identified as the priority for Telford & Wrekin because it was a key issue for the borough and because of the good work that had been done such as the ASB Hotline and the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Committee (MARAC) process. A shared Action Plan would be developed to ensure money was passported back to Telford & Wrekin to deal with ASB.

Following the presentation, members raised a number of issues and concerns:

- Members wanted to know whether the elected Members on the PCP would be scrutiny or Executive members given that the PCP has a scrutiny role. It was explained that nominations had been sought from group leaders and would be approved by Cabinet.
- Members asked how the elections for the PCC would be funded, and what the term of office was, and were informed that the authority had received no additional funding for the election, and the term of office was four years. Members were concerned that the authority may be expected to pay for the election, especially if the timing did not coincide with other elections whereby costs could be saved, and sought further clarity on this.
- Members were told that PCP members would receive annual expenses of £992, far less than was paid to Police Authority representatives. A rolling programme of meetings around West Mercia was being looked at.
- Great concern was expressed about the potential impact on funding. Members were informed that there had been discussions at officer level

about how to minimise the risk of competition through a shared action plan based around the priorities for each authority, and about how to make the case for localised funding. However, there was a risk of competing demands for resources with issues that were a priority for all authorities such as the Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advisors. Substance misuse funding would also be centralised with the PCC. Cllr. Fletcher was concerned that links would need to be made with Public Health in this respect. Cllr. Sloan expressed a concern that with the reduction to police budgets, the Community Safety grants could be used to offset cuts unless the funding was ring-fenced.

- There was concern that Worcestershire was disproportionately represented on the PCP due to the fact that there were 6 district councils as well as the county council. The regulations set out in the Act were that panels must include at least one elected representative from each local authority in the force area, including unitaries, counties and districts. This meant that Worcestershire had a statutory minimum of 7 representatives overall. The West Mercia model had been based on population size, balanced for political proportionality and would need to be agreed by all the member authorities.
- There was a discussion about the role of scrutiny in the new arrangements. The Scrutiny Group Specialist reminded members that the statutory powers of scrutiny in relation to the Safer Stronger Communities Partnership remained in place, although this would need to be considered as new funding and/or commissioning arrangements became clear. The relationship with scrutiny and the PCP would also need to be considered as the PCP would be responsible for scrutinising the PCC who was in turn responsible for allocating budgets to the community safety partnerships. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Group Specialist would contact scrutiny officers in the other authorities to find out how this was being looked at, and that a report would be brought back to a future meeting.

RESOLVED

That a report be brought back to a future meeting.

SMB-47 2012/13 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Group Specialist tabled a briefing note showing the proposed timetable for setting the 2012/13 Scrutiny Work programme which was agreed. As part of the process, Assistant Directors would be asked to identify the key work streams for the next municipal year and to identify particular pieces of work where scrutiny could make a useful contribution to policy development. This was to help inform scrutiny members' decisions about the work programme, and to assist with the internal planning of resources to support scrutiny work. Members firmly emphasised that decisions about the work programme would remain with scrutiny members.

The Scrutiny Management Board had requested an up to date list of partners on the Local Strategic Partnership which was provided. It was agreed that all

partners would be invited to make suggestions for the work programme.

RESOLVED

- **That the indicative timetable for setting the work programme be noted.**
- **That partners on the Local Strategic Partnership be invited to make suggestions for the work programme.**

Before the Chairman brought the meeting to a close, the Board wished to express their great sadness at the news that former Member and friend Rosemary Chaplin had passed away and to acknowledge the great contribution she had made to scrutiny over many years.

The meeting ended at 4.15pm.

Chairman:

Date:

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on Wednesday, 16th May 2012 at 9.00am at the Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors D.R.W. White (Chairman), V.A. Fletcher, M.B.Hosken, M.G. Ion (substitute for R.J. Sloan), A.D. McClements and C.R. Turley.

Councillors S.Bentley, S.P. Burrell, A.J. Eade and J.M. Seymour (Call-in signatories)

Councillor P.R. Watling – Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families

Also Present: J. Collins (Assistant Director: Education, Culture & Skills), J. Eatough (Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection), S. Jones (Scrutiny Group Specialist), P. Smith (Democratic Services Team Leader), K. Swallow (SDM – Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning).

SMB-48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors G.M. Green and R.J. Sloan

SMB-49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

SMB-50 CALL-IN REQUEST – PLANNING OF SCHOOL PLACES: REVISED PLANS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION UNDER THE BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAMME

The Chair reported that a valid call-in request had been received following the publication of the following decisions by Cabinet on 26 April 2012:

(a) that, having taken into consideration responses to the formal consultation process detailed in the report, approval be given to submit the revised plans for the Building Schools for the Future programme to PartnershipsforSchools, namely:

- To build a new 900 place Christian faith Academy for ages 11-18 in Priorslee to replace the existing Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College.

- To build a new 1200 place Co-operative Academy for ages 11–16 on the Oakengates Leisure Centre site.
- To relocate Lord Silkin and Grange Park Primary onto the shared site in Stirchley, to encompass an 1150 place Learning Community comprising primary, secondary and Post 16 education.
- To rebuild Charlton School as a 1200 place 11-16 school to enhance secondary provision in Wellington.

(b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director – Education, Culture and Skills, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, to co-ordinate the implementation of any interim governance arrangements as may be required.

Attached to the agenda was a copy of the Call-in request form, together with revised proposals that had been agreed at a preliminary informal meeting between the Chair and lead Call-In member (Councillor Burrell) on 9th May 2012. A proposed motion was tabled by the lead Call-in member, and the Chair advised that this would be the document which the Board would vote on at the end of the meeting. In accordance with the Member Call-in Protocol, the lead Call-In member and the Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families each tabled a document summarising the arguments and points they would be making during the meeting. Attached to the agenda was the report of the Assistant Director: Education, Culture & Skills that was considered by Cabinet on 26th April 2012.

The Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection then outlined the procedure to be followed at the meeting, a copy of which was attached to the agenda.

Councillor Burrell (lead Call-in Member) presented the tabled document setting out the reasons for the Call-in and the justification for the proposals calling on Cabinet to reconsider their decision. The revised proposal was as follows:

“1) The decision to build a 900 place Christian faith academy in Priorslee needs to be re-considered, taking into account a more detailed transport plan that details the implications for the Council, in respect of home to school transport, parents, in respect of the impact on them of transporting their children to the new school and the environment, in respect of the impact to the overall carbon footprint if these proposals are implemented;

2) The revised plans for the Building Schools for the Future programme are re-considered particularly in relation to the planning of school places across the Borough, but particularly in respect of

- a) the availability of school places for pupils from Priorslee;
- b) how current planning ought to be taking account of population growth in Newport and Muxton and the effect on Burton Borough, an

- already oversubscribed school;
- c) the overall reduction of school places in Telford, a growth area.

3) The strong consultation response against the closure of Wrockwardine Wood Arts College was not adequately considered when the original decision was made.”

The Lead Call-in Member put forward the view that the Cabinet’s plans would result in 400 fewer secondary school places in the Borough. While this might address the current “dip” in the number of secondary age children, after 2018 it was predicted that numbers would rise, and there were likely to be capacity issues in some schools. A longer term approach was needed, and it would be better to defer some of the capital to address any need for extra capacity in a few years time. The rationale for re-locating the Blessed Robert Johnson (BRJ) Catholic College in Wellington to a new Ecumenical Academy in Priorslee was challenged, and it was questioned whether the remaining schools in Wellington would be able to accommodate those non-denominational BRJ pupils that did not wish to move to Priorslee. In relation to the proposals for a new faith Academy in Priorslee, it was contended that there would not be enough places at the new school for the children of local residents, even based on current numbers and ignoring new house completions and proposals for the expansion of Priorslee Primary Academy. Concerns were also expressed that Burton Borough School in Newport had been oversubscribed for a number of years, and the Cabinet’s proposals failed to address a situation that would only get worse with the additional demand arising from planned new housing developments in Newport and Muxton.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families then responded to the call-in request. On taking office last year, the new Administration had felt that the original BSF proposals were not sustainable, particularly in Wellington where there were too many secondary school places. Officers had been asked to look again at the planning of school places in order to make it more sustainable, resulting in the current proposals. There had been extensive consultation with governing bodies, parents and pupils, and the Council had worked hard to address any concerns that had been raised. Officers then explained the rationale for the proposals, including the projected pupil admission numbers for future years both across the Borough, and, more specifically, those relating to the proposed Faith Academy at Priorslee – details of which were included in the tabled papers. The combined information suggested that there would be sufficient secondary places available in Wellington, Priorslee and Newport, and that there would not be a shortfall of places at the proposed Priorslee Academy for local residents. In terms of the suggestion about increased transport costs and carbon footprint as a result of the re-location of the BRJ College, data on BRJ pupils showed a significant number lived closer to Priorslee than to Wellington. Regard had been taken of the strategic Local Transport Plan, and a detailed travel plan for the new Priorslee Academy would be produced once the site had been finalised and a planning application submitted. In relation to the proposal to

build a new Co-operative Academy on the Oakengates Leisure Centre site, there would be significant benefits of economy of scale. The Council had worked hard with both Wrockwardine Wood and Sutherland Colleges to address the concerns that had been raised in the initial consultation, as a result of which the Heads of both schools could assure parents that the proposal would not damage the wellbeing and chances of pupils.

Following a short adjournment, Board members asked a number of questions to both the lead Call-In member and the Cabinet member. These related to:

- the consultation process on the Cabinet's proposals;
- that parents may have chosen to send their children to Wrockwardine Wood College on the basis of the original plan that the school would be moving to a new site in Priorslee;
- why any detailed transport plan could not be produced in advance of decisions on the re-organisation of schools;
- the capacity of the proposed Priorslee faith Academy to accommodate pupils from Priorslee and Redhill primary schools;
- the views of the Dioceses of Shrewsbury, Lichfield and Hereford on the proposals;
- the campaign that resulted in 1600 signatures on a standard letter opposing the proposals for Wrockwardine Wood Arts College;
- the impact that a new school would have at the proposed site in Priorslee

Having heard detailed responses from both sides to the questions, the lead Call-in member and the Cabinet member were invited to sum up. Councillor Burrell urged the Board to ask the Cabinet to re-consider its BSF policy, which would not meet the needs of the Borough in the longer term. Councillor Watling stated that Department for Education rules on BSF did not allow any planning beyond 2018. Within these constraints, it was believed that the current proposals took a broader view, were sustainable and would best meet the needs of children and young people in the Borough.

Having considered all the written and verbal evidence that had been submitted, and the responses to questions, the Board:

RESOLVED – that the Call-in request and proposal, as tabled at the meeting, be rejected, and that the original Cabinet decision be noted.

The meeting ended at 12.08 pm.

Chair:

Date:

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held on Thursday, 14 June, 2012 at 6.00 p.m. at Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors S. Davies, T.J. Hope, M.B. Hosken, R.J. Sloan and A.J. Stanton;
Mr A. Selvaratnam (Chair) and Mr F. Beasland (Independent Members);
Councillors D. Edwards, P. Fairclough, R. Wickson and R. Williams (Parish Council representatives)

ST-1 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 8 February 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

ST-2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors R.C. Evans and A.D. McClements

ST-3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

ST-4 THE WAY FORWARD FOR STANDARDS - UPDATE

The Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection and Monitoring Officer presented a report which provided the Committee with an update on the transfer to the new ethical framework, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

Much of the work in preparing for the new standards regime had already been undertaken. On 3rd May 2012, full Council had approved the Committee's recommendations on a new ethical standards framework for the Council. This included the adoption of a new Code of Conduct for Members, and draft procedures in relation to the new disclosable pecuniary interests. The detailed Regulations on the new regime had only just been issued by the Government, and the Monitoring Officer reported that he would use his delegated powers to make any necessary amendments to the Code, the disclosure of registrable interests and associated guidance/procedures. Members would be required to complete a new Declaration of Registrable Interests forms, and would be encouraged to do this as soon as possible after the new Code of Conduct came into force. All Members would be notified by the end of June about what was required, and Parish Clerks were regularly being updated on the position.

In relation to the appointment of the independent person for the new regime, the recruitment process was underway, and was likely to be a joint appointment with the Shropshire & Wrekin Combined Fire Authority. The

latest Government guidance suggested that Independent Members of Standards Committees currently in post would not be allowed to be appointed as the independent person. There were two outstanding Code of Conduct complaints, both of which were due to proceed to a hearing. One of these was being dealt with on 29 June, but the other had had to be deferred. However, it would still be able to be determined after 1 July using transitional arrangements.

The Monitoring Officer noted that this meeting would be the last of the Standards Committee in its current form, and paid tribute to the Independent Members and Parish Council representatives who had served on the Committee, but whose membership would cease on 30 June. Their commitment and experience had been invaluable in meeting the increasing demands placed upon the Committee, and their contribution was greatly appreciated.

One of the Parish Council representatives expressed regret that there would no longer be Parish representation on the Standards Committee, and asked whether there was provision for Parish representatives to be co-opted on to the “new” Standards Committee. The Monitoring Officer replied that while co-option was possible, it was difficult to see what meaningful role they could play, given that the new regime now put the onus on Parishes themselves to take responsibility for good governance and the conduct of their members.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the report be noted;**
- (b) that the commitment and long service to the Standards Committee of the Independent Members, Mr Arul Selvaratnam and Mr Frank Beasland, be recognised and formally recorded;**
- (c) that the commitment and long service to the Standards Committee of the Parish representatives, Councillors Roy Williams, Ray Wickson, David Edwards and Patricia Fairclough, be recognised and formally recorded.**

The meeting ended at 6.20 pm

Chairman:

Date:

Motion for Full Council 12 July

Proposer: Cllr Kuldip Sahota

Seconder: Cllr Richard Overton

The Co-operative Values and Communication sub-group developed proposals earlier this year for a set of Co-operative values for both the Council, the wider community and partners.

Cabinet endorsed these proposals on 26 April.

Ownership

We will – be accountable for our own actions and empower people with the skills to help themselves.

We would like everyone to – take action and responsibility for themselves and their community to the best of their abilities.

Openness & Honesty

We will – be open and honest in the way we work and make decisions and communicate in a clear, simple and timely way.

We would like everyone to – be open and honest about what they want to improve in their community.

Involvement

We will – work together with the community, involve people in decisions that affect their lives and be prepared to listen and take on new ideas.

We would like everyone to – work with and support others, get involved and share their views to help us develop the way we do things.

Fairness & Respect

We will – respond to people's needs in a fair and consistent way.

We will and would like everyone to – respect and care for themselves and others, value the different ideas and skills that people bring and treat each other as equals.

This Council supports and endorses these values and will apply those values in the work done for the benefit of the citizens of this Borough.

b) Councillor S P Burrell will move, in accordance with Council procedure rule 11, the following motion:

This Council recognises the vital role played by scrutiny and is fully committed to supporting the pivotal work carried out by scrutiny and ensuring that all reasonable resources and expertise are made available to the commissions and management board to assist in the fulfilment of their function.

This Council therefore commits to review the composition of the scrutiny commissions and management board with the intention of increasing their membership by one to include a professional co-optee with expertise relevant to the remit of the commission concerned.