

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

Minutes of a meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday, 11th September, 2014 at 6.30 p.m. at The Haybridge Restaurant, Telford College of Arts & Technology, Haybridge Road, Wellington, Telford

PRESENT:

Councillors R.K. Austin, S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell, F. Bould, S.P. Burrell, E.C. Carter, E.A. Clare, S. Davies, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, C. Elliott, A.R.H. England, N.A.M. England, V.A. Fletcher, G.M. Green, K.R. Guy, T. Hope, M. Hosken, M. Ion (Speaker), A.S. Jhawar, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, A.A. MacKenzie, A.D. McClements, A.A. Meredith, J.C. Minor, C.P.R. Mollett, L.A. Murray, R.A. Overton (Deputy Leader), F.R. Picken, J. Pinter, G.C.W. Reynolds, S.A.W. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota (Leader), R.G. Scammell, R.J. Sloan (Deputy Speaker), C.F. Smith, B.J. Thompson, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling and D.R.W. White.

In the absence of the Mayor the Deputy Mayor opened the meeting

14. TRIBUTE TO COUNCILLOR DAVE DAVIES

The Speaker requested that a minutes silence be held for the late Councillor Dave Davies following his recent passing. Councillor K.S. Sahota led the tributes to Councillor Davies. A number of councillors also went on to pay tribute to Councillor Davies who had been committed to, and had served the people of Telford & Wrekin well and who had borne his illness with dignity and great courage.

15. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th July 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors R. Evans, I. Fletcher, J. Greenaway, J. Loveridge, C. Mason, W. McClements, J. Seymour and M. Smith

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors V Fletcher, J. Minor and D. White declared an interest on the Motion in regard to the NHS as members of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. Councillors Fletcher, Minor and White did not speak on this item or take part in the vote but remained in the room.

18. LEADER'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Leader's Report

The Leader reported on the Southwater Development which had contributed to above average growth in the local economy. 800 new jobs had been created in the

Borough over the last few months. Superfast broadband would be available to 96% of houses in the Borough. The Leader welcomed news of proposed funding, which should be confirmed by Christmas, for a major link road connecting the M54, M6 and M6 Toll road. Work was continuing to tackle youth unemployment in the Borough. Jobsfair had been organised within Telford Town Centre to promote the seasonal jobs that were available. TCAT had recently opened its £3.5m automotive engineering academy whilst Harper Adams College had been short listed in the annual Times Higher Education Awards. The Pride in the Community team continued to work hard in the Borough whilst Community Pride funding applications were due to be assessed shortly.

Following the Leader's announcements Councillor C Elliott and Councillor L Murray left the meeting.

19. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor A Jhavar, Deputy Mayor, reported on a number of engagements that he had attended since the last meeting of the Council.

20. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following public question had been received under Council Procedure Rules 7.11 and 7.12.

1. The following question had been submitted by Mr G Kershaw to Councillor K.S. Sahota, the Leader of the Council:

"What are the advantages and disadvantages to the people of the Borough if the Council achieves "City Status" for the Borough?"

The Leader replied that the Council had no intention of applying for City Status.

2. Mr R D Felton asked the following question of Councillor Charles Smith, Cabinet Member: Housing, Development & Borough Towns

"Why are we allowing the sale of farm land for housing when there is a shortage of agricultural land for growing crops? There are people wanting land for growing crops, as advertised in the newspapers"

Councillor Smith replied that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) required the Council to take in to account different types of land in order to meet the housing needs and land supply and national growth. It was suggested that this question was referred to the Government who determined Policy.

21. CABINET DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Members received the report on the Cabinet decisions made since the last meeting of the Council.

Councillor V Fletcher referring to item 2.1.11 of the Cabinet report, the dedication of bridleways and footpaths paid tribute to the Environmental Team and welcomed the report. She asked if it could be noted that there were problems regarding the cutting back of hedges and maintaining footpaths and asked what the Council's plans were for the subsequent maintenance of these bridleways and footpaths. Councillor E Clare, Cabinet Member for Leisure Services & Culture responded that there would be difficult choices to be made due to funding, but where requests for repairs were received, efforts to accommodate these would be made.

Councillor E Carter referring to item 2.1.5 of the Cabinet report, the Telford and Wrekin Superfast Broadband Programme welcomed the report and suggested that the Council work jointly with Shropshire to ensure that the rural areas were not overlooked.

Councillor A Eade referring to item 2.1.8 of the Cabinet report, AFC Telford – Amendments to Legal Agreements, asked Councillor S Davies, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services, Employment & Skills, if the original leases with AFC Telford had been faulty and asked for a full explanation regarding the defects and who was responsible?

Councillor Davies noted that the leases had been finalised under the previous Council administration. During the previous few days New College, Telford and Wrekin Council and AFC Telford had agreed a new Lease which would take effect from the 30th September 2014.

22. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET

a) Property and Housing Investment Programme

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services, Employment and skills presented the report on the Property & Housing Investment Programme.

This programme would deliver 425 new homes and raise the bar of acceptable rental properties. This would enable the Council to utilise brown field and stalled sites to stimulate economic growth and regeneration and create a number of jobs and apprenticeships during the construction and operational phases of the programme. Although the proposals were to address the housing need within the Borough and to create regeneration, any revenue income received from the proposals would be invested into the protection of essential front line services. As the asset would appreciate over the project life, this would lead to a significant capital receipt should the asset be disposed of and by Year 5 it was expected to have added a value of £68m to the asset portfolio.

Some of the properties would be commercially rented. The Council were borrowing an estimated £32m but the properties would not be solely rented to the social housing sector.

Councillor N Dugmore asked Councillor Davies to confirm that the Apartments in Southwater would be private rental and enquired as to where the associated car parking would be situated. Councillor Dugmore also asked if the Council Tax

income would remain the same for the next 30 years. Councillor S Davies replied that the apartments would be at market rent and that car parking would be addressed and included in a future report to council. The model used in the report had not made an assumption that Council Tax would increase.

Councillor A Mackenzie commented that the Council would lead the way and become a quality landlord in a quality market. Councillor Davies added that the Council would become part of the Quality Accreditation Scheme for Private Landlords.

Councillor A Eade raised concerns regarding the project and the £7m capital assets, noting that this was something that the private sector could be undertaking.

Councillor S Bentley asked about the social housing element and if the properties would be offered as right to buy. He also enquired why the model had changed. Councillor Davies replied that market rent and social housing would be offered but the right to buy scheme did not apply.

Following the debate a recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For:(29)

Councillors K. Austin, K.T. Blundell, F.M. Bould, E.A. Clare, S. Davies, A.R.H. England, N.A.M. England, G.M. Green, K.R. Guy, M.G. Ion, A.S. Jhavar, A.A. Mackenzie, A.D. McClements, J.C. Minor, R.A. Overton, F.R. Picken, J. Pinter, G.C.W Reynolds, S. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota, R.J. Sloan, C.F. Smith, B.J. Thompson, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling, D.R.W. White

Against: (13)

Councillors S. Bentley, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, V.A. Fletcher, T.J. Hope, M.B. Hosken, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, A.A. Meredith, C.R.P. Mollett, R.G. Scammell,

Absent: (2)

Councillors C.B.A. Elliott and L.A. Murray.

It was

RESOLVED that –

- (a) the investment of Council held land valued at £6.776m to facilitate the housing and commercial developments set out in the report, which includes part disposal of the Madeley Court site (as shown in the appendix to the report) be approved;**

- (b) prudential borrowing of up to £52m to fund the investment in housing and commercial developments, as set out in the report, be approved;
- (c) the necessary changes to the capital programme and revenue budget to account for the housing and commercial developments as detailed within the report be approved

b) Financial Monitoring 2014/15

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Employment and Skills presented the report on the 2014/15 Financial Monitoring which provided an update on the progress relating to the capital programme.

Following a debate a recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For:(29)

Councillors K. Austin, K.T. Blundell, F.M. Bould, E.A. Clare, S. Davies, A.R.H. England, N.A.M. England, G.M. Green, K.R. Guy, M.G. Ion, A.S. Jhavar, A.A. Mackenzie, A.D. McClements, J.C. Minor, R.A. Overton, F.R. Picken, J. Pinter, G.C.W Reynolds, S. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota, R.J. Sloan, C.F. Smith, B.J. Thompson, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling, D.R.W. White.

Against: (13)

Councillors S. Bentley, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, V.A. Fletcher, T.J. Hope, M.B. Hosken, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, A.A. Meredith, C.R.P. Mollett, R.G. Scammell,

Absent: (2)

Councillors C.B.A. Elliott and L.A. Murray

It was

RESOLVED– that the new allocations and slippage detailed in the report, along with the funding changes to the capital programme, be approved

c) Youth Justice Plan 2014/15

Councillor P. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families presented a report on the Youth Justice Plan. The Plan set out how youth justice services across West Mercia were structured and funded. Key actions, service delivery risks and improvements were also identified within the plan.

RESOLVED – that the Youth Justice Plan 2014/15 be approved.

d) Marches Local Enterprise Partnership Update

Councillor Kuldip Sahota, Leader of the Council gave an update on the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

On 7th July the Government had announced that the LEP had secured £75.3m from the Government's Single Local Growth Fund to support a series of infrastructure investment projects which would accelerate delivery of new jobs and homes. This figure included £10.4m in 2015/16 and £12.3m for 2016/17 of confirmed funding and a provisional award of £41.9m for projects starting in 2016 and beyond. This was in addition to the £10.7m that the Government had previously committed as part of the Local Growth Deal funding for the area.

It was anticipated that Telford and Wrekin would receive £18.8m investment over the next two years together with £5.6m of public/private sector matched investment. This included £13.9m confirmed funding for the Telford Growth Package which would accelerate delivery of employment land at Hortonwood and open up a number of housing sites.

Included on the provisional list of funding award was £3.6m for the Telford Eastern Gateway which would support the delivery of the flagship T54 employment site and £1.3m to relocate the bus station in Telford Town Centre.

The Government had made a commitment to explore the potential for sharing land receipts from the sale of agreed HCA assets in Telford.

Part of agreeing the Growth Deal involved the Government asking the LEP to put in place robust and collaborative governance arrangements to ensure democratic accountability for expenditure and delivery of the agreed programme. It was proposed that a Joint Committee be set up which included the Leaders of 3 Local authorities forming the Marches LEP to exercise the necessary executive functions.

Councillor N Dugmore asked with regard to the £1.3m to relocate the bus station had this decision already been taken and what would happen to the £1.3m if not used for this purpose? Councillor Sahota replied that the funding was from the LEP and this matter was open to consultation.

Councillor Sahota replied to Councillor Dugmore that with regard to the £1.3 from the LEP that there were no plans yet whilst the consultation was still ongoing.

Councillor E Carter commented that he hoped the LEP was successful. It was currently very difficult for people with physical disabilities to get to the bus station and asked if there was anything that could be done in the interim period?

Councillor Sahota replied to Councillor Carter that the design of the bus station would be undertaken with the plans but these had not been finalised.

Following a debate it was

RESOLVED – that the Growth Deal Funding from the Marches LEP be approved, and that it be applied to deliver the projects for which the funding has been allocated.

23. ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT AND AWARDS

Councillor D White presented the Annual Scrutiny Report.

Telford and Wrekin's Scrutiny function had been recognised nationally and had been shortlisted under 2 areas.

Scrutiny Chairman, Councillor D White announced the winners of the Good Scrutiny Award for 2013/14. This was to be shared by both Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee.

Councillors KGuy and S Reynolds collected the award on behalf of the Committees

24. MINUTES OF BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Council noted the resolved minutes of the following Boards and Committees:

Audit Committee	30 th June 2014
Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee	29 th April 2014
Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee	12 th May 2014
Licensing Committee	9 th July 2014
Personnel Committee	26 th June 2014
Planning Committee	2 nd July, 23 rd July and 13 August 2014
Scrutiny Management Board	16 th May 2014
Standards Committee	8 th July 2014

25. QUESTIONS

The following Questions were asked in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7:

1 Councillor S Burrell asked Councillor P Watling

"Noting the tragic case of abuse in Rotherham, could the Cabinet Member for Children's Services provide this Council and the Community with reassurance that no similar circumstances exist in the Borough?"

Councillor Watling provided reassurance that the Borough were doing everything possible to combat such activities and threats.

2 Councillor S Burrell asked Councillor P Watling

“Could the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services provide us with the number of Primary School places required in the Borough to satisfy demand caused by speculative developments and targets set by Shaping Places and explain how he will fund them?”

Councillor Watling explained this was subject to a consultation document and that it was not yet known which sites would be developed.

In response, Councillor Burrell asked how Councillor Watling proposed to create the additional 3200 secondary school places required to support increased development in the Borough in order to avert a looming crisis in secondary education provision. Councillor Watling believed this was scaremongering and that there were enough school places.

Councillor R Picken left the meeting before the next question was raised.

3 Councillor G Reynolds asked Councillor S Davies

“Can the cabinet member for Employment and skills update the council on efforts to reduce youth unemployment in our borough?”

Councillor Davies provided an update on the work being done to reduce Youth Unemployment.

Councillor Reynolds asked if match funding was available to the Council to tackle unemployment?

Councillor Davies explained that he had written to the Minister numerous times but had not received a response. A motion would be brought to Council to write to the Government to match fund £1.4m.

4 Councillor A Eade asked Councillor C Smith

“Can you confirm, that unlike the previous Labour Administration, this Council has no plans to build on the Town Park’s Arena?”

Councillor Smith replied that there were no plans to building on the Town Park.

Councillor A Eade believed this to be incorrect but Councillor C Smith reassured Members that there would be no building on the Town Park.

Prior to debate of the next item Councillor G Green left the meeting.

26. NOTICES OF MOTION

- a) Councillor R A Overton moved, in accordance with Council procedure rule 11, the following motion:

“This Council notes with great concern proposals that would see one Accident and Emergency Centre for Telford, Shropshire and Mid-Wales becoming “ambulance only” with so called walk-in patients diverted to an Urgent Care Centre (UCC).

Telford & Wrekin Council again calls for a full 24 Hour Accident and Emergency Service at our Princess Royal Hospital and urges the Secretary of State to intervene in this process that is bringing so much uncertainty to our residents”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor R J Sloan.

Following a debate it was

RESOLVED – that the motion be unanimously agreed.

b) Councillor N A Dugmore moved, in accordance with Council procedure rule 11, the following motion:

“This Council notes the success of Shropshire Council in identifying 5.47 years of future Housing land supply which will help them resist speculative development that is currently blighting the Borough of Telford & Wrekin.

This Council also notes with concern that, despite 3 years in control, the current Labour Administration have failed to identify a similar land supply and calls on the Council Leader to explain to the community the reasons for this abject failure to protect the Borough from out of control building development”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor A Eade

Following a debate a recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For: (13)

Councillors S. Bentley, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, V.A. Fletcher, T.J. Hope, M.B. Hosken, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, A.A. Meredith, C.R.P. Mollett, R.G. Scammell,

Against: (24)

Councillors K. Austin, F.M. Bould, E.A. Clare, S. Davies, A.R.H. England, N.A.M. England, K.R. Guy, M.G. Ion, A.S. Jhavar, A.A. Mackenzie, A.D. McClements, J.C. Minor, R.A. Overton, J. Pinter, G.C.W Reynolds, S. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota, R.J. Sloan, C.F. Smith, B.J. Thompson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling, D.R.W. White

Abstentions: (3)

K.T. Blundell, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson

Absent: (4)

Councillors C.B.A. Elliott, G.M. Green, L.A. Murray, F.R. Picken,

It was

RESOLVED – that the motion be defeated.

The meeting ended at 8.52pm.

Mayor:

Date:

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

Minutes of a meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday, 17 July, 2014 at 6.30 p.m. at The Place, Oakengates, Telford.

PRESENT:

Councillors R.K. Austin, S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell, S.P. Burrell, E.C. Carter, E.A. Clare, D.G. Davies, S. Davies, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, 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, A.S. Jhavar, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, J. Loveridge, A.A. MacKenzie, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, W.A.M. McClements, A.A. Meredith, J.C. Minor, C.P.R. Mollett, L.A. Murray, R.A. Overton (Deputy Leader), F.R. Picken, J. Pinter, G.C.W. Reynolds, S.A.W. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota (Leader), R.G. Scammell, J.M. Seymour, R.J. Sloan (Deputy Speaker), C.F. Smith, M.J. Smith (Mayor), A.J. Stanton, B.J. Thompson, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling and D.R.W. White.

The Mayor opened the meeting, and reported that, in the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker would be chairing the remainder of the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 8 May 2014 and of the Annual Council meeting held on 29 May 2014, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors, F.M. Bould, C.B.A. Elliott, T.J. Hope, M.B. Hosken and M.G. Ion (Speaker)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors S. Davies, A.R.H. England and K.S. Sahota declared a pecuniary interest in item 2.2.8 of the Cabinet Decision report, Update on Dawley Social & Memorial Club, shown at Appendix C on the agenda.

Councillor R.C. Evans declared a pecuniary interest in item 2.2.3 of the Cabinet Decision report, Domiciliary Care Preferred Provider Frameworks, shown at Appendix C on the agenda.

4. LEADER'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Leader's Report

The Leader told the meeting that the council had secured over £10m for infrastructure improvements across the borough. Nearly £4m to develop the T54 industrial area off the M54 and a further £1.3m for the redevelopment of Telford's

bus station. Later in the evening Full council would be asked to back plans for permission to borrow up to £120m to support the bid for the MoD Donnington logistics hub. If successful this would secure more than 1,000 jobs and create up to 700 new jobs, generating an extra £60m a year for the local economy. The council was also seeking to borrow a further £50m to build 425 homes for rent. This would help to provide a much needed boost to the rental market including many affordable homes. This would also provide a further boost to regeneration and an investment for the Council that could generate extra money to help protect local services. This was another example of the council's commitment to good capital borrowing. Projects, such as the Solar farm, MOD Donnington logistics hub and building homes would pay back borrowing and generate a surplus that would provide extra funding for key frontline services.

Earlier in the week the Southwater One building had opened, accommodating the Council's First Point customer services, new central library, as well as a new coffee shop. A new cinema, restaurants and hotel would be opening over the next few weeks creating 450 new jobs. T-Party was scheduled for 2 August, a day of free fun for all the family. The Leader had also attended the recent 'Drive-In movie'. Both nights had been a great success and the council planned to repeat this initiative for Halloween. Later in the summer, T-Live would return for two nights, further reinforcing the message that the Borough was a place that people wanted to visit. Securing employment opportunities for local people remained a priority for this Council and in particular tackling high youth unemployment. The new Job Box mentor scheme offering 20-24 year olds with one-to-one advice in their job search had been operating for past 6 weeks. Work was progressing well to rebuild and refurbish the secondary schools across Telford and Wrekin. Work had started at Holy Trinity Academy in Priorslee and the new sports hall and student facilities at Southall School had officially opened in the previous week. Ercall Wood would open its brand new school building for the new academic year in September. The council welcomed the expansion of local company, CML Fulfilment & Logistics. CML was a huge success story for the borough, growing from a small company employing 15 people into a thriving and fast growing business with a workforce of more than 160. The Pride in Our Community project was also generating successful local initiatives for the Borough.

5. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor presented the Royal Town Planning Institute Certificate to Michael Barker, Assistant Director: Planning Specialist. The certificate had recently been awarded to the council for the Borough's special contribution to the evolution of the science and art of special planning and all that was involved with the development of thriving communities.

Members received the report of Mayoral engagements undertaken since the last meeting of the council on 1 May 2014.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following public question had been received under Council Procedure Rules 7.11 and 7.12.

Mr. V. Rainsford asked the following question of Councillor Charles Smith, Cabinet Member: Housing Development and Borough Towns.

“Have the Council purchased the following sites 504 Donnington Farm, Muxton and site 351, site 88 Wellington Road, Muxton, and if so do you intend to sell them on to the Developers for a profit to allow for the Development of houses adjoining Breton Park as in the Shaping Places Document?”

The Cabinet Member replied that the council did not own and had never owned this land. The council did own some land in Muxton but not at the sites referred to in the question. Comments would be taken in to account as part of any future planning application.

7. CABINET DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Members received the report on the Cabinet decisions made since the last meeting of the Council.

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services & Employment and Skills, referred to the Telford Loyalty Card report. He noted that 60629 cards had been issued in the first year, a 15% increase when compared with the old Flex card. By July 2014 take up had risen to 67254, one third of the Borough's residents. A new Smartphone app allowing customers to access more offers would soon be available. Local attractions and businesses could be promoted and a TLC zone had been opened in partnership with Parish councils.

Councillor A England updated members on the progress towards the domiciliary care preferred provider frameworks. Councillor A.J. Eade referred to the Domiciliary Care Preferred Provider Frameworks.

Councillor E.J. Greenaway, referring to the Scrutiny review of Primary School Places, asked what changes to current plans would be made in order to ensure the Borough did not run out of school places by 2018 due to the increase in new homes in the Borough. Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, replied that there was no crisis and that the report indicated that the council had planned well enough. Developments would be monitored and future plans would accommodate population changes across the Borough.

Councillor K.L. Tomlinson, referring to Domiciliary Care Preferred Provider Frameworks, asked the Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care, whether, as a result of tenders received, emergency care services would be provided within the area. Councillor England agreed to provide a written response.

Councillor N.A. Dugmore, referring to the Scrutiny review of Empty Properties, asked the Cabinet Member: Housing Development and Borough Towns, when the 500 or so empty homes in the Borough would be brought back in to use and how many empty property development orders had been served in the last 3 years.

Councillor C.F. Smith replied that empty properties were closer to 400 not 500 and that the Housing Options scheme had only recently began in early July. 13 landlords had signed up and work was beginning to bring properties back in to use. Councillor Dugmore should ask the question in September once the scheme had been operating for a while. Councillor Smith agreed to provide a written response on empty property development orders.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET

a) 2013/14 Out-turn and Initial Monitoring for 2014/15 (26 June 2014)

Councillor W.A. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance which outlined the Revenue out-turn position and related virements and Capital position for 2013/14.

At least £10m-£13m savings would be required each year for the next 3 years. £53m of ongoing savings had already been delivered by the Borough, £11m in the last year.

£4.884m had been generated from back-dating the change in treatment of the calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision and had been transferred to reserves in accordance with agreed service and financial planning strategy for 2014/15 to fund debt charges for the Pride in Your Community initiative. £1.546m arising from treasury management activities had been generated and £1.5m savings had been generated from close management of employee budgets. Pressures had arisen from £2.9m overspend in Adult Social Services and £1.4m overspend on Children's Safeguarding.

Councillor A.J. Eade noted that the main opposition group alternative budget had contained a provision of £2m to cushion the effects of budget reductions on the Adult Social Care budget. He was pleased that this was reflected in the council's financial planning.

Councillor W.L. Tomlinson acknowledged the difficulties arising from unprecedented budget reductions but noted that he would have preferred less to be spent on the Pride in Our Community project and more on Adult Social Care.

Councillor V.A. Fletcher asked for an update on continuing healthcare costs. Councillor McClements replied that progress was being made and that he would be able to give a fuller answer at the end of the year. Changes would be made in the face of huge budget reductions in order to protect front line services.

A vote was then taken, and it was

RESOLVED that -

- i) the Revenue out-turn position and related virements for 2013/14, shown in Appendix 3 of the report (and subject to audit by the Council's external auditors); the transfer to reserves detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report; and the earmarking of the 2013/14 general**

contingency as a specific draw-down budget available to Adult Social Services in 2014/15 be approved;

(ii) the Capital out-turn position and related supplementary estimates, virements and re-phasing, shown in Appendix 4 of the report, be approved;

b) Protecting Jobs in the Borough: Development of a Logistics Hub at MOD Donnington (10 July 2014)

Councillor W.A. McClements, Cabinet Member: Resources & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Director: Development, Business & Customer Service which provided an update on the MOD's logistics commodities and services (transformation) project and sought approval for the council to fund, on a commercial basis, the development of the logistics hub at MOD Donnington.

Councillor McClements told the meeting that this was the biggest issue for discussion by council in many years. The project was worth up to £60m a year to the local economy. Telford was a growth point for the UK economy and this project would build on existing success, safeguarding more than 1000 jobs.

A number of councillors spoke on this report. Councillor A.J. Eade supported the decision but requested that, due to the level of debt exposure, a full business case be presented to full council. Councillor W.L. Tomlinson felt that concerns over debt exposure were scaremongering as draw down of funding rested with the delivery partner and MOD guaranteeing a lease payment if default occurred within the contract or under the lease or finance agreement. Councillor I.T.W. Fletcher felt that the full business case for this borrowing should go to Audit Committee for review.

Councillor McClements thanked councillors for their support for the project. In response to a question he confirmed that the benefits of the Railfreight terminal were known to bidders. He believed that it was essential that the council committed to this project.

A recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For: (49)

Councillors R.K. Austin, S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell, S.P. Burrell, E.C. Carter, E.A. Clare, D.G. Davies, S. Davies, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, 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, A.S. Jhawar, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, J. Loveridge, A.A. MacKenzie, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, W.A.M. McClements, A.A. Meredith, J.C. Minor, C.P.R. Mollett, L.A. Murray, R.A. Overton (Deputy Leader), F.R. Picken, J. Pinter, G.C.W. Reynolds, S.A.W. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota (Leader), R.G. Scammell, J.M. Seymour, R.J. Sloan (Deputy Speaker), C.F. Smith, M.J. Smith (Mayor) , A.J. Stanton, B.J. Thompson, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling and D.R.W. White.

and it was

RESOLVED - that the investment as outlined in the report and the approval of prudential borrowing of up to £120 million to fund this commercial investment, and all associated changes to the capital programme, be approved.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS & COMMITTEES

a) Treasury Management – 2013/14 Annual Report and 2014/15 to Date

Councillor R.K. Austin, Vice Chairman of Audit Committee, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance which sought approval for the increases in authorised and operational limits for 2014/15 to facilitate the council to potentially undertake very significant capital regeneration investments of a commercial nature and to approve other changes to prudential indicators.

Following a debate a recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For: (49)

Councillors R.K. Austin, S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell, S.P. Burrell, E.C. Carter, E.A. Clare, D.G. Davies, S. Davies, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, 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, A.S. Jhawar, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, J. Loveridge, A.A. MacKenzie, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, W.A.M. McClements, A.A. Meredith, J.C. Minor, C.P.R. Mollett, L.A. Murray, R.A. Overton (Deputy Leader), F.R. Picken, J. Pinter, G.C.W. Reynolds, S.A.W. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota (Leader), R.G. Scammell, J.M. Seymour, R.J. Sloan (Deputy Speaker), C.F. Smith, M.J. Smith (Mayor) , A.J. Stanton, B.J. Thompson, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling and D.R.W. White.

Against: (0)

It was

RESOLVED - that the increases in Authorised and Operational limits for 2014/15 to facilitate the Council to potentially undertake very significant capital regeneration investments of a commercial nature, and the other changes to prudential indicators, be approved.

b) Updates to the Constitution

Councillor C.F. Smith, Chairman of the Council Constitution Committee, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services which made recommendations to contract procedure rules and to the terms of reference of Health & Wellbeing Board.

Following a vote it was:

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the changes set out at Appendix 1 of the report relating to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (as amended by Council Constitution Committee) be approved with immediate effect;
- (b) that the changes set out at Appendix 2 of the report relating to the Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference (as amended by Council Constitution Committee) be approved with immediate effect.

10. MINUTES OF BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Council noted the resolved minutes of the following Boards and Committees:

Boundary Review Committee	3 February, 29 April and 23 June
Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee	19March
Planning Committee	30 April, 21 May and 11 June

11. QUESTIONS

The following Questions were asked in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7:

1 Councillor Nathan England asked Councillor Shaun Davies, Cabinet member for Neighbourhood Services, Employment and Skills

"What plans are there to improve Stafford Park, a major centre for employment and commerce in my ward of the Nedge?"

Councillor Davies replied that work was being undertaken to improve highways and footpaths in order to ensure a better connection between residential and business areas. A review was taking place of signage in the Borough's industrial areas, with older signage being replaced and removed where appropriate.

Councillor England asked if these plans had been backed by any other political group at Telford & Wrekin.

Councillor Davies replied that only the controlling group had supported this.

2 Councillor Kevin Guy asked Councillor Shaun Davies, Cabinet member for Neighbourhood Services, Employment and Skills

"Will the Cabinet member join with me in congratulating Madeley Town Council for investing in Job Junctions in my community?"

Councillor Davies replied that he would and that Madeley Town council and four other Parish councils had contributed £13k. This funding had been gratefully

received. Job Junctions had increased from 8 to the current level of 15. Attendance had increased from 365 to 876 in June and 23 people had been supported directly in to employment.

Councillor Guy asked about youth unemployment.

Councillor Davies replied that real efforts were being made to tackle the scourge of youth unemployment.

3 Councillor Stephen Bentley asked Councillor Charles Smith, Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development

“Can you explain why development preference within rural areas is on greenfield, or agricultural land as opposed to brownfield sites?”

Councillor Smith replied that brownfield sites were prioritised but that this alone was not enough to meet local needs in urban and rural areas. Identified development was mainly on brownfield sites. The National Planning Policy Framework made it difficult to turn down planning applications on green field sites. However this was a problem facing all councils. He noted that the former Minister with responsibility for planning had recently congratulated the council on efforts to maximise brownfield development.

Councillor Bentley asked why the Shaping Places document did not refer to brownfield sites and why Greenfield land was being developed.

Councillor Smith replied that if the land was not owned by the council then there was nothing the council could do to prevent applications being brought forward. Rural parcels of land were being brought forward for development and the council did not have the powers to turn down these applications.

4 Councillor Stephen Bentley asked Councillor Charles Smith, Cabinet Member: Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development

“Can you tell me how to contact the countryside agency?”

Councillor Smith noted that this organisation no longer existed as the Countryside Agency.

Councillor Bentley asked why some neighbourhood planning consultation documents were showing the Countryside Agency details.

Councillor Smith replied that he would check this and ensure details were updated.

5 Councillor Andrew Eade asked Councillor Kuldip Sahota

“Have you, as a matter of policy, put any contingency funds in place to meet the potential costs of any planning appeals?”

Councillor Sahota replied that there were not funds in place, each application was assessed regarding risks of appeal and funding allocated accordingly.

Councillor Eade asked if any money had been put aside to cover the £1.4m spent recently on the supermarket planning application in Newport and possible £600k for a further appeal.

Councillor Sahota replied that this would be managed as part of the council's overall £2.5m contingency.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

- a) Councillor P R Watling moved, in accordance with Council procedure rule 11, the following motion:

“This Council Notes with concern the recent DFE consultation on the power to delegate children’s social care functions and believes that, although the proposed regulations would enable local authorities to delegate responsibilities to small and medium sized social enterprises, there is a risk that it would lead to service provision shifting to large organisations with the potential for the pursuit of profit distorting decisions about children’s care. Therefore, this Council believes that these powers should remain with the democratically elected representatives of the people of Telford and Wrekin.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor G C W Reynolds.

Following a debate It was

RESOLVED – that the motion be approved.

Prior to debate of the next item Councillor F.R, Picken left the meeting.

- b) Councillor A J Eade moved, in accordance with Council procedure rule 11, the following motion:

“This Council calls on the Cabinet to consider reopening the consultation process for Shaping Places to ensure the fullest possible involvement by our community in the Borough and to facilitate those people who were not aware of the proposals in Shaping Places or discovered them too late to make a considered or detailed response.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor N A Dugmore.

Following the debate, a recorded vote was requested and voting was as follows:

For: (19)*Councillors: Bentley, Blundell, Burrell, Carter, Dugmore, Eade, I Fletcher, V Fletcher, Green, Greenaway, Kiernan, Lawrence, Meredith, Mollett, Scammell, Seymour, Stanton, K Tomlinson and W Tomlinson*

Against: (29)*Councillors: Austin, Clare, D Davies, S Davies, A England, N England, Evans, Guy, Jhawar, Loveridge, Mackenzie, Mason, A McClements, W McClements, Minor, Murray, Overton, Pinter, G Reynolds, S Reynolds, Rhodes, Sahota, Sloan, C Smith, M Smith, Thompson, Turley, Watling and White*

Absent: (1) *Councillor Picken*

RESOLVED – that the motion be defeated.

The meeting ended at 8.58pm.

Mayor:

Date:

MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS
4 July 2014 – 31 August 2014

July	7	M	Children & Young People's Art Exhibition Gallery Bar at The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Oakengates
	8	M	Telford & Wrekin Active Lifestyles Award Evening at The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Oakengates
	10	M	Official Opening of the Staubli Ltd Facility at Staubli UK Ltd, Staubli House, Hadley Park East, Hadley
		M	Royal Visit to Mark the 50 th Anniversary of The Shropshire Star Midland Newspapers at Waterloo Road, Ketley, Telford
	11	DM	Sanctuary Housing Healthy Happy Week Event at Sanctuary Housing, Hartshorne Court, Burton Street, Dawley
	12	DM	Rev. Dr. S Parkes Cadman Commemoration Service at Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Station Road, Ketley Brook, Telford
		DM	Mayor of Newport Town Council's Civic Service at St Nicholas' Church, Newport
	14	M	Tour of Southwater One, Southwater, Telford
		M	Senior Citizen's Forum Arts, Crafts & Music Fair at Dawley Christian Centre, Telford
	18	M	Adams' Grammar School Speech Day & Prize giving at Adams' Grammar School, Newport
	19	M	Annual Ironbridge Gorge Gala Charity Concert at The Museum of Iron, Coach Road, Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge
	20	M	Wolverhampton Council Civic Service at St Peters Church, Wolverhampton

B

- 22 M** Unveiling of the 'Royal Bench' on Cycle Route 55 National Cycle Network Route 55, Gnosall
- 25 M** Official Opening of M R Bathrooms & Fires, 1Cuckoo Oak Green, Tweedale, Telford
- 26 M** Malinslee Urban Day at Malinslee & Dawley Playing Fields, Telford
- 31 M** Juniper Star Awards Ceremony at Juniper Training Ltd, 9 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford
- August**
- 2 M** T-Party at Southwater, Telford Town Park Arena, Telford
- M** Dawley Musical Theatre Group Summer Performance at Dawley Town Hall, Dawley
- 3 M** World War One Commemoration Service at Shrewsbury Abbey, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury
- DM** Health Expo Day at The Whitehouse Hotel, Wellington
- 4 M** Official Opening of Anouka Indian Restaurant at Lawley Square, Lawley, Telford
- 6 M** Official Opening of Telford Cineworld Cinema, Southwater, Telford Town Centre
- 7 DM** Parish Environmental Team Launch (Ketley/Lawley & Overdale) Park Lane Open Space off Mossey Green Way, Old Park, Telford
- 8 M** Shrewsbury Service of Thanks Giving & Flower Show Luncheon at Shrewsbury Cathedral/Shrewsbury High School, Town Walls, Shrewsbury
- 10 DM** Shrewsbury Town Council Summer Lunch at the Members' Marquee, The Quarry, Shrewsbury
- 16 M** Butters John Bee Official Opening at Southwater, Telford Town Centre

B

- 23 M** Mayor of Whitchurch Town Council's Charity Dinner at Whitchurch Civic Centre, High Street, Whitchurch
- 27 M** Shropshire's First World War Commemorative Service at St Chad's Church, St Chad's Terrace, Shrewsbury
- 29 M** Charity Summer Ball in aid of Severn Hospice & Cancer Research UK at The Park House Hotel, Park Street, Shifnal
- 31 M** Welcome Service for Revd. Henry Ponniah & Deacon Julie Morton of Telford Methodist Church Circuit at Dawley Christian Centre, High Street, Telford

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL
COUNCIL – 11th SEPTEMBER 2014

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 meeting on 24th July 2014.

2.0 CABINET BUSINESS

Matters that have been determined by Cabinet are listed below:

2.1 24th July 2014

K	2.1.1	Property and Housing Investment Programme
K	2.1.2	Scrutiny Review of the Meals on Wheels Hot Meals Service
K	2.1.3	Financial Monitoring 2014/15
K	2.1.4	Youth Justice Plan
K	2.1.5	Telford & Wrekin Superfast Broadband Programme
K	2.1.6	Marches Local Enterprise Partnership Update
K	2.1.7	Procurement Update
NK	2.1.8	AFC Telford – Amendments to Legal Agreements
K	2.1.9	Special Educational Needs & Disability Reforms
NK	2.1.10	2013/14 End of Year Performance Analysis and Strategic Risk Register
K	2.1.11	Dedication of Bridleways and a Footpath on Council Owned Land
NK/E	2.1.12	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Key

K	= Key Decisions
NK	= Non-Key Decisions
E	= Exempt Items

3.0 DELEGATION OF POWERS GRANTED BY THE CABINET

REPORT HEADING	DELEGATION GRANTED TO	DETAIL OF DELEGATION GRANTED
<p>Property & Housing Investment Programme</p>	<p>Director: Development, Business & Customer Services</p>	<p>In consultation with the Cabinet Members for Finance & Enterprise and Neighbourhood Services, Employment & Skills, to enter into contracts to deliver the construction element of the programme. Otherwise it will be noted that the Wholly Owned Company will independently enter into the necessary contracts to deliver both the construction element of the programme and, thereafter, the ongoing operation and maintenance of the properties.</p>
	<p>Director of Development, Business and Customer Services</p>	<p>In consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Enterprise and Neighbourhood Services, Employment & Skills, to award all future phase of the programme not included within the tender, but within the approved budget proposals contained in the report.</p>
	<p>Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services</p>	<p>To set up a company limited by shares for the purposes of carrying out the aims set out in the report, and to execute all legal agreements and documents necessary pursuant to the set-up and subsequent operation of such a company.</p>
	<p>Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services</p>	<p>To execute all documents in accordance with the Council's Constitution so required to give effect to the proposals contained in this report.</p>

	Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services	<p>- Draw up a Delivery Plan for the roll out programme in accordance with the priorities set out in the report and agree this with the successful supplier.</p> <p>To execute all documentation required to give effect to the agreements reached in relation to the above.</p>
Marches Local Enterprise Partnership Update	<p>Director, Development, Business & Customer Services, or their representative</p> <p>Director, Development, Business & Customer Services</p>	<p>To represent the Council, and take decisions on behalf of the Council, at meetings of the Stakeholder Member Board.</p> <p>To negotiate with the Marches LEP and the Government regarding a potential HCA land receipt sharing agreement.</p>
AFC Telford – Amendments to Legal Agreements	<p>Director of Development, Business & Customer Services</p> <p>Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services</p>	<p>In consultation with the Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services, Employment & Skills, to negotiate and agree the terms for any variation/amendment, surrender and creation of any necessary legal agreements, including new leases, as may be required pursuant to the report.</p> <p>To seal or sign any documents required to give effect to the recommendations contained in the report.</p>

<p>Special Educational Needs & Disability Reforms</p>	<p>Director of Children & Family Services</p>	<p>Following consultation with the Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, to approve and implement revised SEND policies to meet the requirements of the Children & Families Act 2014.</p>
<p>Dedication of Bridleways and Footpath on Council Owned Land</p>	<p>Assistant Director: Development, Business & Employment</p> <p>Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services</p>	<p>To agree the terms of the deed of dedication of the land described in appendices 1-5 of the report for use by the public as bridleways, and the land described in Appendix 6 of the report for use by the public as a footpath.</p> <p>To execute and complete such documentation as may be required to achieve the dedication of the land described above.</p>
<p>LEGAL COMMENT FINANCIAL COMMENT LINKS WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EQUALITY & DIVERSITY WARD IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>As described in each report considered by Cabinet. Copies of all reports have been previously circulated to all Members of the Council</p>	

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET **24 JULY 2014**
FULL COUNCIL **11 SEPTEMBER 2014**

PROPERTY & HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

REPORT OF DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

LEAD CABINET MEMBERS – CLLR BILL McCLEMENTS & CLLR SHAUN DAVIES

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

The Property & Housing Investment Programme will deliver a number of objectives throughout the development of 425 new homes and over 4,500m² of commercial and retail space on Council owned land. This will enable the Council to utilise brown field and stalled sites, stimulating economic growth and regeneration, creating a number of jobs during the construction and operational phase of the programme.

Although the proposals are to address the housing need within the Borough and create regeneration, any revenue income that the Council receive from the proposals will be invested in the protection of essential frontline services. In addition, the asset will to appreciate over the project life which lead to a significant capital receipt should the assets be disposed.

This report follows on from the Cabinet report of the 25th April 2013 to commence a full feasibility and viability assessment to deliver a major housing programme, referred to as Stage 1. The report delivers the findings from the Stage 1 viability and provides recommendations for Stage 2 which seeks a number of approvals to deliver the programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet recommends to Full Council the approval of the investment of Council held land valued at £6,775m to facilitate the housing and commercial developments set out in this report which includes part disposal of the Madeley Court site (identified in blue – appendix 1, page 27).**
- 2.2 That Cabinet approve the establishment by the Council of a Wholly Owned Company to assist in the delivery of the Council's housing development and regeneration objectives based upon the general principles of governance and operation of the Wholly Owned Company as set out in the legal section of this report. If approved, this will form part of the Final Business Case and will be developed into legal agreements and company formation documents. The Final Business Case is to be brought back to Cabinet for final approval.**
- 2.3 That Cabinet recommends to Full Council the approval of prudential borrowing of up to £52m to fund the investment in Housing and Commercial developments as set out in this report.**

2.4	That if circumstances require, the Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Development Business and Customer Services in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Finance & Enterprise & Neighbourhood Services, Employment & Skills to enter into contracts to deliver the construction element of the programme, otherwise the Cabinet note that the Wholly Owned Company will independently enter into the necessary contracts to deliver both the construction element of the programme and thereafter the ongoing operation and maintenance of the properties.
2.5	That Cabinet recommends to Full Council the approval of the necessary changes to the capital programme and revenue budget to account for the housing and commercial developments as detailed within this report.
2.6	That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Development Business and Customer Services in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Finance & Enterprise & Neighbourhood Services, Employment & Skills to award all future phases of the programme not included within the tender, but within the approved budget proposals contained within the report.
2.7	That Cabinet delegate authority to the Assistant Director; Law, Democracy & People Services to set up a company limited by shares for the purposes of carrying out the aims set out in this report and to execute all legal agreements and documents necessary pursuant to the set up and subsequent operation of such a company.
2.8	That Cabinet delegate authority to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services to execute all documents in accordance with the Council's Constitution so required to give effect to the proposals contained in this report as approved by Cabinet.

SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	Regenerate those neighbourhoods in need and work to ensure that local people have access to suitable housing and amenities. The proposals will create jobs within the retail sector during the operational phase and through the construction phase.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	Indicative timescales: Commencement on site: Spring 2015 Release of first units for rent: Autumn 2015 Completion of construction phase: Autumn 2016 Full operation: Autumn 2016	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	Full details are covered in the financial section of the report
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Full details are covered in section Legal

		Section of the report
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	Full details are covered in Section 7
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	Southwater – Malinslee Ward – Cllr K Sahota & Cllr S Davies Hollinswood Strip and Randlay Lorry Park – The Nedge Ward – Cllr N England, Cllr B McClements & Cllr C Turley Woodlands – Woodside Ward – Cllr K Guy & Cllr R Evans Newport South – Cllr A Meredith Madeley - Cllr Paul Watling & Cllr G Green

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

3. INFORMATION

3.1 Background

The Property and Housing Investment Programme will deliver a number of objectives by delivering a significant number of quality private rent and affordable rent homes, responding to the housing needs in the Borough. The programme will develop sites which are owned by the Council, bringing forward development and creating regeneration opportunities. The project will create a number of jobs during the construction and operational phase stimulating economic growth. During the operational stage of the project, the programme will deliver income and capital growth for the Council for frontline services.

In addition to housing investment opportunities, during the viability stage further sites have been appraised to establish further opportunities that would deliver an enhanced investment as part of regeneration. As a result, mixed use commercial developments have been included, which will provide best consideration for the asset value of the Councils land and provide a sound investment opportunity.

The cabinet report of 25th April 2013 gained approval to commence a full feasibility and viability assessment to deliver a major housing investment programme, this report delivers the key findings and seeks approval to commence with Stage 2 of the proposals, including the delivery and implementation. The cabinet report of the 25th April 2013 was based on the option of the programme being financed by a private investment fund through a Council Wholly Owned Company (WOC). The report required alternative funding options and structures to be investigated and assessed to provide the most favourable delivery route for the Council. The full assessment is within section the Legal of this report which supports the recommendations.

To take the programme forward, consultants have been appointed to undertake key areas of work which in summary were, design, develop scheme proposals to planning stage, undertake market research and manage the procurement process. Under the Council's guidance, the Consultants have developed each of the sites to a position where a full planning application could be submitted. It has been decided through the viability process these applications will not be formally registered, to allow Contractors to submit a variant tender based on their own designs, so as to deliver the most economic solution as further efficiencies may if the contractors use their own house types to deliver the programme.

Other Councils embarking similar initiatives and private rental landlords which operate similar schemes have been contacted and visited throughout the viability to gain further market experience and knowledge. The Cabinet report identified a number of sites as being potential development sites. As part of the viability these

have been tested and investigated to identify if they are viable and present an investment or regeneration opportunity to the Council. A number of sites originally identified in the report have been discounted as part of the viability due to cost restraints arising from site difficulties and abnormalities, sites being allocated for an alternative use, or from a risk perspective due to flooding the market leading to a negative effect on the rental opportunities.

The sites that are recommended and those that will form the programme under this report are shown in table 1 below. The layout and description of the proposals is contained within Appendix 1 of this report and delivers 425 housing units and a number of commercial developments as shown below:

Site	Development Type	Description
Southwater (Apartments) including retail and associated car parking	Mixed use development	115 Apartments with associated car parking, 2x circa 600m2 double height retail units on the ground floor,
Hollinswood Strip	Housing Development	12 market rental / 32 affordable rental units
Randlay (lorry park)	Housing Development	31 market rental units
Woodlands (former Woodland Primary School)	Housing Development	101 market rental units
Madeley Court (former Madeley Court and Leisure site)	Mixed Development	50 market rental housing units, 2x supermarkets and fast food restaurant
Newport, Springfields	Housing Development	29 affordable rental units
Matlock Avenue, Malinslee (former Malinslee Primary School)	Housing Development	30 market rental units
Wildwood, Woodside	Housing Development	25 affordable rental units

Table 1

The Cabinet report of April 2013 included land at St Quentin Gate (apartments) and land at Malinslee (adjacent to the NFU). These sites have been discounted at this stage due to difficulties in developing the sites.

Financial Consultants have been appointed to undertake a full assessment of the proposals, their brief being to test the financial model for robustness and advise on the most efficient structure for the delivery. They have provided advice on the model cash flows and the accounting of company structures, working alongside legal advisors who are in the process of developing similar proposals with other Councils. The financial and legal comment provides a full analysis. The report summarises further investigation into the available funding routes. Different routes have been investigated and the recommended route and the full analysis of the funding routes are identified within the financial section.

It is proposed that the non residential, mixed use developments will be retained by the Council as this would be the most viable option with regards to accounting. The assets would be held within the existing Property Investment Portfolio (PIP) and not form part of the Wholly Owned Company (WOC) structure. In readiness for the delivery and to gain a level of cost certainty for the project tenders have been sought for Southwater Apartments, Hollinswood Strip, Randlay Lorry Park and Woodlands (identified in blue, table 1). This is explained in more detail within the legal section of the report.

The results of the tender have been included as part of the financial comments and form the figure used in the projected costs. Where additional sites have been included within the programme and not included within the tender, costs are based on the tender returns for other sites and costs provided by Quantity Surveyors or construction professionals.

4. FINANCE COMMENT

4.1 Introduction

During the viability phase of this project, extensive financial modelling work has been performed in consultation with sector specialists and financial advisors. PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) have been engaged to provide commercial and financial advice on the programme, to include consideration of the taxation related advice, in consultation with the outputs from external legal advisors.

Model inputs have been interrogated and confirmed by the following advisors:

- Savills – rental values, lettings phasing, benchmarking of operating costs of Private rented estate
- MACE – construction cost analysis, benchmarking of maintenance charges
- TWC property investment – rental values of commercial units

The analysis has involved extensive financial modelling of the project cash flows to ensure that optimisation of project returns is achieved. The results of the modelling have confirmed that a different delivery vehicle is required for the two classes of assets which the project is delivering, being:

- Housing – The Council will establish a wholly owned General Fund Special Purpose Housing Company (“Wholly Owned Company” WOC) to develop new homes on Council owned land. The Council will invest in the Housing Company by transferring land from its General Fund in return for shares in the WOC. They will also lease a number of flats above the retail units (Southwater) for the WOC to manage as part of its portfolio.
- Commercial – The Council deliver all commercial units through its existing Property Investment Portfolio (PIP).

The Finance section which follows draws distinction between these two different assets in terms of the funding route and accounting treatment.

4.2 Funding Route

As part of the investigation of the available options a number of different funding routes for the project have been investigated. This has demonstrated that the private investment route is not the most financially viable long term funding route and has disadvantages to other options that are available, the main ones being the limited control over the estate, the step-in rights and power of the private investor and the borrowing profile of a bond financed route which, if linked to inflation over the life of the borrowing, could prove to be uneconomical in the latter years of the project.

The two main options considered have included the raising of external finance (linked to movements in RPI), and the drawdown of Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) funding. The advantages and disadvantages of each route have been appraised internally drawing on the expertise of external financial and legal consultants. The appraisal has supported the use of PWLB finance on the basis that the use of this finance will provide the ability of the Council to deliver the programme in a flexible way whilst maintaining control of the overall estate. Furthermore, the use of fixed rate PWLB financing, which is not linked to RPI reduces the risk of future interest rate movements which may adversely affect the return to the authority, providing that

rental incomes increase during the operation phase of the programme are as the project assumptions it will result in an increased return.

4.3 Financial Modelling

The key financial assumptions underlying the housing and PIP elements of programme modelling are shown in the table below. The financial assumptions are based on information provided by property and financial consultants utilising industry benchmarking and data.

Activity	April 2013 Cabinet	Viability Outcome
Housing Developments		
Funding rate/ term – Housing units	3.5% (plus RPI) over 35 years	Interest only, 30 year maturity 4.18%. Based upon rates as at 15th July 2014
Annual rent increase (housing)	2.5% per annum in line with RPI	1.5% per annum
Annual maintenance/ operating cost rate increase	2.5% per annum in line with RPI	2.0% per annum
Void Rate/ Bad debts	4% of gross rental per annum	5% of gross rental per annum
Management fee	9% of gross rental income per annum	9% of gross rental income per annum
Maintenance charge	£11 per sqm per annum	£10 per sqm per annum
WOC operating costs		3% of gross rental income per annum
House Price inflation	2.5% per annum	2% per annum
Commercial Developments		
Funding rate/ term – PIP investments		4.18% fixed term. MRP over 60 years on an annuity basis.
PIP assets – rental inflation		Rental increases vary and are based on RPI / CPI.

4.3.1 Capital cost and Source of Funds

The table below details the current capital cost estimate for the consolidated programme (housing and commercial), compared to the April 2013 cabinet report, and the anticipated sources of funding.

Projected Cost (£'000s)	Current Proposal	Cabinet Report
Construction Estimate (including fees and s106s, and interest during construction)	55,173	53,900
Land Value and retention of Council owned land for commercial developments	6,775 (2,650)	8,260
Total Cost	59,298	62,160
Source of Funds		
PWLB Borrowing (PIP)	6,180	
PWLB Borrowing (Housing)	45,743	
Capital receipt	4,625	
Developer Contribution	2,750	
Total Funding	59,298	

The capital costs contained in the current tender exercise amount to around two thirds of the total construction estimate, which will provide cost certainty for this element of the build. The projected costs associated with the scheme include for the construction of an extension to the multi storey car park in Southwater. This would provide the spaces required for the apartments and associated retail. There are alternative options and solutions for car parking which are being explored and could prove beneficial which will not increase the capital or revenue costs for the project above those which have already been identified.

The Council will dispose of the land on which the housing is to be built to the WOC in return for a capital receipt which will be used to acquire equity shares in the WOC to an equivalent value. With respect to the land upon which the commercial units are to be built,

- The Council dispose of part of the Madeley Court site (outlined in blue – Appendix 1) to a third party for development.
- The Council will retain ownership of the land upon which the remaining commercial is delivered and return an enhanced position on those assets.

4.3.2 Annual Project Cash flows

Key financial data is summarised in the following table, which demonstrates the annual consolidated position of the programme once all the units have been built and let to assumed void rates. Based upon the current estimated build profiles and letting start dates, the position would be achieved in the fourth year of operation.

The establishment of a WOC will result in the payment of corporation tax on any company profits arising at the applicable rate. The table demonstrates that the net income from rental (after allowance for corporation tax on WOC profits), Council Tax, New Homes Bonus and Business Rates is sufficient to cover the costs of borrowing, property management and maintenance, and to generate a surplus to the Council (The business rate growth is included in the Council's budget strategy). The figures below are not directly comparable to the April 2013 Cabinet Report, as they include an increased proportion of commercial development.

Year	Net Rental income *	Funding Payment	Net income after funding	Council Tax	NHB	Business Rates	Net revenue income retained by Council
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Year 4 (2017/8)	2,711	(2,201)	510	384	487	136	1,517
Year 5	2,742	(2,208)	534	384	487	136	1,541
Year 6	2,676	(2,130)	546	384	487	136	1,553
Year 10	2,900	(2,177)	723	384	0	136	1,243
Year 15	3,211	(2,199)	1,012	384	0	136	1,532
Year 20	3,546	(2,172)	1,374	384	0	136	1,894
Year 30	3,306	(1,199)	2,107	384	0	136	2,627

Note: net rental income is stated after management and maintenance costs, corporation tax on WOC profits and WOC operating costs. The funding payment includes interest and capital sweep payments. Year 30 incomes reflect the phased disposal of housing sites.

The above table starts at year 4, with this being the first year of expected full occupancy following construction. During years 1- 4 the phased rental income is sufficient to cover the cost of borrowing, therefore there is no net cost to the authority during these early years.

New Homes Bonus would also be due on the housing delivered for six years at approximately £487k per annum, £2,922k cumulative during the period. It should be noted that the New Homes Bonus income could be affected by changes to Government policy.

The finance model includes revenue benefit from New Homes Bonus (NHB), which has been assumed to be received in financial years up to and including 2022/23. Should the allocation of NHB be extended or curtailed, the model will be refined accordingly. The business case allows for the growth in income to the Council from Council Tax and Business Rates on the developments throughout the modelling period (30 years). There is a risk that future changes to the Local Government Finance system will reset the base for both Council Tax and Business Rates and that this will have the effect of reducing the additional income from these taxes. Currently there are indications that the Local Government Finance System may be reset in 2019/20 taking effect in 2020/21. However there is no information currently available to allow the implications of any reset to be reflected in the model.

4.3.3 Cumulative Project Cash flows

Year	Net Rental income	Funding Payment	Net income after funding	Council Tax/ Business Rates/ NHB	Net income retained by Council	Asset Value
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
5	7,714	(6,326)	1,388	2,862	4,251	68,800
10	21,583	(17,096)	4,487	6,970	11,456	74,800
15	37,007	(28,064)	8,943	9,568	18,509	81,400
20	54,054	(39,001)	15,053	12,163	27,215	88,600
30	92,449	(58,817)	33,632	17,357	50,989	103,700

Note: net rental income is stated after management and maintenance costs, corporation tax on WOC profits and WOC operating costs. The funding payment includes interest on the loan and capital sweep payments back to the Authority.

Residual Asset Value

The consolidated asset value at the end of the development period of circa £103.7m, demonstrates an enhanced capital value to the Authority based on an average house price and commercial property value increases in future years. The base funding model assumes that the housing assets will be disposed of at the end of the 30 year period in order to repay any outstanding debt to the Council from the WOC. This will also generate one-off investment income of £41m to the Council at that point. Other options would be available at the end of the programme which could include refinancing or part sale to clear the WOC debt.

Stage 1 Costs

The Cabinet Report of April 2013 approved the allocation (Recommendation 2.1 and 2.2) of £1.174m of capital funding to support the Stage 1 viability assessment. To date costs of £0.964m have been incurred and expenditure will be contained within the allocation up to the date of the Cabinet approval.

However, it is anticipated that due to changes in the nature and timing of the programme, additional capital costs of up to £500k would be incurred between July Cabinet 2014 and Full Council decision in September 2014 to proceed. This would allow for ongoing work towards planning applications prior to the award of the Construction Contract, which will ensure that programme delivery dates are not put at risk. Such costs would be recovered should the project proceed. These costs will be funded from the capital receipts site preparation existing budget within the approved capital programme. However should the programme not proceed for any reason these costs will have to be written back as a cost to the revenue budget.

5. LEGAL COMMENT

The previous Cabinet Report was based on a model and the legal opinion of external advisors. As part of the viability study further works were undertaken on the private investment route, the construction contract, property management agreements, taxation and legal options, to inform the model and the programme.

5.1 Options Analysis

The Cabinet report required the viability of a number of funding and delivery structures to be investigated. A number of options with the potential to deliver the Council's project objectives have been examined by the Project Team whilst applying knowledge and best practice from similar projects developed by other local authorities. The table below shows the potential options available to deliver the project and the initial analysis:

	OPTION	DESCRIPTION & ANALYSIS OF OPTION
1	Build housing through HRA	<p>The Council is no longer a Housing Authority and as such does not operate a Housing Revenue Account (HRA). In order to progress this option the Council would have to seek Government approval to 're-open' a HRA and would thereafter be subject to the very many stringent statutory and financial controls.</p> <p>This option would involve the Council delivering housing through the use of both borrowing headroom contained in the HRA (unknown until the reopening of the HRA) and the annual free cash flow arising each year in the business plan.</p> <p>New build under the HRA is a conventional option for local authorities to provide traditional 'Social Housing'. However it will not provide a mix of tenures and due to the type of tenancy that would have to be offered each and every property in the scheme would be subject to the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire provisions.</p> <p>Where the Right to Buy is exercised the tenant would be entitled to a discount on the market value of between 35% up to a maximum of 70% but restricted to a limit of £77,000. An amount of the monies received by the housing authority is also payable to the Government.</p> <p>As the amount of borrowing in the HRA is limited this means that the Council would only be able to build a finite number of homes in the early years and would then need to rely on the annual free cash flow to build a modest number of homes per annum. One local authority calculated that it may take between 15-20 years for that council to build 1,000 homes.</p>

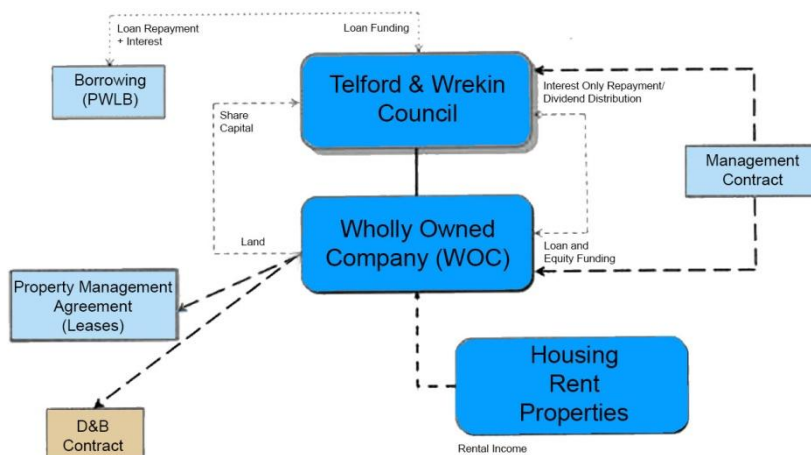
2	Wholly owned company	<p>This option involves the Council creating a Wholly Owned Company (WOC) which will develop the desired level of housing which would be managed and let by the Company until such time that properties could be disposed of.</p> <p>The general power of competence (GPC) under the Localism Act 2011 allows for local authorities to “do anything that individuals generally may do”. Councils need not identify a statutory function upon which to ‘hang’ their ‘trading’ activity. In other words, local authorities are allowed to expand their trading activities into areas not related to their existing functions (eg banking, housing and development). However whatever level of trading activity is contemplated by a local authority, if a surplus income is made the activity can only be carried out by a company set up in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. It also effectively removes geographical boundaries to local authority activity so that they can set up a trading company that can trade anywhere in the UK or elsewhere.</p> <p>A WOC will provide a vehicle through which the Council’s criteria can be met within the proposed timescales whilst providing total control of the estate to the Council and the greatest degree of flexibility for the management of the portfolio.</p> <p>A WOC will serve to isolate some of the financial risks associated with the project. The proposed company structure will also provide absolute clarity that the properties are not to be operated as traditional social housing therefore whilst operating a high degree of affordable market rent properties there will be no Right to Buy or Right to Acquire therefore maintaining and protecting the whole asset as an investment.</p> <p>There are also numerous statutory controls and requirements that apply to the operation of a local authority WOC that need to be addressed in terms of the WOC’s own governance and how that links to the Council’s existing governance arrangements.</p>
3	Joint Venture	<p>This option would involve the Council entering into a Joint Venture (JV) arrangement with a private sector partner to develop housing on identified Council sites. The JV would operate the homes until such time that the properties were disposed of. A Joint Venture company would be considered attractive for its ability to bring in third party development expertise and resourcing and to share an element of the risk of development.</p> <p>The vehicle could operate properties until such time they are sold on to a third party or some other destiny agreed. However there are a number of drawbacks. The level of return required to the vehicle is likely to be high reducing the overall viability and having a detrimental impact on the number of homes which could be provided.</p> <p>Additionally the Council will be required to enter into procurement for a private sector partner. This would add at least 12-18 months to the timetable which will impair the ability of the Council to deliver on its timescales. Also the ability of a Joint Venture to intervene in the market and step back out is</p>

		limited by the need for such decisions to be jointly agreed by both parties (who may have conflicting objectives in this regard). This would not give the Council the required flexibility and ability to make speedy decisions to respond to housing needs and market requirements in the area.
4	Sale and Leaseback	<p>An institutional investor would purchase land from the Council, provide upfront funding to build and subsequently own the housing. The investor would then lease the properties to the Council which would use the net rental income plus any surpluses to pay for the lease.</p> <p>A sale and leaseback model also has attractions. The Council would be able to use the net rent plus any annual surpluses to make a lease payment for properties funded by an institutional investor and thereafter take the income produced.</p> <p>However from the model initially considered in the previous report it is unlikely that any institutional investor would give the Council any flexibility in the management and control over the estate that we would require to provide a good mix of tenures. In addition to these strict operating constraints the investor would impose strict step in rights which could force the sale of some or all of the estate to repay their investment.</p> <p>The investor would retain full ownership and control of the estate for the leaseback period (i.e. up to 30 years) during which time the Council could only expect to receive the 'income' achieved after payment of the lease payment and impose strict step in rights.</p>

5.2 Preferred Delivery Vehicle

The Wholly Owned Company (WOC) has emerged as the most appropriate method of delivering the project and, whilst each of the other options have their merits in delivering housing investment, each has a particular weakness which reduces its appeal for the Council. Although it offers less potential to share risk than the other options which involve a private sector partner, overall it was shown to best meet the project criteria.

Fig. 1: Wholly Owned Company - Possible Structure for consideration



The homes would be provided on Council owned land from the General Fund with funding primarily provided through General Fund prudential borrowing on-lent to the

Company at an increased interest margin to satisfy State Aid requirements. The principal aim of the company will be to develop housing for rent.

The Company will act as an investment company retaining the properties developed by the Company for letting under assured and assured shorthold tenancies to fall outside of the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire provisions under the Housing Act 1985. This will not replace the need for 'social rented' properties let under secure tenancies but will meet a different need by responding to a wider demand for accommodation for those people that would not normally qualify for a Registered Social Landlords property.

5.3 Constitution and Governance

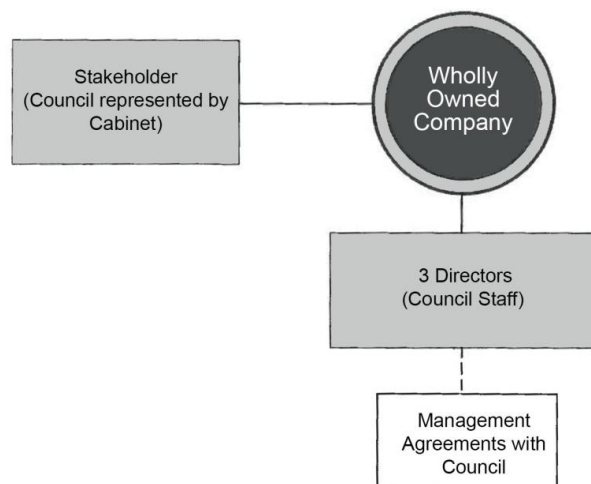
It is proposed that the Company will be constituted as a company limited by shares and will not be a charity or other "not for profit" entity. The Council will own the entire share capital and it will thus be a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council and the Council will have ultimate control of the Company.

There are certain legal requirements that will apply to the Company, some of which are statutory such as the obligation to file annual returns and accounts or the requirements of local government legislation (such as the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Authorities (Companies) Order 1995, with respect to local authority companies); others, the Council will be able to determine itself.

These include the governance of the Company. As a minimum one director, who can also be the company secretary, will be required to run the Company's affairs. At this stage it is suggested that these posts could be fulfilled by Council officers but this will require further examination and, for example, a Board of Management may need to be set up, representing the Council as shareholder, to give strategic control over the management of the business.

At present it is thought that there should be a minimum of three directors with a quorum of two, with one of their number acting as company secretary. Although they will be directors for the company in its own right, it is proposed that they will be existing appointments from within the Authority and not new created posts. The officers will need to be given independent legal advice on their duties as directors, their obligations to the WOC and the management of conflicts of interest. The officers will also need to have appropriate insurance for their actions either in the form of liability insurance or an indemnity from the Council. The governance structure will be further developed as part of a full business case.

Fig. 2: Company Structure and Management



As set out above, the Company will be controlled by the Stakeholder (Cabinet) and its Directors. Overall supervision of the Company and the scope that the Directors

have in conducting the affairs of the Company will be controlled through the proposed structure and more particularly through the constitutional documents and the Business Plan.

The Cabinet will be the strategic supervisory body with ultimate responsibility for ensuring governance of the Company and compliance with the Business Plan. This role will be without prejudice to Cabinet's normal decision making powers and the role of Overview and Scrutiny as set out in the Council's constitution. Cabinet will also have responsibility for safeguarding the Council's equity investment and lending to the Company by undertaking more detailed monitoring of the Business Plan and progressing recommendations to Directors.

The Directors will review and report on performance under the Business Plan to Cabinet to promote a full understanding and awareness of the activities and performance of the Company. In relation to specific development proposals the Directors will undertake and bring forward details of development proposals identified within the Business Plan.

5.4 Business Plan

The governance process set out above will be supported by the Business Plan and an associated review process which will ensure developments and their subsequent operations are monitored and reviewed, and approval obtained for any major variations at key stages.

The business plan review process will include both the Company and Cabinet. The first stage will be approval of the Final Business Case which will be produced upon the approval of the recommendations in this report. Following this the Company will be formed and thereafter the Company Directors will review the Business Plan at least at six monthly intervals or whenever exceptional circumstances necessitate a review. They will then present this review, or exception report, to the Cabinet who will consider any proposed revisions to the Business Plan and make recommendations back to the Company as appropriate. Once re-approved by Cabinet, the revised Business Plan will then form the basis of future reviews by the Company Directors and the cycle will continue.

5.5 Management Arrangements

It is intended that, the Company will not have a high profile identity separate from the Council, and that, operationally, it will be a "light" organisation.

Under the Wholly Owned Company structure a delivery model is proposed which uses Council staff and resources to support the Company in its activities. Council staff as appropriate will provide a complete package of development management services to enable the development of each scheme, the lettings process and the subsequent tenancy management and rent collection and maintenance of the properties under a Management Agreement, whereby the Company will be charged by the Council for the services provided. Work has commenced in identifying the functions and services which the WOC will require under the Management Agreement. Where the WOC uses any Council resource this must be paid for on a full 'commercial' basis.

It is expected that setting up and running the Company in this way, or through a similar structure, will isolate development and operational risk, and will help tax efficiency. The impact on staffing capacity should be low but equally will improve efficiency and maintain employment whilst providing a motivating opportunity for staff to develop new skills of a commercial nature. At present it is thought that direct appointments to the WOC should be avoided. A suggested company structure is shown in Fig 2.

5.6 Procurement

The proposals involve the construction and use of land assets. This will be classified as a public works contract and as such subject to public procurement requirements.

The WOC itself, being wholly owned by the Council, will also be considered subject to public procurement requirements. Therefore in terms of any contracts that it proposes to award, proper procurement procedures will need to be followed.

To comply with the procurement requirements the Council has invited bids for the design and build of the properties through the Construction West Midlands (CWM) Framework Agreement which is compliant with public procurement requirements set up by Birmingham City Council and is made available for other Local Authorities.

This is an EU compliant framework which allows early engagement of the four approved contractors. As part of the procurement selection route meetings and interaction with the four prospective tenderers has taken place and a formal tender exercise has been undertaken on Southwater Apartments, Hollinswood Strip, Randlay Lorry Park and Woodlands (identified in blue, table 1).

Utilising a contractor framework reduces the expenditure and work required in carrying out a full EU procurement exercise. One of the four contractors has withdrawn from the process due to their current workload. This has been checked by the Council's Legal and Procurement Team, and the three submissions by the remaining contractors will provide a valid tender.

As part of the tender process there is a requirement for contractors to demonstrate their commitment to providing opportunities for apprentices and graduates and utilising local labour where possible, through their supply chains.

In terms of the Management Agreement this would not require a formal procurement process as the Council would rely on the principles of the 'Teckal' exemption which enables the direct award of a contract to the Council where the company is wholly owned by the Council.

5.7 Legal Agreements

Legal documentation will have to be prepared by the Council's legal advisers with the in-house team in relation to the constitutional, governance and delivery proposals that develop. These include Articles of Association, Land Transfer/Development Agreement and Management Agreement together with a draft tenancy agreement. These will be finalised following agreement of the proposals set out in this report.

5.8 Consents and Clearance by External Organisations

Discussions have been held with the External Auditors in respect of the accounting treatment of the Company. However final sign off will have to await preparation of the Final Business Case, it is considered that all issues raised by the auditors to date have been addressed satisfactorily.

Further approvals/consents will follow approval by Cabinet of the Final Business Case. These will include HMRC clearance on tax treatment of the Company and consent from the Secretary of State in accordance with legislation giving the Council powers to provide the housing on the sites identified and to set up the Company as proposed.

5.9 Ongoing Legal Work

Bond Dickinson is working with Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) to establish the most efficient company structure for this Council's proposals. The principal issues being considered for which advice notes will be prepared are:

- 1) Local authority powers to undertake the proposal;
- 2) Constitutional and governance matters;
- 3) Land transfer mechanism;
- 4) State aid and ancillary issues;
- 5) Any consents required, especially in relation to land transfer and borrowing and on-lending to the Company;
- 6) Company structure and membership and management;
- 7) Review of accounting papers produced by financial advisors; and
- 8) Operational arrangements and contractual documentation.

Legal Services have considered the proposal(s) to date and will continue to advise on the proposals as further details are developed in the next stages.

7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

7.1 Risks and Opportunities

The opportunities and risks associated with a project of this size and complexity are significant. As part of the viability these have been considered and mitigated or reduced. The key risks can be categorised into Financial, Operational and Legal.

7.1.2 Financial Risks

- Construction Costs – exposure to construction cost increases will be reduced through the tender process and a contingency sum has been allocated within the budgets for the proposals. The risk associated with the non tendered elements of the programme will be reduced as the house type will be replicated across the batch with the only elements to be costed being utility connections and substructure works where ground conditions vary. The upturn in the economy (see below) may also affect future schemes.
- Upturn in the economy leading to increased construction capital costs - Undertaking the tender exercise has mitigated some of this risk however future schemes which have not formed part of the formal tender exercise which are included within this report may be affected by inflation increases and would need to be assessed on their own merit.
- Changes to PWLB Interest Rates – The financial analysis is based on the current PWLB rates. Should these increase then the revenue and capital funding streams within the project would be affected.
- Voids / Debtors - An assumption has been made in the model for voids and bad debtors. This equates to 5% per annum of the gross rental income. The level of voids / debtors has been derived from market intelligence and external consultant advice. If Cabinet recommend proceeding with the proposals, the marketing strategy for the housing units will commence to pre-let as many units as possible during construction, which should reduce risk. With regards to the commercial and retail proposals, draft agreements have been made with prospective tenants for the Madeley proposals with a number

of major organisations. In Southwater all the commercial units that have been constructed as part of the initial proposals have all been let which demonstrates the future need.

- External S106 contributions – The funding model is dependant upon an estimate of contributions to S106. These are subject to planning approval. Should they not be approved, then the capital funding streams would be revised accordingly. If the estimate compared to the final position is different then the investment would have to be re-assessed.
- Programme / Delivery - Funding will need to be in place during the construction period and the model has been established on drawing down PWLB on a phased basis to minimise interest during construction. Any delay in construction will increase the interest repayments during construction.
- Changes in future Company tax regulations which would have an impact on the cash projections

7.1.3 Legal Risks

- Challenges to planning decisions – Although a risk to the delivery phase of the project the project, has been reduced through pre application discussion the Local Planning Authority. Many of the sites have secured already planning consents for residential / commercial use.
- State Aid – State Aid can arise when a public body, such as the Council, gives financial or other assistance to an organisation/company that can distort competition. In terms of this project this could relate to the provision of funding for the project and the provision of services to the Wholly Owned Company. In order to address these risks the Council will ‘on-lend’ funding at an acceptable interest rate and all services provided to the Company will be under formal Management Agreements and charged at a commercial rate.
- Secretary of State does not give consent to the development of properties proposed, and or creation of WOC – Several other local authorities have progressed similar housing development schemes to the SoS for approval in the recent past and all have been granted the required approval.

7.1.4 Operational Risks

- Repair & Maintenance (R&M) - The project will require robust R&M procedures to be in place. This will require the appointment of a contractor to ensure that Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are in place, to ensure high quality service to our customers.
- Changes to private rented market sector demand leading to lower rents – market research is showing demand increasing within the private rental sector (PRS) with the trend expected to continue. The Southwater development is a new offer within the PRS market within Telford and is untested, so does carry some risk regarding occupancy.

- External influences such as changes to central Government policy may affect the business case. Changes could occur with regards New Homes Bonus, Council Tax, Business Rates retention policy or changes to the Local Government Finance System. There is no information currently available to allow the implications of any Policy Changes to be reflected in the model.

7.1.5 Opportunities

- The proposals present an opportunity for regeneration within the Borough and a means of providing high quality private rented accommodation. By intervening with the development of vacant / stalled sites owned by the Council it is envisaged that this activity will stimulate economic growth, maximise the use of the land asset and at the end of the programme will present a significant capital asset for the Authority to retain or dispose of in the future as a long term investment opportunity.
- The proposals provide a capital asset that the authority could choose to dispose of in part pay down debt at anytime during the life of the project however disposing the assets could have implications on the revenue income stream for the investment. It should be noted however that any disposal would have to ensure that it did not affect the business case for the WOC, which would still need to demonstrate it is a profitable company.
- Additional revenue income for the Authority through rent, new homes bonus (subject to Central Government Policy) and Council Tax.
- Economic opportunities in relation to material supplies and jobs during the construction period and subsequent maintenance.
- Opportunity to continue the Southwater regeneration and develop Council owned sites within the Borough.

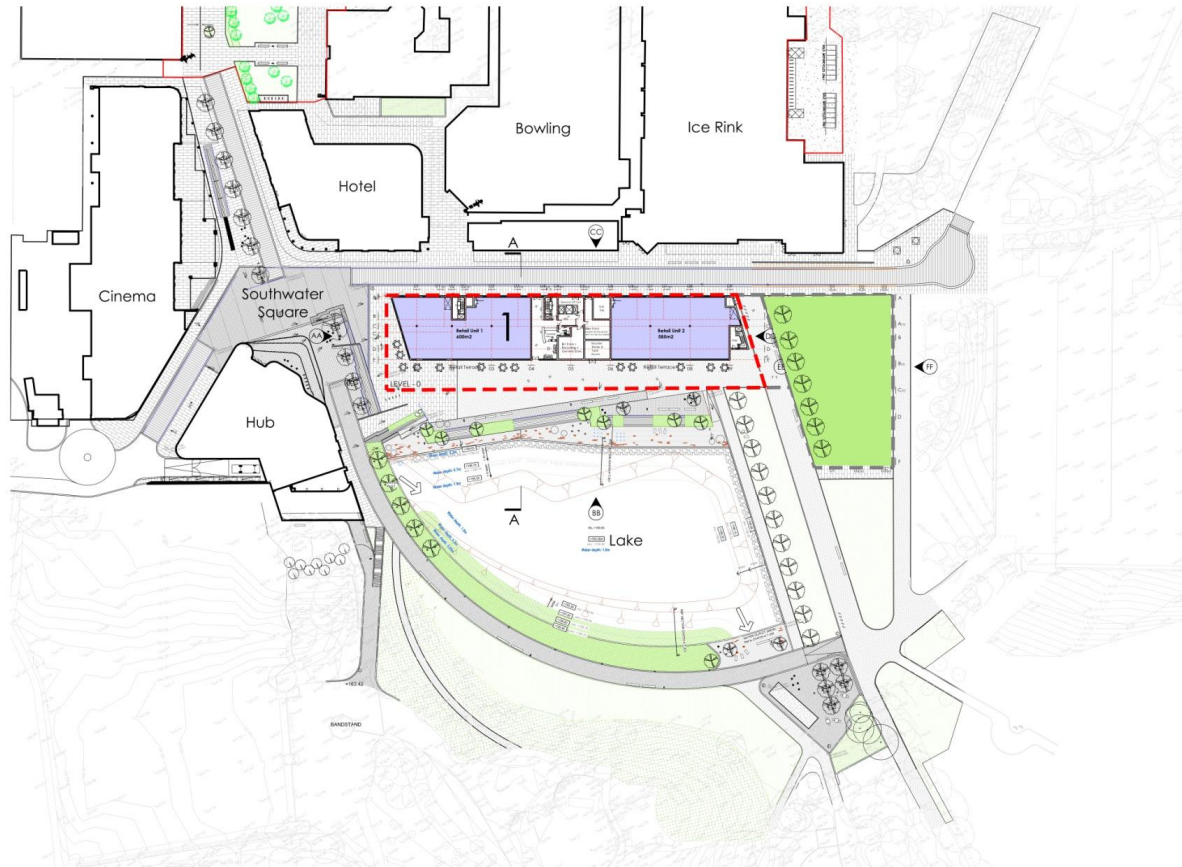
8. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Housing Investment Programme Cabinet report 25th April 2013

**Report prepared by Matthew Taylor, Service Delivery Specialist –
Housing Investment, Telephone: 01952 384305**

Southwater Proposals

The site gained outline approval as part of the overall southwater development in 2009. The proposed development consists of two, circa 600m² double height retail with 7 floors of apartments above on plot 1. The apartments will provide 115 private rental apartments.



Southwater Core - Level 0
Scale: 1:500 @ A1



TYPE	STOREYS	AREA (M ²)
RETAIL UNIT 1	01	650
RETAIL UNIT 2	01	585
TOTAL		1,185

Note: Area includes Mezzanine level

TYPE	NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS	AREA (M ²)	STOREYS	TOTAL	% MAX
M1A	1	12.7	01	37	34
M1A	1	65.0	01	64	54
M1B	1	70.0	01	67	66
M1C	1	70.0	01	67	66
TOTAL		117.7		136	

Note: Area includes Mezzanine level

TYPE	STOREYS	AREA (M ²)
RETAIL UNIT 3	01	600
TOTAL		600

Note: Area includes Mezzanine level

TYPE	NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS	AREA (M ²)	STOREYS	TOTAL	% MAX
M1A	1	12.7	01	21	21.5
M1A	1	65.0	01	21	21.5
M1B	1	70.0	01	27	27.5
M1C	1	70.0	01	27	27.5
TOTAL		117.7		100	

Note: Area includes Mezzanine level

52534-1 D01 B

THIP TELFORD
DESIGN
SITE 1 - SOUTHWATER
SITE LAYOUT PLAN
LEVEL 0
PJS NW
1:500@A1 SEPT 2013
52534-1 D01 B

Hollinswood Strip Proposals

The proposal is to construct 12 market rental and 32 affordable rentals on the site which is located adjacent to the existing Hollinswood housing estate. The development will consist of a number of 1/2 bedroom apartments and 2/3 bed roomed houses.



JOB NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	PROJECT
52534.8	D01	D

NOTES:

1. Position of existing drainage and easement zone indicative position only. Subject to detailed scan.

THIP		
TELFORD		
DESIGN		
SITE 8		
HOLLINSWOOD STRIP		
SITE LAYOUT PLAN		
DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	
KZ	NW	
DATE	DATE	
1:500@A1	SEPT 2013	
JOB NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	PROJECT
52534.8	D01	D

BIV Architecture
28 Pickford Street, Birmingham, B3 1JL
T: 0121 631 9300 F: 0121 631 9306 E: design@biv.co.uk

Newport Springfields Proposals

The proposals are to construct 29 affordable rent properties with a mixed tenure of apartments and 2/3 bedroomed houses



THP
TELFORD
SPRINGFIELDS, NEWPORT
APARTMENTS S.va & S.yc

1:200 (A1)	28/02/14	R/LP	P/S	PLANNING	52514.5	DD1	B
------------	----------	------	-----	----------	---------	-----	---

1:100 (A1) 28/02/14 R/LP P/S PLANNING 52514.5 DD1 B
 A. Layout included in Client Agreement 06/10/13 PS
 B. Layout agreed to Hampshire County 20/07/13 PS

BMS Architecture

 BMS Architecture Ltd
 100, The Arcade, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 1JH
 Tel: 01827 525145
 Email: info@bms-arch.co.uk
 www.bms-arch.co.uk

Randlay Lorry Park Proposals

The proposed development gained outline approval as part of the Southwater application in 2009. The development consists of 31 no. 2/3 bedroom houses for private rent.



52534.4	D01
<p>LEGEND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ existing trees to be retained ○ existing trees to be removed 	
<p>THIP TELFORD</p> <p>DESIGN</p> <p>SITE 4 RANDLAY SITE LAYOUT PLAN.</p> <p>BR KZ</p> <p>1:500@A1 JAN 2014</p> <p>52534.4 D01</p>	

BVA Architecture
 28 Pickford Street, Birmingham B5 5QH
 T: 0121 832 0300 F: 0121 832 0300 E: info@bva.co.uk

Wildwood Woodside Proposals

Located in the existing Woodside centre the proposed development consists of 25no. 2/3 bedroom social housing units.



PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PRELIMINARY PLAN AND IS NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION OR FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSES WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE ARCHITECT. THE ARCHITECT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INACCURACIES OR OMISSIONS IN THIS PLAN.

Key:

- 3B - 3 bed room semi-detached house (40)
- 2B - 2 bed room semi-detached house (41)
- 2BU - 2 bed room semi-detached bungalow (42)
- 2BU - 2 bed room detached bungalow (43)

Plan |  

PROJECT NAME: Woodside Woodside Proposals

CLIENT: Telford & Wrentham Housing Association

DATE: 14/01/2014

WRENTHAM, WOODSIDE

PROJECT NO: 2014-WW-P32

SCALE: 1:500 (S1)

DATE: 14/01/2014

Woodlands (former Woodlands Primary) Proposals

The proposed development is located on the former Woodlands Primary site adjacent to the new Abraham Darby Academy / New Woodlands School. The development consists of 101 private rental houses with a mix of 2/3/4 bedroom houses.



LEGEND
 ● planting location - see schedule
 ○ existing trees to be retained



job number 52534.3 drawing number D01 revision E

Wensley Green
 Wensley Green
 Wensley Green

revision	date	drawn by
A. F100 area - site amended	20/09/13	KZ
B. Alterations area - retained. Site retained	28/10/13	KZ
C. add 3448 area	11/10/13	PS
D. Alterations to Highways comments	10/11/13	GP
E. Final review	20/11/13	AV

client
**THIP
 TELFORD**

CDM role
DESIGN

site
**SITE 3
 WOODLANDS
 SITE LAYOUT PLAN**

designer
KZ

client
NW

scale
1:500@A1

date
SEPT 2013

job number 52534.3 drawing number D01 revision E

BMA Architecture
 28 Pickford Street, Birmingham, B5 5QH
 0121 625 0000 • 0121 625 0000 • www.bma-arch.co.uk

Madeley Court (Former Madeley Court School) Proposals

The proposals are to create a mixed use development consisting of:

50 Private rental houses

Public House (outlined in Blue will be disposed of as a capital receipt)

2x Supermarkets

Fast food Restaurant

Doctors surgery (part of site disposal outlined in dashed red and does not form part of this investment).



Matlock Avenue Proposals

The proposed Development is to construct circa 30 market rental properties on the former Malinslee Primary School site. The long term proposals could deliver circa 80 units.



TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 11 SEPTEMBER 2014

2014/15 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT AND UPDATE

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

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: CLLR BILL McCLEMENTS

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1.0 SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 1.1** The Financial Monitoring report to Cabinet in July provided an update on progress relating to the capital programme. The report also highlighted some new capital allocations, virements and funding changes which require formal approval by Full Council.
- 1.2** Since the Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet in July the Council has completed a procurement for the Council's solar farm at Wheat Leasowes. Delegated authority was granted by Cabinet in September 2013 to the Managing Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Enterprise and the Cabinet member for Neighbourhood Services & Employment and Skills, to procure and negotiate contracts for the design, build, operation and maintenance of the solar farm.
- 1.3** Following completion of the procurement process and confirmation of costs we are now in a position to update the capital programme to incorporate the solar farm as reported to Cabinet in July and detailed in the Table at 1.4 below. Financial modelling projects that the solar farm will generate a cumulative operating surplus of £4.4m over the 25 years of the project after all financing and other costs.
- 1.4** Since the Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet in July the Managing Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Service Delivery have used delegated power, granted by Cabinet on the 28th June 2012, to approve an Invest to Save bid for works to Telford Ice Rink. The bid requires a capital investment of £180,000 to undertake refurbishment and improvements to the ice rink and approval to the capital allocation and associated borrowing is requested. Once the works are completed the Authority will enter into a 10 year income share agreement with the Telford Tigers ice hockey club which is projected to make a revenue return to the Council. Concurrently, the two parties will enter in a lease agreement which will transfer an element of the ongoing maintenance liabilities for the team changing room, the bar and a newly constructed shop to the Telford Tigers, who will also take responsibility for increasing advertising. The net revenue benefits of this investment over the 10 years of the agreement are estimated to be £85,000 (after borrowing costs of £207,476) and these will be reflected within future years budget savings proposals

1.4 SUMMARY

The detailed approvals required by Council are:

Virements	Service Area	2014/15 £
Brookside	Development Business & Employment	100,000
Asset Management Plan - General Works & Survey	Development Business & Employment	- 100,000
Newport Fitness Facility	Neighbourhood & Leisure Services	75,000
Asset Management Plan - General Works & Survey	Development Business & Employment	- 75,000
Brookside	Development Business & Employment	- 6,000
Brindleyford	Neighbourhood & Leisure Services	6,000
Every Day Telford-Pride in your community	Neighbourhood & Leisure Services	- 1,000,000
Every Day Telford- Pride Hollinswood Centre	Development Business & Employment	1,000,000
Building Schools for Future	Education and Corporate Parenting	300,000
All Other School Schemes	Development Business & Employment	- 300,000
Building Schools for Future	Education and Corporate Parenting	36,000
Asset Management Plan - General Works & Survey	Development Business & Employment	- 36,000
Total		0
New Allocations		
Scheme	Service Area	14/15 £
Housing	Development Business & Employment	4,752,900.00
Housing	Development Business & Employment	100,000.00
Loan Contingency Grant	Development Business & Employment	- 7,754.74
Social Care Capital Grant	Adult Care & Support	424,782.00
Brindleyford	Neighbourhood & Leisure Services	41,664.32
Youth	Development Business & Employment	- 75,000.00
All Other School Schemes	Development Business & Employment	19,063.00
All Other School Schemes	Development Business & Employment	732,785.25
Building Schools for Future	Education and Corporate Parenting	350,000.00
Building Schools for Future	Education and Corporate Parenting	-245,043.00
Telford Ice Rink – Invest to Save	Neighbourhood and Leisure Services	180,000.00
Solar Farm		3,796,201.00
	Cooperative Council	
Total		10,069,597.83
Capital Programme Funding		
£32.445m budgeted capital receipts, the majority of which may not be received this year but may slip into later years. The funding of the capital programme will be updated to reflect this.		

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are asked to approve the changes to the capital programme shown in section 1 above.

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.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	The capital programme will be immediately updated to reflect the new approvals.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	Financial impacts arising from this report will be reflected in future financial monitoring reports and built in to the service and financial planning strategy for 2015/16 and beyond
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.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough Wide

4.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 27/02/14 – Full Council, Service & Financial Planning Strategy
- 24/07/14 – Cabinet, 2014/15 Financial Monitoring
- 24/07/14 – Cabinet, Procurement Update
- 19/09/13 – Cabinet, Solar Farm
- 28/06/12 - Cabinet, Service & Financial Planning Update

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There is no additional information.

5.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

2014/15 Budget Strategy / Financial Ledger reports

Report Prepared by:

Ken Clarke, Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & I.G. (C.F.O.) – 01952 383100; Pauline Harris, Finance Manager – 01952 383701

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

**CABINET – 24 JULY 2014
COUNCIL – 11 SEPTEMBER 2014**

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 14/15

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR; FAMILY, COHESION &
COMMISSIONING**

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR PAUL WATLING

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

The Youth Justice Plan is prepared on an annual basis on behalf of Herefordshire Council, Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council and Worcestershire County Council.

The Youth justice Plan sets out how youth justice services across West Mercia are structured and funded and identifies key actions to address identified risks to service delivery and improvement.:

- To focus collaborative multi-agency effort on work to improve outcomes for young offenders by offering an exemplary service, with timely interventions and strong links and partnership across all local services including children's services, criminal justice and community safety sectors.
- To set the strategic direction for the Youth Offending Service (YOS) across West Mercia and agree and review local youth justice planning
- To provide support and challenge to the West Mercia YOS on operational performance:
 - First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System
 - Use of Custody
 - Re-Offending

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Youth Justice Plan 2014/15 is recommended to Full Council for approval and endorsement and that the West Mercia YOS responsibilities are noted.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put our children and young people first Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults Ensure neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	Young people already involved with offending or at risk of Offending
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	The Youth justice plan is for 14/15 and the plan will be reviewed in the final quarter of 14/15 in order to prepare the Youth Justice Plan for 15/16.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	<p>The Youth Justice Plan confirms Telford and Wrekin budgeted 2014/15 contribution to the West Mercia Youth Offending Service at £0.356m. In addition a further non-budgeted saving of £0.041m is expected in 2014/15, due to the late notification of the Youth Justice Board Grant being retained at the same level as 2013/14. Further reductions in partners contributions have therefore been agreed and the T&W expected final contribution in 2014/15 is now £0.315m</p> <p>2013/14 contribution was £0.376m, so in 2014/15 a 16% saving will be achieved.</p> <p>The overall savings delivered over the period 2013/14 to 2014/15 is 36%.</p> <p>GS 27/05/2014</p>
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement a youth justice plan for each year setting out

		<p>how youth justice services are to be provided and funded in their area; and how the youth offending team or teams established by them (whether alone or jointly with one or more other local authorities) are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out.</p> <p>The youth justice plan is required to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board and be published in such manner and by such date as the Secretary of State may direct.</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	The Youth Justice Plan outlines actions to reduce offending and reoffending by young people
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide impact

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

Under section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 each Local Authority has a duty to produce a Youth Justice Plan setting out how Youth Justice Services in their area are provided and funded and composed. The plan is submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

The Youth Justice Plan for 2014/15 was prepared in April 2014 in line with the guidance issued by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), agreed at the West Mercia Youth Offending Service Management Board on 23rd May 2014 and will be submitted to the YJB by the end of September 2014.

Each Local Authority, in cooperation with Police, Probation and Clinical Commissioning Groups must put in place a Youth Offending service for their area, and in doing so the Local Authority may act together with one or more Local Authorities to establish a joint service for their area. Following a review of the delivery of youth justice services across West Mercia, undertaken in 2012, a decision was taken by the four Local Authorities in West Mercia to establish a joint Youth Offending Service.

The plan identifies five main priorities¹ for 2014/15 as follows:

¹ See page 14 of the Youth Justice Plan

- Reduce Youth Offending and Protecting Communities from Harm – key areas of focus for 2014/15 will be reducing re-offending, LAC and care leavers, diversion, restorative approaches and safeguarding
- Enabling staff to deliver now and into the future – ensuring staff receive the right training, knowledge and support to deliver quality services for children and young people
- Finishing the Job – Although the West Mercia YOS was established in October 2012 a second phase of restructuring is being implemented from April 2014. Key areas of focus include the development of unpaid work, ensuring consistency in practice, implementation of a single ICT system and a case management system upgrade.
- Get Connected, Stay Connected – ensuring greater integrated working between the YOS and other children and family services with the shared aim of improving outcomes for young people in the youth justice system.
- Know the Right Thing – ensuring that the YOS has the information required to develop services and improve outcomes.

Performance

The Youth Offending Service is subject to three national indicators:

- First time entrants to the youth justice system
- Use of custody
- Re-offending

Performance against the indicators is outlined in the plan and actions identified to address risks to performance improvement. The Telford and Wrekin specific information is set out on pages 34-38 of the plan. Since the plan was prepared there has been a further quarterly update on the performance.

- First time entrants to the youth justice system

The first time entrant rate is expressed as first time entrants per 100,000 youth population, a lower figure indicates good performance. The Telford and Wrekin performance was 498 for the year ending December 2013, compared to 504 for the year September 2013, a reduction of -1.2%. This performance is slightly worse than for West Mercia, which is 442 but significantly better than for England where the rate is 556.

- Use of Custody

The use of custody measure is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population, a lower rate indicates good performance. The published rates (below) are currently draft and may be subject to change. In the year ending March 2014, the custody rate for Telford and Wrekin was 0.47, compared to the rate of 0.48 for the year ending December 2013. The performance is worse than for West Mercia, 0.29 and for England, 0.44. Historically all areas across West Mercia have had a low

usage of custody, and the recent performance in Telford and Wrekin of 0.47 is due to 6 custodial sentences. Of these six sentences three were co-defendants for the same offence, and these periods are, therefore, not representative of the usual low rates in the use of custody in Telford and Wrekin.

- Re-Offending

There are two re-offending measures both measuring re-offending in the same cohort of offenders over a 12 month period following the youth justice sanction that placed the young person in the cohort. The first, the frequency rate, is the average number of re-offences per young person in the cohort. The second, the binary measure, is the percentage of the young people in the cohort who have re-offended. In both measures a lower figure indicates good performance.

For the year ending June 2012 the frequency rate for Telford and Wrekin is 0.92 and for the year ending March 2012 the rate was 0.85. Although the rate has slightly increased between the two years, it is better than the West Mercia rate, 0.96 and significantly better than the national rate, 1.02.

The binary rate for Telford and Wrekin for the year ending June 2012 is 31.0% compared to 32.7% for the year ending March 2012. The binary rate has improved between the year ending March 2012 and the year ending June 2012. The Telford and Wrekin rate is better than for West Mercia, 34.4% and for England, 35.3%.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Principal aim of the Youth justice System is the prevention of offending and re-offending by children and young people. The Youth justice plan sets out an action plan to address the significant risks identified to future service delivery and improvement.

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 19th September, 2013

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- West Mercia Youth Offending Service – Youth justice Plan 2014/15

Report prepared by:

Keith Barham, Head of West Mercia Youth Offending Service
Steve Hosking, Group Manager Cohesion Services

WEST MERCIA YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE



YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2014/15



CONTENTS

1	Introduction	3
2	Performance Review	5
3	Resources	9
4	Structure, Governance and Partnerships	10
5	Priorities for 2014/15	14
6	Risks to Future Delivery - Action Plan	19
7	Management Board Approval	23
Appendix 1	Area Profile – Herefordshire	24
Appendix 2	Area Profile – Shropshire	29
Appendix 3	Area Profile – Telford and Wrekin	34
Appendix 3	Area Profile – Worcestershire	39

1. INTRODUCTION

West Mercia Youth Offending Service was established on the 1st October 2012 and replaced the previous Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Youth Offending Service and the Worcestershire and Herefordshire Youth Offending Service following a review of how youth justice services were provided across the West Mercia area.

Initially a core service was delivered through area based teams aligned to the Local Authority areas supported by a central team providing performance, commissioning and finance support. The core services are court facing services, assessment, planning interventions, monitoring and review functions, along with victim liaison and support of Community Panel Members. All other services, previously delivered by the Youth Offending Services, have been delivered in 13/14 by an interim provider services team whilst being subject to a commissioning process. The commissioning process was completed in October 2013, and a decision taken to integrate key services, including reparation, ISS, bail supervision, programmes and mentoring into the Youth Offending Service. A new service structure was implemented on 1st April 2014 to take account of the delivery of these services.

Initially West Mercia Probation Trust hosted the service on behalf of the Local Authorities and the Youth Justice Partnership. The dissolution of the Probation Trust from 1st June 2014 has led to the hosting arrangements being transferred on an interim basis, until March 2015, to Worcestershire County Council.

During 14/15 the Youth Justice Partnership will be undertaking a review in order to reach a decision regarding the future delivery arrangements from April 2015. Further work will be undertaken during the year to complete the transition from previous delivery arrangements including the restructure to integrate the commissioned services into the Youth Offending Service and the implementation of a single ICT system for the service.

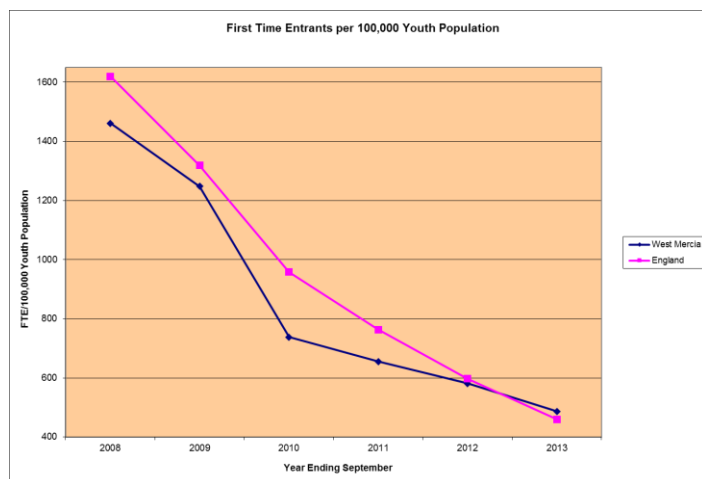
2. PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Youth Justice Partnerships are subject to three national indicators;

- First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System
- Use of Custody
- Re-Offending

1 First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs)

The first time entrant measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants per 100,000 of 10 to 17 year old population. First time entrants are those young people receiving a first formal youth justice sanction (Youth Caution, Youth Conditional Caution or Conviction). A lower figure denotes good performance.



The rate of FTEs across West Mercia for the year ending September 2013 was 487, which is an improvement on the performance for year ending September 2012 when the FTE rate was 581. The performance for the year ending September 2013 is slightly higher national rate of 460 and the average for the family group at 440.

The percentage reduction in FTEs in West Mercia over the three year period between the year ending September 2010 and the year ending September 2013 was -34% compared to -59% for England and -50% for the family group.

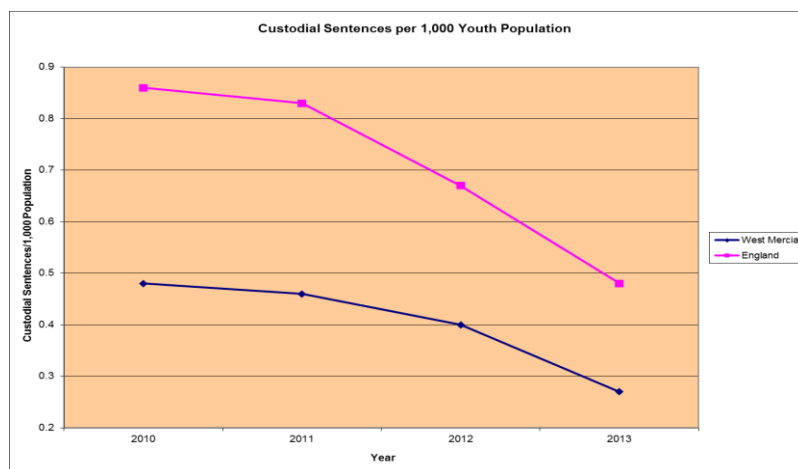
Within West Mercia there are differing FTE rates between the four Local Authority areas, with the highest being 589 and the lowest 329. Some initial analysis undertaken in 2013/14 demonstrated that the highest rate was in part, a result of higher detection rates and a lower proportional use of the informal

disposal of Community Resolution. Further analysis will be undertaken during 14/15 in order to better understand what is driving the differential rates. The Police policy on the use of Community Resolutions changes on 1st April 2014 and there is a risk that the policy change may lead to a slight increase in the number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time, and the effect of this policy change will be monitored throughout 14/15.

Targeted prevention work is no longer delivered by the Youth Offending Service and forms part of the Early Help offer in each of the Local Authorities. In 2014/15 the YOS will be convening a task and finish group on behalf of the Office for Police and Crime Commissioner to seek assurance that those young people most at risk of entering the youth justice system are effectively targeted for intervention.

2. Use of Custody

The use of custody measure is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 of 10 to 17 year population. West Mercia has, historically, had a low rate of custodial sentences. A lower figure denotes good performance.



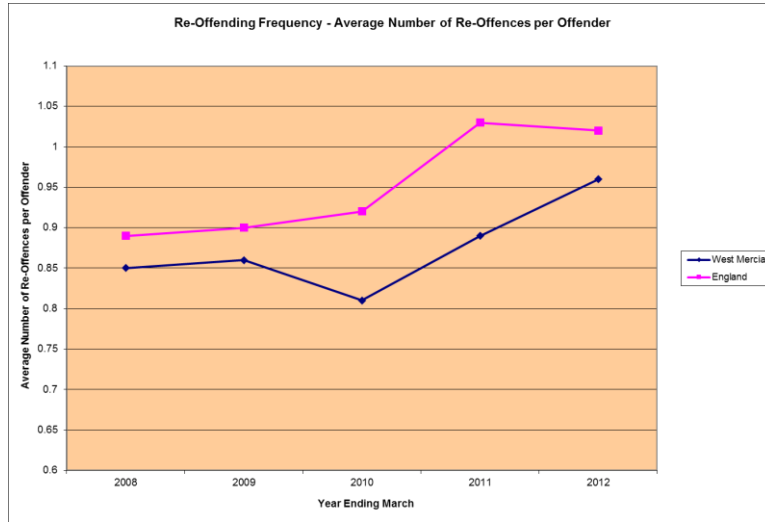
For the year ending December 2013 the use of custody rate for West Mercia was 0.27 against the rate for England of 0.48, West Mercia performance is, therefore, significantly better than the national performance but slightly worse than the family group rate of 0.22. The West Mercia rate for 2013 has improved from 2012 when it was 0.40.

Over the two year period of the year ending December 2013 and the year ending December 2011 the rate has reduced from 0.44 to 0.27, a reduction of -39% compared to a reduction of -42% over the same period nationally.

The actual fall in custodial sentences was from 54 in the year ending December 2011 to 31 in the year ending December 2013, a reduction of -43%.

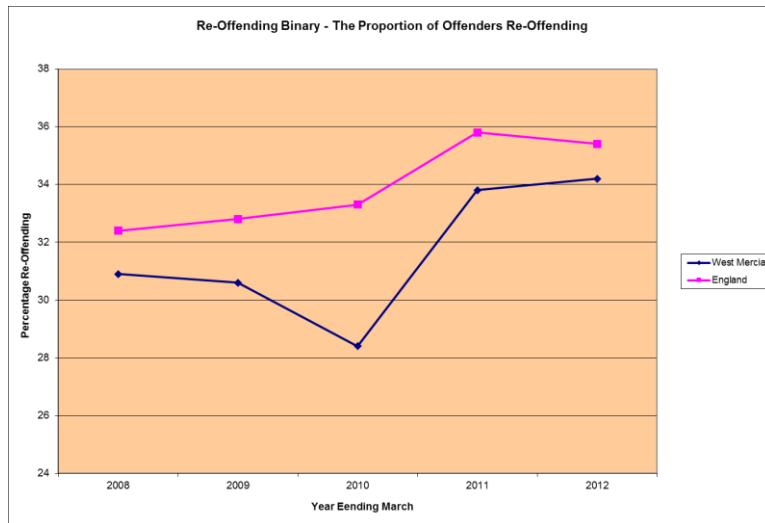
Intensive supervision and surveillance (ISS) is a community based alternative to custodial disposals and currently two ISS schemes operate across the area. In 14/15 the YOS will establish a single and consistent ISS scheme for West Mercia and develop a consistent Bail Supervision offer as part of the strategy to divert, where appropriate, young people from custodial remands and sentences.

3. Re-Offending



There are two re-offending measures, both measuring re-offending in the same cohort of offenders over a 12 month period following the youth justice sanction that placed the young person in the cohort. The first, the frequency measure, is the average number of re-offences per offender in the cohort. The second measure, the binary measure, is the percentage of the offenders in the cohort re-offending. The most recent data for the re-offending measure is for the cohort identified in year ending March 2012. In both measures a lower figure denotes good performance.

For the year ending March 2012 the frequency measure performance for West Mercia was 0.96, compared to national performance 1.02. The range of performance across YOTs in England for the same period is 0.40 to 1.83. The West Mercia performance is slightly higher than for the family group which is at 0.91.



A comparison over the three year period of the year ending March 2009 and the year ending March 2012, shows an increase in the rate from 0.86 to 0.96 an increase of 12%. The increase in the frequency rate for England over the same period is higher from 0.90 to 1.02, an increase of 13%.

The binary measure performance for the year ending March 2012 for West Mercia is 34.2% compared with national performance of 35.4%. The range of performance for YOTs across England is 20.9% to 49.7%.

A comparison over the three year period of the year ending March 2009 and the year ending March 2012, shows increase in the rate from 30.6% to 34.2% an increase of 3.5 percentage points.

It has been recognised by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) that although significant progress, nationally, has been made in reducing first time entrants and reducing custody, the re-offending measure remains an area of concern. There is, currently, little research into the reasons for the decreases in the performance but it is thought that a large part of this may be down to the differences in the characteristics of more recent cohorts to the previous cohorts due to very significant decreases in first time entrants and the development of informal disposals for minor offences.

Analysis undertaken in West Mercia in 13/14 confirms that the cohort is changing in nature in West Mercia with the proportion of young people subject to out of court disposals, those with the lowest risk of re-offending, reducing by 10 percentage points between 2008 and 2012, the proportion of young people subject to community and custodial sentences, those with the highest risk of re-offending, rising by 7 percentage points.

It should be noted that the cohort size is falling, from 3039 young people in the March 2009 cohort compared to 1352 young people in the March 2012 cohort. The number of re-offences has therefore decreased over the same period from 2614 to 1296 a decrease of -50%.

The YJB is undertaking work with YOTs in order to understand more what is driving the trend in the re-offending performance and look at how YOTs can be supported in addressing reducing re-offending. In early 2014/15 the YJB will be publishing a revised re-offending tool kit to assist local areas in analysing their re-offending cohorts. Locally the West Mercia YOS will be utilising the tool kit to investigate the characteristics of cohort members and inform where resources are best targeted in order to reduce the current levels of re-offending.

3. RESOURCES

The Youth Offending Service has a complex budget structure comprising of partner agency cash, seconded staff and in kind contributions and the Youth Justice Good Practice Grant from the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. The table below outlines the agreed contributions for 2014/15.

Agency	Staffing costs Secondees (£)	Payments in kind – revenue (£)	Other delegated funds (£)	Total (£)
Local Authorities ¹	0	68,000	1,426,470	1,494,470
Police Service	237,892	0	63,683	301,575
National Probation Service	168,088 ²	0	62,043	230,131
Health Service	139,705	0	39,006	178,711
Police and Crime Commissioner	0	0	173,200	173,200
YJB Good Practice Grant	0	0	1,526,822	1,526,822
Total	545,685	68,000	3,291,224	3,904,909

In previous years there was an in kind contribution from the Probation Service for the provision of unpaid work for 16 and 17 year olds. From 2014/15 the responsibility for the provision of unpaid work for youth offenders transfers to YOTs, and the activity funded via a ring fenced grant from the YJB. At the time of writing the plan the amount of grant had not been announced. In 14/15 West Mercia YOS will receive a grant from the YJB in addition to the Good Practice Grant of £32,608 for the continued development of restorative justice.

The YJB Good Practice Grant is to fund developing good practice and will be used to deliver the priorities outlined in section 5 and the action plan outlined in section 6 of this plan. The allocation of funding to each priority and to activities will be outlined in a costed plan which will be submitted to YJB along with this plan in September 2014.

As part of the YOS review and establishment of the West Mercia service a target was set of achieving an overall saving of 20%, from a 2011/12 baseline, by 2015. The draft budget for 14/15 of £3,904,909 represents a 27% saving from the 11/12 baseline. This figure includes the Youth Justice Board Grant.

¹ Where YOTs cover more than one local authority area YJB Youth Justice Plan guidance requires the totality of local authority contributions to be described as a single figure.

² Note: This represents four Probation Officers, however there are currently only two Probation Officers deployed in the YOS and cash difference has been made available to the YOS as part of the delegated funds and used to directly employ two Case Managers. Previous practice has been for the whole Probation contribution to be transferred to the YOS and then the YOS re-charged for the salary, on costs and expenses for the Probation Officers.

4. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

The West Mercia Youth Offending Service comprises five multi-agency service delivery teams, aligned to the Local Authority areas (two teams in Worcestershire) to deliver the majority of services. These services are court facing services including the preparation of pre-sentence reports and remand management, and case management which includes assessment, planning interventions, the management of risk, monitoring and review of intervention plans and where necessary the enforcement of court orders. A central services team supports the area teams providing some services co-ordinated across the whole service including reparation and unpaid work, mentoring, and the co-ordination of Referral Order work, including the recruitment, training and management of Community Panel Members. A support team provides quality assurance, commissioning, data and finance support functions.

There are 85 full time equivalent posts in the service including support and administrative posts. The area based teams include Case Managers, Assistant Case Managers, Probation Officers, Health Workers, Police Officers, ISS Workers, Victim Liaison Officers, Substance Misuse Workers, ETE Workers and Administrators.

The YOS is managed on behalf of the Local Authorities and the YOS partnership by Worcestershire County Council. Day to day management of the Head of Service is provided by the DCS of Worcestershire County Council. The Youth Offending Service is accountable to the YOS Management Board. The Management Board comprises representatives of the right strategic level.

The Board is currently chaired by the Director of Children Services for Worcestershire County Council.

The Membership of the Board at 1st April 2014 is outlined in the table below:

Agency	Representative	Role
Worcestershire County Council	Gail Quinton	Director of Children Services
Shropshire Council	Karen Bradshaw	Director of Children Services
Telford and Wrekin Council	Laura Johnston	Director of Children and Family Services
Herefordshire Council	Jo Davidson	Director of Childrens Wellbeing
West Mercia Probation Trust	David Chantler	Chief Executive
West Mercia Police	Gareth Morgan	Assistant Chief Constable
Local Area Team – NHS England	Becki Hipkins	Project Manager
Office for the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner	Andy Champness	Chief Executive

In addition to the members a Youth Justice Board regional representative attends meetings in an advisory capacity

The Board has adopted the following purpose and underlying principles:

Purpose

- To focus collaborative multi-agency effort on work to improve outcomes for Young Offenders by offering an exemplary service, with timely interventions and strong links and partnership across all local services including Children's Services, criminal justice and community safety sectors.
- To set strategic direction for the Youth Offending Service across West Mercia and agree and review local youth justice planning
- To provide support and challenge to the West Mercia YOS on operational performance.

Underpinning Principles

- To demonstrate effective leadership, support and challenge to the West Mercia YOS.
- To ensure that the YOS is compliant with relevant national standards, including Youth Justice Board and local arrangements, and deals with exceptions/risks appropriately
- To ensure available resources are used efficiently to run an effective YOS.
- To ensure that Local Authorities jointly and singly manage the agreement with the host agency (WMPT).
- To provide the necessary governance to effectively steer the delivery of the service

In 2013/14 the Board has established a reference group to analyse issues relating to Looked After Children and Care Leavers who are in the Youth Justice System, the work of this group will continue throughout 14/15

The Management Board will ensure that, where relevant, commissioning across partner agencies take account of the needs of young people in or at risk of entering the youth justice system, and where appropriate explore joint commissioning arrangements.

Priorities for 2014/15

The Management Board have agreed five main service priorities with a number of key areas of focus for each of the priorities for 2014/15.

The priorities and key areas of focus are outlined in the table below and outlined in more detail in section 5 of this plan.

Service Priority	Key Areas of Focus for 2014/15		
1. Reduce Offending and Protect Communities from Harm	1a. Reducing re-offending	1a(i) APIS	
		1a(ii) Management of Risk	
		1a(iii) Sexually Harmful Behaviour	
	1b. LAC and Care Leavers		
	1c. Diversion	1c(i) Out of Court Disposals	
		1c(ii) First Time Entrants	
		1c(iii) Custody and ISS	
1d. Restorative Process	1d (i) Reparation		
	1d(ii) Embedding RJ		
1e. Safeguarding			
2. Enabling Staff to Deliver Now and into the future	2a. Training and Development		
	2b. Communication and Engagement		
	2c. Management Oversight		
3. Finish the Job	3a. Fit for the future	3a(i) Development of Unpaid Work	
		3a(ii) Transition to Adulthood	
		3a(iii) Consistency in Practice	
		3a(iv) Arrangements for 2015	
	3b. ICT	3b(i) Implement single ICT system	
	3c. Accommodation	3b(ii) Upgrade Case Management System	
4. Get Connected, Stay Connected	4a. Pathways and Protocols	4a(i) Access to Services	
		4a(ii) SM, ETE and Parenting	
	4b. How we become more integrated		
5. Know the Right Thing	5a. QA and Performance	5a(i) Outcomes	
		5a(ii) Re-offending Analysis	
	5b. Voice of the Child		
5c. Policies and Procedures			

Partnerships

The Youth Offending Service only has one outsourced service, the provision of Appropriate Adults for young people in Police custody. The service is provided by a local voluntary sector organisation YSS. Due to previous contracting arrangements with YSS, the organisation currently seconds 5 staff into West Mercia YOS who are deployed in the delivery of ISS, reparation and assistant case manager roles.

The YOS is a member of the four Safeguarding Children Boards and the Children's Trusts or equivalent partnerships. The YOS is represented on the Crime and Disorder reduction partnerships at the unitary or top tier authority level. The YOS is an active member of the West Mercia Criminal Justice Board.

The YOS is contributing to the Troubled Families programmes across the 4 areas and is represented at two of the strategic planning groups.

In setting the priorities for 14/15 the Management Board has ensured that these support three of the four strategic aims of the West Mercia Police and Crime Plan. The YOS will directly contribute to objective 5 of the Police and Crime Plan, to reduce re-offending and bring offenders to account, under which two of the success measures are the YOS First Time Entrant and Re-offending Indicators.

5. PRIORITIES FOR 2014/15

1 Reduce Youth Offending and Protecting Communities from Harm

The YOS is committed to ensuring that the risks posed by and to young people in the youth justice system are minimised through robust assessment and risk management. Key areas of focus under this priority for 2014/15 are reducing re-offending, looked after children and care leavers, diversion and restorative approaches and safeguarding

1a Reducing Re-offending

The re-offending performance is worsening, however the numbers in the cohort have been falling so there are significantly less re-offences. In 14/14 the YOS will concentrate on three areas, those of;

- 1a(i) Assessment and Planning – improving the quality of assessment and intervention planning and planning for the implementation of AssetPlus, the new national assessment tool for youth offending services.
- 1a(ii) Management of Risk – Reviewing and revising the risk management and DYO processes across the area.
- 1a(iii) Sexually Harmful Behaviour – Further implement and embed the AIM2 assessment and intervention work for young people demonstrating sexually harmful behaviour

1b Looked after Children and Care Leavers

Looked after children (LAC) and care leavers who are in the youth justice system have been identified as a particularly vulnerable subset of both the LAC population and the youth offending population. LAC form a significant proportion of young people on YOS case loads across the West Mercia area teams. There is also a significant proportion of LAC from other Local Authorities who are temporarily placed in Shropshire and in Herefordshire and managed by the YOS. An operational reference group, as a sub-group of the Management Board, was established in 13/14, comprising of representatives of the social care services and the YOS to analyse the joint issues and develop joint working in relation to LAC and care leavers. The group will refresh their work plan, which will include putting in place joint protocols between YOS and Social Care and establishing an area wide protocol to reduce the need to criminalise young people in the looked after system.

1c Diversion

- 1c(i) The new out of court disposal framework has been in operation for a year. A priority will be reviewing the current arrangements for joint decision making and further developing the intervention programmes for young people subject to cautions.
- 1c(ii) Diversion from the youth justice system through targeted interventions contributes to reducing the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system. With targeted prevention work moved from the YOS and included in early help services, the YOS will convene a group to ensure that those young people on the edge of the youth justice system and are effectively targeted for help.
- 1c(iii) Reducing custody is another area of focus and in 2014/15 the YOS will concentrate on developing robust alternatives to secure remands, establishing a consistent ISS offer across the area and developing resettlement support.

1d Restorative Approaches

The YOS has good reparation services and victim liaison arrangements. Despite this the proportion of victims participating in direct restorative processes remains low. In 14/15 the YOS will complete the RJ training programme that commenced in 13/14 and ensure that restorative practices become embedded in the work of the YOS

1e Safeguarding

In 14/15 the YOS will implement a comprehensive safeguarding action plan to ensure that the YOS is fully compliant with responsibilities under section 11 of the Children Act.

2. Enabling staff to deliver now and into the future

This priority is concerned with ensuring that staff have the right training, knowledge and support to deliver quality services for children and young people. Key areas for focus for 14/15 are training, communication and engagement and management oversight.

2a Training Strategy and Plan

In 13/14 two surveys were undertaken in the YOS, one on general training needs and the second on safeguarding training needs. These surveys are informing the training plan for 14/15.

2b Communication and Engagement

Staff have identified that communication within the YOS could be improved. In 14/15 it is intended to establish a staff communications group to develop and oversee a YOS communication strategy and plan.

2c Management Oversight

In the latter part of 13/14 it has been identified that management oversight is inconsistent across the service. In 14/15 the service will further define those activities where management oversight is required, and how that management oversight is achieved, ensuring this is consistent across the service. This includes ensuring that the new service supervision is implemented.

3 Finishing the Job

Although West Mercia YOS was established on 1st October 2012, at 1st April 2014 the YOS is implementing the second phase of the restructuring of youth justice services across West Mercia

3a Fit for Purpose

The YOS four main priorities under this key area of focus are;

- 3a(i) Unpaid Work - The development of an unpaid work scheme for when the responsibility for the delivery of unpaid work for 16 and 17 year olds transfers from provider of probation services to YOTs in June 2014.
- 3a(ii) Transition to adulthood - The YOS will seek to continue the previously planned work with the Probation Trust, with the new providers of probation services.
- 3a(iii) Ensuring consistency across the service - There are currently performance and quality differences between the area teams, and YOS intends to ensure that all teams are operating to the same high standard.
- 3a(iv) Service review - Reviewing the longer term service management and delivery arrangements for 1st April 2015 onwards

3b ICT

There are two main outstanding areas of implementation under this area of focus to be progressed in 14/15;

3b(i) Single ICT system – Implementation of a single ICT system for West Mercia YOS.

3b(ii) Implementing ChildView - Merging the two case management system data sets and upgrading the case management system.

3c Accommodation

In 2013/14 the new accommodation arrangements were established for the Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire Teams. In 14/15 it is the intention to relocate the Herefordshire Team and co-locate the two Worcestershire Teams.

4. Get Connected, Stay Connected

One of the service priorities is to promote better integrated working between the YOS and other children and family services with the shared aim of improving outcomes for young people in the youth justice system. Key areas of focus for this priority in 14/15 are pathways and protocols and how the YOS becomes more included.

4a Pathways and Protocols

4a(i) Protocols - In 14/15 the YOS will continue the work to define pathways for young offenders into targeted services so they to obtain timely and appropriate services with key agencies. These pathways will be underpinned by joint protocols.

4a(ii) Commissioning - The commissioning process will be completed for ETE, Parenting and Substance Misuse work

4b How we become more included

Promoting greater integrated and joint working between the YOS and other services is a key area of focus. Initially in 14/15 this will be focused, in particular, on the work to be undertaken on joint issues with LAC and care leavers, in ensuring linkages with the Troubled Families and Early Help developments and information exchange with the social care services.

5. Know the Right Thing

Knowing the right thing is about ensuring that the YOS, the Management Board and other agencies have the information required to develop services and improve the outcomes for children and young people in the youth justice system and those at risk of entering the youth justice system.

5a Performance and Quality Assurance

The service developed and agreed a performance and QA framework in 13/14, but has work to complete in terms of implementing and embedding the frameworks, developing some of the quality assurance tools and developing the quality assurance role of newly recruited Advance Case Manager team. Two particular areas of focus for 14/15 are;

- 5a(i) Outcomes – Informing a service improvement plan through undertaking a mock inspection, a National Standards audit and self assessment of key areas of work.
- 5a(ii) Re-Offending – Continuation of the analysis of the re-offending cohort in order to understand where and how resources are best targeted.

5b Voice of the Child

A key area of focus will be the voice of child, ensuring that service users are involved in their assessment and planning processes, in evaluation and in helping to inform service development. Implementation of the Viewpoint feedback process for the Inspectorate will form part of work under this key area of focus.

5c Putting the right policies, procedures and guidance in place

In 13/14 comprehensive case management guidance including a management of risk policy was put in place as well as a safeguarding policy, allegations against staff policy, out of court disposal guidance and supervision policy. In 14/15 further guidance will be developed, in particular comprehensive guidance on recording has been identified as a priority.

6. RISKS TO FUTURE DELIVERY – THE ACTION PLAN

Risk to Future Delivery	Action	Key Priority and Area of Focus	Owner	Timescale (by end of quarter)
Intervention plans not sufficiently addressing assessed risks leading to increased risk of re-offending	Review current use of intervention and risk plans, evaluate change to a single plan	1a(i)	TMT	Q2
	Develop and implement QA tool and process for intervention planning	1a(i)	CPM	Q2
	Implementation of Asset Plus – Prepare service for Asset Plus Implementation	1a(i)	TMT	Q2 –Q4
	Review and revise guidance regarding intervention and risk planning	1a(i)	TMT	Q3
Gap in knowledge in what promotes engagement and compliance leading to increased levels of breach	Recording of outcomes to be included in recording guidance	1a(i)	CPM	Q2
	Use analysis of breach statistics to inform whether to establish a compliance panel	1a(i)	CPM/ TMT	Q3
Inconsistent risk planning processes across the service	Review and revise key risk management processes to ensure consistency – Case Planning Forums and DYO processes and paperwork	1a(ii)	TMT/ TMH	Q2
	Review the role of YOS within IOM	1a(ii)	CPM	Q2
The training in assessment and intervention for young people engaged in sexual harmful behaviour (SHB) not embedded in practice	Development of learning circles and buddy arrangements for staff engaged in SHB work	1a(iii)	TMH	Q1
	Launch SHB processes via workshop	1a(iii)	TMH/ TMWN	Q2
Disproportionate criminalisation of LAC affecting FTE and re-offending rates	Agreement of multi-agency protocol to reduce criminalisation of LAC	1b	TMS	Q3
Lack of coherent remand strategy risks increasing the number of remands to custody	Development of a remand management strategy	1b	CPM	Q2
Inconsistent decision making across West Mercia in respect to out of court disposals	Establish joint YOS/Police out of court disposal protocol	1c(i)	TMWS	Q3
	Review out of court joint decision making framework	1c(i)	TMWS	Q3
Young people at risk of entering the YJS not effectively targeted for intervention	Establish the OPCC Task and Finish group to monitor prevention work	1c(ii)	HOS	Q1

Risk to Future Delivery	Action	Key Priority and Area of Focus	Owner	Timescale (by end of quarter)
Insufficient understanding of reasons for differential FTE rates and new Police CR policy leading to increased FTEs	Analysis of differential rates of FTE performance across West Mercia	1c(ii)	CPM	Q2
	Monitor proportionate use informal disposals and out of court sanctions	1c(ii)	CPM	Q1 – Q4
Inconsistent practice across West Mercia leading to increased use of custodial sentences and remands	Implementation of a centralised custody review process	1c(iii)	TMH	Q2
	Implementation of a West Mercia wide single ISS scheme	1c(iii)	TMH	Q2
	Development of a consistent bail support offer across West Mercia	1c(iii)	CPM	Q3
Inconsistent reparation practice across West Mercia	Implementation of a West Mercia wide reparation scheme	1d(i)	TMCS	Q1
Restorative processes not embedded in practice	Complete service wide RJ training for identified staff	1d(ii)	TMH	Q1
	Revise and agree the YOS RJ Strategy	1d(ii)	TMH	Q1
	Establish a service wide RJ service development group	1d(ii)	TMH	Q1
Insufficient risk management and planning with respect to vulnerability and safeguarding	Roll out safeguarding peer review across the service	1e	THWS	Q1
	Implement S11 action plans	1e	HOS	Q1 – Q4
No defined workforce development plan	Develop and implement service training plan for 14/15	2a	CPM	Q2
Inconsistent communication across the service	Establish YOS Communications Group	2b	HOS	Q1
	Develop YOS communication strategy and plan for 14/15	2b	HOS	Q1
Inconsistent supervision practices across the service	Ensure new supervision policy embedded by monitoring audits at 2 and 5 months	2c	CPM	Q3
Risk management guidance does not reflect revised processes for CPF and DYO	Review and revise risk management and case management guidance	2c	TMT	Q2
No provision for unpaid work requirements	Development of Unpaid Work scheme for 16 and 17 year olds	3a(i)	TMCS	Q2
Unplanned arrangements for young people moving between youth and adult systems	Ensure case transfer arrangements/protocols in place with new providers of Probation	3a(ii)	CPM	Q2

Risk to Future Delivery	Action	Key Priority and Area of Focus	Owner	Timescale (by end of quarter)
Risks associated with NPS having statutory responsibility for YOTs but the majority of transferred work being to CRC	Establish a YOS reference group to include representatives of NPS and CRC	3a(ii)	HOS	Q2
Inconsistent recording practices	Put in place revised recording guidance for case management system	3a(iii)	CPM	Q1
Inconsistent quality assurance practices between service teams	Implementation of cross service QA processes	3a(iii)	CPM	Q1
Insufficient range of programmes to address assessed risk factors	Development of Activity and Programme work across the service	3a(iii)	CPMWN	Q3
Uncertain delivery arrangements from 1 st April 2015	Scope and decide on management and delivery arrangements for 2015 onwards	3a(iv)	CMB	Q3
Two ICT systems create barriers to performance monitoring and management oversight	Implement YOS/WMP project plan for rolling out WMP hosted ICT across the service	3b(i)	PRMB	Q2
YOIS does not support the new assessment framework	Upgrade Client/Management Information system to ChildView	3b(ii)	CPM	Q4
Leases coming to end on some buildings	Relocation of Worcestershire and Herefordshire Teams	3c	CPM	Q4
Inconsistent and ad hoc arrangements with key partners	Development of agreed pathways/protocols into services where these do not currently exist, in particular; Sign off of the remand protocols with L.A.s, Protocols with Children's Social Care and joint protocol regarding YP in Police Custody	4a(i)	CPM	Q2
Robust arrangements not in place for some key areas of discretionary practice	Complete commissioning work and agree delivery arrangements for ETE liaison, Substance Misuse and Parenting	4a(ii)	CPM	Q3
Assessments not taking account of full range of information sources	Explore the possibility of access to Children Social Care information systems in areas where this does not exist	4b	CPM	Q3

Risk to Future Delivery	Action	Key Priority and Area of Focus	Owner	Timescale (by end of quarter)
YOS does not have compliant structure if commissioned out	Investigate with DCSs secondment of social workers	4b	HOS	Q3
YOS not inspection ready	Commissioning independent mock inspection to inform improvement plan	5a(i)	CPM	Q1
YOS not NS compliant	Undertake National Standard audit	5a(i)	CPM	Q2
Future plans not evidence based	Undertake self audit on key areas of work to inform future planning	5a(i)	HOS	Q4
Merger of Youth Panels, and trials being held across Court centres leading to inconsistent sentencing	Monitor sentencing outcomes of trials held across different Worcestershire court centres	5a(i)	CPM	Q4
Not understanding matters affecting re-offending performance	Undertake further re-offending analysis	5a(i)	TMT	Q2
Service development not informed by user feedback	Implement Viewpoint feedback process for HMIP	5b	TMT	Q1
	Review and revise service user feedback process across the service	5b	CPM	Q2
Inconsistent practice	Identify key areas where policy development is required and put policies in place	5c	HOS	Q3

Key to Action Owners:

HOS Head of Service

TMS Team Manager – Shropshire

TMWS Team Manager – South Worcs

PRMB Management Board Police Representative

CPM CP and QA Manager

TMT Team Manager – Telford


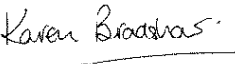
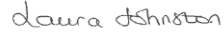



TMCS Team Manager – Central Services

TMH Team Manager – Herefordshire

TMWN Team Manager – North Worcs

CMB Chair of the Management Board

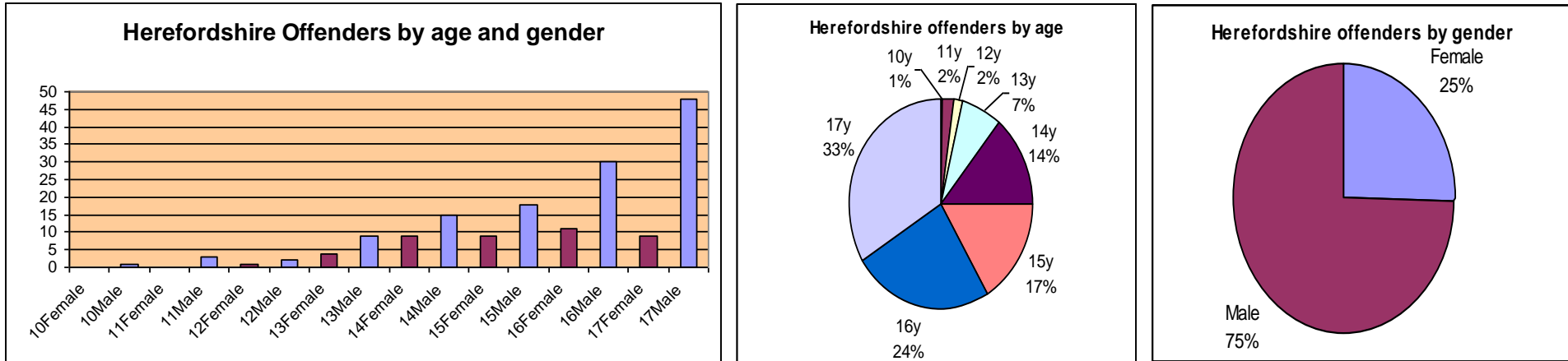
7 MANAGEMENT BOARD APPROVAL

Agency	Agency	Signature	Date
Gail Quinton	Worcestershire County Council		23.05.14
Karen Bradshaw	Shropshire Council		23.05.14
Laura Johnston	Telford and Wrekin Council		24.05.14
Jo Davidson	Herefordshire Council		23.05.14
David Chantler	West Mercia Probation Trust		23.05.14
Gareth Morgan	West Mercia Police		23.05.14
Becki Hipkins	NHS England		23.05.14
Andy Champness	Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner		23.05.14

APPENDIX 1 - AREA PROFILE – HEREFORDSHIRE

Youth Offending Population – all Young People

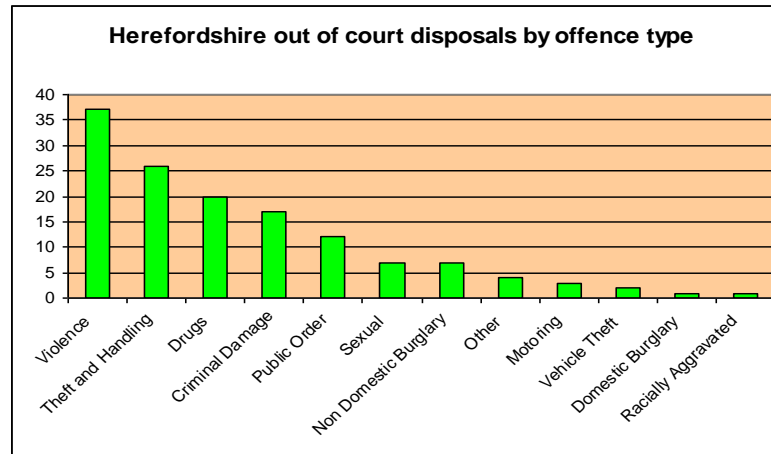
There are 16,810 young people aged 10 to 17 in Herefordshire. In 2013 there were 244 youth justice sanctions (youth cautions, youth conditional cautions or convictions) made on Herefordshire young people. A total of 169 individual young people accounted for these 244 outcomes, 1% of the youth population.



Of the 169 young people entering or in the youth justice system in 2013, 75% were male. The majority, 74%, were aged 15 to 17 years. The peak age of offending for young males was 17 years and for young females 16 years.

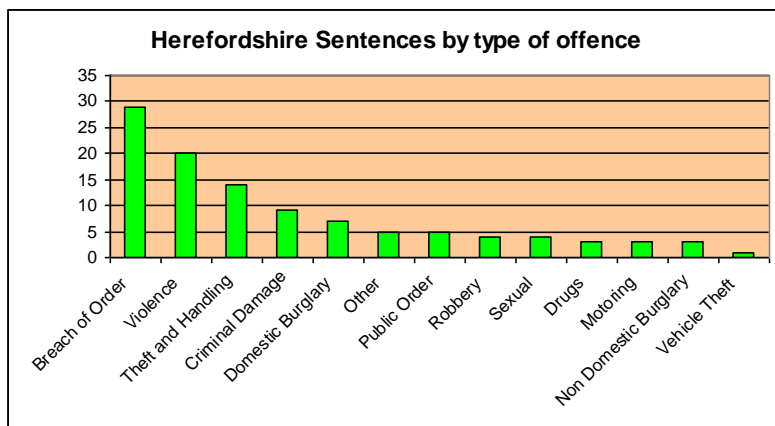
Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Out of Court Disposals

During 2013 there were a total of 137 pre-court disposals made on Herefordshire young people, 30 of these were Reprimands, 14 Final Warnings, 86 Youth Cautions and 7 Youth Conditional Cautions. The YOS is required to assess all young people made subject to Final Warnings, second and subsequent Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions and if assessed appropriate provide a programme of intervention, in 2013 intervention programmes were provided for 25 pre-court disposals.



The most frequently occurring primary offence for out of court disposals was violence against the person, 27%, followed by theft and handling, 19%, drug offences, 15%, criminal damage 12% and public order 9%.

Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Court Outcomes



In 2013 a total of 57 Herefordshire young people accounted for 107 court outcomes. Orders requiring YOS interventions (Referral Orders, YROs and Custodial sentences) accounted for 51 of the 107 court outcomes.

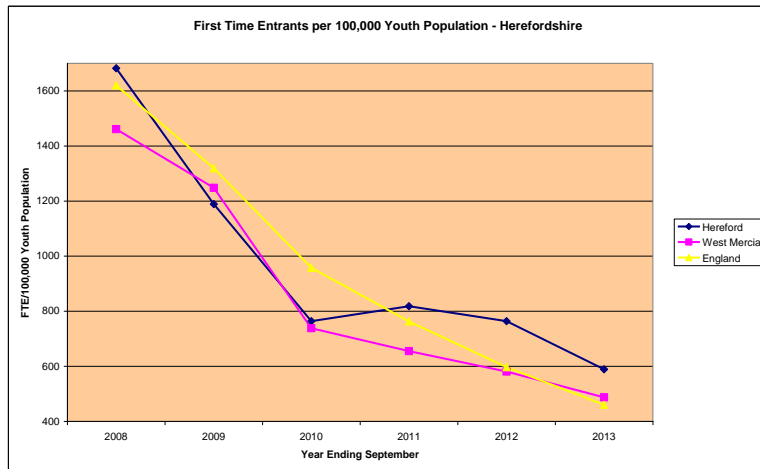
The majority, 88% of young people receiving court sentences were aged 15 to 17, with 17 year olds accounting for just under half (49%) of young people receiving a court sentence.

The most frequently occurring primary offence for court sentences was breach of an order, accounting for 27% of all outcomes. Violence against the person was the next frequently occurring offence, 19%, followed by theft and handling, 13% and criminal damage 8%. These four categories of offences accounted for 67% of all sentencing outcomes.

Performance Against National Indicators

(i) First Time Entrants

The first time entrant measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants per 100,000 of 10 to 17 year old population. First time entrants are those young people receiving a first formal youth justice sanction (prior to 01.04.13 these were a Reprimand, Final Warning or Conviction, currently a Youth Caution, Conditional Caution or Conviction). Good performance is indicated by a lower rate.



In the year ending September 2013 there were 589 first time entrants per 100,000 youth population in Herefordshire, representing a reduction of -65% since the year ending September 2008. This compares with a reduction for England of -71.6% and for West Mercia of -66.7% over the same period. The actual number of first time entrants in the year ending September 2013 is 99, compared to 309 in 2008.

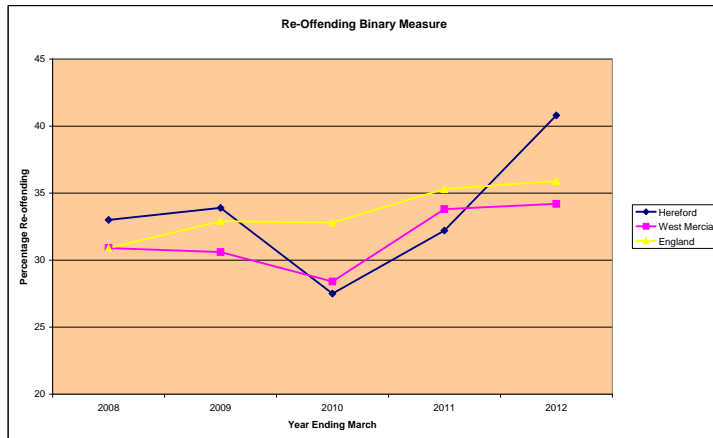
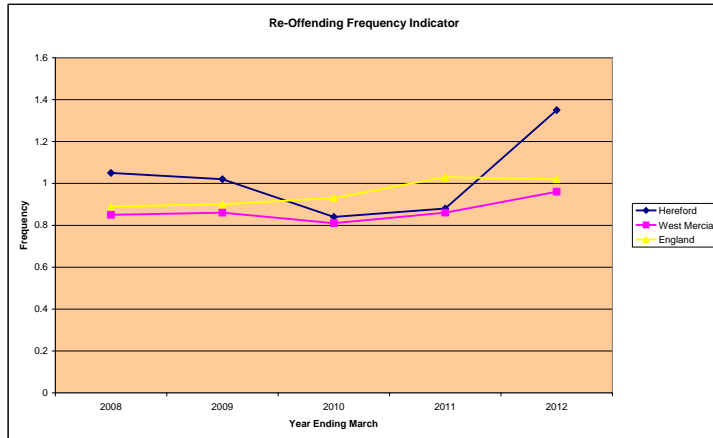
At 589 Herefordshire has the highest rate of FTEs across West Mercia, the next highest rate being 535. Some analysis into reasons for the higher has been undertaken during 13/14, and it has been found that in part it is due to a higher detection rate and a lower proportional use of informal disposals. Further analysis is planned for 14/15.

(ii) Use of Custody

The use of custody measure is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 of 10 to 17 year population, a lower rate indicates better performance. Herefordshire has, historically, had a low rate of custodial sentences.

There were 5 custodial sentences during 2013, equating to a rate of 0.3 custodial sentences per 1000 youth population this represents a reduction in custodial sentences from 2012 where there were 6 custodial sentences equating to a rate of 0.36. The 2013 rate of 0.3% compares to a West Mercia rate of 0.27 and a national rate of 0.67. Custodial sentences accounted for 4.2% of all court outcomes in Herefordshire, compared to 6.5% of all court outcomes across West Mercia.

(iii) Re-Offending



There are two re-offending measures, both measuring re-offending in the same cohort of offenders over a 12 month period following the youth justice sanction that placed the young person in the cohort. The first, the frequency measure, is the average number of re-offences per offender in the cohort. The second measure, the binary measure, is the percentage of the offenders in the cohort re-offending. In both cases a lower rate denotes better performance. The most recent data for the re-offending measure is for the year ending March 2012.

The frequency measure performance for Herefordshire for the year ending March 2012 is 1.35, compared to the West Mercia performance of 0.96 and national performance of 1.02. Herefordshire is, therefore, performing less well than for West Mercia and England, which is a changed picture from the year ending March 2011 when the frequency rate was 0.88 which was slightly better than for West Mercia (0.89) and significantly better than for England (1.03). The frequency rate nationally has been increasing since 2008.

For the year ending March 2012 the binary measure for Herefordshire is 40.8% compared with a West Mercia performance of 34.2% and a national performance of 35.4%. It should be noted, however, that although the frequency and binary rates have increased, the overall cohort sizes are decreasing year on year. In the year ending March 2008 there were 617 offenders in the cohort and 575 re-offences compared to a cohort size of 347 with 344 re-offences in 2012. The number of actual re-offences has therefore decreased by -40.2% between 2008 and 2012.

Increasing rates are national picture and the YJB has noted that there is currently little evidence as to why this is happening. It is thought that in part it is due to decreasing numbers in cohorts due to the diversion of first time offenders from the formal justice system, leaving a cohort of more serious and complex offenders who are more likely to re-offend. The YJB is continuing to work

with YOTs during 2014/15 in order to understand more what is driving the trend in performance and is launching a revised re-offending tool kit in the first quarter of 14/15 to assist YOTs in understanding better the characteristics of their cohorts.

Locally the West Mercia YOS conducted some analysis in 13/14, which showed that the nature of the cohorts had changed over time, with the proportion of offenders in the cohort subject to out of court disposal decreasing between 2008 and 2012 by 10 percentage points, whilst the proportion of those subject to community and custodial sentences increasing by 7 percentage points. Further analysis is planned in 2014/15 in order to inform more targeted work.

Education, Training and Employment

The YOS has previously measured whether a young person is in full time education, training or employment at the end of their order. The table below outlines the results for 2012/13.

	Herefordshire % in ETE	West Mercia % in ETE
Young People of School Age	79% (37)	73%
Young People above School Age	59%(37)	59%
Overall Performance	67%(74)	64%

The performance for Herefordshire for school age young people is better than for West Mercia, and the same for young people above school age.

It should be noted that those young people of school age not in full time education are not necessarily NEET, but are receiving an education provision which is not 25 hours a week.

Looked After Children

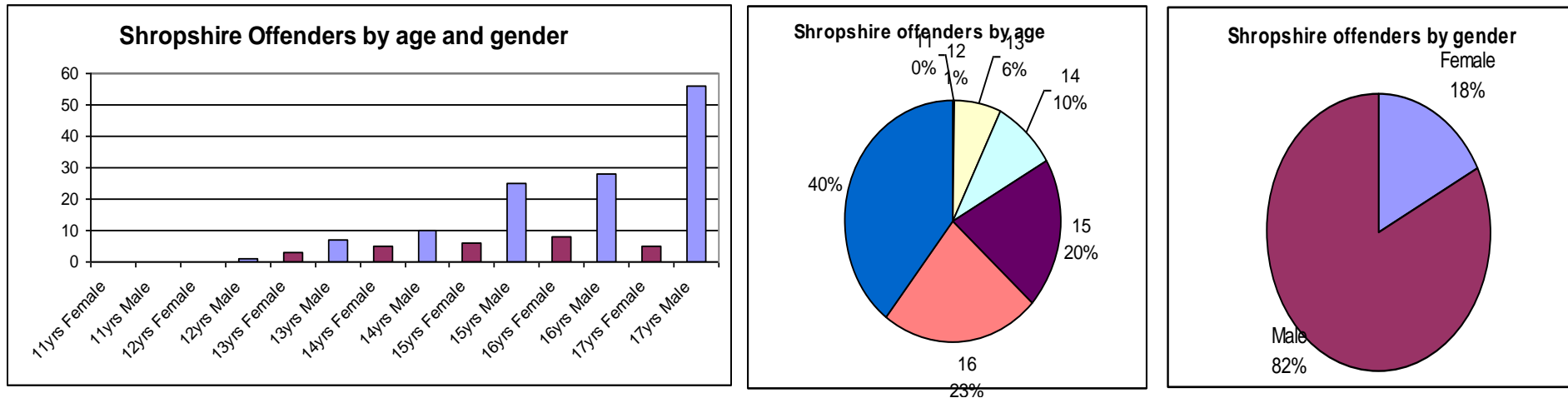
At the end of December 2013 an analysis of LAC on the YOS case load was undertaken. This showed that of the total case load of the Herefordshire YOS Team, 45% were looked after children. At this point in time 17% of the case load were LAC from other areas temporarily placed in Herefordshire.

The YOS Management Board established an operational reference group to analyse the issues between the YOS and Social Care in relation to LAC and Care Leavers and make operational recommendations in relation to joint working to improve the outcomes for LAC and Care Leavers who are in the youth justice system.

APPENDIX 2 - AREA PROFILE – SHROPSHIRE

Youth Offending Population – all Young People

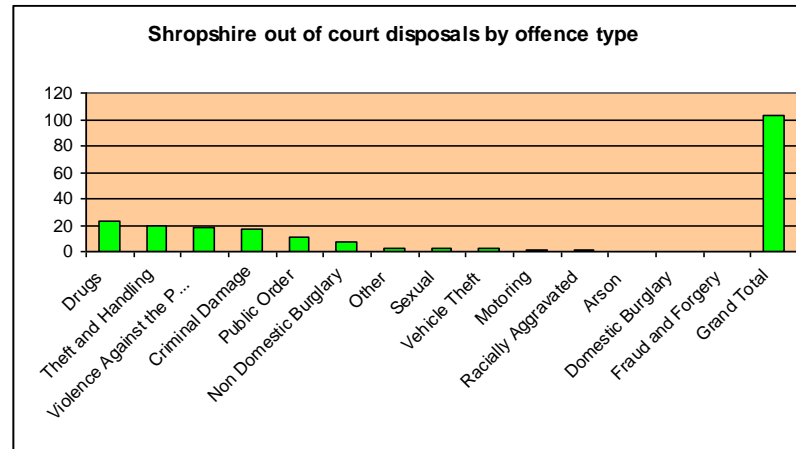
There are 28,909 young people aged 10 to 17 in Shropshire. In 2013 there were 177 youth justice sanctions (youth cautions, youth conditional cautions or convictions) made on Shropshire young people. A total of 154 individual young people accounted for these 177 outcomes, 0.5% of the youth population.



Of the 154 young people entering or in the youth justice system in 2013, 82% were male. The majority, 83%, were aged 15 to 17 years. The peak age of offending for both young males was 17 years and for young females 16 years.

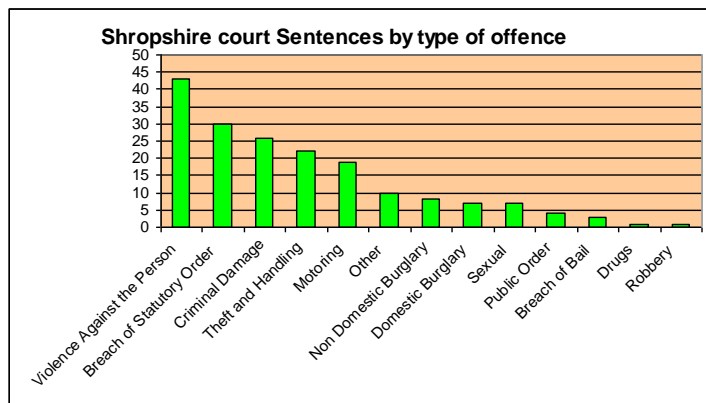
Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Out of Court Disposals

During 2013 there were a total of 103 pre-court disposals made on Shropshire young people, 19 of these were Reprimands, 16 Final Warnings, 61 Youth Cautions and 7 Youth Conditional Cautions. The YOS is required to assess all young people made subject to Final Warnings, second and subsequent Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions and if assessed appropriate provide a programme of intervention, in 2013 intervention programmes were provided for 19 pre-court disposals.



The most frequently occurring primary offence for out of court disposals were drug offences, 22%, followed by theft and handling, 18%, violence against the person, 17%, criminal damage 17% and public order 11%.

Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Court Outcomes



In 2013 a total of 46 Shropshire young people accounted for 72 court outcomes. Orders requiring YOS interventions (Referral Orders, YROs and Custodial sentences) accounted for 59 of the 72 court outcomes.

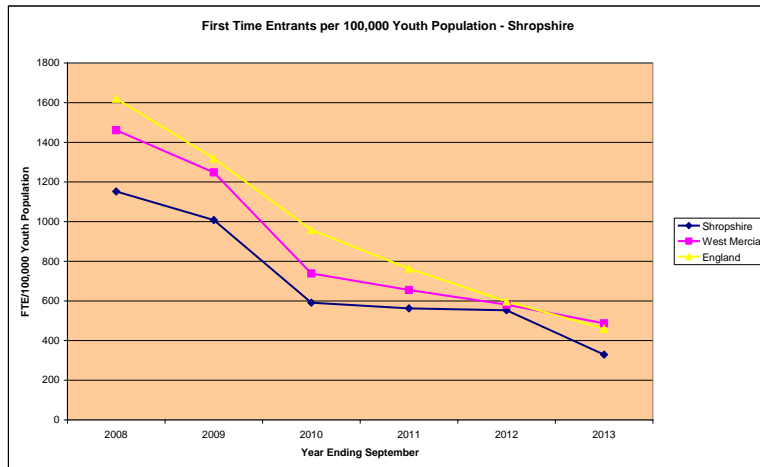
The majority, 94% of young people receiving court sentences were aged 15 to 17, with 17 year olds accounting for just over half (51%) of young people receiving a court sentence.

The most frequently occurring offence for court sentences was violence against the person, accounting for 24% of all outcomes. Breach of a statutory order was the next frequently occurring offence, 17%, followed by criminal damage, 14% and theft and handling 12%. These four categories of offences accounted for 67% of all sentencing outcomes.

Performance Against National Indicators

(i) First Time Entrants

The first time entrant measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants per 100,000 of 10 to 17 year old population. First time entrants are those young people receiving a first formal youth justice sanction (prior to 01.04.13 these were a Reprimand, Final Warning or Conviction, currently a Youth Caution, Conditional Caution or Conviction). Good performance is indicated by a lower rate



In the year ending September 2013 there were 329 first time entrants per 100,000 youth population in Shropshire, representing a reduction of -71.4% since the year ending September 2008. This compares with a reduction for England of -71.6% and for West Mercia of -66.7% over the same period. The actual number of first time entrants in the year ending September 2013 is 95, compared to 359 in 2008.

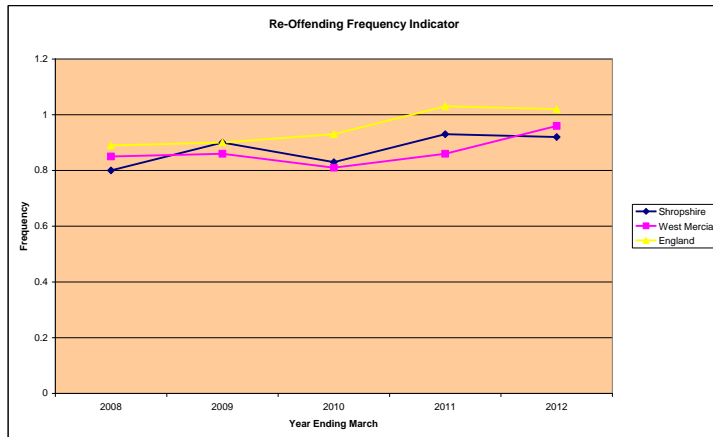
At 329 Shropshire has the lowest rate of FTEs across West Mercia. This rate is significantly lower than the other areas in West Mercia with the next lowest rate being 504, and significantly lower than the previous year when the rate was 553. Analysis is planned for 14/15 in order to understand the factors that have contributed to the significant reduction in FTEs in Shropshire in the year ending September 2013.

(ii) Use of Custody

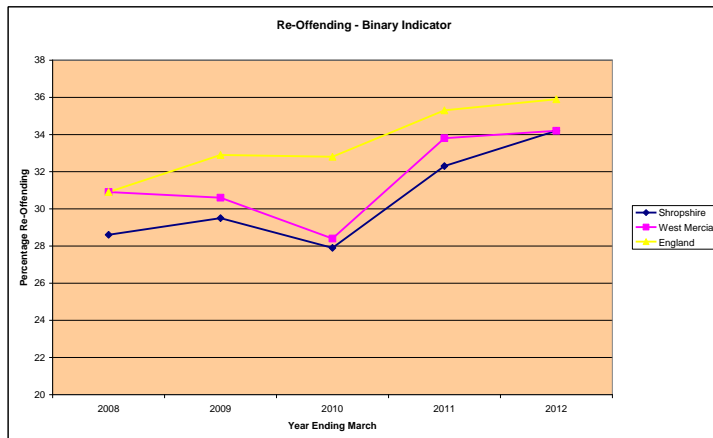
The use of custody measure is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 of 10 to 17 year population, a lower rate indicates better performance. Shropshire has, historically, had a low rate of custodial sentences.

There were 3 custodial sentences during 2013, equating to a rate of 0.1 custodial sentences per 1000 youth population this represents a reduction in custodial sentences from 2012 where there were 5 custodial sentences equating to a rate of 0.17. The 2013 rate of 0.3% compares to a West Mercia rate of 0.27 and a national rate of 0.67. Custodial sentences accounted for 5.1% of all court outcomes in Shropshire, compared to 6.5% of all court outcomes across West Mercia.

(iii) Re-Offending



There are two re-offending measures, both measuring re-offending in the same cohort of offenders over a 12 month period following the youth justice sanction that placed the young person in the cohort. The first, the frequency measure, is the average number of re-offences per offender in the cohort. The second measure, the binary measure, is the percentage of the offenders in the cohort re-offending. In both cases a lower rate denotes better performance. The most recent data for the re-offending measure is for the year ending March 2012.



The frequency measure performance for Shropshire for the year ending March 2012 is 0.92, compared to the West Mercia performance of 0.96 and national performance of 1.02. Shropshire is, therefore better than for West Mercia and England, which is a changed picture from the year ending March 2011 when the frequency rate was 0.93 which was slightly worse than for West Mercia (0.89) but better than for England (1.03). The frequency rate nationally has been increasing since 2008.

For the year ending March 2012 the binary measure for Shropshire is 34.2% which equals the West Mercia performance of 34.2% and is better than the national performance of 35.4%. It should be noted, however, that although the frequency and binary rates have increased since 2008, the overall cohort sizes are decreasing year on year. In the year ending March 2008 there were 709 offenders in the cohort and 570 re-offences compared to a cohort size of 304 with 279 re-offences in 2012. The number of actual re-offences has therefore decreased by -51% between 2008 and 2012.

Increasing rates are national picture and the YJB has noted that there is currently little evidence as to why this is happening. It is thought that in part it is due to decreasing numbers in cohorts due to the diversion of first time offenders from the formal justice system, leaving a cohort of more serious and complex offenders who are more likely to re-offend. The YJB is continuing to work

with YOTs during 2014/15 in order to understand more what is driving the trend in performance and is launching a revised re-offending tool kit in the first quarter of 14/15 to assist YOTs in understanding better the characteristics of their cohorts.

Locally the West Mercia YOS conducted some analysis in 13/14, which showed that the nature of the cohorts had changed over time, with the proportion of offenders in the cohort subject to out of court disposal decreasing between 2008 and 2012 by 10 percentage points, whilst the proportion of those subject to community and custodial sentences increasing by 7 percentage points. Further analysis is planned in 2014/15 in order to inform more targeted work.

Education, Training and Employment

The YOS has previously measured whether a young person is in full time education, training or employment at the end of their order. The table below outlines the results for 2012/13.

	Shropshire % in ETE	West Mercia % in ETE
Young People of School Age	67% (16)	73%
Young People above School Age	77% (27)	59%
Overall Performance	73% (43)	64%

The performance for Shropshire for school age young people is slightly lower than for West Mercia, but for young people above school age is significantly better.

It should be noted that those young people of school age not in full time education are not necessarily NEET, but are receiving an education provision which is not 25 hours a week.

Looked After Children

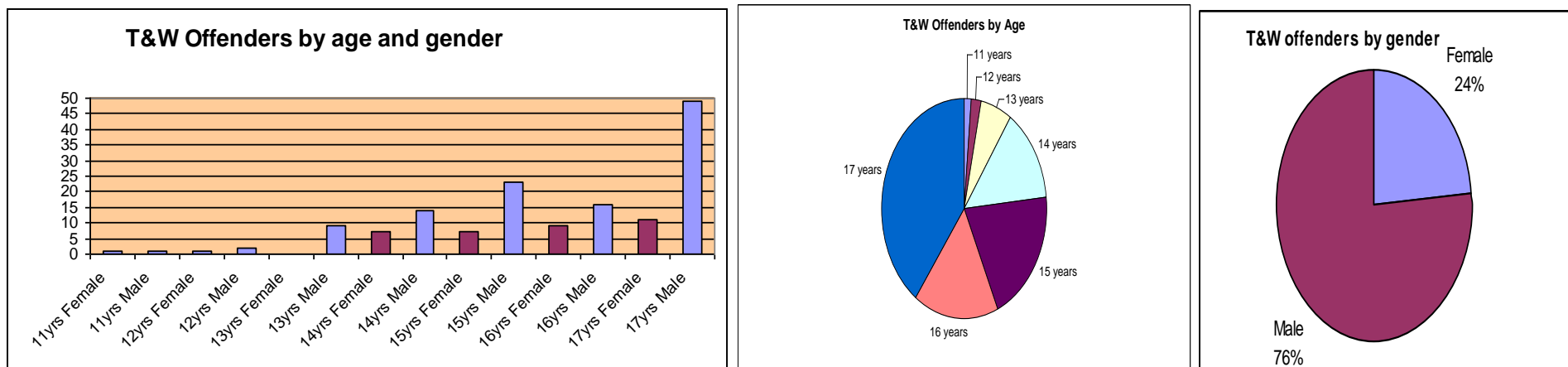
At the end of December 2013 an analysis of LAC on the YOS case load was undertaken. This showed that of the total case load of the Shropshire YOS Team, 50% were looked after children. At this point in time 31% of the case load were LAC from other areas temporarily placed in Shropshire.

The YOS Management Board established an operational reference group to analyse the issues between the YOS and Social Care in relation to LAC and Care Leavers and make operational recommendations in relation to joint working to improve the outcomes for LAC and Care Leavers who are in the youth justice system.

APPENDIX 3 - AREA PROFILE – TELFORD AND WREKIN

Youth Offending Population – all Young People

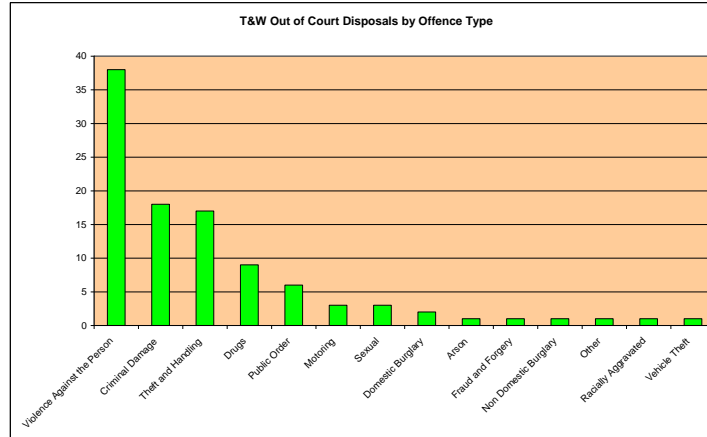
There are 17,072 young people aged 10 to 17 in Telford and Wrekin. In 2013 there were 160 youth justice sanctions (youth cautions, youth conditional cautions or convictions) made on Telford and Wrekin young people. A total of 150 individual young people accounted for these 160 outcomes, 0.9% of the youth population.



Of the 150 young people entering or in the youth justice system in 2013, 76% were male. The majority, 77%, were aged 15 to 17 years. The peak age of offending for both young males and young females was 17 years.

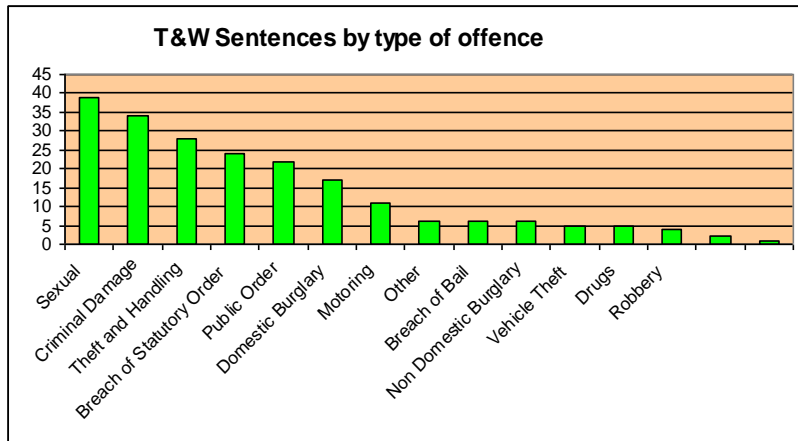
Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Out of Court Disposals

During 2013 there were a total of 102 pre-court disposals made on Telford and Wrekin young people, 9 of these were Reprimands, 13 Final Warnings, 72 Youth Cautions and 8 Youth Conditional Cautions. The YOS is required to assess all young people made subject to Final Warnings, second and subsequent Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions and if assessed appropriate provide a programme of intervention, in 2013 intervention programmes were provided for 25 pre-court disposals.



The most frequently occurring primary offence for out of court disposals was violence against the person, 37%, followed by criminal damage, 18%, theft and handling, 17%, drug offences 9% and public order 6%.

Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Court Outcomes



In 2013 a total of 43 Telford and Wrekin young people accounted for 55 court outcomes. Orders requiring YOS interventions (Referral Orders, YROs and Custodial sentences) accounted for 45 of the 55 court outcomes.

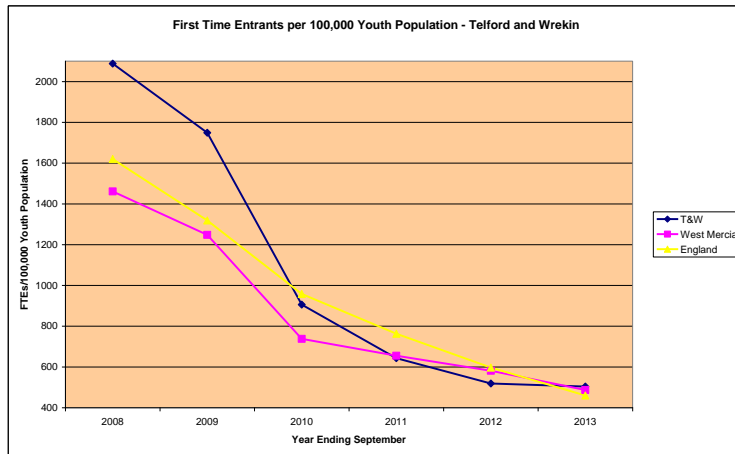
The majority, 85% of young people receiving court sentences were aged 15 to 17, with 17 year olds accounting for half (50%) of young people receiving a court sentence.

The most frequently occurring offence for court sentences was violence against the person, accounting for 19% of all outcomes. Sexual offences were the next most frequently occurring offences, 16%, followed by criminal damage, 13% and theft and handling 11%. These four categories of offences accounted for 59% of all sentencing outcomes.

Performance Against National Indicators

(i) First Time Entrants

The first time entrant measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants per 100,000 of 10 to 17 year old population. First time entrants are those young people receiving a first formal youth justice sanction (prior to 01.04.13 these were a Reprimand, Final Warning or Conviction, currently a Youth Caution, Conditional Caution or Conviction). Good performance is indicated by a lower rate.



In the year ending September 2013 there were 504 first time entrants per 100,000 youth population in Telford and Wrekin, representing a reduction of -75.6% since the year ending September 2008. This compares with a reduction for England of -71.6% and for West Mercia of -66.7% over the same period. The actual number of first time entrants in the year ending September 2013 is 86, compared to 381 in 2008.

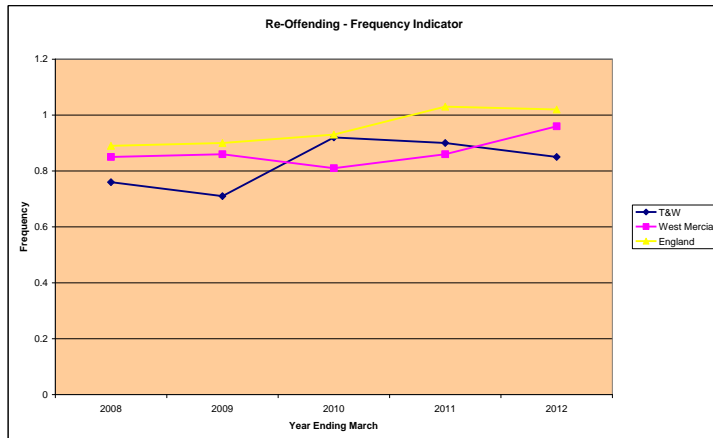
At 504 Telford and Wrekin has second lowest rate of FTEs across West Mercia, the next highest rate being 535 and the highest 589.

(ii) Use of Custody

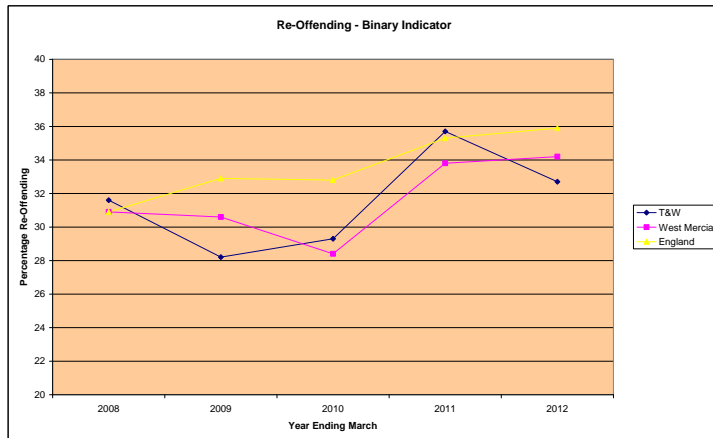
The use of custody measure is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 of 10 to 17 year population, a lower rate indicates better performance. Telford and Wrekin has, historically, had a low rate of custodial sentences.

There were 8 custodial sentences during 2013, equating to a rate of 0.48 custodial sentences per 1000 youth population this represents a slight increase in custodial sentences from 2012 where there were 6 custodial sentences equating to a rate of 0.35. The 2013 rate of 0.48% compares to a West Mercia rate of 0.27 and a national rate of 0.67. Custodial sentences accounted for 14% of all court outcomes in Telford and Wrekin, compared to 6.5% of all court outcomes across West Mercia.

(iii) Re-Offending



There are two re-offending measures, both measuring re-offending in the same cohort of offenders over a 12 month period following the youth justice sanction that placed the young person in the cohort. The first, the frequency measure, is the average number of re-offences per offender in the cohort. The second measure, the binary measure, is the percentage of the offenders in the cohort re-offending. In both cases a lower rate denotes better performance. The most recent data for the re-offending measure is for the year ending March 2012.



The frequency measure performance for Telford and Wrekin for the year ending March 2012 is 0.85, compared to the West Mercia performance of 0.96 and national performance of 1.02. Telford and Wrekin is, therefore, performing better than for West Mercia and England. The performance is an improvement compared to the year ending March 2011 when the frequency rate was 0.90 which was in line with West Mercia performance (0.89) and significantly better than for England (1.03).

For the year ending March 2012 the binary measure for Telford and Wrekin is 32.7% compared with a West Mercia performance of 34.2% and a national performance of 35.4%. It should be noted the overall cohort sizes are decreasing year on year. In the year ending March 2008 there were 709 offenders in the cohort and 570 re-offences compared to a cohort size of 304 with 279 re-offences in 2012. The number of actual re-offences have therefore decreased by -51% between 2008 and 2012.

Increasing rates are national picture and the YJB has noted that there is currently little evidence as to why this is happening. It is thought that in part it is due to decreasing numbers in cohorts due to the diversion of first time offenders from the formal justice system, leaving a cohort of more serious and complex offenders who are more likely to re-offend. The YJB is continuing to work with YOTs during 2014/15 in order to understand more what is driving the trend in performance and is launching a revised re-offending tool kit in the first quarter of 14/15 to assist YOTs in understanding better the characteristics of their cohorts.

Locally the West Mercia YOS conducted some analysis in 13/14, which showed that the nature of the cohorts had changed over time, with the proportion of offenders in the cohort subject to out of court disposal decreasing between 2008 and 2012 by 10 percentage points, whilst the proportion of those subject to community and custodial sentences increasing by 7 percentage points. Further analysis is planned in 2014/15 in order to inform more targeted work.

Education, Training and Employment

The YOS has previously measured whether a young person is in full time education, training or employment at the end of their order. The table below outlines the results for 2012/13.

	Telford % in ETE	West Mercia % in ETE
Young People of School Age	77% (40)	73%
Young People above School Age	73% (47)	59%
Overall Performance	75% (87)	64%

The performance for Telford and Wrekin for both school age young people, and those above school age is better than for West Mercia.

It should be noted that those young people of school age not in full time education are not necessarily NEET, but are receiving an education provision which is not 25 hours a week.

Looked After Children

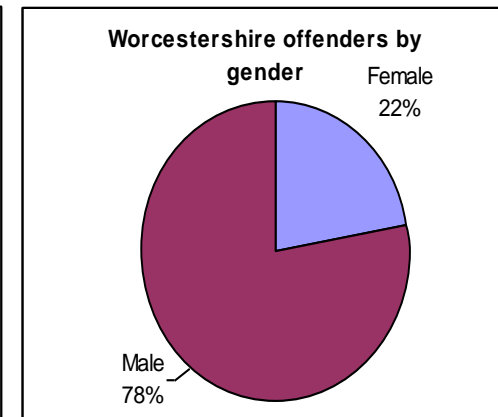
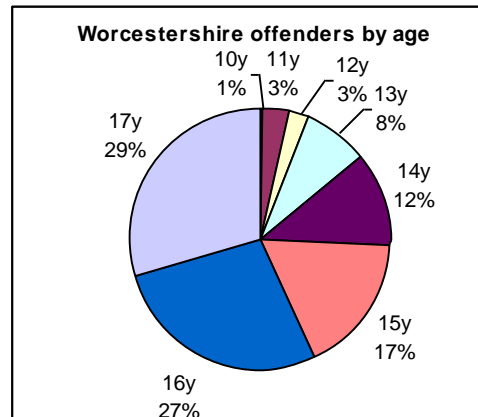
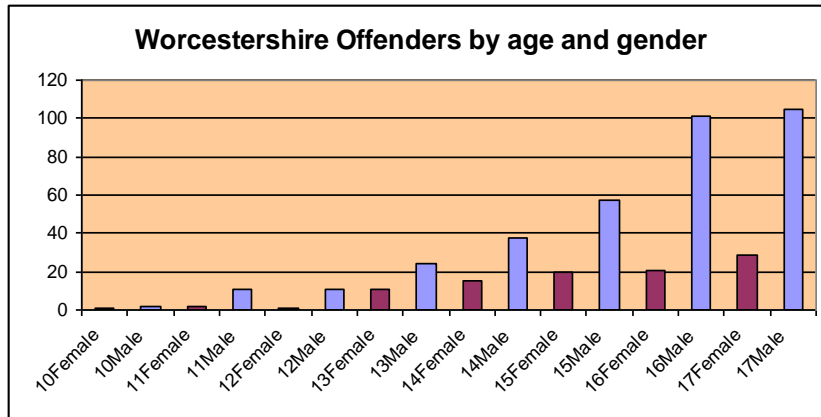
At the end of December 2013 an analysis of LAC on the YOS case load was undertaken. This showed that of the total case load of the Telford and Wrekin YOS Team, 47% were looked after children. At this point in time 17% of the case load were LAC from other areas temporarily placed in Telford and Wrekin.

The YOS Management Board established an operational reference group to analyse the issues between the YOS and Social Care in relation to LAC and Care Leavers and make operational recommendations in relation to joint working to improve the outcomes for LAC and Care Leavers who are in the youth justice system.

APPENDIX 4 - AREA PROFILE – WORCESTERSHIRE

Youth Offending Population – all Young People

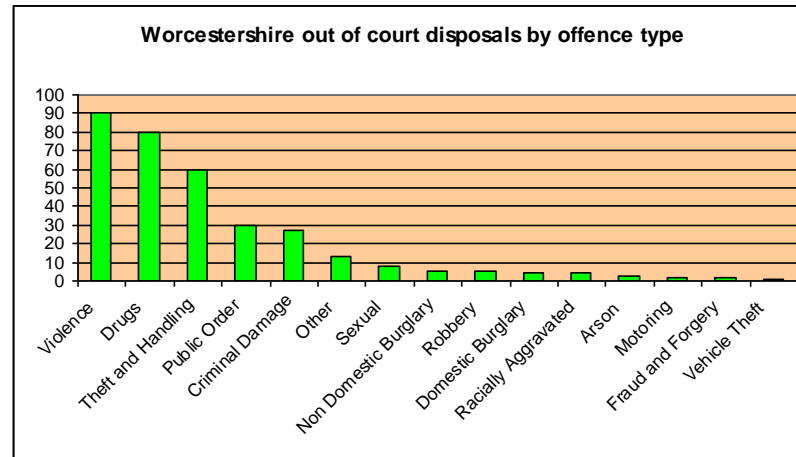
There are 52,280 young people aged 10 to 17 in Worcestershire. In 2013 there were 561 youth justice sanctions (youth cautions, youth conditional cautions or convictions) made on Worcestershire young people. A total of 449 individual young people accounted for these 561 outcomes, 0.86% of the youth population.



Of the 449 young people entering or in the youth justice system in 2013, 78% were male. The majority, 74%, were aged 15 to 17 years. The peak age of offending for both young males and young females was 17 years.

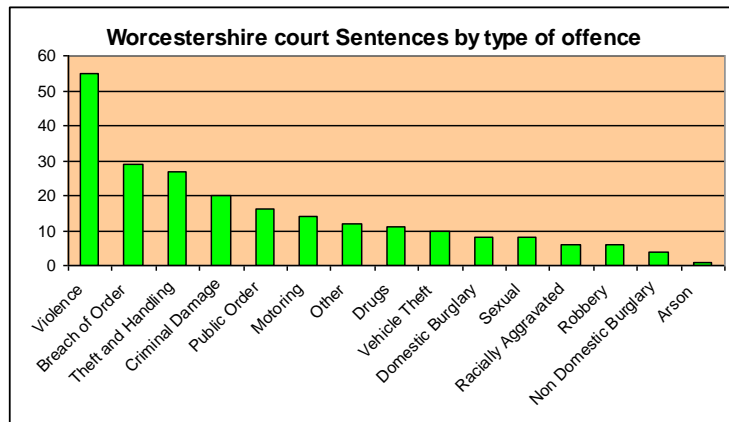
Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Out of Court Disposals

During 2013 there were a total of 334 pre-court disposals made on Worcestershire young people, 47 of these were Reprimands, 19 Final Warnings, 252 Youth Cautions and 16 Youth Conditional Cautions. The YOS is required to assess all young people made subject to Final Warnings, second and subsequent Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions and if assessed appropriate provide a programme of intervention, in 2013 intervention programmes were provided for 79 pre-court disposals.



The most frequently occurring primary offence for out of court disposals was violence against the person, 27%, followed drug offences, 24%, theft and handling, 18%, public order 9% and criminal damage 8%.

Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Court Outcomes



In 2013 a total of 158 Worcestershire young people accounted for 227 court outcomes. Orders requiring YOS interventions (Referral Orders, YROs and Custodial sentences) accounted for 165 of the 227 court outcomes.

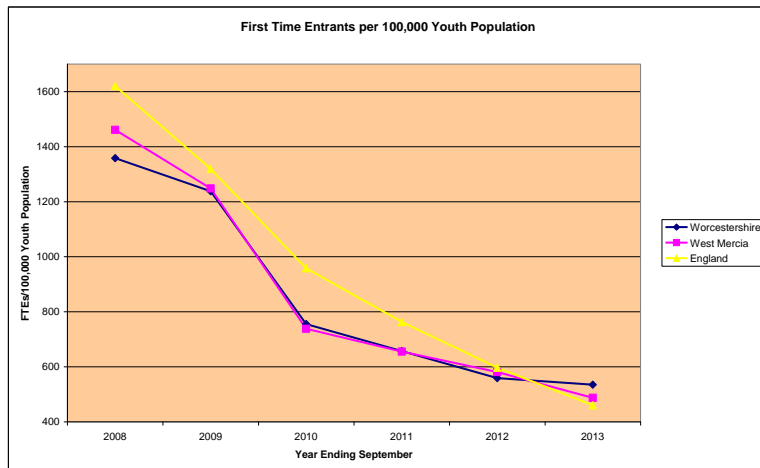
The majority, 86% of young people receiving court sentences were aged 15 to 17, with 17 year olds accounting for 39% of young people receiving a court sentence.

The most frequently occurring primary offence for court sentences was violence against the person, accounting for 24% of all outcomes. Breach of a statutory order was the next frequently occurring offence, 13%, followed by theft and handling, 12% and theft and criminal damage 9%. These four categories of offences accounted for 58% of all sentencing outcomes.

Performance Against National Indicators

(i) First Time Entrants

The first time entrant measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants per 100,000 of 10 to 17 year old population. First time entrants are those young people receiving a first formal youth justice sanction (prior to 01.04.13 these were a Reprimand, Final Warning or Conviction, currently a Youth Caution, Conditional Caution or Conviction). Good performance is indicated by a lower rate.



In the year ending September 2013 there were 535 first time entrants per 100,000 youth population in Worcestershire, representing a reduction of -61% since the year ending September 2008. This compares with a reduction for England of -71.6% and for West Mercia of -66.7% over the same period. The actual number of first time entrants in the year ending September 2013 is 280, compared to 774 in 2008.

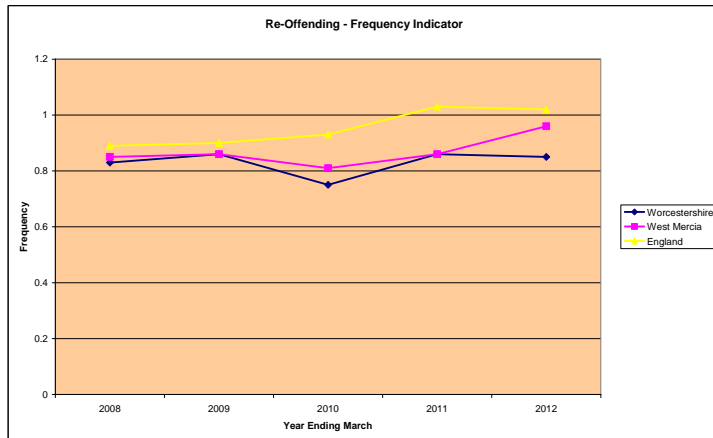
At 535 Worcestershire has the second highest rate of FTEs across West Mercia, the highest rate being 589.

(ii) Use of Custody

The use of custody measure is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 of 10 to 17 year population, a lower rate indicates better performance. Worcestershire has, historically, had a low rate of custodial sentences.

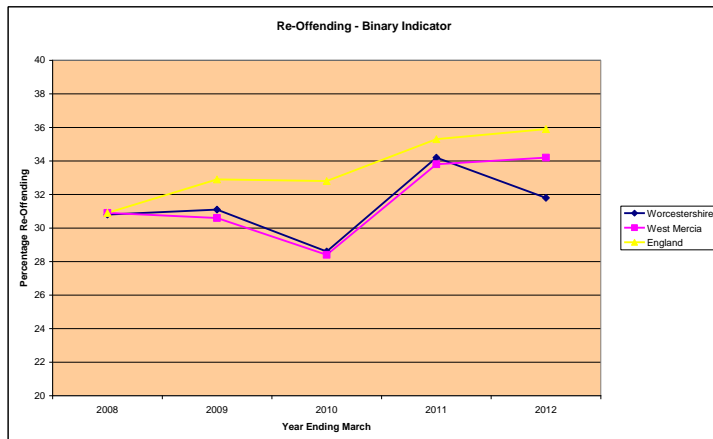
There were 14 custodial sentences during 2013, equating to a rate of 0.27 custodial sentences per 1000 youth population this represents a reduction in custodial sentences from 2012 where there were 25 custodial sentences equating to a rate of 0.48. The 2013 rate of 0.27% is in line with the West Mercia rate of 0.27 and is better than the national rate of 0.67. Custodial sentences accounted for 5.2% of all court outcomes in Worcestershire, compared to 6.5% of all court outcomes across West Mercia.

(iii) Re-Offending



There are two re-offending measures, both measuring re-offending in the same cohort of offenders over a 12 month period following the youth justice sanction that placed the young person in the cohort. The first, the frequency measure, is the average number of re-offences per offender in the cohort. The second measure, the binary measure, is the percentage of the offenders in the cohort re-offending. In both cases a lower rate denotes better performance. The most recent data for the re-offending measure is for the year ending March 2012.

The frequency measure performance for Worcestershire for the year ending March 2012 is 0.85, compared to the West Mercia performance of 0.96 and national performance of 1.02. Worcestershire is, therefore, better than for West Mercia and England. The performance is slightly better than for 2012 when it was 0.86 and apart from 2010 has remained fairly constant since 2008.



For the year ending March 2012 the binary measure for Worcestershire is 31.8% compared with a West Mercia performance of 34.2% and a national performance of 35.4%. This represents improved performance since 2012 when it was 34.2. It should also be noted that the overall cohort sizes are decreasing year on year. In the year ending March 2008 there were 1142 offenders in the cohort and 1331 re-offences compared to a cohort size of 585 with 497 re-offences in 2012. The number of actual re-offences has therefore decreased by -63% between 2008 and 2012.

Increasing rates are national picture and the YJB has noted that there is currently little evidence as to why this is happening. It is thought that in part it is due to decreasing numbers in cohorts due to the diversion of first time offenders from the formal justice system, leaving a cohort of more serious and complex offenders who are more likely to re-offend. The YJB is continuing to work with YOTs during 2014/15 in order to understand more what is driving the trend in performance and is launching a revised re-offending tool kit in the first quarter of 14/15 to assist YOTs in understanding better the characteristics of their cohorts.

Locally the West Mercia YOS conducted some analysis in 13/14, which showed that the nature of the cohorts had changed over time, with the proportion of offenders in the cohort subject to out of court disposal decreasing between 2008 and 2012 by 10 percentage points, whilst the proportion of those subject to community and custodial sentences increasing by 7 percentage points. Further analysis is planned in 2014/15 in order to inform more targeted work.

Education, Training and Employment

The YOS has previously measured whether a young person is in full time education, training or employment at the end of their order. The table below outlines the results for 2012/13.

	Worcestershire % in ETE	West Mercia % in ETE
Young People of School Age	69% (66)	73%
Young People above School Age	50% (87)	59%
Overall Performance	57% (153)	64%

The performance for Worcestershire is slightly lower than for West Mercia.

It should be noted that those young people of school age not in full time education are not necessarily NEET, but are receiving an education provision which is not 25 hours a week.

Looked After Children

At the end of December 2013 an analysis of LAC on the YOS case load was undertaken. This showed that of the total case load of the Worcestershire YOS Teams, 25% were looked after children. At this point in time 4% of the case load were LAC from other areas temporarily placed in Worcestershire.

The YOS Management Board established an operational reference group to analyse the issues between the YOS and Social Care in relation to LAC and Care Leavers and make operational recommendations in relation to joint working to improve the outcomes for LAC and Care Leavers who are in the youth justice system.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 24 JULY 2014

MARCHES LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

REPORT OF DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS & CUSTOMER SERVICES

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR KULDIP SAHOTA

PART A – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) submitted its Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and Growth Deal proposals to Government on 31st March. Titled *Accelerating Growth Through Opportunity* the SEP sets out how the LEP proposes to stimulate economic growth across the Marches. In response, **on 7th July Government announced that the Marches LEP has secured £75.3m from the Government's Single Local Growth Fund** to support a series of infrastructure investment projects to accelerate delivery of new jobs and homes. This includes £10.4m in 2015/16 and £12.3m in 2016/17 of confirmed funding and a provisional award of £41.9m for projects starting in 2016 and beyond. This is in addition to £10.7m that the Government has previously committed as part of the Local Growth Deal funding for the area.
- 1.2 The Government has selected projects to fund from the prioritised list set out in the Marches SEP. As a result **TWC is anticipated to receive £18.8m investment over the next 2 years** matched by £5.6m of public/private sector investment. This includes £13.9m confirmed funding for the Telford Growth Package which will accelerate delivery of employment land at Hortonwood and open up a number of housing sites. Included on the list against the provisional funding award is £3.6m for the Telford Eastern Gateway supporting delivery of the flagship T54 employment site and £1.3m to relocate the bus station in Telford Town Centre.
- 1.3 The Government has committed to start Growth Deal discussions for future years immediately over the unallocated minimum of £6bn of the £10bn available nationally for 2016/17 to 2020/21
- 1.4 In addition to the grant funding the **Government has made a commitment to explore the potential for sharing land receipts from the sale of agreed HCA assets in Telford**. The agreed local share would in part support a revolving Marches Investment Fund to drive further infrastructure delivery.
- 1.5 As part of agreeing the Growth Deal, Government is asking LEPs to put in place robust, collaborative, governance arrangements to ensure democratic accountability *for expenditure and delivery of the agreed delivery programme*. It is proposed that a Joint Committee be set up including the Leaders of the 3 Local Authorities forming the Marches LEP to exercise the necessary executive functions in relation to the LEP. Approval is sought for the constitution of this Committee.
- 1.6 The Hereford Enterprise Zone at Rotherwas includes over 60 hectares of land predicated to deliver c. 4200 jobs. With a proportion of the business rates uplift in future years to be invested across the LEP and a complimentary sector based offer to Telford's, the Borough has a vested interest in the success of the Zone. It is therefore proposed that TWC join the Member Board of the Hereford Enterprise Zone Ltd company as a stakeholder member. This will enable the Borough to receive reports and updates on the EZ business plan and to

discuss the business of the company ensuring maximum benefit to the LEP and, consequently, to the Borough.

- 1.7 The Report also provides an update on work by the Marches LEP to establish an EU Investment Strategy to draw down the notional allocation of £98m European Structural Funding to support economic growth in line with EU priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Cabinet

a) approve the establishment of a joint committee to exercise executive functions in relation to the Marches LEP;

b) approve the proposed constitution for the joint committee, as outlined in Appendix 1 and delegate decision-making powers delegated to the joint committee to councillor representatives appointed to it

2.2 That Cabinet approve TWC becoming a Stakeholder Member of the Hereford Enterprise Zone Company Ltd delegating responsibility to the Director, Development, Business & Customer Services or their representative to represent the Council and take decisions on behalf of the Council at meetings of the Stakeholder Member Board

2.3 That Cabinet recommend that Council approve that the Council can receive Growth Deal Funding from the Marches LEP and apply it to deliver the projects for which the funding has been allocated.

2.4 That Cabinet grant delegated authority to the Director, Development, Business & Customer Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Enterprise to negotiate with the Marches LEP and the Government regarding a potential HCA land receipt sharing agreement.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-operative Council priorities?	
	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and create jobs as part of a “business supporting, business winning council.” • Improve local people’s prospects through education & skills training • Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults • regenerate those neighbourhoods in need and work to ensure that local people have access to suitable housing • Improve health and wellbeing of our communities and address health inequalities and put our children and young people first • ensure that neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	Local Growth Fund and EU funding will have a positive impact across the Borough, helping to delivery new infrastructure, reduce unemployment, open up access to training, support businesses to grow and address social inequality.
TARGET COMPLETION/	The EU funding programme will run from 2014-2020 with the anticipated start date for projects being late Summer 2014. The SLGF will come into effect	

DELIVERY DATE	from 2015.																												
FINANCIAL/ VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	<p>The TWC projects which have been allocated Growth Deal Funding are set out in Table 2 of this report. These schemes will require both public and private sector match funding as set out in the table below. Should private sector investment not be secured for any of the projects, the Council will be required to make up this shortfall in funding – in accordance with commitments given in the funding bids. The availability of the public and private sector funding needs to be accessed and adjustments made to the capital budgets accordingly.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project</th> <th>LGF Funding</th> <th>Public Match Funding</th> <th>Private Match Funding</th> <th>LTB Transport Funding</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Telford Growth Package</td> <td>£10.33m</td> <td>£0.30m</td> <td>£3.175m</td> <td>£3.560m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Telford Eastern Gateway</td> <td>£3.60M</td> <td>£0.50m</td> <td>£1.082m</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Telford Bus Station</td> <td>£1.30m</td> <td></td> <td>£0.569</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£15.23m</td> <td>£0.80m</td> <td>£4.826m</td> <td>£3.560m</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There are no anticipated costs to TWC arising from the recommendation regarding becoming a Stakeholder Member of the Hereford Enterprise Zone, but financial advice will be provided as required. Financial advice and support will also be provided during the negotiations with Government regarding the potential HCA land receipt sharing proposal. Should this have implications outside the approved budget further approvals will be sought. TWC finance officers have raised concerns regarding the apparent ‘open ended’ nature of the proposed budgetary delegations to the LEP Joint Committee and how these fit with the Financial Regulations and Service and Financial Planning framework of the Council. Suggested amendments to the draft documents have been proposed and sent to the LEP for comments and are incorporated in the draft Constitution at Appendix 1. JAC 070714</p>			Project	LGF Funding	Public Match Funding	Private Match Funding	LTB Transport Funding	Telford Growth Package	£10.33m	£0.30m	£3.175m	£3.560m	Telford Eastern Gateway	£3.60M	£0.50m	£1.082m		Telford Bus Station	£1.30m		£0.569		Total	£15.23m	£0.80m	£4.826m	£3.560m
Project	LGF Funding	Public Match Funding	Private Match Funding	LTB Transport Funding																									
Telford Growth Package	£10.33m	£0.30m	£3.175m	£3.560m																									
Telford Eastern Gateway	£3.60M	£0.50m	£1.082m																										
Telford Bus Station	£1.30m		£0.569																										
Total	£15.23m	£0.80m	£4.826m	£3.560m																									
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	<p>To undertake its involvement in the LEP the authority relies on its general power of competence (section 1 of the Localism Act 2011).</p> <p>Part VI of the Local Government Act 1972 and Part 1, Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) makes provision for local authorities to establish joint committees. Provided that the functions to be exercised are executive functions, it is a matter for the respective Cabinets to determine the establishment of an executive joint committee and to agree the executive functions to be delegated to that joint committee. Every member of the joint committee must be a member of their nominating council’s Cabinet and be delegated to take decisions on behalf of the cabinet at the joint committee.</p> <p>In the absence of joint scrutiny committee decisions of the joint committee will remain subject to call in under each of the delegating authorities’ respective call in procedures.</p> <p>Should governance arrangements not be robust and transparent</p>																											

		there is a risk that the reputation of any or all of the participating authorities will be damaged. There is also a significant risk that if there are not clear arrangements for ensuring democratic accountability in the decision-making relating to allocation of public funding the Marches LEP will not secure central government funding.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	The outcome of the Growth Deal provides the opportunity for strategic and local infrastructure improvements to be delivered accelerating the delivery of new homes and jobs. The potential for the LEP and the Borough to retain a share of the land receipts from sale of agreed HCA land assets offers the opportunity for reinvestment into the delivery of further sites driving the delivery of growth. The potential extension of the successful partnership with HCA to include stewardship of residential sites provides the opportunity to ensure sites brought forward meet the needs of local communities and the Borough as a whole. In the event that the private sector funding anticipated to match the Government SLGF contribution does not come forward as profiled TWC might need to step in and fund the balance.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough wide impact.

PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is one of 39 LEPs established as a key channel for the investment of Government and EU funding to drive economic growth and job creation.
- 4.2 Reports to Cabinet in October and December 2013 set out two key areas of activity being lead by the Marches LEP:
1. Development of a multi-year SEP and Growth Deal proposals to secure a share of the Governments Single Local Growth Fund (SLGF) due to be awarded from 2015/16
 2. Development of an EU Investment Strategy setting out how the notional allocation of £98M from the new single national operational programme for 2014/-20 EU structural fund programme, would be spent to support economic growth in line with EU priorities.

Marches Strategic Economic Plan & Growth Deal

- 4.3 All LEPs were required to submit Strategic Economic Plan and Growth Deal proposals to Government by the end of March 2014. The multi-year SEPs sets out how the whole LEP area will deliver economic growth and critically new jobs and new homes. Through Growth Deals LEPs can seek freedoms, flexibilities and resources from Government and a share of the Single Local Growth Fund (SLGF) to deliver their growth priorities.
- 4.4 Nationally the SLGF is to comprise £2bn for 2015/16 with a promise of at least that amount in future years. The 2015/16 pot includes funding for transport and skills with existing capital transport funds which to date has come direct to Local Authorities making up c.55% of the SLGF.

- 4.5 Government has been clear that the allocation of SLGF is a competitive process and the proportion received by each LEP will depend upon the detail provided in the LEP SEP.
- 4.6 The Marches LEP submitted its SEP – *Accelerating Growth Through Opportunity* on 31st March 2014. The Marches vision is to create 70,000 new homes and 40,000 new jobs over the next 20 years. The SEP sought support from the SLGF to kick start growth through investment in 14 infrastructure and transport projects key to unlocking and accelerating delivery of housing and employment sites.
- 4.7 On 7th July Government announced the Growth Deals agreed with each of the 39 LEP. This confirmed that the **Marches LEP has secured £75.3M from the SLGF** to support economic growth in the area. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the SLGF secured by the Marches and the element anticipated to be invested in the Borough.

The Marches LEP Local Growth Fund Breakdown (£m)				
	2015/16	2016/17 Onwards	Total	Anticipated funding for T&W
Local Growth Fund Award	10.40	12.36	22.76	10.33
Previously committed funding (Transport Schemes)	2.40	8.30	10.70	3.56
Provisional allocation to projects starting 16/17 and beyond	-	41.83	41.83	4.9
TOTAL	12.80	62.49	75.29	18.79

- 4.8 Government has selected projects to fund from the 14 prioritised by the Marches LEP. Two projects, one in Telford (Telford Growth Package), have been identified for start in 2015/16 with committed funding. A further 6 schemes (2 in Telford and Wrekin) have been selected to start in 2016/17 or a later year. Funding for these is a provisional allocation subject to agreeing milestones for development and delivery with DCLG. The schemes are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2 Components of Marches LEP Funding Deal (£m)		
	2015/16	2016/17
YEAR ONE STARTS		
Telford Growth Package*	4.96	5.37
Hereford City Centre Package	5.44	6.99
TOTAL	10.4	12.36
YEAR TWO & BEYOND		
Shrewsbury Transport Package		2.43
Telford Eastern Gateway		3.60

Oxon Link Road		4.2
South Wye Transport Package		27.00
Telford Bus Station		1.30
Skills Capital		3.30
PROVISIONAL TOTAL		41.83
Non Infrastructure Revenue Funding		
Marches LEP Growth Hub	0.250	

4.9 Through the SLGF allocations the delivery of significant employment and residential land will be accelerated across Telford:-:-

- The confirmed funding for the **Telford Growth Package** will deliver improvements to key junctions on the A442 as well as utilities and on site infrastructure opening up a 21Ha extension to Hortonwood and supporting delivery of a number of housing sites. The investment will accelerate the delivery of over 4000 houses and 6,900 jobs.
- The **Telford Eastern Gateway** project will delivery improvements to M54 J4 and on site infrastructure supporting the delivery of 31 Ha of employment land 12 miles from the Jaguar Land Rover engine plant. The infrastructure will support delivery of more than 3,400 jobs and 1,400 new homes.
- The funding for the **Telford Bus Station** will enable a new bus station to be developed which is a key part of completing the town centre redevelopment, opening up new retail space and improving connectivity across the town centre and supporting the delivery of 300 jobs.

4.10 The Government's investment will leverage a further c.£5.6m of direct public/private matched funding into the delivery of the 3 Telford and Wrekin schemes as well as significant indirect benefits from construction.

4.11 The £3.3m earmarked for skills capital investment will be subject to further negotiation with the Skills Funding Agency to determine the list of schemes to be supported.

4.12 Within the SLGF allocation the Government has committed £0.250m funding to the LEP to develop its ideas for a 'Growth Hub'. This is intended to support greater coordination and simplification of national, local, public and private sector business support and finance offers and ensure a seamless customer experience for businesses across the area. This will compliment and offer the potential to extend local business support provision.

4.13 In addition to the direct investment into schemes, the **Government has also made a commitment to explore the potential for sharing land receipts from the sale of HCA assets** between the HCA and the Marches LEP and to piloting the extension of the current stewardship arrangements to cover residential land disposals. This will be subject to further detailed negotiation and completion of a business case to demonstrate acceleration in the disposal of land and/or uplift in land value. Any sharing of receipts would start only after the repayment of Treasury targets for land receipts in 2015/16. This commitment by Government represents a significant opportunity for the Borough to pursue a long held goal and reflects Government's recognition of the growth potential of Telford and its delivery track record particularly since the introduction of the Stewardship Agreement with HCA in 2011/12

4.14 The Government has also agreed to the principle of the LEP creating a **Marches Investment Fund** providing a mechanism to recycle funds from one investment into the next creating a

sustainable investment model to drive further growth. This will be funded from a proportion of the retained land receipts alongside business rates uplift from the Hereford Enterprise Zone and Growing Places Fund.

- 4.15 In terms of taking forward delivery of SEP and Growth Deals Government is keen to see robust governance arrangements in place. The following section outlines proposals to establish a new joint committee of Leaders of the 3 Local Authorities to comply with this requirement.

Marches Local Economic Partnership Joint Committee

- 4.16 The Marches LEP is an informal, business sector led private/public sector partnership, tasked with creating the conditions for economic vitality and sustainable employment.
- 4.17 The work of the LEP is directed by a board which provides the strategic lead and is responsible for setting the overall strategy for growth including: the development of its strategic economic plan priorities, oversight and endorsement of strategic projects, and monitoring of expenditure and output performance for the programme of work. The board is chaired by one of the area's business leaders and board members are drawn from the areas' three business boards, the skills sector, business champions from across the LEP area, and the Leaders of the three unitary councils.
- 4.18 As an informal partnership the LEP has no legal entity and therefore one of the three councils (Shropshire) acts as accountable body.
- 4.19 Nationally there is an expectation that the involvement and engagement of the relevant local authorities, in accordance with their community leadership role, will ensure there remains democratic accountability around decision-making regarding use of public funds. To ensure that this is delivered in the most efficient way possible it is proposed that this is secured in the Marches by the establishment of an executive joint committee to which each of the three executives delegate authority to take decisions regarding strategic economic policy for the LEP area, and use of public funding to support those priorities.
- 4.20 A draft constitution for such an executive joint committee is attached at Appendix 1. Each of the three councils involved is seeking similar approval to this arrangement in accordance with their respective decision-making processes.
- 4.21 It is proposed that, to provide some balance to the overall workload across the three authorities, Herefordshire Council will take the lead in relation to governance and will therefore act as 'host' for this joint committee and provide relevant governance support.
- 4.22 To provide context for how such an executive joint committee fits within the overall LEP governance, attached at Appendix 2 is the LEP governance structure.

Hereford Enterprise Zone

- 4.23 The Hereford Enterprise Zone (HEZ) at Rotherwas was designated in 2011. The site includes over 60 hectares of land located on the A49 with access to the M50. The site is predicated to be able to accommodate c.4,200 jobs. To date 12,000m² of space has been taken up. The Zone's focus is on attracting advanced manufacturing and particularly defence industries making it complimentary to Telford's own advanced manufacturing sector specialisms.
- 4.24 As part of the designation of the HEZ it was agreed that a proportion of business rates uplift will come back to the LEP for investment across the Marches area, in future years.

- 4.25 Alongside Shropshire Council TWC has an opportunity to join the Hereford Enterprise Zone Ltd Member Board as a Stakeholder Member. A Stakeholder Member is one that has a vested interest in the Enterprise Zone.
- 4.26 The purpose of the Member Board is to:
- Meet every 4 months to receive reports and updates from the Executive Board
 - To provide an official forum at which Members can discuss the business of the Company and give feedback to the Executive Board
- 4.27 It is proposed that TWC take up the opportunity to become a Stakeholder Member of the Company represented by the Director, Development, Business & Customer Services. This will enable TWC to participate in decision making around the delivery of the HEZ, support the Executive Board maximise on the potential of the Site and ensure effective links and connections are made to the Telford investment offer.

European Structural and Investment Funds

- 4.28 The 2014-2020 EU structural funding programmes, which include the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), are to be aligned under a single strategic framework to deliver EU 2020 targets. These funds exist to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- 4.29 On 27 June 2013, LEP's were notified of their ERDF and ESF notional allocation with the notional allocation for the Marches LEP being approximately £98m (this allocation does not include EAFRD funding). Of this, Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire, as 'Transition' regions, will receive higher allocations than Herefordshire, which is classified by the EU as a 'Competitive' region. The allocation has to be apportioned across the EU Commission funding priorities as directed in the EU Guidance this places a significant priority on:
- Strengthening research, technological development & innovation
 - Enhancing the competitiveness of SME's
 - Enhancing access to, use and quality of ICT
 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
- 4.30 Each LEP is required to submit an **EU Investment Strategy**, setting out how this allocation will be spent to support economic growth, whilst meeting EU priorities. The first draft of the Marches EU Investment Strategy was submitted in October 2013 and following feedback and adjustment an updated draft was submitted on the 30th May 2014. Government has not yet confirmed when LEP's can expect to receive final approval.
- 4.31 Government arrangements for the management of the National Programme are still to be finalised, although Government has indicated that at the end of December 2014 each LEP must submit its first 'Annual Implementation Plan', setting out how and when calls for projects are to be rolled out over the first year of the programme.
- 4.32 The UK Government is also still negotiating with the EU Commission regarding the involvement of the LEP's in running the EU Funding Programme. Because the EU does not recognise LEP boundaries (the EU only recognises regions), Government is proposing to set up Local Management Committees (LMC's) who would have the role of arranging calls for projects and endorsing bids. This Committee would sit outside the LEP structure and have members that are detached from the development of projects. It is anticipated that Government will work with the LEP's on the developing LMC's when the EU has agreed to the UK proposals.
- 4.33 To take forward the development of the first Marches Implementation Plan, the LEP Board has identified Champions and Lead Officers for each of the Strategic Activities. Kathy Mulholland, Team Leader Funding & Inward Investment, shares the lead for 'Enhancing

Competitiveness, Research and Innovation and Enabling Technology' which is key to many elements of the Borough investment and business support priorities. The Board Champions for this theme are Paul Hinkin, Chair of the Telford Business Board and Mandy Thorn, Chair of the Shropshire Business Board.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cabinet – 11th January 2011, CB-110

Cabinet – 17th October 2013

Cabinet – 16th December 2013

**Report prepared by Katherine Kynaston, Business & Development Planning SDM- 01952
384021**

Appendix 1 - Marches Enterprise Joint Executive Committee - Constitution

Purpose

1. Herefordshire Council, Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council have established an executive joint committee, known as the Marches Enterprise Joint Committee (MEJC) for the purpose of discharging the functions set out in paragraph 12 below.
2. MEJC is a joint committee of the executive for the purposes of Part VI of the Local Government Act 1972 and Part 1, Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the provisions applicable to joint committees of the executive shall apply to MEJC.
3. MEJC will take decisions in accordance with the principles of good decision-making namely:
 - giving consideration to all options available;
 - having regard to due consultation;
 - giving consideration to professional advice from officers;
 - having clarity of aims and desired outcomes;
 - the action proposed must be proportionate to the desired outcome;
 - having respect and regard for human rights;
 - a presumption for openness, transparency and accountability;
 - only relevant matters being taken into account;
 - due weight to all material considerations (including opportunities and risks);
 - proper procedures being followed.

Membership and voting

4. MEJC shall comprise four members as follows: three voting members, each council being entitled to appoint one voting member who shall be a member of that council's Cabinet; and one non-voting member, being the Marches Local Enterprise Board Chair. In the event of a voting member of the MEJC ceasing to be a member or executive member of their appointing council, that council shall appoint another voting member in their place. Only a voting member is entitled to be Chair or Vice Chair of MEJC.
5. Each council may appoint members of its executive as named substitutes for voting members to attend meetings in the absence of a voting member appointed under 4 above. The secretary of MEJC shall be notified of any named substitutes before commencement of the meeting.
6. For the avoidance of doubt, it is a matter for the respective councils' executives to appoint their voting members/substitutes.
7. The MEJC shall, at its annual meeting, elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among its voting members; or may choose to adopt for that year a rotating Chair. In the event of an elected Chair and Vice Chair not being present the MEJC shall elect a Chair for the meeting from the voting members present.
8. Two voting members shall constitute a quorum. Unless the law provides otherwise all matters shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the voting members present; if there are equal numbers of votes for and against, the Chair shall exercise a second, casting vote.

Meeting Arrangements

9. Herefordshire Council will act as secretariat to MEJC and provide all necessary governance support.
10. MEJC shall meet at least annually and otherwise as may be determined by the Chair, or at the written (electronically or otherwise) request of any two voting members; any such request should be forwarded to the secretariat who will convene a meeting within 28 working days of receiving the request.
11. The secretariat will give notice of time, date and venue for the meetings in accordance with the provisions of the access to information requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended and ensure compliance with The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.
12. Unless explicitly provided for within this constitution; the relevant standing orders for MEJC are those of Herefordshire Council.

Functions

13. MEJC shall fulfil the following executive functions, at all times having regard to the duty to co-operate and the views of the Marches LEP Board:
 - a) Set, monitor and review objectives and priorities for strategic economic investment across the Marches LEP area
 - b) Agree allocation of Marches LEP revenue and capital spend that is under the control of the LEP Board and relating to the delivery of the LEP Strategic Economic Plan.
 - c) Agree Marches LEP capital expenditure programmes relating to the delivery of the LEP Strategic Economic Plan and ensure policy and programmes are delivered effectively
 - d) Agree Major Transport Scheme funding allocation in line with the LEP Strategic Economic Plan
 - e) Ensure alignment between decision making regarding achievement of the Marches Strategic Economic Plan and decisions on other related areas of policy such as land use, transportation and wider community and economic regeneration
 - f) Influence and align government and public investment in order to boost economic growth within the Marches LEP area
 - g) Provide an annual report on the activities of MEJC to the three partner councils
 - h) Agree lead or accountable body status for any particular issue as necessary
 - i) Review and (where all three Leaders are present) amend the Terms of Reference of the MJEC.

Appendix 2 – Marches Local Enterprise Partnership Structure

Marches LEP Board (11 Board Members)

- Chairman
- 3 Area Business Board Chairs, providing an underlying 60-strong business constituency
- Skills Champion
- 3 Co-opted Business Champions
- 3 Unitary Council Leaders

Marches Joint Executive Committee



Marches LEP Team

- LEP Chair
- LEP Director
- Partnership Manager
- x2 Project Officers
- X3 LA Directors
- Finance Officer (Shropshire)
- X3 LA Heads of Service
- Office Administrator
- S.151 Officer
- Technical Assistance
- Governance Officer (Herefordshire)
- EZ Managing Director
- PR & Communications



Marches Sub Committees & Working Groups

- Marches Local Transport Body
- Marches Skills Board
- Marches Funding Forum
- Hereford Enterprise Zone Board
- Marches Planning & Housing Partnership
- Food, Drink, Agri-Tech
- Commissioning Groups
- Assurance Groups

Scrutiny Annual Report 2013/14

Health & Adult Care

community meals

Co-operative & Communities

co-operative values

Children & Young People

planning primary school places

Housing, Economy & Infrastructure

bringing empty properties back to use

Budget & Finance

budget proposals and alternative budget

Scrutiny Management Board

holding the Executive to account

Contents

Chair's Foreword page 3

Purpose of Scrutiny page 4

Scrutiny Arrangements page 5

- Scrutiny Assembly
- Scrutiny Management Board
- Scrutiny Committees

What we did in 2012/13-2013/14 page 7

- Delivery of the work programme
- Scrutiny meetings
- Outcomes from scrutiny reviews
- Regional and national scrutiny work
- Call-in and Key Decisions
- Good Scrutiny Awards

Case Studies page 18

- Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee
- Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee
- Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee
- Housing, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee
- Scrutiny Management Board

Looking Ahead page 24

Contacts page 25

How to get involved page 26

Chair's Foreword

This has been a fantastic year for Scrutiny in Telford & Wrekin. This report shows how Scrutiny has made a real difference for the people who live and work in the Borough and we are also getting national recognition for our achievements.

- We were the only authority in the country to be shortlisted for two Good Scrutiny Awards by the Centre for Public Scrutiny
- Through the work of the West Midlands Overview and Scrutiny Network I have led a process to develop links between Local Government Scrutiny and Parliamentary Select Committees

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the work of the Scrutiny – the members of the committees, officers who have worked with us, service users, partner organisations, and the Cabinet Members who have been held to account by the Management Board and responded positively to our recommendations.

As the financial pressures on the public sector increase over the coming years I believe the role of scrutiny will become more important and I look forward to continuing to work with you to develop Scrutiny in Telford and Wrekin.

Cllr. Derek White
Lead Scrutiny Member
Chair of Scrutiny Management Board

Purpose of Scrutiny

Scrutiny was established in local authorities by the Local Government Act 2000. It was intended as a counter-weight to the new executive structures created by the Act (elected mayors or leaders and cabinets). Scrutiny's role was to develop and review policy and make recommendations to the Council. The current legislative provisions for overview and scrutiny committees are mostly contained in the Localism Act 2011, which inserts several new sections into the 2000 Act largely around scrutiny of external organisations.

Telford & Wrekin Council is made up of 54 elected members but only nine of them are in the Cabinet (Executive) which is the main decision making body of the Council. This places a lot of responsibility with a small number of elected members.

Scrutiny is a way for elected members who are not in the Cabinet to be involved in shaping the work of the Council. Scrutiny members can also scrutinise local NHS services and services provided by some other organisations. Scrutiny acts as the voice of local people to ensure council policies and decisions are in the best interest of residents and make the best use of available resources.

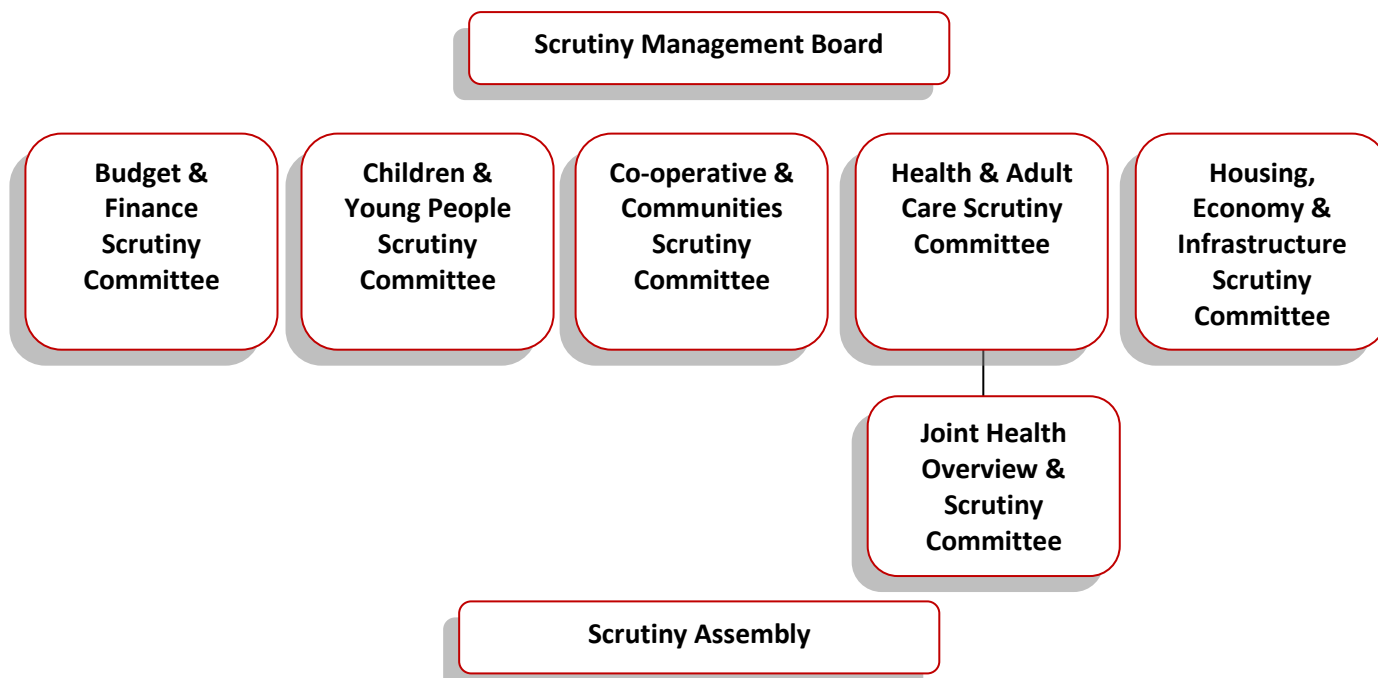
Scrutiny works in two main ways:

- a) By "holding to account" Cabinet members and other decision makers. Scrutiny can question and challenge Cabinet members (or other decision makers) in public about their decisions and about service performance. This helps ensure that decisions are transparent and in the best interest of local people.
- b) By carrying out reviews of particular issues or services. Scrutiny can investigate any Council service, or services delivered by some other organisations, and make recommendations to Cabinet or where appropriate to partner organisations. The Cabinet does not have to accept scrutiny's recommendations but must respond in public to say why. An important part of scrutiny work is to seek the views of service users, providers and members of the public as appropriate.

Scrutiny work is carried out by scrutiny members who sit on Scrutiny Committees. The Scrutiny Committees and their work are described in the following sections of this report.

Scrutiny Arrangements

In Telford & Wrekin there are five Scrutiny Committees and a Scrutiny Management Board. The diagram below shows the scrutiny structure that was in operation during 2013/14.



Scrutiny Assembly

The Scrutiny Assembly is the collective term for all scrutiny members (all elected councillors except Cabinet members and the Mayor) and scrutiny co-optees. The co-optees are members of the public and Town & Parish Councillors who have been appointed to a scrutiny committee for their expertise or to represent certain organisations or groups. The Scrutiny Assembly is consulted on decisions affecting scrutiny and the way it is carried out.

Scrutiny Committees

The scrutiny committees are the main vehicles for carrying out scrutiny work. There are eight elected members on each committee who are appointed at Annual Council in line with the political balance of the Council, of one whom is appointed as Chair. There are also between one and six co-optees on each Committee. The Committees decide their own work programme and some reviews may be carried out jointly by more than one committee. The main meetings of the committees are held in public and the agendas and papers are published on the Council's website:

http://www.telford.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.aspx?categoryID=200033&documentID=461

Scrutiny Management Board

The Scrutiny Management Board is made up of the Scrutiny Chairs and other scrutiny members to make the Board politically balanced, currently seven in total. The Board is responsible for strategic oversight of the scrutiny function and determining

the priorities for scrutiny, the allocation of resources and performance monitoring. The Board holds Cabinet members (“the Executive”) to account at their meetings, and may scrutinise matters of strategic importance that cut across the remit of the individual scrutiny committees. All of the Board’s meetings are held in public.

What we did in 2013/14

In July 2012 the Scrutiny Management Board agreed to set a 2 year work programme for the period 2012/13-2013/14. Issues for the work programme were selected in accordance with the process set out in the Scrutiny Handbook with each scrutiny committee agreeing in-year adjustments as necessary to respond to changing circumstances and events.

The 2012/13 Annual Report described progress at the mid-point. This report provides performance information over the 2 year period and outcomes delivered during 2013/14.

Delivery of the work programme

The table below shows the items selected for the 2012/13-2013/14 work programme and progress on delivery over the 2 year period. Items in **blue/bold** are topics added during 2013/14 and since the previous report.

Topic	2012/13	2013/14
Scrutiny Management Board		
Changing the Council & Local Communities Together- the Co-operative Way	G	n/a
Holding the Executive to Account	G	G
Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Police & Crime Panel (PCP) update and budgets	G	G
Domestic Violence	R	G
Community Safety Plan	n/a	G
Homelessness Strategy	R	G
Flood & Water Management	R	G
Appointment of Town & Parish Council co-optees	G	n/a
Scrutiny Chairs' Updates	G	G
Scrutiny Recommendations Database	A	A
Managing cross-cutting issues	G	n/a
Changes to the Constitution and Scrutiny Handbook from changes to legislation	A	G
Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee		
Service & Financial Planning Report – 2011/12 Outturn	G	n/a
Local Government Finance: Business Rates Retention, New Homes Bonus etc.	G	n/a
Service & Financial Planning Strategy 2013/14 – 2014/15 (budget proposals)	G	n/a
Capital receipts (Audit Committee)	G	n/a
Savings proposals agreed September 2012	G	n/a
New Funding Formula for Schools	G	n/a
Welfare Benefit Reform policies (with Co-operative & Communities)	G	G

Topic	2012/13	2013/14
Safeguarding and Early Intervention Cost Improvement Plan, and Securing Permanency report	G	G
Cabinet response to comments on the budget	n/a	G
MD's response to comments on the budget – the Way Forward	n/a	G
2012/13 Outturn report	n/a	G
Care Placement Costs (with CYP)	n/a	G
Service & Financial Planning Strategy 2014/15-2015/16 (budget proposals)	n/a	G
Opposition group alternative budget proposals	n/a	G
Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee		
Children in Care Placement Strategy (in-depth review)	G	n/a
Provision of Primary School Places (in-depth review)	A	G
Youth Offending Service	R	G
Ofsted action plan (Safeguarding and LAC)	G	G
Ofsted action plan (Fostering)	G	G
CIC Performance Monitoring Dashboard	G	G
Education attainment	G	G
Youth Unemployment (In-depth review Youth Services)	R	A
LCSB briefing	G	R
Early Intervention programmes (in-depth review)	R	R
Leaving Care Grant	n/a	G
Care Placement Costs (with Budget & Finance)	n/a	G
Feedback from LGA Peer Review	n/a	G
Monitor implementation of recommendations incl:	n/a	G
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRO Annual Report • Outcomes from Queensway Care Contract • Missing children return interviews 		
School Improvement	n/a	G
Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee		
Co-operative Council updates	G	n/a
Welfare Benefit Reforms: Council Tax Support Scheme Discretionary Housing Payments Local Crisis and Resettlement Assistance	G	G
Welfare Benefit Reforms: How the Council and partners are supporting people through changes	A	n/a
First Point for Business update	G	n/a
Impact of changes to leisure concessions policy	G	n/a
In-depth review of Co-operative Values and Employee Commission	A	G
Provision of debt advice, role of credit union, capacity of food banks	R	G
Implications of the withdrawal of Local Crisis Assistance and Local Resettlement Assistance funding	n/a	G

Topic	2012/13	2013/14
Support for Adults with Learning Disability who have had their benefit sanctioned	n/a	G
Impact of recommendations on the Management of Community Centres	n/a	G
Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee		
Continuing Healthcare	G	A
Meals on Wheels	A	G
Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	R	R
Public Health Transition	A	A
Alcohol Strategy	R	A
Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Board Annual Report	R	
Standing item: Health and Social Care Policy Developments (including changes to Health Scrutiny)	G	G
Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Travel and Transport Plan	A	G
Stroke Review	A	G
West Midlands Ambulance Service and Make Ready	A	G
Reconfiguration of Hospital Services	A	G
111 Service	A	G
Ophthalmology	G	n/a
SaTH Foundation Trust Application	A	n/a
Relocation of Head and Neck Surgery	G	n/a
Children's Surgery	A	G
Emergency Department Review	A	G
End of Life Care	R	A
Housing, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee		
Questions to Cabinet member for holding to account session	G	n/a
Waste Services Procurement process	A	G
Empty Properties and Private Landlords (in-depth)	A	G
S106 / CIL (deferred in line with Shaping Places)	R	R
Business Improvement Districts / attracting jobs to Telford & Wrekin (deferred to next municipal year)	R	R
Marches Local Transport Body	n/a	R
Shaping Places consultation process	n/a	G

- G** Item completed, including where further monitoring or other work was identified
- A** Item under way and partially completed
- R** Item outstanding or deferred beyond the period of the work programme

Scrutiny Meetings

The Scrutiny Committees hold as many meetings as possible in public session in the interests of transparency and public involvement. However, members may hold informal working group meetings to gather evidence for a scrutiny review.

The Scrutiny Management Board set a benchmark of six formal meetings per committee per year. The table below shows the number of meetings held by each committee during 2012/13 and 2013/14 and the total over the period.

Joint meetings have been accredited to the lead Scrutiny Committee to avoid duplication of counting but are indicated in the table.

Meetings of other Council Committees attended by scrutiny members to fulfil the scrutiny work programme have been counted as informal meetings.

Committee	Benchmark total	Formal committee 2012/13	Working group 2012/13	Formal committee 2013/14	Working group 2013/14	Total
Scrutiny Management Board	12	6	0	4	2	12
Budget & Finance	12	7	0	7	1	15
Children & Young People	12	6	4	7	4	21
Co-operative & Communities	12	4	4	3	1	12
Health & Adult Care and Joint HOSC	12	8	11	7	4	30
Housing, Economy & Infrastructure	12	1	5	2	6	14
Total	72	32 ¹	24	30 ²	18	104

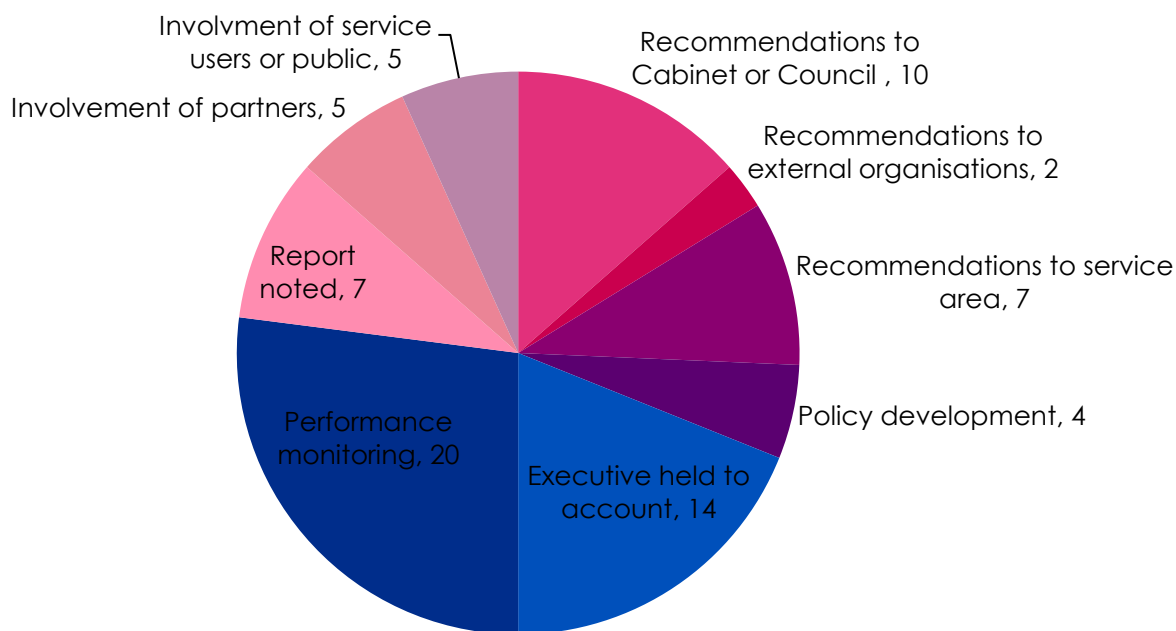
¹ 5 were joint meetings with other scrutiny or council committees

² 5 were joint meetings with other scrutiny or council committees

Outcomes from scrutiny reviews

a) Scrutiny outcomes

Scrutiny has many roles and a number of indicators can be used to measure effective scrutiny. The chart below shows the balance of outcomes from scrutiny work during 2013/14. There were a total of 42 pieces of work and there can be multiple outcomes from one piece of work. Full details are provided in Appendix 1. Each number represents one outcome so for example Recommendations to Cabinet represents the number of items of work which resulted in recommendations being made, not the number of recommendations.



b) Scrutiny recommendations

A key measure of success is the number of scrutiny recommendations accepted. The table below summarises the number of recommendations made, the response to scrutiny's recommendations and formal responses submitted as part of consultations or policy development. Not shown in the table are the numerous informal suggestions made by scrutiny to Cabinet members or officers during discussions at meetings which are not monitored but may nonetheless have had an impact.

Summary of Recommendations 2012/13-2013/14						
Recommendation made to:	Made	Accepted	Rejected	Partially accepted	Awaiting response	Unknown
Cabinet	66	38 (57%)	2 (3%)	13 (20%)	13 (20%)	
SMT / service area	8	7	0	0	0	1
Employees	1	0	0	0	0	1
Scrutiny	2	2	0	0	0	
External organisations	25				25	
Total	102	47 (46%)	2 (2%)	13 (13%)	38 (37%)	2 (2%)

c) Responses to consultations

During 2012/13-2013/14 scrutiny responded to the following consultations:

- Council Tax Support Scheme
- Discretionary Housing Payment Policy
- Local Crisis Assistance and Resettlement Assistance
- Council Tax Transition Grant
- Service & Financial Planning Strategy 2013/14-2014/15
- Service & Financial Planning Strategy 2014/15-2015/16
- Main Opposition Group Budget Proposals

- Homelessness Strategy
- Shaping Places Consultation Process
- Quality Accounts for Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, West Midlands Ambulance Service, Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust and South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare Foundation Trust.

Regional and national scrutiny work

Telford & Wrekin is a member of two regional scrutiny networks:

a) West Midlands Overview & Scrutiny Network

Led by Cllr. Derek White, 2013/14 saw the network going from strength to strength.

The network brings scrutiny members and officers together to exchange information and views on policy changes affecting scrutiny. The network has no formal standing as a joint scrutiny committee and meets on an informal basis but has started to carve out its own identity and establish a national reputation for its pioneering ways of working.

Cllr. Derek White was appointed Chair in 2013/14 and reappointed in 2014/15. His priority as Chair has been to increase the influence of local government scrutiny in the West Midlands at national level through the Parliamentary Select Committees. Over the past 12 months, the network has been working with the Select Committee Parliamentary Outreach Worker to help identify and establish routes to influence, and in November 2013 Telford & Wrekin welcomed David Natzler, Director General of Chamber and Committee Services at Parliament, to a regional meeting to discuss opportunities for the network to work with the Select Committees. A submission from the network to a Health Select Committee call for evidence provided useful case study and learning points for the future.

Cllr. White will continue this work during 2014/15.

b) Regional Health Scrutiny Chairs and Officers Group

This is a mature network which has been operating for a number of years and meets quarterly. Its purpose is to provide a forum for national and regional health bodies and policy makers to inform scrutiny about proposals and consultations affecting health services in the West Midlands. It is also a forum for discussing and exchanging views between member authorities.

Cllr. Derek White attended all of the meetings in 2013/14. The information is used to inform the work of the Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee and the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Call-in and Key Decisions

Call-in

“Call-in” is a way for scrutiny members to examine a decision taken by Cabinet, or by officers under delegated authority, before the decision is implemented. The rules

for calling in decisions are set out in the Council's Constitution and in the Scrutiny Handbook.

There were no Call-in requests during 2013/14.

Key Decisions

Provisions in the Localism Act 2011 require that:

- Where a Key Decision is not published with 28 clear working days notice, the relevant Scrutiny Chair must be notified of the decision to be taken, or
- Where a Key Decision is not published with 5 clear working days notice, consent must be sought from the relevant Scrutiny Chair for the decision to be taken, or
- Where a Key Decision has been published with 28 clear working days notice but contains information exempt under legislation and has not been published as a private report, consent must be sought from the relevant Scrutiny Chair for the report to be exempted.

Notification of exemption of Cabinet report 30th January 2014, Voice, Data and Wide Area Network Procurement. Cllr. Derek White was notified as chair of the Scrutiny Management Board.

Good Scrutiny Awards

In 2013 we were delighted that Telford & Wrekin received national recognition as a runner-up in the Centre for Public Scrutiny's **Good Scrutiny Awards** for the work of the Co-operative & Communities and Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committees on the welfare benefit reforms.

This year, the Scrutiny Management Board selected 3 pieces of scrutiny work to submit for the 2014 Good Scrutiny Awards to showcase the impact of scrutiny in Telford & Wrekin.

The entries are:

- **System Leadership by the Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee**
This demonstrates the Joint HOSC's role in bringing health bodies together in a public debate about the future of acute services in the county.
The full submission can be found at:
http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/7073/submission_form-joint_hosc
- **The work of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee on the care placement strategy: It's not just about the numbers.**
This demonstrates the impact of scrutiny recommendations on the safety, value for money and budget for children in care placements. The work was strongly endorsed by West Mercia Police and the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board.
To find out more about the work and its impact go to:
http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/6959/poster-children_and_young_people_scrutiny_committee
- **The Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee review of the Management of Community Centres: Putting the heart into communities.**
This demonstrates the impact that scrutiny recommendations can have on improving local services for local people, as reflected in the endorsement from a local residents group.
To find out more about the work and its impact go to:
http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/6960/poster-co-operative_and_communities_scrutiny_committee

Case Studies

Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee consultation on the **Service & Financial Planning Strategy 2014/15-2015/16** and **Main Opposition Group Budget Proposals**



"Scrutinising the budget proposals is the most important part of our annual work programme – checking the Council is planning to spend within budget and on services that local people want and need. This year we also scrutinised alternative proposals put forward by the main opposition group."

Cllr. Shirley Reynolds, Chair Budget & Finance Scrutiny

A key focus for scrutiny of the budget proposals this year was the adult social care budget. The scale of savings needed - £10.5m over the next 2 years – and the potential impact on vulnerable adults made this a key issue. The committee joined up with the Health & Adult Care committee to consider the impact of proposals on the budget and on service users.

In terms of the overall budget strategy, the committee welcomed proposals to invest in tackling youth unemployment, the creation of a draw-down contingency for safeguarding in response to a scrutiny recommendation, the increase in the leaving care grant and the investment in Destination Telford. The new approach to debt repayment was strongly supported. But the committee were concerned about the delivery of savings in adult care which were highlighted in the response to Cabinet and the committee will continue to monitor over the coming year. The committee's formal response was presented to Cabinet on 20th February.

This year for the first time the committee was presented with alternative proposals brought forward by the main opposition group. The committee considered both sets of proposals on their own merits and produced separate responses to each. The committee commented on a number of specific proposals in the alternative budget but agreed it was a healthy part of the democratic process. The committee's response was included in the reported to Council on 27th February.

To view the response to the Service & Financial Planning Strategy go to:

http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/6950/scrutiny_response_to_service_and_financial_planning_strategy_201415-201516

To view the response to the Main Opposition Group Budget Proposals go to:

http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/6951/scrutiny_response_to_main_opposition_group_budget_proposals_201415

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee review of **Local Arrangements for the Planning and Provision of Primary School Places**



"There has been a lot of national media about the shortage of primary school places in some parts of the country. With the recent increase in the birth rate and growing demand from housing development, a key question for our committee was whether there was a ticking time bomb in Telford and Wrekin."
Cllr. Mike Ion, Chair Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

The committee spent a number of months looking at how the Council projects, plans for and provides primary school places to ensure there will be sufficient capacity to meet the demand from population and housing growth. The review had three key lines of enquiry:

1. How does the borough plan for additional places in the primary phase?
2. How does the local admissions policy work and how are primary school governing bodies involved?
3. How is the provision of places (capacity) linked to improving educational outcomes (quality of provision)?

Members took evidence from Primary Headteachers, a school governor, the National Governors' Association, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families and senior Council officers.

Members concluded that, notwithstanding some challenging local pressures, overall there would be enough places to meet the demand from growing pupil numbers across the borough for the next 5-10 years. The committee was satisfied that Council officers have a clear grasp of the challenges, and that the tracking and monitoring of the related data undertaken by senior officers is of high quality.

The committee made eight recommendations to address issues which emerged from the review. Key amongst these was that the Council should publish a S106 Annual Report and other recommendations in response to issues raised by headteachers.

The report was presented to Cabinet on 15th May. All the recommendations were accepted or partially accepted. To view the full report, go to:
http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/6949/review_of_local_arrangements_for_the_planning_and_provision_of_primary_school_places

Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee review of the **Employee Commission and Co-operative Values**



“Making sure local people get the services they need at the right time depends on the Council having a motivated workforce who understand customer needs and whose knowledge and experience is used to shape the planning and running of services.”

Cllr. Angela McClements, Chair Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee

The Council announced its intention to be a “Co-operative Council” in 2011. This was essentially about three things:

- Bringing more public services together so that people get what they need in the right place and at the right time;
- Involving local people and employees more in planning and running services;
- As a Council, supporting our community better and encouraging people to do more to help their own communities.

The Co-operative approach was seen as fundamental to working with local people to design and deliver services in way that would meet the challenges posed by cuts to the authority’s funding.

In March 2012, Cabinet agreed the adoption of a set of Co-operative Values: Openness and Honesty; Fairness and Respect; Involvement; Ownership to underpin the co-operative approach.

Two years on, the Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee wanted to find out how far Council employees understood the Co-operative approach and Values and what practical difference they were making for local people. Members spoke to staff from right across the organisation, in different services and locations, to find out what they thought.

A key finding from the review was that the Co-operative Values were well understood by staff and the areas where they had had the greatest impact were on customer service and partnership working. Examples such as the Street Champions, Snow Wardens and Parish Environmental Teams were given as good examples of co-operative working in practice.

The committee made a number of recommendations to senior management team to ensure progress continued.

Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee review of Community Meals Service (Meals on Wheels) and work of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee



“The hot meals service is so much greater than the provision of food - from talking to service users we found that people value the meals, but the regular contact with someone coming to their home was just as important. We wanted to look at the impact of proposed funding reductions and options for the future of the service.”

Cllr. Derek White, Chair Health & Adult Scrutiny Committee and Co-chair of the Joint HOSC

The Scrutiny Committee wanted to ensure that any changes to the meals on wheels service took into account the views of the service users and the volunteers who deliver the meals.

The key findings of the review were:

- The service users and their families valued the regular contact as much as the hot meals that were provided
- There are health benefits from the service
- There are opportunities to develop other models for a hot meals service working with local food providers

The Committee recommended that the current hot meals service should continue while discussions take place about developing a Good Neighbours Service in Telford and Wrekin.

To view the full report, go to:

http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/6956/review_of_the_meals_on_wheels_hot_meals_service

Some of the members of the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee also sit on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Shropshire Council (Joint HOSC). This looks at health services that serve both local authority areas. There have been two main areas of work for Joint HOSC

- Sustainability of acute and community hospital services

As a committee we recognised that the problems faced by the acute trust were a symptom of the wider issues in the health and social care system. We wanted to make sure that all the partner organisations worked together to come up with a solution that would meet not only the needs of this generation – but also the next.

- Review of community mental health services

We have raised concerns with the providers and commissioners of mental health services which has resulted in a review of the service. We want to ensure that service users and local organisations are involved in this review and that the service can support people with longer term mental health needs and with crisis situations.

Housing, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee review of **Empty Properties and Private Landlords**



"Empty properties can be a waste of housing and, if left to deteriorate, can become a problem for neighbours and blight on local areas. Our committee wanted to find out how the Council could help bring empty properties – mainly owned by private landlords – back to use."

Cllr. Chris Turley, Chair Housing, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee

In 2013 the Council estimated there were about 400 properties in the borough which had been empty for 6 months or more. The issue of empty properties in Telford and Wrekin is by no means acute compared to other areas, but each empty property is a waste of housing opportunity and a loss of potential income to the Council from the New Homes Bonus.

The committee spent a number of months reviewing 2 key lines of enquiry:

1. How to identify empty properties as early possible – the less time a property is empty, the easier it is to prevent deterioration and bring back to occupation.
2. How to address issues of poor practice by private landlords – around 97% of empty properties are in private ownership.

The committee took evidence from Cabinet Member, Council officers, Chairs and Clerks of two Town and Parish Councils and an officer from Sandwell Council as well as gathering case studies from written reports.

The committee concluded that the Council is moving in the right direction but recognised that it is early days. The report makes 19 recommendations which are largely practical ideas drawn from other areas. A key recommendation is that the Council should be clear in how resources are targeted so it is transparent for members of the public to understand. The committee also recommended awareness raising with Town & Parish Councils to improve early reporting.

The report was presented to Cabinet on 15th May. Seventeen of 19 recommendations were wholly or partially accepted.

To view the report, go to:

http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/6948/review_of_empty_properties_and_private_landlords

Scrutiny Management Board **Holding the Executive to Account**



"The Scrutiny Management Board sets the strategic priorities for scrutiny and ensures that the work programme is focussed on Council priorities and issues that are important to the people of Telford and Wrekin."

Cllr. Derek White, Chair Scrutiny Management Board

A key role for scrutiny is in holding the Executive to account. Over the course of the 2012/13-2013/14 work programme, the Leader and all Cabinet members have attended the Scrutiny Management Board to be held to account by answering questions about their decisions and priorities in public session.

The Scrutiny Management Board is designated with the statutory powers of scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership – in Telford and Wrekin this is the Safer Stronger Communities Partnership – and of the Strategic Flood Risk Management Board, and these are regular items in the annual work programme.

The Board may also scrutinise cross-cutting strategic issues and in 2014 took part in the consultation on the Homelessness Strategy. The Board submitted a response to the consultation which was informed by evidence taken at meetings from providers.

Looking Ahead

In May 2014 the Scrutiny Management Board agreed to carry out a light-touch refresh of the work programme for 2014/15 rather than undergo a full work programme setting process. This was a pragmatic decision to allow outstanding work to continue across municipal years and to be completed in the relatively short period before the borough election in May 2015.

A few changes were made to the membership of the scrutiny committees at Annual Council on 29th May, notably the appointment of a new chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee following the stand down of the previous chair.

During June and July the Scrutiny Management Board and scrutiny committees selected topics for the 2014/15 work programme. To view the list, go to:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/6961/scrutiny_work_programme_2014_15

As financial pressure continues and resources become ever more precious, it is more important than ever that the scrutiny function delivers value for money for local people and scrutiny members are mindful of this at all times.

Contacts

To find out more about scrutiny, go to:

www.telford.gov.uk/scrutiny

To find meeting dates and agendas for scrutiny meetings go to:

http://www.telford.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.aspx?categoryID=200033&documentID=461 or call the Scrutiny Team on 01952 383118.

If you would like to contact a member of the Scrutiny team, our contact details are below:

Fiona Bottrill

Scrutiny Group Specialist

Tel: 01952 383113

fiona.bottrill@telford.gov.uk

Stephanie Jones

Scrutiny Officer

Tel: 01952 383114

stephanie.jones2@telford.gov.uk

Phil Griffiths

Democratic Services Manager

Tel: 01952 383210

phil.griffiths@telford.gov.uk

Jonathan Eatough

Head of Law, Democracy & People Services

Tel: 01952 383200

jonathan.eatough@telford.gov.uk

General Enquires

Scrutiny Team

Tel: 01952 383118

scrutiny@telford.gov.uk

How to get involved

You can get involved with scrutiny by:

1. Finding out more from our website at:
<http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/1031/scrutiny/253/scrutiny>
2. Making a suggestion about what you think scrutiny should look at. You can do this by filling in an online suggestion form at:
<http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/1031/scrutiny/253/scrutiny/5>
3. Coming along to a scrutiny meeting. Our meetings are held in public unless there is a good reason not to. Agendas and papers are on the Council's website at:
http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/200033/councillors_democracy_and_elections/461/council_meetings/
4. If you would like to give evidence to a Scrutiny Committee for a review which is on the work programme, please contact the Scrutiny Team. The list of topics which may be scrutinised in 2014/15 can be found at:
http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/6961/scrutiny_work_programme_201415

Appendix 1

Qualitative outcomes from scrutiny reviews carried out during 2013/14

Item	Recommendations to Cabinet / Council	Recommendations to external organisation	Recommendations to service area	Contributed to policy development	Executive held to account	Performance monitoring	Report noted	Involvement of partners	Involvement of service users or public	Other
Scrutiny Management Board										
Holding the Executive to Account					Y					
PCC and PCP update and budgets							Y			
Domestic Violence							Y			
Community Safety Plan							Y			
Homelessness Strategy				Y				Y		Responded to consultation
Flood & Water Management			Y			Y	Y			
Scrutiny Chairs' Updates						Y				
Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee										
Safeguarding and Early Intervention Cost Improvement Plan, and Securing Permanency report					Y	Y	Y			
Cabinet response to comment on the budget					Y					
MD's response to comments on the budget - the Way Forward			Y			Y	Y			
2012/13 Outturn report							Y			
Care Placement costs (with CYP)	Y					Y				
Service & Financial Planning Strategy 2014/15-2015/16 (budget proposals)	Y				Y					
Opposition group alternative budget proposals										Written response to Council
Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee										
Provision of Primary School	Y					Y		Y	Y	

Item	Recommendations to Cabinet / Council	Recommendations to external organisation	Recommendations to service area	Contributed to policy development	Executive held to account	Performance monitoring	Report noted	Involvement of partners	Involvement of service users or public	Other
Places (in-depth review)										
Youth Offending Service						Y				
Ofsted action plan (Safeguarding and LAC)						Y				
Ofsted action plan (Fostering)						Y				
CIC Performance Monitoring Dashboard						Y				
Education attainment						Y				
Youth Unemployment (In-depth review Youth Services)					Y	Y		Y	Y	On-going
Leaving Care Grant	Y		Y	Y		Y				
Feedback from LGA Peer Review					Y	Y				
Implementation of recommendations on care placement strategy.						Y				Good Scrutiny Award submission
School Improvement						Y				On-going
Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee										
Welfare Benefit Reforms update (with Budget & Finance)	Y					Y				
In-depth review of Co-operative Values and Employee Commission	Y		Y			Y			Y	
Update on Management of Community Centres						Y				Good Scrutiny Award submission
Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee										
Continuing Healthcare	Y	Y			Y			Y	Y	
Meals on Wheels	Y	Y	Y	Y				Y	Y	
Public Health Transition					Y					Ongoing
Alcohol Strategy								Y		
Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Board Annual Report					Y					
Standing item: Health and Social Care Policy	Y									

Item	Recommendations to Cabinet / Council	Recommendations to external organisation	Recommendations to service area	Contributed to policy development	Executive held to account	Performance monitoring	Report noted	Involvement of partners	Involvement of service users or public	Other
Developments (including changes to Health Scrutiny)										
Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee										
Travel and Transport Plan					Y					
Stroke Review					Y					
West Midlands Ambulance Service and Make Ready					Y					
Reconfiguration of Hospital Services (Future Fit including emergency department review)					Y					Good Scrutiny Award submission
111 Service					Y					
Children's Surgery					Y					
Housing, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee										
Waste Services Procurement process				Y		Y		Y		
Empty Properties and Private Landlords (in-depth)	Y		Y					Y		
Shaping Places consultation process			Y							

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Audit Committee held on Monday, 30th June 2014 at 6.00 pm in Meeting Room 7, Ground Floor, Darby House, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors R Sloan (Chair), K Austin, I T W Fletcher, A Lawrence, C Mason, S A W Reynolds, W L Tomlinson

Officers: R Partington (Managing Director), P Taylor (Statutory Director of Adult Social Services), D Sidaway Director of Development Business & Customer Services), R Smith (Assistant Director: Adult Social Services), K Clarke (Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance), F Mercer (Co-operative and Commercial Projects Manager), J Marriott (Audit & Information Governance Manager), B Morris (Finance Team Leader), and J Clarke (Democratic Services Support Officer).

IN ATTENDANCE:

A Bunting – KPMG
I Pennington – KPMG

Following Cllr D Davies standing down from his duties on the Audit Committee the Chair thanked Cllr Davies for all of the work he had undertaken during his time on the Audit Committee. The Chair also welcomed Cllr C Mason who had joined the committee in place of Cllr Davies.

AUC-01 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 28th January 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

AUC-02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

AUC-03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

AUC-04 REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

J Marriott gave a verbal update on the current position with regard to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee.

The Terms of Reference had been reviewed during the year and gone through the Council Constitution Committee and then to Council and no further amendments were needed at this time.

AUC-05 KPMG INTERIM VISIT LETTER 2013/14

I Pennington from KPMG informed the Committee that following circulation of the Interim Visit Letter for 2013/14 with the Agenda there was nothing further to report.

The Audit was due to start on the 1st July and a report would be brought back to the September meeting of the Audit Committee.

AUC-06 KPMG GRANT CERTIFICATION LETTER 2013/14

A Bunting from KPMG presented the Letter of Certification of 2013/14 Grant Claims and Returns, which had been circulated prior to the Audit Committee Meeting.

The Audit Commission had announced changes in the programme of claims and returns that were being made to certification arrangements for 2013/14 and based on this information the work undertaken during 2013/14 would be the Housing Benefit Subsidy Scheme.

Further details regarding this work were appended to the report at Appendix A.

AUC-07 KPMG FEE LETTER 2014/15

I Pennington from KPMG reported to the Audit Committee the annual audit fee for 2014/15. The main fee remained unchanged from 2013/14 and was in line with the scale of fees recommended by the Audit Commission.

The fee quoted for 2013/14 for the certification work differed slightly from the original figure quoted in the fee letter. This was due to the scale fee being revised by the Audit Commission and the scope of certification work being reduced, details of which could be found in the fee letter.

A question was raised as to who would undertake the audit of localised council tax schemes. This audit would be undertaken by the Internal Audit Team.

AUC-08 ABACUS UPDATE

P Taylor and R Smith gave a joint report on the current position with Abacus.

R Smith and P Taylor had recently held a meeting with the Chair and J Marriott to give them an update of the position prior to the Audit Committee Meeting. There had been a lot of improvements although at this time they could not totally assure the Committee that all of the recommendations had been completed.

The four main areas of concern were:

1. Selecting against price
2. Potential financial costs
3. Potential overpayments
4. Duplicate forecasting capacity

The concerns regarding these four areas dated back to 2011.

Item 1 – selecting against price - A brokerage system was now in place for home care providers and all suppliers were contacted by a secure e-mail to tender. The cheapest was always selected where possible although careful consideration was given to safeguarding issues and duties.

There had been further developments with regard to the domiciliary care contract and there was now a framework in place and caps on the pricing which was £14.50 rising to £16.50 for

very complex cases. Some 47 providers had signed up to the new framework which was a very positive step forward.

Item 2 – Potential financial costs – R Smith was now able to reassure the Committee that there was now a system in place where any care support package could only be considered if a declaration of income had been completed. This request was now triggered at the point of referral. There had been improvements with regard to hospital transfers and the loophole had now been closed. R Smith now chairs a weekly Panel which looked at all referrals for care and support.

Item 3 – Duplicate payments – There was now a system in place which allowed no tolerance on payments therefore avoiding duplicate payments, although this did create queries when small differences occurred ie with mileage costs and bank holiday payments. R Smith reassured the Committee that he was confident duplicate payments could no longer take place.

Item 4 – Forecasting – R Smith reported that this was a slightly more complex issue, but that it was moving in the right direction. The care first system and abacus system did not currently interlink. An upgrade to the systems was due to take place in the Autumn which should resolve many issues and would allow up-to-date financial information to be available at the push of a button. There was now a robust process in place which was checked at the weekly Panel. Some manual forecasting did still take place but manual systems were now in place.

J Marriott and C Hall-Salter had led an independent review on information sharing and all staff would have received an induction and training by 19th August 2014. This would lead to the work force being competent in using the systems which would put them in a far better place. This was still a work in progress.

J Marriott reported that the issues had been identified and the new processes were being put in place. Training was due to be completed shortly and that, together with the training and the better use of the systems, a more streamlined approach and robust responsibilities would be a good start to moving this forward. There was still some work to be done.

A discussion took place including:

- Tenders – pre-vetting of service providers
- Providers must be registered with the Care Quality Commission
- Providers must sign up to the Council Quality Standards

The Committee asked for a further report to be brought back to the Audit Committee and that a written report was more preferable.

The Chair thanked the Team for the work they had undertaken so far and requested that a further report be brought back to the January 2015 meeting.

RESOLVED – that a report on Abacus be brought back to the Audit Committee to be held in January 2015.

AUC-09 COMMERCIAL BOARD UPDATE

R Partington and F Mercer presented a report on the Commercial Board.

R Partington updated the Committee on the budget cuts that the Government had made. Some £53m of cuts had been made up to the 31st March 2014 which had been managed not to impact on front line staff. The forecast for the next year was total cuts of £68m which was a net budget of £130m. The Council were trying to reduce its dependency on Government Grants and had been through re-organisation processes from the top through to the bottom which was aimed at getting a grip on costs and preventing duplication.

The work that had taken place was to move to a more commercial approach. There had been a lot of ideas forthcoming from service areas around reducing dependency on grants and increasing income. Income targets had been set to introduce income generation as part of the day job. They had been pro-active in asking staff for ideas around saving and income generation and had taken an entrepreneurial approach to insulate the Council from further cuts.

The Council had asked the staff for ideas and actively encouraged people to bring forward any business cases, big or small, to be considered. Any business cases which made sense would be backed.

It was not just all about the commercial strategy and selling services, but ensuring all business rates were collected in. This year £1m business rates had been identified that had not been paid but had now been collected. Other income sources were the new homes bonus which could be accessed through good planning which would also increase the amount of Council Tax receipts. The new homes bonus equated to £1,000 per year, per house for up to 6 years and for every dwelling that was brought back into use.

F Mercer reported that the Council had begun to sell services to schools outside Telford and Wrekin Council as they had a good track record with local schools. The uptake could be improved and in January 2014 the council promoted the services to schools both within Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire. The numbers of schools now on board had gradually increased to 40 and the Council had now won 17 new contracts totalling £184,000 the majority of which was from Shropshire Schools. There was a further contract pending which, if secured, would be worth a further £25,000.

The Team were encouraging schools to access a one-off service initially ie training in order for them to gain confidence with the Council which would hopefully lead them to buy into further services offered by the Council. Referrals from schools which already accessed services were also being received.

The next steps were to continue to promote the Council's services, but also nurture the relationships with the schools who already bought into services in order to keep their business when the contracts come up for renewal in April 2015.

It was also hoped to promote to other groups of customers through new web pages.

There was now a single point of contact for Parish and Town Councils which had been launched at the Parish forum on the 24th June and had been well received.

Further work was being undertaken to develop offers of help to small and start-up businesses and bringing the hire of venues all into one place and making this user friendly with a link to services such as catering. This work was a work in progress.

The Catering Team had won a contract to provide catering services at Haughmond Hill Café and the cleaning services had also won contracts which had totalled £300k+. These small projects added together could add up to significant amounts

Some new large commercial projects and initiatives which were taking place were the housing programme and the solar farm.

The Solar Farm had now secured planning permission and grid connection which added significant value to the site. Six bidders had been invited to tender and these would be back by the 10th July. It was hoped that the project would be up and running by the end of November and would become a significant income stream.

Sponsorship and Advertising was being looked at with scope to expand the selling of roundabouts. Sponsorship was also being sold for T Party and T Live. Advertising was also being sold in Your Voice which hoped to raise a further £100k in additional income. In total over 3100k of income had been generated in sponsorship over the last few months. Advertising was also now available on the top 10 pages of the website together with advertising in Southwater.

An eBay account had been opened and this had generated a small sum of £5,000 selling unwanted items.

Business Switch and Save – this price comparison site had been launched which aimed to help save businesses money on their energy bills. The Council made a small commission on each sale. This was more about supporting local businesses, but uptake had been slow.

The team asked that Members as well as employees pass on any ideas for business and also any experiences of service or customer feedback.

A discussion took place including:

- Rental of public sector body empty office space – ie Malinsgate Police Station
- Payroll/Accountancy – selling of services to outside bodies
- Energy Savings Comparison Site for residents of Telford and Wrekin
- Commercial properties – keeping them up-to-date and well-maintained
- Commercial Board – Informal Working Group – not decision making body
- Governance arrangements for the Housing Project – keeping a controlling interest
- Focus on producing income and less on staff cuts

AUC-10 TREASURY MANAGEMENT – 2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2014/15 TO DATE

B Morris presented a report on the Treasury Management for 2013/14 and on 2014/15 to date.

The treasury portfolio ended the year with a net indebtedness of £102.1m (borrowing: £125.6m less investments: £23.5m), an increase of £22.9m compared to the position at 31 March 2013. Base rate was 0.5% for the whole year and was predicted to stay at 0.5% until 2016.

Overall, treasury delivered a net over-achievement of £1.546m against the budget in 2013/14. This included £250,000 which was generated as a one-off saving in 2013/14 as a result in changing the accounting policy in relation to capitalisation of interest on capital projects pending their completion.

A one-off benefit of £4.884m was also generated as a result of an adjustment to the

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). This provision would help to fund the Pride in Your Community Initiative for the next 12 years.

The total over-achievement against budget was £6.5m on treasury management activities for the year.

For 2014/15 to date, there had been a £400k over-achievement due to benefits arising from active management and re-phasing of capital spending from 2013/14.

There would be a number of amendments to the prudential indicators to accommodate very significant capital regeneration projects and Council approval would be sought to increase the following:

- Capital Expenditure
- Gross Debt
- Capital Financing Limit
- External Debt
- Operation Limit for External Debt

It was also proposed to amend the limit to non UK Sovereign Counterparty Limits to a total of £20m, subject to them meeting the requirements in terms of the security of the counterparty.

A discussion took place including:

- Base rate increase
- Investments
- Shropshire Council Debt
- Capital Receipts
- Higher spending on projects and managing higher debts
- Business cases to assess the level of risk against the debt
- The necessity of Members continuing to ask the questions

It was suggested that an invitation be sent out to the Members of the Budget and Finance Scrutiny Committee to attend the September Meeting of the Audit Committee which would discuss capital receipts.

RESOLVED –

- a) that members of the Budget and Finance Scrutiny committee be invited to attend the September meeting of the Audit Committee;**
- b) that the contents of the report be noted;**
- c) that the performance against Prudential Indicators be noted;**
- d) that the proposed amendment to non UK sovereign counterparty limits be approved;**
- e) TO RECOMMEND to COUNCIL that the increases in Authorised and Operational limits for 2014/15 to facilitate the Council to potentially undertake very significant capital regeneration investments of a commercial nature, and the other changes to prudential indicators, be approved.**

AUC-11 DRAFT FINAL ACCOUNTS 2013/14

B Morris reported that the draft Statement of Accounts for 2013/14 had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. There was a lot of information for members to take in and there may be one or two amendments to be made.

It was suggested that the Members read the Foreword to the draft Accounts which gave the best explanations of the accounts including changes that have happened to the Council which included:

- Costs in terms of the Council's services
- Council Tax discount
- Public Health

The accounts would come back to the September meeting of the Audit Committee following audit and it was suggested that Members contact the Finance Team if they have any queries or questions prior to September.

Members were also reminded about the training session that would take place prior to the September meeting regarding the Annual Statement of Accounts.

AUC-12 INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE REPORT – QUARTER FOUR 2013/14

J Marriott presented the Internal Audit Quarter Four update report 2013/14 which gave details of the work undertaken in this period.

There had been 30 reports issued within Quarter Four and details of these could be found at Appendix A to the report.

Appendix B to the report listed all of the work undertaken within Quarter Four for a period of 1 day or more.

Details of previously graded reports from October 2011 to December 2013 with their current status could be found at Appendix C to the report.

Appendix D gave a summary of the amber and red reports which had been issued in Quarter Four which included 6 amber reports and 2 red reports. Since the report had been written a follow up had been completed for Oakengates Children's Centre and it had moved to yellow and Dawley Primary School was due to be undertaken and follow ups for the other areas were planned.

Five reports remained amber which were:

- Abacus System
- Car Parking - superceded
- Transport PIR
- Moorfield Primary School
- Service User Journey

A discussion took place which included:

- Follow up on Recommendations
- Recommendation of Training, if required

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

AUC-13 2013/14 INTERNAL AUDIT AND INFORMATION GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT

J Marriott presented the Internal Audit and Information Governance Annual Report for 2013/14.

Members were informed that there had been new standards from April last year and revised requirements. They were similar to those previously used.

The table at 5.15 to the report set out the number of reports that had been issued and the types of recommendations made during the year. This also showed the split in gradings. There had been a decrease in the number of financial regulations recommendations, but an increase on the number of legal recommendations.

This change was thought to be related to re-structures where staff had come into new roles and may not fully understand their roles, policies and procedures.

Further work was being undertaken with regard to data protection which also generated legal recommendations.

Customer feedback had remained constant except for a slight decrease in communication.

The Information Governance Annual Report set out the Information Governance arrangements for the Council and information regarding subject access requests and freedom of information requests.

There had been a large increase in the number of Freedom of Information requests although the Council was responding well within the ICO's guidance of 80% in 20 days.

There had been 163 reported cases of data security incidents of which 83 had been confirmed. This was a slight percentage decrease on last year. The main categories were very similar and the most common being information being sent or made available to the wrong recipient. Appendix B to the report showed the lessons learnt which was circulated to the staff every six months.

Appendix C to the report set out the Governance work programme which included information requests compliance work and updating policies and procedures.

This was positive report but there would continue to be challenges during 2014/15 as the cuts in services continue.

This document supported the Annual Governance Statement.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

AUC-14 THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2013/14

J Marriott presented the Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14 which outlined whether the Council had been adhering to its Local Code of Corporate Governance, continually

reviewing procedures to maintain and demonstrate good corporate governance and that it had in place robust systems of internal control. During 2013/14 the Council could be assured that during the organisational changes that the revised governance arrangements continued to support proper governance.

Appendix A to the report set out the Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14. Some of the reviews which had taken place included:

- Management
- Internal Audit
- Information Governance
- Scrutiny
- External Audit
- CQC
- Ofsted
- Peer Reviews of Children's Services and Adult Services

These all provided a recognition of where things were being done well and identified areas of improvement.

Annex 1 to Appendix A set out the Action Plan to ensure continued robust Governance arrangements.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the Annual Governance Statement 2013/14 be approved; and**
- b) the information in the report be noted.**

AUC-15 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN AND INFORMATION GOVERNANCE WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

J Marriott presented the Internal Audit Plan and Information Governance Work Programme 2014/15.

Due to only 3 meetings a year these plans were presented now for approval but clearly work has continued and Quarter one of the work plan had almost been completed. Appendix A – Plan 2014/15 to the report also showed how the work linked to the priorities and objectives.

The planned resources for 2013/14 were 931 days plus 45 days specialist ICT audit work (total of 976 days). For 2014/15 the resources are 963 days plus 55 days specialist ICT audit work (total of 1018). This increase has been achieved by a restructure including removal of the Team leader post and replacing it with two full time auditor posts and half an apprentice. The increase in specialist IT audit days has been achieved by procurement savings arising from the Council entering into a framework agreement with Staffordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire Councils.

There may be a necessity to put some general work out, possibly on short-term contracts, due to being unable to appoint to a post. This was currently being investigated with the Procurement Team.

Appendix B to the report was the Information Governance Work Programme for 2014/15 which showed the Team's role of compliance and investigation of data breaches.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the Internal Audit Plan 2014/15, attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved; and
- b) the Information Governance Work Programme for 2014/15 be noted.

AUC-16 OUTLINE OF BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS 14/15

J Marriott presented the outline of business for 2014/15 which included for September:

- Update on Capital Receipts
- Anti-fraud and corruption
- Strategic risks

For the January 2015 meeting there would also be an update on Adult Social Services.

There would also be Treasury Management Training before the January 2015 meetings.

A Commercial Board update would be brought back to the Audit Committee.

The meeting ended at 7.41 p.m.

Chairman:

Date:

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 29th April 2014 at 6.30pm in Meeting Room 3, Darby House, Telford, TF3 4JA.

PRESENT: Councillors M. Ion (Chair), G. Green, J. Loveridge, J. Pinter, C. Turley and Co-optees S. Ali and S. Rayner.

Attending: J. Collins, Assistant Director Education & Corporate Parenting; S. Jones, Scrutiny Officer. Also present Cllrs. K. Guy and N. Dugmore.

CYPSC-41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs. A. Mackenzie, T. Hope and Co-optees A. Atkinson, R. Aveley, M. Ward and Cabinet Member Cllr. P. Watling.

CYPSC-42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CYPSC-43 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The Chair welcomed the Assistant Director to the meeting to provide reports in response to questions arising at the meeting in January on the validated education results for the borough. Responses to Members' questions had been circulated as Appendix A and the Chair invited the Assistant Director to talk through the reports focussing on interpreting the information presented in the tables, the predicted attainment for children in care (CiC) and the Securing School Improvement Protocol.

The Assistant Director (AD) presented reports on the following areas:

1. Ofsted Categories

Tables showed the percentage of schools in Telford and Wrekin in each Ofsted category compared to other West Midlands authorities and the all England average.

All Schools: Telford & Wrekin ranked 4th in the table of West Midlands LAs and the all England average (7th) for the percentage of schools rated Outstanding or Good. Only Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Solihull were better.

Primary Schools: Telford & Wrekin ranked 8th just below the all England average. Worcestershire was ranked top and Sandwell, ranked 11th for All Schools, was second. Telford & Wrekin was below the all England average but not significantly below (78.5% compared to 79.5%) in terms of Ofsted inspections (not attainment).

Secondary Schools: Telford & Wrekin was ranked 2nd of West Midlands authorities behind only Herefordshire and above the all England average ranked at 8th. This was very pleasing, especially considering that when the National Challenge was introduced 5 or 6 years ago the majority of secondary schools were around or below floor standard, so the uplift was very significant.

The following information was provided in response to questions:

- Data was based on Ofsted inspection reports to the end of last term and for all types of school including academies.
- The key determinant for ranking was schools rated Outstanding or Good. This methodology was used by the Chief Inspector and used in national reports. The Chair noted that if schools rated Inadequate were included in the determinant Telford and Wrekin would be higher up the table.
- The Ofsted ratings for secondary schools in Telford and Wrekin were: Outstanding – Adams Grammar, Newport Girls' High, Thomas Telford; Good – Abraham Darby, BRJ, Burton Borough, Charlton, HLC, Lakeside, Madeley, Sutherland, Wrockwardine Wood; Requires Improvement – Ercall Wood, Phoenix. Data had not been disaggregated into local authority maintained schools and non-maintained schools and this could be provided but would show a mix across types.

2. KS2 Schools Below Floor

Tables showed schools below floor in 2011, 2012 and 2013 i.e. schools below the national threshold for the % of children expected to achieve:

- Level 4 or better in Reading, Writing and Maths combined (English and Maths pre-2013), and
- 2 levels of progress in each of Reading, Writing and Maths (or English and Maths pre-2013)

In 2011, Millbrook, Queenswood and Short Wood were below floor. Measures had been put in place at Short Wood where things had turned around and improved from 37% achieving L4+ combined in 2011 to 64% in 2012 so the school was no longer below floor in 2012. Millbrook had improved by 2012 but was still below floor and category 3 although standards were now accelerating. There had been an unusual issue with the publication of Maths results at Ladygrove in 2012 which meant a 0 score was recorded for L4+ English and Maths and the school had fallen unexpectedly below floor. Ladygrove was still below floor in 2013 and the results indicated there was a particular problem with Maths. Queenswood was below in 2011, had made good progress to rise above in 2012 but had unexpectedly dipped back below in 2013 with only 29% achieving L4+ R/W & Maths. There were some specific circumstances which accounted for the dip which no longer existed and from the latest monitoring attainment was expected to rise to mid-high 60s% in 2014. Dawley was only 1% below floor in 2013 with a small cohort of 17 which meant a small number of children could make a big statistical difference, and because the school had been below floor at the time of inspection it had been rated Inadequate.

The following information was provided in response to questions:

- In terms of emerging themes which put schools at risk, it was often situations out of the ordinary or beyond the school's control that were most likely to have a contributory impact. A list of such situations was included in the School Improvement Protocol (Section 4, Strand 5) including significant changes in the senior leadership team, significant staff absence or vacancies, building work (which was worrying for the BSF programme), reorganisation or merger, unusually large pupil admissions etc. as indicators of schools needing support
- Schools must fall below the threshold in all indicators to fall below floor standard. This means a school could be below the threshold in one or more category but not below floor because they are above in other categories. It was possible for a school to be below 60% on attainment but above on levels of progress or (more likely) to be above 60% on attainment but below on levels of progress which may indicate a school is coasting.
- Regarding who a school would turn to if they see a problem on the horizon, intervention could be instigated in two ways. School Improvement is a traded service and schools can buy into the core service or pay for specialist advisors, but if the School Improvement team sees an issue with poor results they intervene on behalf of the Council. The floor standard is one indicator - but not the only one - that would lead to intervention. Some schools are above 60% attainment but progress is poor and School Improvement would go into these schools to look at progress and keep a watching brief.
- In response to a question from a non-Committee member about efforts to increase the number on roll and support for small schools (where a small number of pupils has a disproportionate statistical effect): the committee would be aware from the recent review of primary school places that it was not possible to increase the number on roll where there are physical constraints although across primary schools as a whole numbers lower down were increasing and larger cohorts would come through. Small schools are supported by larger schools and the authority brokers support from the local teaching college so for example, a good English teacher from a larger school could be trained to offer training to teachers in smaller schools. Schools with similar challenges are paired up to support each other, for example to transfer NLE or ESL skills to schools with a significant number of ethnic children. Newport Girls' High had done a good piece of work with Phoenix on high performers.
- Comparisons with statistical neighbours are not used any more but could be provided. None of the West Midlands authorities are statistical neighbours.
- Using Queenswood as an example, the type of action that would be taken was that the school would be put in category 3. The authority would put in intensive support and challenge and there would be half termly meetings chaired by a School Improvement Senior Advisor which would also include a local authority

finance officer, HR advisor and data collection officer. A Raising Attainment Plan (RAP) would be put in place, and in the example used, a maths consultant would be put in to look at baseline information and levels of teaching to identify trends which indicate where there are issues. The maths teachers could be sent to other schools to look at the teaching and the pupils work to see how things are done and the level expected, and take this back to their own school – often the quality of teaching is the issue. Progress on the RAP Plan is monitored and reported back at the half-termly meeting which are minuted, and progress is expected at each stage. An anonymised example of a visit report could be provided to Members if required.

- In terms of the projections for 2014, none of the schools below floor in 2013 were anticipated to be below floor in 2014 barring unforeseen circumstances. Schools Requiring Improvement were being monitored and they were confident they would be above floor and were working towards no schools below in 2014. There had been some discussion nationally about changes to floor standard but none had been made for 2014.

3. KS4 Schools Below Floor and results by School Type 2013

Tables showed:

- a) Schools below floor standard in 2011, 2012 and 2013 i.e. below the national threshold for the % of pupils expected to attain 5 or more A*-C GCSE passes including English and Maths and 3 levels of progress in each of English and Maths
- b) KS4 results for 2013 by type of school and the average for maintained schools, academies and the CTC. There were no significant variations between maintained schools and academies.

The following information was provided in response to questions:

- Schools needed to be below all thresholds to be below floor. There had been a concern that schools had focused on getting borderline pupils over the C grade threshold at the expense of progress of other pupils so new measures had been introduced in 2011 to assess levels of progress. As a result Sutherland had fallen below floor in 2011 which had been a shock but they had pulled back above by 2012. Phoenix was below floor in 2012 and 2013. It has been made clear to them that there was no excuse for this and they were now confident that Phoenix would be above the 40% floor in 2014. Lakeside was below in 2013 (34%) and was predicted to achieve 41% at best but there was a risk of dipping below because of borderline pupils and this was not good enough. The Heads would say that Lakeside and Phoenix's ability to achieve good grades had suffered from the opening of Abraham Darby and Madeley Academies which were the preferred choice of parents. Parental preferences should level out as all schools get better.
- There was a proviso about the predicted results for 2014. The Secretary of State had changed the way exam results would be recorded for league tables from 2014. Students have multiple choices of when to take exams and in future the first time a pupil takes an exam will be the recorded result for the league tables. The Heads of Wrockwardine Wood and Burton Borough had said students who had been prepared for early entry and would be entered as planned but this would distort the

league table results – for example, Wrockwardine Wood was likely to achieve 66% but the recorded result would be 36% which would technically be below floor.

- In terms of schools in the “local authority family” there are 14 schools in total including the City Technology College. Five are maintained schools i.e. funded via the local authority (2 community schools, 2 foundation schools and 1 voluntary aided school) but the authority is represented on the Multi-Academy Trust Board so the 3 MAT schools could be deemed part of the family. (There are actually 4 schools currently in the MAT)

4. Children in Care (CiC) Trend Data and Predicted Outcomes for 2014

- a) Trend data for CiC - A table showed the average point score for Telford and Wrekin CiC across KS2 and KS4 measures compared to all children and all non-CiC in Telford and Wrekin for 2011, 2012 and 2013 and the all England average for CiC 2013. Results at KS2 showed the average CiC score was significantly lower than for all children and the gap had widened between 2012 and 2013. In 2013 L4+ combined for CiC was 13% compared to 74% for all Telford and Wrekin children and 45% CiC national average. However there were small numbers in the cohorts (11 in 2012, 15 in 2013) so results of individual children could make a big statistical difference. KS4 CiC results in 2012 were particularly good - 46% had gained 5 or more A*-C grades including English and Maths compared to 61% for all Telford and Wrekin children. This had dropped to 22% in 2013 but remained above the national average attainment of CiC at 20%.
- b) Predicted outcomes at KS2 - there were 26 in the year 6 cohort. Ten (39%) have a SEN statement and were therefore less likely to achieve the expected standard. Nine of the remaining 16 (35%) were predicted to achieve L4+ combined. Three were borderline L3-L4 and would have additional intervention. If they all achieved L4 the results would be in line with national progress. However, things could easily tip the other way for example a placement breakdown could disrupt progress. Eleven (40%) were expected to attain L3 i.e. below national expectations. Three were not expected to sit the tests. It was important to be mindful that the trauma of early childhood experienced by many CiC meant they were starting from a much lower level than non-CiC. It would be interesting to see the levels of progress of the children expected to attain a Level 3.
- c) Predicted outcomes at KS4 – there were 28 in the cohort of which 21% were expected to achieve the national expected standard which would be inline with national results for CiC for 2013 but was still not good enough. 50% were expected to achieve 5 A*-G GCSEs and 64% expected to achieve at least one A*-G GCSE. 4 were in special provision and it was unlikely they would be entered for the exams.

The following information was provided in response to questions:

- Clarification of whether the number of CiC used for the predicted outcomes included children in schools outside the borough would be provided after the meeting.

- Regarding the distribution of CiC across schools, most schools have one or two. The question is why CiC cannot do well if a school only has one or two to boost - but schools with a higher concentration of foster carers in the area and higher numbers of CiC have been able to develop effective practice, for example Old Park where the designated teacher uses the Pupil Premium to good effect. No schools inhibit progress, but despite the fact that all schools have a designated teacher some CiC can get overlooked so there is a network for designated teachers to share practice.
- In terms of how the authority supports designated teachers, they are brought together to share best practice. The Pupil Premium grant has been increased and has been used to train designated teachers on how to use the Pupil Premium more effectively to close the attainment gap.
- The trend data and predictions for CiC did not include levels of progress measures but this information could be supplied.
- The Chair said it was the first time predications had been provided to the committee and it was very useful and the AD said it could be provided every year.

5. Role and Impact of Virtual Head

The Virtual Head provides a strategic lead to raising the profile and attainment of CiC. Appointment to the post would be confirmed as part of the current restructure following the voluntary retirement of the post-holder. In addition, new posts had been created in the restructure for a CiC Lead Teacher and Data Tracking Officer to support the Virtual Head and to drive up standards for CiC. There is also a plan to appoint 2 additional CiC Inclusion Mentors. The expectation is that all school age CiC should be known to the Virtual Head – there would be 200-300 maximum so the Virtual Head should be able to carry information in their head. Once the new structure was in place the Virtual Head should have a greater impact.

The following points were explored in discussion:

- The Chair wanted to know whether the authority has a strategy for which schools CiC attend so they have the best support for their needs. The AD said out of borough placements are driven by safety issues or if the child is exhibiting challenging behaviour requiring specialist provision which is not available locally in which case the driver is the residential provision. In the past social workers did not always check schools near the out-of-borough foster care placements but this was changing. Within the borough all schools have CiC as an admissions criterion (2 are selective schools). The authority can try to influence choices but it is up to foster carers (as it is for other parents) to decide which school the children go to but these issues are raised via the foster carers' network. If a foster carer has school-age children the foster child usually goes to the same school as part of normal family life. It is not entirely within the remit of the authority as it is about making the whole experience of the child in care as normal as possible. As to whether there is a grading system for Designated Teachers, there is not but the AD

would take this back to consider.

- In terms of raising the expectations of children in care, the progress data is important and they try to raise expectations in the children themselves. This can happen with stable placements but the children can sometimes take a step backwards if they are affected by adverse factors. The key is knowing who all the children are and making sure they are treated like other children – for example foster carers ask them about their day at school, buy them books etc. – normal things that parents do for their children which make a difference.
- The Chair said provision and access for children in care to education was a national issue and that the best interests of the child should be put first, over the wishes of the foster carers, and he suggested the authority should take a more strategic approach. The AD this was being done in some places for example if a school went into special measures a risk assessment was done on whether it is in the best interests of the child to remain in the school or to be moved. The Chair said this was reactive and a more proactive and strategic approach should be taken with earlier intervention.
- Mr. Rayner said there were a disproportionate number of children in care with statements and they need to look at the progress of the statemented children and ask if they are getting as good an education as possible. If they are in a special school which is in special measures then that is a concern.

6. Trend Data by Ethnicity

Tables showed the average point score across KS2 and KS4 measures by ethnic group for 2011, 2012 and 2013 and the national average by group for 2013. The group that was most challenged was the Pakistani group which was below the average for Telford and Wrekin and below the national average for the same group. The figures were in the light of knowing this is a priority group and having had interventions in place.

The following points were explored in discussion:

- In terms of the type of interventions, examples were TCAT and New College had piloted a supplementary school to support Pakistani children at the top end of primary and secondary level. HLC had focus groups working around Pakistani learners. Other schools had recruited Teaching Assistants from Pakistani backgrounds.
- The reasons why the Pakistani group was most challenged were difficult to know. It could be to do with the relationship between schools and the home – some (a small number) have drifted away from school and switched off so there is a need to change mind sets and attitudes. Dr. Ali said there could be attitude issues with a particular section of the community but not with all people with a Pakistani background. A small number of men travel to Pakistan to find wives and if the wife cannot speak English it can create a gap for children who live in a non-English speaking home. There may also be cultural differences and children copy the

cultural aspirations of their parents.

- The Chair said that based on data from College Ward, a Pakistani boy is four times more likely to be unemployed at age 19 than non-Pakistani boys, five times more likely to be in a low paid job and ten time more likely to be in the criminal justice system. The statistics were down to a very small number of families.

7. Securing School Improvement Protocol

The Protocol had been circulated as Appendix 1 of the report. Due to time pressure there was limited time for questioning and the Chair suggested members e-mail questions to the Scrutiny Officer to request a response.

There was one further question which referred to the table in section 2 which showed the number of primary, secondary and Special/PRU schools by local authority category. Mr. Rayner was concerned about the number of PRU/Special schools in category 3 and 4. The AD said there were two schools in category 1, three in category 2, one in category 3 and two in category 4. The school in category 3 had just been inspected by Ofsted and rated Good and the expectation was that it would be raised to category 2 next year. The local authority categories sometimes reflect the Ofsted rating but can be different because local intelligence is used as part of the overall picture. For example, there was a primary school rated Good by Ofsted but School Improvement were aware of underlying issues so the school was in local authority category 3. Evidence amassed by the School Improvement Team over the year contributes to the category and SATs results are the final determinant.

The Chair said some important issues had been raised during the meeting and the committee would come back to them at a future meeting.

CYPSC-44 CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair updated members on the following points:

- The committee's report on the planning and provision of primary school places had been deferred from the April cabinet to allow more time to prepare the Cabinet response and was due to be presented to Cabinet on 15th May.
- The review of youth unemployment had already held a series of meetings. It had previously been discussed that a FOI request would be sent to either the main contractors or DFE about the work programme outcomes in Telford and Wrekin, but the Chair had decided that before resorting to FOI, the main contractors (Serco and ESG) would be invited to a future meeting to answer questions, or to provide a written submission for the committee for the review. Further meetings would be held with the Chair of the LEP and one for the committee to pull together the evidence on each strand of enquiry and start to formulate recommendations.
- The work of the committee on the care placement strategy, leaving care grant and care placement budget had been selected by the Scrutiny Management Board for submission to the Centre for Public Scrutiny for the 2014 Good Scrutiny Awards.

A copy of the submission had been circulated by e-mail and the Scrutiny Officer explained that the work had been selected to showcase the impact that scrutiny can have which was reflected in the excellent endorsements provided by the Chair of the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board and the missing children force lead from West Mercia Police. The shortlist would be announced on 19th May.

- The Chair announced that he would be standing down as a Councillor from 2015 and as Chair of the CYP Scrutiny Committee at the end of this municipal year in May 2013. The new Chair would be appointed at Annual Council at the end of May. Dates for future meetings of the committee would be confirmed as soon as the new Chair was appointed.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Wednesday 9th July 2014 at 6.00 pm at the Business Development Centre, Stafford Park, Telford

PRESENT

Councillors C Mason (Chair), T Hope, L Murray, J Pinter, J Seymour and C Turley

Officers in attendance: L Noakes (Assistant Director: Health, Wellbeing and Public Protection), M Cumberbatch (Legal Services Manager), C Phillips (Licensing Technical Officer) and P Smith (Democratic Services Team Leader)

Access could not be gained to the designated meeting room. The Chair formally opened and then adjourned the meeting, in order for Members and Officers to relocate to an alternative meeting room at Darby House, Telford Town Centre.

The meeting re-convened at 6.15pm at Darby House.

LC-1 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 12th March 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

LC-2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors A Mackenzie, R Scammell, B J Thompson and K Tomlinson

LC-3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

LC-4 PROPOSAL TO LICENCE RICKSHAWS AS HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES

The Licensing Technical Officer presented the report of the Service Delivery Manager – Public Protection, which detailed an application to licence three rickshaws as Hackney Carriage Vehicles (HCVs).

An application had been received to licence three rickshaws along specified routes based on the Silkin Way within the Town Park and between the Town Park and locations in the Ironbridge Gorge. All of the designated routes were based on existing cycle routes. A copy of the application and the applicants' business proposal were appended to the report. The Licensing Service had discussed the proposal with the applicants, and offered advice on what criteria would be required. Case law had determined that a pedi cab (or rickshaw) was a Hackney Carriage Vehicle for the purposes of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 if the rickshaw was to be used to ply for hire and reward. Therefore, if the application was approved, the rickshaws

would need to display a HCV plate and be fully insured. Following discussion with the applicants, a number of Licence conditions were being suggested, and these were set out in the report.

Also appended to the report were details of the specified routes that the applicants intended to operate, and the Licensing Technical Officer advised of the proposed fare tariffs that had been provided by the applicants in relation to each route. These were flat-rate charges irrespective of the number of passengers. Any separate tariff for rickshaws would require advertising and a period of consultation would be undertaken. In terms of the general proposal for licensed rickshaws, the applicants had consulted the Town Park, the Council's Highways department and Rights of Way Officer, and The Gorge Parish Council, none of whom had raised any objections. In response to a question, the Licensing Technical Officer confirmed that part of the proposed routes would involve travel on main roads, but there had not been any adverse comments on this from Highways.

The applicants, Mr S Singh and Mr J Lewis-Owen, were present and were invited by the Chair to make a statement in support of their application. The applicants explained how they had come up with the idea, provided details of their business model and stated that the rickshaw journeys would enhance the visitor experience in Telford and help promote the town and its history. In response to questions from Members, the applicants confirmed that the rickshaws would have a small battery powered motor and that journeys could be pre-booked as well as by hailing them along the routes. The Licensing Technical Officer added that there would be a clearly defined "start point" in the Town Park, and that a "finish point" in the Ironbridge Gorge was being negotiated. In terms of operating times, the applicants confirmed that it would be an all year round operation, but that trade would be focussed on the summer months and at holiday times/special occasions. Reference was made to some of the specified journeys being along multi-user routes, and that the applicants needed to be aware of the presence of horses, cyclists and pedestrians on these routes.

The applicants then left the room while the Committee determined the application. Members were supportive of two young entrepreneurs who had come up with an innovative business proposal that would also benefit tourism and enhance the facilities in the Town Park. It was felt that the proposed conditions would satisfactorily ensure the safety of passengers. In terms of the fare tariffs, it was confirmed that there would be a fixed rate fare structure and this would need to be clearly displayed. The Licensing Technical Officer also confirmed that the drivers of the rickshaws would need to be licensed. Having considered all the information that had been presented to the Committee, and the responses given by the applicants to Members' questions, it was

RESOLVED -

- (a) that the application to licence three rickshaws as Hackney Carriage Vehicles be approved, subject to:**
 - i) the attachment of the conditions set out at paragraph 4.1.5 of the report; and**

ii) the use of the rickshaws being limited to the designated routes shown at Appendix B of the report.

(b) that the proposed fare tariffs be approved for consultation.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm.

Chairman:

Dated:

DRAFT

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Personnel Committee held on Thursday, 26 June 2014 at 6.05 pm at the AFC Telford Learning Centre, Wellington, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors K S Sahota (Chairman), S Davies,
N A Dugmore, A J Eade, H Rhodes and R A Overton

PEB-1 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 10 February 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

PEB-2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor K R Guy.

PEB-3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Both Cllrs N A Dugmore and A J Eade declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 4 – Local Government Pension Scheme - in relation to their respective spouses being members of the Scheme. Both Members then left the meeting room before consideration of the next item of business.

PEB-4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME – EMPLOYER'S DISCRETIONARY POLICIES

The People Services Business Manager presented the report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services, which outlined the requirement on all Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) employers to publish policy statements relating to new discretions afforded by various LGPS Regulations.

The new Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 was introduced on 1 April, and the differences between the new scheme and the previous 2008 scheme were shown in an appendix to the report. Benefits accrued prior to 1 April 2014 were largely unaffected by the new scheme. In total there were 197 discretions under the new and previous schemes, although not all had to have a formal published policy. Policy decisions made under previous schemes remained in place since they would apply to previous membership and benefits accrued in varying circumstances. Appendix B of the report set out the discretions for which the Council had to publish a policy, together with individual recommendations and the reasoning behind them. For example, the Council had discretion to introduce a shared cost Additional Pension Contribution Scheme, but this was not being recommended due to the cost to the Authority.

Appendix C of the report set out a recommended change to the current policy in relation to early retirement in the interest of efficiency of the service. It was

felt that the current policy was too rigid, and it was being recommended that any future cases be considered on an individual basis, subject to ensuring that no-one was better off leaving on these grounds than they would have been had they been made redundant. Appendix D of the report set out a proposed policy in relation to Injury Allowances. There was discretion for the Council to make an award to an employee to receive compensation if they sustained injury or a disease in the course of carrying out their normal duties. It was recommended that any such cases be considered only in exceptional circumstances, treating each case on an individual basis.

In response to Member questions about the policy for flexible retirement, the People Services Business Manager advised that all applicants would have to submit a detailed business case which demonstrated how any additional costs to the Council would be recovered over a maximum three year period. Employees granted flexible retirement would be required to enter into a contractual arrangement which meant that they could not subsequently be appointed to posts that resulted in an increase in hours or being paid at a higher grade within a 12 month period unless there were exceptional circumstances.

In terms of the proposed delegation to the People Services Manager to make all decisions relating to LGPS discretions, it was suggested that there should be some Member awareness of this process. An amendment was therefore proposed to this recommendation, so that any decisions taken by officers would be reported on a quarterly basis to the Chair of the Committee. It was reaffirmed that any decisions relating to members of the Senior Management Team should be made by the Committee.

RESOLVED -

- (a) that the recommended employer discretions in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme 2014, as fully set out in Appendix B of the report, be approved with immediate effect, with any resultant amendments to be made to existing discretions which are consequently affected;**
- (b) that the policy on discretions under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations 2006 be amended with effect from 1 August 2014, so that in cases of efficiency termination or the ending of joint appointments, the individual decision be made following submission of a detailed business case, and that no more than 45 weeks be paid subject to this not being greater than any equivalent redundancy payment;**
- (c) that in relation to the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) (Injury Allowances) Regulations 2011, individual claims be considered in exceptional circumstances only, taking account of all circumstances, including any contributory negligence by the employee, in determining the amount of any award to be made, and in accordance with the process set out in Appendix D of the report;**

- (d) that, with the exception of decisions relating to members of the Senior Management Team (Assistant Directors and above), authority be delegated to the People Services Manager, following consultation with the Managing Director and the Statutory Chief Financial Officer, to make all decisions arising from discretions under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations – with such decisions to be reported retrospectively to the Chair of the Personnel Committee on a quarterly basis;
- (e) that decisions arising from discretions under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations relating to members of the Senior Management Team (Assistant Directors and above) be made by the Personnel Committee;
- (f) that Jonathan Eatough, Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services, be appointed as an Independent Adjudicator to consider first stage appeals under the Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure.

The meeting closed at 6.27pm

Chair.....

Date.....

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday, 2 July 2014 at 6.00pm in the Telford Suite at Shropshire College Hotel School Ltd (The Whitehouse), Watling Street, Wellington, Telford TF1 2NJ

PRESENT: Councillors J C Minor (Chairman), F M Bould (as substitute for K R Guy), N A Dugmore, I T W Fletcher, E J Greenaway, A S Jhavar, J Loveridge, L A Murray and C R Turley.

PC-007 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 11 June 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

PC-008 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor K R Guy

PC-009 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

TWC2014/0451 – Cllr N Dugmore declared an interest as Parish Councillor but confirmed that he had not taken part in any discussion regarding this application.

TWC/2014/0256 – Cllr N Dugmore declared an interest in this application as his son attended Burton Borough School, but would be taking part in the debate and vote

W2006/0608 – Cllr N Dugmore declared an interest as a Parish Councillor but confirmed that he had not taken part in any discussions regarding this application.

PC-010 DEFERRED/WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

None

PC-011 SITE VISITS

RESOLVED – that site visits take place on Wednesday, 23 July 2014 as follows:

TWC/2014/0271 - Land adjacent 9 Hillside, Lilleshall, Newport, Shropshire

TWC/2014/0366 - 3 Cherry Tree Hill, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire, TF8 7EQ

TWC/2014/0113 - The former British Sugar site, Allscott, Telford, Shropshire;

PC-012 PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR DETERMINATION

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

tabled at the meeting regarding planning applications TWC/2013/0950, TWC/2013/0887, TWC/2014/0230, TWC/2014/0451 and TWC/2014/0430.

(a) TWC/2013/0887 - Former Focus DIY Ltd, Audley Avenue, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 7DW

This was an application for full planning permission for the demolition of the existing Focus DIY store and its redevelopment with a new building to provide a foodstore (Use Class A1) together with associate car parking, servicing and landscaping. Highway improvements. The food retailer behind the application was named as Aldi.

A competing application for a proposed Lidl food store at the Mere Park Garden Centre off Stafford Road (TWC/2013/0959) had also been submitted and was considered separately by Members as part of this agenda. The Local Planning Authority had received advice from WYG consultants regarding both applications and their published report had informed the officers' report. The consultants had agreed with the Council's view that neither application required a retail impact assessment in relation to the viability of Newport town centre. This was because both proposed foodstores fell below the floorspace threshold for such a test contained in NPPF guidance.

Mrs R Barsley, a resident of Newport, spoke in favour of the application. She considered that there was a need for a quality discount foodstore in Newport, particularly as the town was continuing to grow. The proposed store would be on a brownfield site with good access, and was not likely to impact on the town centre. It would also mean less people having to travel outside Newport to access such a store.

Mr G Brown, on behalf of the applicant, advised that the proposed foodstore would represent a considerable investment in Newport and create around 40 jobs. It would be complementary to the existing foodstores in Newport, and would not affect the viability of the town centre. There was widespread support locally for the proposal, with over 500 letters of support for the application being submitted. The applicants would provide a mini-bus service to and from residential areas of the town, making the store accessible to the elderly and those without transport. The application was in compliance with planning policy and guidance.

The Planning Officer referred to an update report which contained further representations from competing retailers. He also advised that paragraph 1 of the update report had been included in error and should be deleted. The additional representations received had further questioned the rationale that had been used by officers in assessing the application, and the Planning Officer responded to those. In terms of the sequential test that had been applied to assess whether alternative sites closer to the town centre could accommodate the Aldi store requirements, it had been accepted, following comments from the Council's retail consultants, that there were too many existing and potential constraints to development of the Water Street site for retail development of this nature.

During the ensuing debate, Members were supportive of the application in terms of its location on a brownfield site, its accessibility and the provision of a minibus

service, and noted that the application appeared to have widespread support from Newport residents. In respect of the proposed Section 106 contributions, concern was expressed that not all the sums offered by the applicant would be included in the Agreement. The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist advised that the formal Section 106 Agreement had to conform to the Community Infrastructure Levy regulations. The applicant had offered a further sum of £44k to benefit a number of community initiatives and projects – this would be outside the S106 agreement, and administered as a separate Fund by the applicant.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2013/0887 permission be granted, subject to the applicants entering into a Section 106 Agreement requiring the obligations as set out in the report, and subject to the conditions summarized in the report – with authority being delegated to the Development Management Manager to determine the exact wording and extent of conditions.

(b) TWC/2013/0959 - Land adjacent, Mere Park Garden Centre, Newport, Shropshire

This was a full application by Growing Enterprises Limited and Lidl UK for the construction of a new foodstore with associated car parking, servicing and landscaping on land fronting the Newport by Pass (A41) at the Mere Park Garden Centre complex.

A competing application for a proposed Aldi food store at the former Focus DIY Ltd at Audley Avenue (TWC/2013/0887) had also been submitted and was considered separately by Members as part of this agenda. The Local Planning Authority had received advice from WYG consultants regarding both applications and their published report had informed the officers' report. The consultants had agreed with the Council's view that neither application required a retail impact assessment in relation to the viability of Newport town centre. This was because both proposed foodstores fell below the floorspace threshold for such a test contained in NPPF guidance.

Mr A Hughes, the applicant's agent, reminded the Committee that his clients could operate from the existing garden centre building without needing planning permission for a change of use. If the application was refused, his clients would take up this 'fall back' position. It was considered that the application site was not in open countryside and its accessibility would be enhanced by the offer of a free bus service to and from the town centre for a period of five years.

The Planning Officer referred to an update report which contained further representations from competing retailers. He advised that having taken this information into account, it was still recommended that the Committee refuse the application, but that the reasons for refusal be amended by deleting reason 3 and amending reason 2 as shown in the update report. The additional representations received had further questioned the rationale that had been used by officers in assessing the application, and the Planning Officer responded to those. In terms of the sequential test that had been applied to assess whether alternative sites closer to the town centre could accommodate the Aldi store requirements, it had been

accepted, following comments from the Council's retail consultants, that there were too many existing and potential constraints to development of the Water Street site for retail development of this nature. There had been a number of objections to the application as set out in the report.

During the ensuing debate, Members sought further clarification on the 'fall back' position should this application for a new foodstore building be refused. The Planning Officer advised that the existing Mere Park Garden Centre premises had been granted on appeal a Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Use for Development that provided for unrestricted retail use. This meant that the applicant could operate from the existing Garden Centre building with almost immediate effect without needing planning permission for a change of use. The applicants had submitted plans showing alterations they would need to make to the existing building, but it was considered that these works would require separate planning permission. It was confirmed that if the 'fall back' position was implemented by the applicants, it would not mean that the Council would be obligated to fund any highway improvements to the local road network.

Members gave consideration to the Planning Officer's recommendation for refusal. Some Members felt that the application did constitute sustainable development; that the issues about accessibility could be overcome; and that if the application was refused and the "fall back" position invoked, there would be a loss of contributions to the local community. Conversely, other Members were concerned at the accessibility to the application site for non-car users, particularly the crossing of the busy A41 and A518, and noted the comments of the Inspector at the 2010 Mere Park appeal that the site was not accessible enough. It was also noted that the 'fall back' position had been in existence for some time and had so far not been implemented. Following a full debate, it was

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2013/0959 permission be refused for the following reasons:

- 1. Notwithstanding the existing bus service close to the site, the application site is not accessible by a choice of means of transport to a satisfactory level for food retailing, where good access for those without a car is key and where social exclusion issues are to be avoided. The proposed development is therefore contrary to NPPF and Core Strategy policies CS7 and CS9.**
- 2. The proposed development would unnecessarily extend built development into the countryside on this greenfield site where development is strictly controlled and would tend to consolidate a mixed use, out of centre location which would be undesirable in terms of creating an alternative retail focus to the town centre and hence would be contrary to the NPPF, saved Wrekin Local Plan policy S1 and Core Strategy policy CS7.**

(c) TWC/2014/0230 - Land at Back Lane/Plantation Road, Tibberton, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NX

This was an outline application for residential development on an existing site at the junction of Back Lane and Plantation Road. The applicant had initially proposed 25 market dwellings on the site but this had subsequently been increased to 34 units to accommodate affordable housing. All matters except access were reserved. The officer asked members to consider the principle of development, the impact on infrastructure and ecology.

Cllr E Ashcroft, Parish Councillor for Tibberton and Cherrington, addressed the Committee and raised concerns regarding the development which would increase the size of the village by 47% and was a substantial and controversial growth. This was a greenfield site. The sewerage system within the village would need to be replaced and would cause a massive disruption as the water mains may need to be replaced. Mr Ashcroft suggested that this development was moved to a brownfield site.

Cllr S Burrell, Ward Member for Edgmond, noted the Tree Preservation Orders on the development site and asked for their inclusion if the development was approved. He also raised the concerns of local residents and the Parish Council which included the lack of infrastructure, the amount of S106 contributions which would be needed to improve highways, public rights of way, footpaths, passing places and for education contributions. Further concerns were raised regarding the drainage. Cllr Burrell referred the Committee to the paragraph on p86 of the Agenda which referred to Tibberton being "a small settlement that is detached from other parts of the Borough, with a small number of local services, few employment uses, narrow roads, limited bus services, poor access to telecommunications, known drainage issues and a fully subscribed primary school".

Mrs J Berry, a local resident, also addressed the Committee with regard to the environmental impact on this green corner of the village and the effect it would have on the natural habitat. Mrs Berry also raised concerns regarding the seepage of water and the slow drainage of surface water together with the effect on the character of the village. Mrs Berry further stated that 220 comments had been submitted to the Council regarding the selection of the site in the Shaping Places Proposed Options document, and these needed to be considered in the drafting of the Local Plan. Mrs Berry therefore opposed the development on the grounds of the environment and on points of procedure.

Mr M Parrish, the Applicant's Agent, stated that this land was included as a potential site for development in the draft Shaping Places Local Plan, and was included in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment in 2012. It was compliant with sustainability tests with the NPPF which gave a presumption of development. The applicant had complied with the 40% affordable housing requirement and would make improvements to infrastructure and highways. There had been discussions with officers around the possibility of placing a sewerage plant on site.

The Planning Officer referred to the NPPF and that the Council was currently unable to demonstrate a 5 year housing supply, and that Tibberton was one of 3 rural

settlements that had been included in the adopted Local Plan as suitable for development. Members were asked to consider the principle of development and that the number of units and density would be dealt with under reserved matters. A S106 agreement would be used to accommodate visibility splays and passing places on narrow roads if consent was granted. Conditions for further contributions with regard to rights of way and traffic and speed management could also be imposed. Severn Trent was planning to undertake an investigation into service improvements. Drainage issues could be overcome with the use of conditions. Education provision was dealt with by way of the S106. A habitat assessment had been undertaken and there were no ecological issues or likely effects. Play space and facilities would be moved off site and upgraded. There was an offer of 40% affordable housing in line with the Core Strategy. A tabled update report reflected additional comments that had been received from the Council's Arboricultural Officer, who was seeking to protect a number of trees on and adjacent to the site. Members were recommended to grant the permission subject to the S106 agreement and updated conditions.

During the ensuing debate, Members raised concerns regarding the 40% affordable housing and the community infrastructure. Further concerns were raised regarding a cramped and over-developed site, the lack of public transport, telecommunications issues and the lack of a development plan. Members suggested that the application be deferred pending receipt of further information to include:

- Information regarding the position, location and proposed density of the development within the village
- Information regarding the impact on the natural environment, in particular the adjacent woodland, hedges and wildlife.
- Information regarding the provision of school places, both primary and secondary.
- Information regarding drainage and the position of Seven Trent Water in respect of future investment in water-related infrastructure.
- Information regarding the design and access statement, including density and numbers and types of units
- Information regarding the impact on traffic movement in and around the village, road safety and the capacity of local roads to accommodate the potential additional traffic

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/0230 the application be deferred for the receipt of further information.

(d) TWC/2014/0236 - Land adjacent, 12 Tibberton, Newport, Shropshire

This was an outline application for the erection of up to 60 no. dwellings with associated infrastructure. All matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) were "reserved matters" for consideration at a later stage via separate application(s). Members were asked to give consideration to the principle of development, infrastructure, ecology and the impact on listed buildings.

Cllr J Wright, Parish Councillor for Tibberton and Cherrington, addressed the Committee and raised concerns regarding the development. This was a greenfield site which encroached into the open countryside and was not sustainable. He also

raised concerns regarding the sewers to the east of the village which were not suitable for further development. The highway proposals would do little to alleviate the traffic issues and this large development would seriously affect the living conditions of the village.

Cllr S Burrell, Ward Member for Edgmond, highlighted concerns regarding the single track roads, poor visibility, lack of passing places and the dangerous roads and junctions around Back Lane and the B5062. Concerns were raised regarding the drainage and the Committee were referred to the information raised in the previous application on p86 of the Agenda which referred to Tibberton being “a small settlement that is detached from other parts of the Borough, with a small number of local services, few employment uses, narrow roads, limited bus services, poor access to telecommunications, known drainage issues and a fully subscribed primary school”.

Mr J Berry, a local resident, expressed concern to the Committee that this site was not an area for development identified in the draft Shaping Places Local Plan, and that this application failed to adhere to the required regulations.

Mr A Sheldon, the Applicant's Agent, informed the Committee that Tibberton was one of three villages that had been identified as being suitable for development for the 5 year land supply. The Applicant had worked with the Planning Officers and no technical, design or amenity issues had been identified. There would be significant improvements to the poor road junction at Cherrington Road and details of the safety benefit could be found in the application. Passing places and footways would be provided for the benefit of school children and a contribution towards upgrading the bus service and there would be no cost to the residents. There would be no reduction of the 40% affordable housing. The full details and layout would be decided at the reserved matters stage.

The Planning Officer informed the Members that the application was sustainable and that the proposed development would contribute to the 5 year housing supply. The infrastructure did have narrow roads which had been observed on the site visit but the development could produce improvements to the highways through the conditions of the S106 agreement. There would also be footpath and road junction improvements. Severn Trent was planning to undertake an investigation into the drainage issues. This development was adjacent to listed buildings, the application was in principle only and all other details would be dealt with under the reserved matters. The application offered a mix of housing with 40% affordable which complied with policy. The Section 106 agreement proposed open spaces, education and highway contributions although there were some character issues. The Planning Officer recommended that the Members grant outline planning permission subject to the S106 and planning conditions.

Members discussed the application and concerns were raised regarding the development encroaching on the open countryside; that the application was unsustainable and unsuitable due to the infrastructure, drainage, school places, highway issues, the lack of employment and environmental issues; and that it went against the NPPF.

The Legal Advisor and Assistant Director: Planning Specialist noted the concerns of Members and suggested that if Members were minded to refuse the application, clear reasons for refusal which would need to be defensible at appeal needed to be provided. During the ensuing discussion, Members highlighted their main areas of concern, and the Assistant Director summarised these as follows:

- The site was not included in the recent Shaping Places consultation and was not an area for development proposed by this Authority
- Scale of development was disproportionate in scale and size
- Significant and detrimental impact on the character of the area
- Impact on services generally, including education
- Impact on the infrastructure and the utility infrastructure, in particular the uncertainty about drainage investment from the utility company STW
- Inappropriate encroachment into the countryside and beyond the current shape and form of the village
- Road safety in and around the village

It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/0236, the application be refused, with the reasons for refusal being:-

- 1. The site is not included in the recent Shaping Places consultation and is not an area for development proposed by this Authority**
- 2. Scale of development is disproportionate in scale and size**
- 3. Significant and detrimental impact on the character of the area**
- 4. Impact on services generally, including education**
- 5. Lack of community infrastructure and, in particular, the utility infrastructure to support the proposed development**
- 6. Inappropriate encroachment into the countryside and beyond the current shape and form of the village**
- 7. Concerns regarding the impact on traffic movement and road safety in and around the village**

(e) TWC/2014/0271 - Land adjacent 9 Hillside, Lilleshall, Newport, Shropshire

This was an outline planning application with all matters reserved for the erection of 2no. detached dwellings with garages. Members were asked to consider the principle of development, access and highway safety and the amenities.

Cllr A Baker, Parish Councillor for Lilleshall ward - Lilleshall, Donnington & Muxton Parish Council, addressed the Committee regarding Lilleshall being excluded as an area of development within the Core Strategy. An application for one dwelling had previously been refused on this site as being highly unsuitable. The new application was for two dwellings for which the access was along a lane with a blind bend with no pavements and no passing places. Further along the lane, which was a dead end, there were 2 further narrow bends which led on to a road with a deteriorating condition. There was no right of way over this land. There were issues of safety for school children who used the lane and the development would affect the visual

impact to the north side of Lilleshall Hill. It was requested that, if this application be approved, that the type of dwelling be changed to that of low rise or dorma style bungalows.

Cllr A Eade, Ward Member for Church Aston and Lilleshall, highlighted to the Committee that a planning application was refused in 2012 due to its unsuitability and it was contrary to Policy H10 due to being outside of the local boundary, to sustainability issues and to protect the rural area. The lane was not a through road and degenerated into a track. It was difficult to get traffic up the lane and it was used as a walking bus route for school children. This development was on a greenfield site and would irreversibly affect the character of the surrounding area. Cllr Eade asked the Committee if they would consider a site visit on this application.

Ms E Attwood, Applicant's Agent, highlighted to Members that this was an outline planning permission for 2 dwellings on garden land which belonged to Hill House. She noted the issues which had been considered in the Officer's report. The previous refusal had been undertaken before the NPPF and before the land supply issues had arisen, and this development would contribute towards the target of 700 homes per year. The development was contained in garden land and not open countryside. The narrowness of the lane was beyond the proposed site and there was no adverse impact on highway safety.

The Planning Officer confirmed to Members that Lilleshall was not one of the three rural settlements identified for development, but due to the lack of the deliverable land supply this development was suitable for 2 dwellings. It was contained within garden land and not in the open countryside so was sustainable within that context. The development was within core strategy and the NPPF. There would be a limited increase of traffic from 2 new dwellings and this would not cause any adverse impact. Any concerns raised during building works could be managed through conditions. With regard to the request for single or one and a half storey dwellings, the Planning Officer advised that the proposed outline development had no adverse effect on the surrounding area, and it would be difficult to justify a requirement for bungalow dwellings. The recommendation was to grant outline planning permission subject to the conditions.

In the ensuing discussion Members raised concerns with regard to the single track and exceedingly narrow lanes without passing or turning places. They were also mindful that there was nowhere for pedestrians to step out of the way. There was further concern regarding the increase of traffic that would be generated from two family houses. It was proposed and seconded that a site visit be undertaken on this application.

RESOLVED – that determination of planning application TWC/2014/0271 be deferred to allow the Committee Members to make a Site Visit.

(f) TWC/2014/0430 - Land at 1 Dawley Road, Arleston, Telford, Shropshire

This was a full planning permission for the erection of 7no. 2 bed properties comprising 4no. semi-detached dwellings and a terrace of 3 houses with each

dwelling providing two bedrooms. Councillor A D McClements had requested that the application be determined by the Planning Committee.

The Planning Officer informed Members that this application was for full planning consent and that the units would be of brick and tile form with parking for 14 vehicles.

Cllr A McClements, Ward Member, addressed the Committee, and stated that she had called in this application due to the number of concerns from local residents with regard to the access in and out of this development. One formal objection had been raised and other objections had been raised informally on a number of occasions. The development was only metres away from one of the busiest traffic light junctions in Telford and had 14 car spaces which would mean up to 14 cars going in and out of the development at busy times of the day. It had previously been a Council yard with vehicles in and out but this was before the junction was so busy. There were concerns regarding traffic flow and limited visibility together with concerns around the parking at the One-Stop Shop and the bus stop outside the proposed development. Although there was a contribution of £3,000 within the proposed S106, visitors to the 'One-Stop' did not use the car park to the rear of the shop and ignored the double yellow parking restrictions. It was suggested to Members that a site visit and thorough investigation of the application be undertaken.

The Planning Officer informed the Committee that one letter of objection had been received, and this was summarised in the update report that had been tabled. The proposed development was within the Wrekin Local Plan and a previous consent was granted in 2006. A further scheme came forward in 2008 for 14 flats and although the S106 was approved the developer withdrew. There had now been a change of situation due to the 5 year land supply and the proposed development being on white land with a boundary close to local facilities and sustainable transport. The developer had come forward with a viable scheme with parking to the front with boundary wall facilities and highway visibility splays and railings. There was sufficient space for cars to manoeuvre within the car parking area. There would be a traffic regulation order to ensure that 'One-Stop' customers used the car park to the rear of the shop and a contribution of £3,000 was within the S106. Monitoring and enforcing the traffic regulation order was a Police matter. Offers of further support to monitoring could be subject to the S106 agreement.

A discussion took place and Members were satisfied with the proposed development itself as this area needed to be tidied up, but had concerns regarding the position of the access and egress from the site. Members were minded to support the application if amendments could be made to move the access to the car park to as far away from the adjacent busy junction as possible – ie: towards the 'One-Stop' Shop but not to interfere with the bus stop. A further concern was raised regarding the bin store and the obstruction to the bus stop by the refuse truck when emptying the bins. It was suggested that delegated authority be given to Officers to negotiate the access and egress away from the junction. It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED – that in respect of Planning Application TWC/2014/0430 that delegated authority be granted to the Service Delivery Manager of Development Management to grant planning permission, subject to further

negotiations with the applicant on a change to the position of the access and egress to the proposed development, and subject to the applicants entering into a Section 106 Agreement requiring the obligations as set out in the report, and subject to the conditions summarized in the report – with authority being delegated to the Service Delivery Manager of Development Management to finalise and impose additional conditions.

(g) TWC/2014/0451 - Land to rear of, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59 & 61 Muxton Lane, Muxton, Telford, Shropshire

This was a full planning permission for the erection of 5no. detached dwellings with garages and associated access and landscaping. Councillor A Lawrence had requested that the application be determined by the Planning Committee.

The Planning Officer asked Members to consider the full application for 5 detached dwellings following the granting of outline planning permission in January 2014. The full application contained an amendment to the layout which increased the distances between the houses near to the site as an offer of improvement to the scheme.

Cllr A Lawrence, Ward Member for Muxton, had called in the application due to concerns raised by local residents on some aspects of the development. The key concerns were access with the main worry being Muxton Lane. It was considered that the number of additional vehicular movements using the access and Muxton Lane would have significant impact on an already dangerous road and would add to the local residents' concern. It was suggested that if the development was approved that signage to the concealed entrance, mirrors or traffic calming for safety of local residents could be considered.

Mr S Clinton, a local resident, highlighted the key aspects with regards to the concern of local residents. The lane was narrow and not wide enough for the extra traffic. There had been several near misses by local residents and it was difficult to see pedestrians when turning into the lane. Children used the private driveway to get to the local primary school. The application failed to address the key safety issues with regard to the driveway and Muxton Lane. Mr Clinton supported new houses but asked if the proposed application could be refused on safety grounds.

Mr A Williams, Applicant's Agent, informed the Committee that outline planning permission had been granted and this was an important material consideration. The issues of access and highway safety were considered at outline stage. The application was acceptable on design and appearance, with a number of changes made to improve the layout of the development, such as the increase in separation distances between the dwellings. Plots 1 to 5 had been repositioned with the road layout further away from the trees. The Applicant had worked with the developer and planning officers with regard to the dormer windows and the gables and this added richness and value to the merits of the scheme.

The Planning Officer referred the Committee to the lengthy debate at outline stage regarding access and the highways planning consent which was still considered to be acceptable. The recommendation to Members was to grant full planning permission subject to the conditions and informatives.

A discussion took place and Members were mostly satisfied that following the changes to the separation distance that there was no reason to refuse the application. It was proposed and seconded that the application be approved subject to the conditions.

RESOLVED – that in respect of Planning Application TWC/2014/0451 that full planning permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in the report.

(h) TWC/2014/0256 - Burton Borough School, Audley Avenue, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 7DS

This was a Council application for minor material amendments to planning permission TWC/2013/0832 to include changes to roof plant and flues, roof lights, gable end feature, plant screen wall, fenestration of gable end and alterations to doors.

The Planning Officer asked Members to consider these technical changes. No other changes had been made to the application. Members were also asked to note that some conditions had been discharged on this application due to the building works having started.

Members were satisfied with the minor amendments to the application and it was proposed and seconded to grant planning permission subject to the conditions.

RESOLVED – that in respect of Planning Application TWC/2014/0256 that full planning permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in the report.

(i) W2006/0608 - Land off, Church Walk, Donnington, Telford, Shropshire.

This was a proposal for a Deed of Variation to the S106 agreement to allow provision of no affordable units on a residential development that had commenced but due to ongoing financial difficulties had stalled. A new applicant had taken over the site and was keen to complete development within the next 6 months if the reduction in affordable housing could be agreed. The full background to the request was set out in the report. The Planning Officer informed the Members that this development had almost been completed but currently stood empty and had been the target of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The Planning Officer had worked closely with the builder and it was thought appropriate in this instance for the zero affordable housing upon the provision of evidence that this development could be completed within 6 months of the S106 being signed.

Members were satisfied that this development needed to be completed but were slightly concerned with the 6 month timescale.

The Planning Officer and the Legal Advisor confirmed that the six month timescale would not begin until the date of the signing of the S106. There needed to be a degree of pressure and a firm time limit in order that development was completed. However, there was some flexibility for a short extension of time if necessary.

It was proposed and seconded that the application be granted with a further review, if necessary, to be undertaken by the Chair of the Planning Committee and the Service Delivery Manager for Development Management.

RESOLVED – that a further Deed of Variation to amend the Section 106 Agreement be entered into, so removing the requirement of affordable housing, provided that the development is completed within 6 months of the signing of the Deed of Variation. However, delegated authority is granted to the Assistant Director: Planning Specialist , in consultation with the Chair, subject to receipt of appropriate evidence, to extend the 6 month time period as appropriate.

The meeting ended at 9.44pm

Chairman:

Date:

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday, 23 July 2014 at 6.00pm in the Telford Suite at Shropshire College Hotel School Ltd (The Telford Whitehouse), Watling Street, Wellington, Telford TF1 2NJ

PRESENT: Councillors J C Minor (Chairman), N A Dugmore, E J Greenaway, K R Guy, A S Jhawar, J Loveridge, A A Meredith (as substitute for I T W Fletcher), L A Murray and C R Turley.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors D G Davies (for planning application TWC/2014/0366), A J Eade (for planning applications TWC/2014/0271 and TWC/2011/0821) and J M Seymour (for planning application TWC/2014/0113)

PC-013 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2 July 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman

PC-014 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor I T W Fletcher.

PC-015 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

With regard to planning application TWC/2014/0271, Cllr N A Dugmore declared an interest as Parish Councillor but stated that, in the circumstances he would not be withdrawing from the meeting for that item.

With regard to planning application TWC/2014/0366, Councillor C R Turley commented that he was a member of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust Board and Steering Group and also the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust and indicated that he would withdraw from the meeting during determination thereof.

PC-016 DEFERRED/WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

None.

PC-017 SITE VISITS

None.

PC-018 PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR DETERMINATION

Members had received a schedule of planning applications to be determined by the Committee and fully considered each report and the supplementary information tabled at the meeting regarding each planning application.

(a) TWC/2011/0821 - Land At Wellington Road, Newport, Shropshire

This report related to a request to modify an existing Section 106 agreement to an outline planning permission for proposed new housing, open space/playing field and associated works which was granted on 8 January 2013. An update report was tabled at the meeting which set out additional consultation responses received.

Members noted that the level of contribution towards affordable housing was not reduced but that delivery would take place partly off-site and sought justification for this approach. The Planning Officer advised that the modification had been sought by the developer and was in accordance with national planning policy. The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist commented that the government expected local authorities to remove barriers to development and it was considered that the proposed change was beneficial, since it facilitated an option for the Council to bring forward a brownfield site for development. Delivery of affordable housing numbers remained consistent with the original consent but allowed broader affordable housing provision in the area. The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist was not in a position to identify specific sites for development or make assurances in that regard.

Members unanimously welcomed this positive approach to maintain delivery of sufficient affordable housing in the area.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2011/0821 the Development Management Manager be authorised to facilitate the applicants/landowners entering into a deed of variation to the existing Section 106 Agreement (terms to be agreed by the Development Management Service Delivery Manager) relating to the modification of the following:-

- The level of on-site affordable provision to be reduced from 35% to 20% and for this to be provided in the following mix:
- Rented Social Housing Units: 2 bed 4 person house 5%
- 3 bed 5 person house 4%
- 4 bed 6 person house 1%
- Shared Ownership Housing Units: 2 bed 4 person house 5%
- 3 bed 5 person house 4%
- 4 bed 6 person house 1%

Payment of a financial contribution of £2,750,000 towards off site affordable housing provision (to be ring fenced to the Newport area) with payment triggers split into 3 stages of prior to 31st May 2015, 31st May 2016 and 31st May 2017.

(b) TWC/2011/0827 - Land To The North Of, Audley Avenue, Newport, Shropshire

This report related to a request to revise Section 106 obligations associated with an outline planning permission for the erection of up to 215 dwellings, highway works, public open space, allotments and associated infrastructure development following demolition of buildings which was previously considered by Plans Board on 14

November 2012. An update report was tabled at the meeting which set out additional consultation responses received.

Members sought clarification regarding financial contributions. The Planning Officer explained that financial contributions towards education reflected a proportion of an accumulative figure across number of developments in the vicinity which came forward at the same time since individually none of the developments would have met the thresholds to request financial obligations. He also advised that the education officer was satisfied regarding provision for secondary school places in Newport. The figure requested for affordable housing “in number or value” allowed for the provision of specialist accommodation, eg bungalows. The Parks and Open Spaces Officer was also satisfied with provision for Shukers Field. Members considered that affordable housing was in demand but acknowledged that viability was an issue addressed by national policy.

On being put to the vote it was, by a majority:

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2011/0827 the Development Management Manager be authorised to grant planning permission subject to:-

(a) the applicants/landowner entering into a Section 106 Agreement with the Local Planning Authority (terms to be agreed by the Development Management Service Delivery Manager) relating to

(i) Affordable housing, to include:

- Provisions ensuring that 17% of the dwellings to be built shall be affordable housing either in number or value (to allow for the inclusion of more expensive specialised affordable housing where required);
- Of the above 60% to be Rented Social Housing dwellings and the remaining 40% in Shared Ownership unless otherwise agreed with the Council;
- Provisions ensuring that the affordable housing is provided throughout the development and not left to the latter stages and also that the houses are delivered in small clusters;
- Inclusion of details to ensure lettings are prioritised to Newport area based residents;
- Receipts from the disposal of any Shared Ownership dwellings to be recycled and used for the provision of further affordable housing;

(ii) Highways works, to include:

- Off site highway infrastructure improvements - up to a maximum of £314,072;
- Public transport service enhancements – up to a maximum of £120,000;
- Public transport infrastructure (bus shelters) – up to a maximum of £10,000.

Timescale and triggers for the payment of the contributions to be agreed. Details of reviews will need to be agreed to take into account whether other permissions have been or are likely to be granted or implemented in Newport and if not to reassess whether the maximum figures stated can still be justified for this development.

- **Travel Plan monitoring - £5,000;**

(iii) Education infrastructure funds up to maximum of £529,878 provided the average number of bedrooms per dwelling across the development is under 3.35;

Timescale and triggers for the payment of the contributions to be agreed. Details of reviews will need to be agreed to take into account whether other permissions have been or are likely to be granted or implemented in Newport and if not to reassess whether the maximum figures stated can still be justified for this development.

(iv) The provision of Open Spaces, to include (if that option is exercised by the applicant) a transfer of the open space and recreation areas to the Council at a suitable time and with payment of a commuted sum for maintenance to be agreed. Or alternatively, provide for a residents management company to maintain those areas;

(v) Index linked financial contribution of £162,000 for the provision of a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play on land adjoining the application site as indicated on submitted drawings;

(vi) Provision of new allotment land of 0.22 hectares to be provided as an extension to the existing allotment site north of the application site and offered for transfer into the ownership of Newport Town Council;

(vii) The transfer of 1.6 hectares of privately owned land to Telford and Wrekin Council to be used for continued sports pitch provision as part of the enhanced Shukers Field playing fields area;

(viii) The transfer to Telford and Wrekin Council of land owned by the applicant to be developed as a new sports pitch for school and community use adjacent to the Burton Borough School as indicated in the Playing Pitch Assessment Report;

(ix) Improvements to Shuker's Fields Playing Fields & Facilities A maximum financial contribution of £225,000 towards improvements to Shuker's Fields. Any underspend to go towards off-site affordable housing; and

(ix) Provision of a Planning and Financial Monitoring contribution of £9,000.

(b) the planning conditions set out in the main report (with authority to finalise conditions and reasons for approval to be delegated to Development Management Service Delivery Manager).

(c) TWC/2014/0113 - Former British Sugar site, Allscott, Telford, Shropshire

This was a proposal seeking outline planning consent for a mixed use development at the former Sugar Beet Plant Allscott comprising up to 470 dwellings (Use Class C3), a primary school (Use Class D1), a commercial area (Use Class B1), clinic and health centres (Use Class D1), retail units (Use Class A1), financial and professional services (Use Class A2), restaurant and cafes and/or hot food takeaways (Use Classes A3 and A5) with associated allotments, sport and recreational facilities, open space, biodiversity enhancement and access. All other matters were reserved for future consideration.

Mr M Goldstraw, representing Wrockwardine Parish Council, spoke in opposition to the application on the grounds that sustainability had not been adequately demonstrated and pointed to issues with regard to CO₂ emissions, public transport, traffic movements, insufficient funding for schools and questioned the viability of the doctors' surgery, pharmacy and village shop. He also commented upon the quality of life in the rural area and the apparent extension of urban development.

Cllr L Stone, representing Withington Parish Council and Councillor John Everall of Tern Ward in Shropshire, spoke in opposition to the application in terms of the adverse effect of increased traffic together with negative social, economic and environmental factors such as social isolation, limited local employment opportunities and highways issues.

Cllr J M Seymour, Ward Member, welcomed development of a brownfield site, sport and recreation facilities and the protection of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). However, Cllr Seymour expressed objections in terms of development in the rural area, increased traffic generation, pressure on highways infrastructure, insufficient Traffic Management Plans, viability and the likelihood that following viability assessments the applicant would seek reduced contributions at the reserved matters stage.

Ms S Boardman spoke on behalf of local objectors who opposed the application on the grounds of sustainability, conflict with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), impact on the highway infrastructure, pedestrian safety, questionable road safety data, noise and viability.

Mr P Starling, Chairman of the Allscott Sports & Social Club spoke in favour of the application which he considered would positively transform the site and meet the growing demand for sports and recreational facilities for all age groups in the surrounding area. He welcomed the proposed traffic calming measures and the employment opportunities that would be created.

Mr A De Pol, the Applicant's Agent, spoke in support of the application, commenting upon the extensive consultation which had taken place, the wide range of benefits integral to the proposals, funding for traffic management schemes and improvements, support from the local community and lack of objections (subject to conditions) from statutory consultees. He noted that the proposals were for a

strategic site allocated in the emerging local plan and were compliant with the presumption in favour of sustainable development set out in the NPPF. Overall, he considered that the proposals represented a positive and sustainable reuse of a brownfield site.

Members were afforded time to read the lengthy update which had been tabled at the meeting. The Planning Officer reminded Members of the site visit which had taken place earlier that afternoon and to the comments of the Highways Engineer who had accompanied them. She advised that the proposals would redevelop a brownfield site and were compliant with the NPPF. The proposals would deliver improvements to the local transport infrastructure, a market for the business hub had been ascertained with the associated broadband element benefiting the whole site, the proposals would provide employment opportunities and support the construction industry, financial revenue through Council Tax and Business Revenues, health care and a primary education facility. The site was accessible and situated outside the SSSI which would also be buffered by an ecology park. Environmental concerns regarding CO₂ emissions and water consumption were addressed by the proposals which met the core principles of the NPPF. The Planning Officer drew attention to key points in the report relating to the sensitivity of the site, mitigation of access issues, highways implications and proposed Grampian conditions, improvement to public transport, proximity of the railway crossing, impact upon the bridleway, ecology assessments, noise mitigation, air quality, water, flooding and the impact upon heritage assets. She indicated that the Masterplan was acceptable, including design codes, density, the balance of facilities provided together with planning obligations, viability, sustainability and mitigation against any technical issues identified.

During the course of the ensuing debate, the majority of members were supportive of the proposals applauding development on brownfield land and accepted assurances by the Council's Highways Engineer. The contribution towards the construction industry and housing needs were noted and the primary school and allotments were welcomed. A key concern for some Members was the proximity of the level crossing to the proposed primary school and it was considered that further consideration of this issue together with consultation with Network Rail would be appropriate at the reserved matters stage. Further concerns were expressed regarding education funding and planning for secondary school places including potential school transport costs.

In response to questioning, the Planning Officer advised that safety data only included recorded incidents and noted that the Highways Engineer did not raise concerns regarding the pinch point at the railway bridge, she commented upon footpath provision and explained the Highways Engineer's comments that the larger roundabouts suggested by Members during the site visit would be land hungry and impact on viability. It was considered that the proposed pre-commencement conditions were appropriate to mitigate highway issues. She also commented on the consultation regarding the level crossing and elaborated upon the provision of the public bus service and the statutory duty of the Council to provide transport for secondary school children living further than 3 miles away from their nearest designated school.

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist also offered Members guidance regarding sustainability in relation to the NPPF, the nature of the settlement, prioritisation of brownfield land for development, employment generation, the briefing provided by the Highways Engineer, the possibility to continue discussions with Network Rail concerning safety measures at the level crossing and confirmed that the Council's education officers were satisfied that provision for school places could be made when appropriate.

On being put to the vote it was, by a majority:

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/0113 the application be referred to the National Planning Casework Unit on behalf of the Secretary of State under the Ministerial Statement of the October 2012 and subject to confirmation from the Secretary of State that he does not wish to call-in the application for determination the Development Management Manager be authorised to grant planning permission, subject to:-

- (a) the applicants/landowners entering into a Section 106 agreement with the Council (terms to be agreed by the Development Management Service Delivery Manager with that officer being authorised to impose planning conditions rather than Section 106 planning obligations to secure these matters should he consider it appropriate) that includes the provision of:
- i. £3,900,000 towards onsite provisions of primary education facilities in addition to the transfer of land to the Council of no less than 1ha.
 - ii. £500,000 towards Public transport improvements, including secondary education transportation
 - iii. £137,100 towards a traffic signal junction improvement scheme at the B5061 Roman Road/Holyhead Road Junction.
 - iv. £99,920 towards a roundabout junction improvement scheme at A442/A5223/B5063 Shawbirch Roundabout.
 - v. £25,000 towards Public Rights of Way Improvements in the vicinity of the site.
 - vi. £10,000 for improved signage at Allscott Level Crossing
 - vii. £5,000 towards Travel Plan monitoring and support
 - viii. £5,000 towards Air Quality monitoring
 - ix. £20,000 towards planning and financial monitoring of planning conditions and section 106.
 - x. 10% affordable housing
 - xi. Onsite NEAP facilities (with terms to cover the possibility of transfer to and adoption by the Council if required)
 - xii. Public open space / SuDS / Ecology park (with terms to cover the possibility of transfer to and adoption by the Council if required) where identified by applicant in accordance with the Councils Schedule of Rates
 - xiii. The ecology park
 - xiv. The Sports facilities and pitches including a community use agreement

- xv. **The allotments (with terms to cover the possibility of transfer to and adoption by the Council if required)**
- xvi. **High speed broadband**
- xvii. **A healthcare facility**

(b) the conditions detailed in the update report with authority to amend or impose additional planning conditions to be delegated to the Development Management Service Delivery Manager.

(d) TWC/2014/0271 - Land adjacent 9 Hillside, Lilleshall, Newport, Shropshire

This outline application, for the erection of 2 detached dwellings and detached garages with all matters reserved, had been deferred at the meeting of the Planning Committee on 2 July 2014 to enable Members to undertake a site visit. An update report was tabled at the meeting which set out additional consultation responses received.

The Planning Officer reminded Members of the site visit which had taken place earlier that afternoon and suggested that due to the proximity of the village school, if Members were minded to grant the application, consideration should be given to hours of construction to limit HGV movement at sensitive hours.

Cllr A Baker, representing the Parish Council spoke to oppose the application in terms of the nature of the narrow single track road, pedestrian safety, safe routes to school, and the erroneous photographs displayed.

Cllr A J Eade, Ward Member also spoke to oppose the application on the grounds of the planning history, sustainability, lack of mitigation available for highways concerns, and being in contravention of planning policy. He also commented on the impact on Lilleshall Hill as a tourist attraction.

Mrs E Attwood, the Applicant's Agent, spoke in support of the application noting that the introduction of the NPPF represented a significant change to policy since the previous refusal and noted similar development which had been permitted in the vicinity without objection. She commented on access, highways, visual amenity, design, accessibility, sustainability, parking, form and pattern of development in the area, and policy requirements.

Members noted that since the previous planning application had been refused, the only significant change was to national policy but had some sympathy regarding access and traffic issues, particularly with regard to the safe route to school. Members also noted recent development in the vicinity and that boundary issues had been clarified. Members accepted the Planning Officer's assurances that any breach of hours of operation set out in the Site Environmental Monitoring Plan would be subject to enforcement. The majority of Members therefore considered the application to be acceptable.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/0271 planning permission be granted subject to the conditions as set out in the

update report and further subject to a condition limiting hours of delivery around the village school opening and closing times.

- (e) TWC/2014/0333 - Land corner of Stafford Road/A41, Newport, Shropshire

This was a full application for the erection of 219 residential units, comprising 111 houses and 108 units for the erection of continuing care retirement accommodation together with associated infrastructure and formation of new access onto Stafford Road. An update report was tabled at the meeting setting out additional information received since the publication of the main report.

Mr G Mann, the Applicant's Agent, spoke in support of the application in terms of sustainability, viability, national planning policy and the applicant's commitment to pre-commencement infrastructure works.

In response to questions raised by Members, the Planning Officer stated that satisfactory amendments had been made to the proposals following comments received from Urban Design and that the parking courts were generally associated with the care home. The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist also advised Members with regard to a perceived trend for developers to seek to modify the terms of Section 106 Agreements to reduce affordable housing figures and developers' right to challenge obligations which were considered onerous.

Upon being put to the vote, it was by a majority:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/0333 the Development Management Service Delivery Manager be authorised to grant planning permission subject to the applicants/landowners entering into a Section 106 Agreement to provide 16% affordable housing; £55,855.72 towards offsite highway infrastructure works; £15,000 towards bus stop improvements in the vicinity of the site; £20,000 towards tactile crossings in the vicinity of the site; £5,000 towards relocation of a flower bed; £294,747 towards primary and secondary education provision; £600 per dwelling towards offsite play and recreation in the vicinity of the site(excluding the extra care unit); £5,000 towards Travel Plan monitoring; £5,000 for Traffic Regulation Order; any trees shown within the limits of the adopted highway will attract a commuted maintenance sum of £350 per tree; the clauses in the previous care village s106 such as care provision, age restriction, leases, tenancies, provision of mini bus and pool car for care home residents etc. need to be carried forward into this s106; and s106 monitoring costs of £12,860 and further subject to the conditions set out in the update report (with authority to finalise conditions and reasons for approval to be delegated to Development Management Service Delivery Manager).

- (f) TWC/2014/0335 - Metal & Waste Recycling Ltd, The Old Smithy, Lightmoor Road, Lightmoor, Telford, Shropshire, TF4 3QN

This application sought detailed permission for the erection of a new building for aluminium storage and associated water tank for dust suppression, additional

acoustic barriers and removal of a mobile phone mast. Councillors F M Bould and C P R Mollett, Ward Members, had requested that the application be determined by the Planning Committee. An update report was tabled which set out an additional request from the applicant's agent to slightly amend the suggested maximum noise level condition from Environmental Health.

Mr C Dent, the Applicant's Agent, spoke in support of the application noting that the application did not represent an increase in activity but greater efficiency in the separation of aluminium and ferrous material streams. He commented on noise reduction measures and noted that the proposals represented an opportunity for improvement at the site which was home to a world leader in metal recycling.

The Planning Officer noted that objections to the application centred on intensification, but that the applicant had confirmed that throughput would continue to be limited to approximately 50,000 tonnes and that this would be subject to condition. Enforcement would be by the Environment Agency and Council Enforcement Officers. Noise would be alleviated by sound barriers and there was no impact on visual amenity. In response to questioning, the Planning Officer confirmed that hours of operation were unchanged by the application and expanded upon means of enforcement.

Upon being put to the vote, it was unanimously:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/0335 the Development Management Service Delivery Manager be authorised to grant planning permission subject to the conditions set out in the update report (with authority to finalise conditions and reasons for approval to be delegated to Development Management Service Delivery Manager).

(g) TWC/2014/0366 - 3 Cherry Tree Hill, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire, TF8 7EQ

(In accordance with his declaration of interest Councillor C R Turley left the room during determination of this application).

This was a retrospective application for the installation of roof mounted solar panels. Councillor D G Davies, Ward Member, had requested that the application be determined by the Planning Committee. An update report was tabled at the meeting setting out additional information received since the publication of the main report.

Cllr Bragg, representing the Gorge Parish Council spoke to oppose the application which was considered a breach of the Article 4 Direction and threatened the status of the World Heritage Site. The Parish Council was supportive of renewable energies but considered that the solar panels negatively impacted upon the visual aspect of a harmonious roofscape and the geography and aspect of the Gorge.

Cllr D G Davies, Ward Member, spoke in support of the application noting that the applicant had been incorrectly advised by the Planning Team and that the Article 4 Direction was vaguely worded and ambiguous. Cllr Davies was a strong supporter of heritage conservation but also recognised a need to sympathetically move with

the times. He did not feel that the solar panels were inappropriate at this particular site and would not set a precedent as any further applications would be dealt with on their merits.

Mr R Petty, Applicant, also spoke to support the application. He noted the heritage and cultural importance of the Gorge and pointed to the sympathetic renovation of his property and his sensitive choice of solar panels and their limited visibility. He noted the incorrect advice he had received and disputed that the solar panels were located on the principle elevation of the property since they fronted on to the railway. He also did not consider that a precedent would be set if Members were minded to grant planning permission in this case.

The Planning Officer referred to the designation of the World Heritage Site and conflict with the Article 4 Direction. She advised that the application had to be considered in terms of the effect on the character of this part of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site and the character of a locally listed building when considered against the justified sustainable credentials of a renewable energy proposal. She referred to the site visit which had taken place earlier that day and pointed to the effect on the roofscape on the principle frontage of the property. She also considered that the applicant had not demonstrated that he had considered alternative sites or other free standing or less obtrusive structures such as those viewed at a nearby location as part of the site visit. She was, therefore, of the opinion that the location and type of panels were not adequately justified or in accordance with the NPPF.

Members expressed concern that the applicant had apparently been incorrectly advised regarding the installation and the Legal Advisor reminded Members that what advice was or was not given to the applicant was not a material planning consideration.

Members were generally supportive of renewable energy generation. Some Members felt that the adverse impact on the World Heritage Site outweighed the benefits of renewable energy provision whilst others recognised a need for sympathetic modern technological advances. Members held similarly conflicting views on whether the application was precedent setting in nature. Careful consideration was also given to whether the solar panels were obtrusive in this specific location.

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist advised that the need for renewable energy did not automatically override environmental protections and that Members should take great care to ensure that the World Heritage Site was conserved in a manner appropriate to its significance and cultural importance. He noted that the property was in close proximity to the Museum of Iron, arguably at the heart of the Gorge, and that it was important not to undermine the principles of the World Heritage designation by piecemeal erosion which could eventually risk its status. He urged Members to consider whether they would expect to see such installations at other comparable iconic heritage asset sites before making a decision which could irrevocably damage the quality of the site for generations to come.

The recommendation of refusal was proposed and seconded but, on being put to the vote, it was defeated. Subsequently a recommendation to grant planning permission was made and seconded from the floor. Following a vote it was by a majority:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/0366 planning permission be granted.

The meeting ended at 8.51pm

Chairman:

Date:

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday, 13 August 2014 at 6.00pm in the Telford Suite at Shropshire College Hotel School Ltd (The Telford Whitehouse), Watling Street, Wellington, Telford TF1 2NJ

PRESENT: Councillors J C Minor (Chairman), N A Dugmore, I T W Fletcher, K R Guy, A S Jhawar, J Loveridge, A A Meredith (as substitute for E J Greenaway), L A Murray and C R Turley.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor S P Burrell (for planning application TWC/2014/0230)

PC-019 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 23 July 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

PC-020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor E J Greenaway.

PC-021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PC-022 DEFERRED/WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

None.

PC-023 SITE VISITS

RESOLVED – that a site visit takes place at 4.00pm on 3 September 2014 at Littlehales Manor Farm, Lilleshall, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 9AN in respect of planning application TWC/2014/0348.

PC-024 PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR DETERMINATION

Members had received a schedule of planning applications to be determined by the Committee and fully considered each report and the supplementary information tabled at the meeting regarding planning applications TWC/2014/0230 and TWC/2014/0419.

- (a) TWC/2014/0115 - Land between Beech Hill & Blue House Barns, Chetwynd Road, Newport, Shropshire

This was an outline application for the erection of up to 19 dwellings, formation of a new vehicular access and drainage infrastructure works with all other matters reserved. The Planning Officer highlighted the elements of the report regarding the

presumption in favour of sustainable development set out in the National Planning Policy in the absence of a five year deliverable housing land supply, improvement to highways as part of the wider expansion of Newport, ecological impact with regard to loss of trees and the Aqualate Mere, accommodation of the proposals in the supplied indicative layout and proposed planning obligations.

Some Members expressed concerns regarding the loss of trees and the proposed access. The Planning Officer advised that the Council's Arboricultural Officer had been consulted and the applicant was aware of the need to mitigate against the loss of trees. The Council's Highways Engineer considered that the access provisions were acceptable.

Councillor A A Meredith proposed, seconded by Councillor N A Dugmore, that Members undertake a site visit but, on being put to the vote, this was not agreed. The recommendation printed in the agenda papers was then proposed and seconded and, on being put to the vote, it was by a majority:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/0115 the Development Management Service Delivery Manager be authorised to grant planning permission subject to:-

- (a) the applicants/landowners entering into a Section 106 Agreement (with authority to finalise terms to be delegated to the Development Management Service Delivery Manager) relating to:
 - (i) Provision of affordable housing constituting 35% of total number of units;
 - (ii) A contribution of £3666 per 2 bed unit (and above) towards primary and secondary education provision, (totalling £32,995 based on 14 units, with a deduction for the affordable units);
 - (iii) A contribution of £600 per 2 bed unit (and above) towards offsite play and recreation (totalling £8400 based on 14 units);
 - (iv) Planning monitoring contribution of 5% of total sum (£2069.75).
- (b) the conditions set out in the report (with authority to finalise conditions and reasons for approval to be delegated to Development Management Service Delivery Manager).
- (b) TWC/2014/0230 - Land at Back Lane/Plantation Road, Tibberton, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NX

(Councillor K R Guy commented that he had not attended the site visit or been involved in the previous debate on 2 July 2014 and he felt in these particular circumstances he could not take part in the debate or vote on this application.)

This was an outline application for residential development on an existing site at the junction of Back Lane and Plantation Road. Determination of this application was deferred by Members at Planning Committee on 2 July 2014 for clarity in relation to:-

- Location of development

- Impact on the natural environment
- School place provision
- Drainage to be fully articulated
- Design & Access Statement to be updated to include density and numbers of units

The applicant had now provided this further information which was fully detailed in the report presented to Members. Further consultation responses were detailed in an update report tabled at the meeting.

Councillor E Ashcroft, representing Tibberton and Cherrington Parish Council spoke to oppose proposal. Reminding Members of the site visit which took place on 2 July 2014, Councillor Ashcroft raised concerns regarding the suitability of narrow lanes to cope with the increased traffic generated by the proposed development and commented that he understood the Committee had previously requested information regarding traffic movement in and around the village but it appeared this had not been provided. He also raised concerns regarding sustainability and drainage, particularly focussed on ground conditions, sewerage treatment and the proposed soakaway for storm water.

Councillor S P Burrell, Ward Member for Edgmond, also spoke in opposition to the proposals, which he believed were unsustainable in terms of the relative detachment of the village from other parts of the borough, limited local services or employment opportunities, highways, poor access to telecommunications, known substantial drainage issues and the capacity of local primary and secondary schools.

Mrs J Berry spoke on behalf of the local residents who objected to the proposals, which she believed were contrary to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework in terms of development on greenfield land when brownfield land remained available and environmental issues in terms of the negative impact on flora and fauna.

Mr M Parrish, the Applicant's Agent, addressed the Committee in support of the proposals noting that all information requested by Members on 2 July 2014 had been provided, that there were no objections, subject to conditions, from statutory consultees. He also pointed out that the minutiae of the development would be agreed at reserved matters stage and that all remedial works would be undertaken as requested by the Council's Ecologist.

The Planning Officer advised Members that the principle issues for their consideration were the sustainability of the size of the development in the rural areas and the presumption in favour of sustainable development at the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework in the absence of a deliverable five year housing supply. To inform the question of sustainability, she highlighted aspects of the report in relation to drainage, education, layout and density, highways and ecology.

During the course of the debate, some Members expressed lingering concerns regarding sustainability in terms of local education capacity, highways and access, infrastructure, drainage, and calculation of the lack of the five year deliverable

housing land supply. Conversely, other Members considered that proposed conditions would adequately mitigate against concerns and welcomed the reduction in proposed units from 34 to 25 with 40% affordable housing.

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist reminded Members that the Highways Engineer and Severn Trent Water were satisfied that the proposals could be supported subject to conditions. He advised that the NPPF encouraged building on brownfield sites but did not insist upon it and noted numerous cases nationally where Government had permitted development to take place on greenfield land in order to ensure housing supply. The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist reminded Members of the presumption in favour of sustainable development set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, and noted that local housing supply figures were set by the Regional Spatial Strategy which was written when the economy was stronger and it was unfortunate that although building was now increasing, it was not taking place at a sufficient rate. He also drew attention to aspects of the report detailing the expenditure of proposed S106 financial contributions for education and ecology.

Members raised further queries regarding visibility splays, with which the Planning Officer confirmed the Highways Engineer was satisfied. Members noted that that this was an outline application and sought reassurances that any future reserved matters applications for the site would be presented to the Committee for determination. On being put to the vote, it was by a majority:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/0230 the Development Management Service Delivery Manager be authorised to grant planning permission subject to:-

- (a) the applicants/landowners entering into a Section 106 Agreement (with authority to finalise terms to be delegated to the Development Management Service Delivery Manager) relating to:
 - (i) Provision of affordable housing constituting 40% of total number of units;
 - (ii) A contribution of £700 per unit, of which £200 per dwelling towards improvements of the Public Right of Way and £500 per dwelling towards a Traffic and Speed Management Scheme on the B5062;
 - (iii) A contribution of £4083.47 per 2 bed unit (and above) towards primary and secondary education provision and transport costs;
 - (iv) A contribution of £600 per 2 bed unit (and above) towards offsite play and recreation and a commuted sum towards maintenance (to be agreed);
 - (v) Planning monitoring contribution of 5% of total sum.
- (b) the conditions set out in the report (with authority to finalise conditions and reasons for approval to be delegated to Development Management Service Delivery Manager); and

(c) any future reserved matters application to be presented to the Planning Committee for determination.

(c) TWC/2014/0419 - New Lawley Primary School, Off Martingale Way, Lawley, Telford, Shropshire

This was a Council reserved matters application pursuant to outline planning application TWC/2010/0828 for the erection of a primary school with playing field and community facilities and associated works. Full details of the proposal and related planning history in connection with the Lawley Sustainable Urban Extension (Lawley SUE) was comprehensively set out in the report. Issues relating to highways, the Parish Council and ecology had emerged following publication of the main report and these were thoroughly addressed in an update report tabled at the meeting. Lawley & Overdale Parish Council had requested that the application be determined by the Planning Committee.

Cllr A Hussey, representing Lawley & Overdale Parish Council, spoke in objection to the proposals on the grounds of the safety of the proposed access and egress, insufficient parking and inadequate community resources. The Parish Council suggested that the internal layout of the proposed building could be re-configured to make better community provision.

Mr D Middlemiss, the Project Manager for the proposals, spoke in support of the application in terms of design and education.

The Planning Officer commented on the planning history of the Lawley SUE and the associated commitment to build a new school, particularly noting the desire for the construction of the school as a landmark building and the adopted key design codes which had governed the architect's design scheme. The initial consent also set out the requirements for the highways which meant that it was not possible to address the Parish Council's request for the access/egress to the school to be a one-way system through this planning application. Similarly, bespoke facilities for the Parish Council could not be insisted upon as the historical documents did not suggest this would be provided. She also highlighted the content of the update report tabled at the meeting which resolved issues regarding landscaping and ecology.

All Members heartily welcomed the provision of a new school. However, some Members raised deep concern regarding existing traffic problems in the vicinity which it was considered would be exacerbated by the proposed access/egress to the school and were supportive of a one way system taking traffic away from West Centre Way. Some Members also remarked upon the limited parking provision and suggested moving the proposed location of the car park. Whilst Members supported the sustainable ideology of the Lawley SUE, some members felt that it was too simplistic to attempt to influence culture-change by designing-out provision for personal vehicle use. A number of Members, therefore, asserted the opinion that there was a need for the scheme to be revisited as it was now almost 10 years old and its provisions could be informed by experience.

Members noted the Parish Council's disappointment that there was no bespoke provision for them in the application but noted the proposed Sponsor's assurances to

facilitate community use and pointed to the successful experience of Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council at Lakeside Academy.

In response to comments regarding the suitability of the design of the Lawley SUE, the Planning Officer stated that whilst the practicalities expressed by Members were understood, the outline planning permission set out the guiding principles for the scheme and Members' wider concerns regarding highways were not subject of this planning application. The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist also sought to further clarify the position, explaining that the access road was part of the network in the wider development which had been approved and confirmed at the outline stage and, since it did not form part of this reserved matters application for a primary school, there was no scope to change the nature of the road without the payment of compensation. Substantial investment had gone into the highway network and the design codes had been approved by the Homes and Communities Agency as landowner. It was, therefore not viable to make the changes sought by Members at this stage. The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist also commented on central government's changes to the delivery of education and the importance of delivering primary education in the locality.

The matter having been robustly debated and all the information presented carefully considered, on being put to the vote it was by a majority:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/0419 planning permission be granted subject to the conditions as set out in the main report and additional conditions relating to Highways and Ecology as set out in the update report tabled at the meeting (with authority to finalise conditions and reasons for approval to be delegated to Development Management Service Delivery Manager).

The meeting ended at 7.27pm.

Chairman:

Date:

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on Friday, 16th May 2014 at 1.30pm in Meeting Room 7, Darby House, Telford

PRESENT: Cllrs. D. White (Chair), M. Ion, A. McClements, S. Reynolds, C. Turley

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr. R. Overton, Deputy Leader with responsibility for Public Health & Public Protection and Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board; Cllr. K. Austin, representative on the Police & Crime Panel; L. Noakes, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing; C. Jones, Assistant Director Family & Cohesion Services; J. Bedesha, Cohesion Manager; F. Bottrill, Scrutiny Group Specialist; S. Jones, Scrutiny Officer.

SMB-22 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on the 14th March 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

SMB-23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. S. Bentley, V. Fletcher, R. Evans

SMB-24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

SMB-25 HOLDING THE EXECUTIVE TO ACCOUNT

The Chair welcomed Cllr. Overton to the meeting in his capacity as Deputy Leader with Cabinet responsibility for Public Health and Public Protection, and as Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board. The Chair invited him to summarise for the Board what he felt were the key challenges in his areas of responsibility, highlighting any areas where scrutiny could add value.

Cllr. Overton made the following remarks:

- His Cabinet responsibilities included amongst other things health and wellbeing, public health, environmental health, land stability in the Gorge, trading standards, health and safety, licensing, drainage and flood management.
- He was also Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board. The Board had been meeting formally for over 12 months and received all reports relating to delivery of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy. The Better Care Fund had

been signed-off and was a positive step forward. There had been development sessions and it had been agreed that the Board would hold fewer meetings and refocus its role on strategic issues to drive forward integration and transformation. The structure of the partnership boards – Community Safety, Children & Young People, Better Care Programme Management – had been reviewed and a new Living Well Board would take on the public health agenda and feed into the Board. The Commissioning & Transformation Board sat across all the partnership boards and was currently mapping money spent on services across the borough (the Telford £). Key issues were to look at the implications of the Care Bill on local priorities which scrutiny may also want to look at. They needed to know what difference the Board was making to people’s lives and Cllr. Overton thought the Board was doing well.

- In terms of Public Protection priorities being a “business winning, business supporting” Council, work had been done with food businesses on inspections of hygiene standards for new outlets in Southwater, trading standards were looking at licences for scrap dealers and had been active in seizing counterfeit goods. A big challenge was the need to make savings and the restructure in Public Protection had helped to make savings. Licensing was a key area and taxi licensing was a key issue in this area. A lot of taxis were licensed by Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin did not have a right of inspection or collect fees for enforcement over these taxis. The Council received a lot of complaints about them but could not do anything except refer complaints to Shropshire. Shropshire had reduced staffing levels and took the fees but did not seem to do much enforcement.
- Responsibility for Public Health had transferred from the NHS to the Council 12 months ago. The grant was being used to commission new services and to fund wider Council services such as the Telford Loyalty Card and Community Pride Fund which met the “Five Ways to Wellbeing”. The Community Trust is the provider organisation for smoking cessation and maternity and sexual health services - there had been some challenges with the sexual health service which were being worked through with the provider. Cllr. Overton said everyone was affected by health issues at some time in their life and it was good that public health had come over to the Council.

There was then discussion and questions on a number of points:

- The Chair said the public health grant provided an opportunity to look at joint working across Council services and with other organisations, but he said that with money comes pressure and obligation: he asked if Cllr. Overton thought the Council was going to do things properly and well enough. Cllr. Overton said there was a separate grant for public health and it was about commissioning and monitoring. The public health grant needed to deliver 5 outcomes in addition to other commissioned services and would be monitored so that if targets were not being met they could be addressed. He said it was about delivering outcomes by working through other Council services. The Public Health team had moved into the Council and settled in well and a post had been funded in PR to get public health messages out to the public. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Cllr. Arnold

England, had supported this. The Drug and Alcohol Strategy had come to the Health & Wellbeing Board and Cabinet after being asked for by scrutiny for a long time and they would need to ensure this was working well.

- Cllr. McClements asked what the public health outcomes were. The AD Health & Wellbeing explained that these were the 5 ways to wellbeing they had become widely accepted as key messages of what people needed to do in everyday life to enjoy a healthy life, healthy relationships etc. The five messages were: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and , Give. These outcomes are about wellbeing so cover learning and work and being better connected with communities. Cllr. Ion said they echoed Every Child Matters and the AD said they were similar. The AD for Health and Wellbeing said the 5 ways to wellbeing message was also similar to the 5 a day message. Cllr. Overton said that initiatives funded through the public health grant – e.g. the Community Pride Fund - needed to deliver against the Ways to Wellbeing messages but also needed to deliver on health outcomes.
- The Chair raised the issue of childhood obesity and said he was concerned that funding had been cut for teaching parents to cook lean and tasty meals with their children which he said had been very successful. The AD Health & Wellbeing said that the funding had not been cut but there had been a change of tack - health trainers worked with parents and families in a more holistic way, there was a Cooking Bus which incorporated cooking and budgeting skills, child weight reduction services had been brought back in-house under the Family, Cohesion & Commissioning Service and were delivered in the children's centres - all of this meant they could think more broadly than one individual programme. The Chair said it would be interesting to see how this would go. Cllr. Overton said significant progress had been made with children aged 4-5. The Chair said it was important that messages get back into households because some children learn about healthy eating at school but are fed unhealthy food when they get home. Cllr. McClements said she had heard a similar concern from a primary school teacher.
- The Chair asked how Cllr. Overton was making connections with partners on the Health & Wellbeing Board and whether he felt they were listening - there were huge changes ahead and pressure on budgets which would make it difficult to come together as a Board. Cllr. Overton said there were a number of partners on the Board – the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS England, HealthWatch – and on the partnership boards. The Community Safety Partnership would become better integrated and the Better Care Fund Board was all about closer integration and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care was involved with the Better Care Board. He felt there was a close relationship with the CCG but they had disagreed at the Health & Wellbeing Board about Future Fit because the Council could not endorse one major trauma unit. He said the CCG understood the Council's position and we had to work with them as commissioners. There had been an issue with some lost funding from the hospital trust and Cllr. Overton said hospital services needed to be protected so they were not downgraded or taken over by another trust or CCG.

- Cllr. Ion said he understood the strategic view but the myriad of structures was confusing and he wanted to know if activities could be broken down by ward. Cllr. Overton agreed it was complicated - for example with the CCG and NHS England both commissioning services - but some information was broken down by ward. The overriding priority was to get people into work so they could afford to make better choices about healthy lifestyles.
- Cllr. Ion asked how the progress in reducing obesity in 4-5 year olds referred to by Cllr. Overton was measured and whether it was based on take-up or outcomes. The AD Health & Wellbeing said child weight management was part of school health surveillance and children were measured by the school nurse in reception and again in the last year of primary school to monitor the outcomes so data goes down to a very local level. Cllr. Ion said a lot of public money seemed to be spent on monitoring and he wanted to know how we know what is working. He asked if there was information on the outcomes by ward? The AD Health & Wellbeing said child weight management had been brought back in-house under the Family, Cohesion & Commissioning service and was delivered from the children's centres. It worked by working with parents in the centres and monitoring individual children. She did not have information of the outcomes at an area level available at the meeting. The AD Family, Cohesion & Commissioning Services said that the service had only just been brought in-house and it was too early to report outcomes. The Chair remarked that money was a key issue and children living in poverty were more likely to have poor food. Cllr. Ion said they should not be spending money monitoring what other organisations were doing but should develop systems to monitor our own services. The AD Family, Cohesion & Commissioning Services said this was happening but the child weight management service had only been back in-house for 2-3 weeks and they had historic data but it was too early to say how it was working. The AD Health & Wellbeing said that smoking cessation is benchmarked and monitored on an individual level.
- Cllr. McClements asked about the role of elected members and how they could help get the message out in their wards. Cllr. Overton said members could all help with health promotion if they wanted to and there were lots of opportunities for them to promote such as the Telford Loyalty Card which provides discounted access to leisure and fitness facilities and a lot of activities in different wards such as football, job clubs etc. The Job Junctions were working well and were part of being a business winning Council.
- Cllr. Ion said that the Children & Families Population Profile which had come to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee was good but primary head teachers had not been aware of it and had thought they would find it useful. He suggested the profile should be expanded to include ward data including the impact of programmes which would inform local services and be shared with ward members. The AD Family, Cohesion & Commissioning Services said data in the profile was broken down to family centre areas and some measures were broken down by ward to inform services for example pages 7 and 8 of the Draft Domestic Abuse Plan showed incidents of reported domestic abuse by ward. Cllr Overton said public health outcomes were collected for the borough and could be provided to the Board.

- The Chair asked about the cost of enforcement for clamping down on people selling counterfeit goods and whether there were enough enforcement officers on the streets at weekends to make a difference. Cllr. Overton said they needed to take dangerous and harmful goods like cigarettes and alcohol off the street but it was not possible to do everything when budgets were being cut and they had to make difficult choices – do you fund a care package or enforcement? The Council needed to support businesses and they rely on the Council to enforce. Clothes businesses could help fund enforcement.
- The Chair asked Cllr. Overton what his top three areas of concern were. Cllr. Overton responded that:

The Gorge - was a concern as the potential cost of stabilising the land and ensuring the bridge is not damaged any further is potentially immense.

Health Economy – the Council is working with the CCG through the Better Care Fund and through discussions about the future of hospital services as part of Future Fit. Change could be difficult as nobody likes change. The options for the future of hospital services would be published in the Autumn and the consultation would be carried out after the elections in May 2015. It was highlighted that additional funding for this work has not been agreed and the question was asked ‘where would it come from?’ The Chair commented that there needed to be a joined up vision setting out the future of the local health system so that the argument can be made for further investment. This also involved the services provided by the Community Trust. The Community health services in Telford were essential especially as Telford does not have community hospitals. Cllr. Overton said it would be nice to have one voice but said that distance was an issue that would always divide and that Powys should address the health service issues for their patients. The Chair added that if services are lost from Telford some patients may choose to travel further east to Wolverhampton. Cllr. Overton said that Health Scrutiny was doing a good job.

Commissioning - Cllr. Overton said that commissioning was another area of concern if budgets are cut and cut eventually services will be lost. The Chair said that was why it was important to develop community and voluntary groups because we will not be able to do everything and the NHS must be part of it. Cllr. Overton said that volunteers were important. Social isolation can lead to problems and the buddy scheme run by the RVS or the Red Cross was good because vulnerable people are visited at home. He said the volunteers were doing a good job and were stopping people going down hill. The volunteers needed to be vigilant to pick up problems and refer them to the right council service – to fix a blocked drain for example – so that every contact counts. The Chair agreed the buddy system was excellent and it worked two ways by providing companionship and also saving money. He said it needed careful handling but it worked and the scheme should be developed further.

When there were no further questions the Chair thanked Cllr. Overton for attending and he left the meeting with the AD Health & Wellbeing.

The Scrutiny Group Specialist said all Cabinet members had attended a Holding to Account session as part of the 2012-2014 work programme and the Board should now consider whether they wished to continue the sessions in the next work programme. The Chair said the sessions should continue but as there were not enough meetings in the year to call all Cabinet members back, they would need to be selective. He suggested the Cabinet member for Adult Social Care should attend a meeting because adult care was a priority for scrutiny. He deferred further discussion until the informal meeting of the Board on 5th June.

SMB-26 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

The Chair welcomed the Cohesion Manager to the meeting and invited him to present the update reports circulated as Appendix B.

The Cohesion Manager presented reports on three linked aspects of community safety:

a) Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) funding

Grants had been submitted to the PCC to the value of £274k to support community safety projects. Appendix B1 set out the list of grant applications. Official confirmation of grant awards was awaited. The £20k bid for CCTV funding was backed by evidence of spikes in crime. The Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service had been brought back in-house and the bid for £63k would support 2 additional IDVA posts to enhance the service and for the PCC to use as a base of good practice. On the back of Clare's Law and being a White Ribbon town there was a bid for £8k to raise awareness, especially of young women, of sexual and domestic abuse issues and to support the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board CATE sub-group on raising awareness around behaviour triggers. Child sexual exploitation was still an issue although in Telford the numbers were small. It was explained that the commissioning criteria ensured that these services did not substitute council services but reduced crime and managed risk around offending.

There was a £15k application for floating support for IOM (Integrated Offender Management). There was then discussion and questions on a number of points:

- The Chair asked how do we know if this is making a difference? The Cohesion Manager responded that the work has been aligned to the PCC Plan. We have been awarded £15K to work with other authorities to analyse information and we are working with performance and planning to identify trends and target resources.
- Cllr. Ion asked if he wanted to find out about the crime figures and projects in his ward how would he do this. The Cohesion Manager replied that some work is funded by Town and Parish Council's. Unless you ask the question it is difficult to know what is going on, reassurance is the key issue

- Cllr. McClements asked if the problem with domestic abuse was that it is underground and people were not coming forward. The Manager said that people may know help is there but that does not prevent the behaviour happening in the first place. Cllr. Ion said that £8k to raise awareness of Domestic Violence did not seem much and asked if we could join up this with the funding for with the advocacy services for people going through the courts. He said he sat in court and that in some cases the victims are on their own. He said that the advocacy scheme is admirable. The Cohesion Manager said they were already joined up, and there was only a small pot of funding so they could not bid for much – the idea was to train the trainer to maximise value and to reduce the number of victims coming through.
- The Chair asked how the risks of re-offending were managed because he had received a lot of complaints from people in Sutton Hill concerned that sex offenders were located there from prison and that the number of HMOs was making the problem worse. The Cohesion Manager said there was an independent multi-agency steering group which should carry out risk assessments of people being released from prison. If a person is released on-license the police are aware of where they are and support can be built around them. The problem arises if the offender is released off-license because the police may not know where they are and support is not built around them. Around 4-5 offenders are released from prison back to Telford every month. If they are on a low income they need a cheap place to live and Sutton Hill has cheaper places than other areas. The benefit system also influences the size of property that people rent. The risk is that they fall into debt and then re-offend. The Chair said that poverty was a big factor in reoffending. The Cohesion Manager said they were trying to address issues through the commissioning process for example the substance misuse bond for people who have gone through rehabilitation to help them resettle back in the community or to move them on from a HMO to alternative accommodation with a small support package. There are a lot of strands of work – choice based lettings, bonds, the single assessment tool – which need to be brought together to help manage behaviour.
- The Chair asked whether they had seen people who could not afford to live in the south moving into the borough. The Cohesion Manager said they were analysing the impact of the bedroom tax. It was reported that there was a delayed impact – people who thought they could manage on a reduced budget are now struggling. There were people presenting who could not afford the shortfall in housing benefit which had increased the demand for one and two bedroom properties of which there was a shortage. Landlords had responded by developing HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupation) which could put greater pressure back on the authority – for example on the environmental health team – at a time when there were fewer resources. There was also a crime prevention fund which supported a number of projects such as neighbourhood cohesion, support for victims at home and improving security to make houses safe from domestic burglary. They needed to be creative in working with people in local communities and welcomed people coming forward with ideas. The drug and alcohol board were looking at the integration of drug intervention services as part of tier 1 and 2 prevention services.

b) Domestic Abuse Plan

The Draft Domestic Abuse Plan circulated as Appendix B2 was currently out for consultation with partners. This strategy fits with the West Midlands strategy.

There were three key strands to the Plan:

- Prevention
- Provision
- Protection

The local authority has a statutory responsibility to review domestic abuse and the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership Board decides if a review needs to be undertaken. The Plan would be signed off by the Board on 15th June and then go to the Home Office. The Plan looks at wider support and links into Think Family to look at support across the board.

There was then discussion and questions on a number of points:

- Cllr. Ion asked for clarification on Reported Domestic Abuse table on page 7 of the draft plan. The Manager said the information was provided by the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) and showed the number of reported incidents (not prosecutions) which the police had attended by SNT area.
- The Chair said he had some issues with victim support relating to an individual case which he would raise after the meeting. The Manager said that the referral process in Telford had been tightened up and anyone could raise an issue through Family Connect. There had been an increasing number of calls from members of the public reporting noisy arguments next door, or crimes they have witnessed, or to make allegations. Staff carry out a risk assessment and go out to investigate. A Pathway has been developed for the referral process. It is essential that the staff, the person reporting or the reported victim are not put at risk.
- Cllr. Ion wanted to know who matches up reports from members of the public to Family Connect with reports to the police of domestic abuse incidents because they could be different. The Cohesion Manager said there was funding to bring the systems together.
- Cllr. Ion wanted to know how Family Connect linked to the police. If Council staff are doing a risk assessment and visiting a house to gather evidence, making calls and following up – what is the trigger for involving the police? The Assistant Director: Family Cohesion & Commissioning said if a call raised a significant issue, for example child protection issues there would be a strategy meeting involving the police and he assured members that the police were always involved if there were any concerns. The Cohesion Manager said the funding application for awareness raising was about encouraging victims to come forward themselves and the idea was to support the victim. Cllr. Ion said these were judgement calls and he would be concerned about reputational damage to the authority if they did not respond. The Manager said the social workers assess the level of risk and if there are any concerns they trigger action with the police.
- Cllr. McClements asked about Clare's Law and if it was only the person

involved in the relationship who could request information or if a family member could request information. The Manager said that as far as he understood, it was only the person in the relationship who could make a request. Cllr. McClements said they needed to put support in to encourage the person to make a request. The Manager agreed because victims can be drawn in by abusers and go through a repeating cycle of abuse which the family can see but the victim can't.

- The Chair said it is not poverty that makes people violent and abuse can happen anywhere. He wanted to know who is making links between areas and the Manager said the police determine the policing areas for the SNTs e.g. Cuckoo Oak is in the same area as Ironbridge.

c) Community Safety Partnership Plan

All community safety strategies and action plans come together under the umbrella of the Community Safety Partnership Plan. Actions are segregated by partner. The plan needs to get down to street and neighbourhood level and sometimes it comes down to individuals. Rich data is used to identify trends and spikes in crime. The priorities in Plan are decided from analysis of the data to that actions target the right issues through a locality approach. There can be a link between poverty and crime.

There was then a discussion and questions about the Community Payback scheme. Cllr. Ion asked how members could put forward ideas in their ward for the scheme. The Manager said members should contact Paul Fenn, team Leader, Community Safety. Cllr. Ion said Community Payback did not seem to be well known to all members and the Manager said there were plans to extend the scheme as part of Pride in Your Community. The idea was not to duplicate what the Council was doing but to target resources in other ways. Funding had been used to pay for supervision and the scheme had worked well. The Chair said there was a possible Community Payback opportunity in Sutton Hill but there would be no supervision and the Manager said each project would be risk assessed.

When there were no further questions, the Chair said members should e-mail comments on the Draft Domestic Abuse Plan to the Scrutiny Group Specialist to feed in as part of the consultation process.

The Cohesion Manager left the meeting.

Cllr. Reynolds gave her apologies for the remainder of the meeting and left.

SMB-27 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2014/15

The Chair said there is a job of work to be done by the election next May and there are three strands to include in the work programme:

1. To complete outstanding work
2. New priorities for the year
3. To look back and monitor the implementation of recommendations and the impact of scrutiny work.

The work programme should not be set and tied down for the whole year but should be flexible. He recommended that each committee should choose one previous review to monitor previous recommendations during the year.

The report 2014/15 Scrutiny Work Programme circulated as Appendix C included a list of outstanding items and new suggestions by committee with comments from senior managers for members to consider and make recommendations to the scrutiny committees about the priorities for 2014/15. Before opening the discussion the Chair invited the Assistant Director Family & Cohesion Services (AD) to explain the approach to the Transport Review so that members could decide the best approach for scrutiny.

The AD said a saving of £750k was needed from the transport budget. It had been decided not to do one huge transport review because the area was too complex so it had been broken down and they had worked with a transport specialist from the Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands Partnership to identify areas for detailed work:

- The Special Educational Need and Disabilities reform would bring about a fundamental change with the introduction of direct payments and parental choice of provision including transport. Transport would be looked at as part of the SEND restructure.
- Direct payments in adult social care meant more people were making their own choice about how they get to care. It was felt there was an opportunity to make savings in this area with no adverse impact. A business case and impact assessment would be prepared and proposals would come forward in due course.
- Commissioning would be joined up to drive out efficiencies across universal (whole population) and specialist adult and children services.
- Fleet services were being reviewed to look at how vehicles could be used more efficiently during down time. A Fleet Manager was being recruited which would enable the Council to trade commercially and the viability of providing a service was being looked at.

Different Cabinet members were working with Assistant Directors to take responsibility for each area.

Additional points were made in the following discussion as:

- The AD assured members that the framework contract for taxis for children would look at safeguarding issues.
- Members were assured that there had been discussions with the hospital trust to link into the Travel and Transport Plan but it was early days
- Any proposed changes to the subsidised bus routes would be tested out. The Chair suggested this was something scrutiny could help with.
- The AD said that scrutiny would be kept up to date and involved in any consultation.

The AD then left the meeting.

Members discussed the items in the work programme report and agreed the following:

Scrutiny Management Board	
Holding the Executive to	Discussion deferred to the informal Board

account	meeting on 5 th June.
Homelessness Strategy: a) Choice based lettings b) Housing Allocations Policy	Recommended as a priority for the Board – choice based letting and HAP
Budget & Finance	Discussion deferred until 5 th June as Cllr. Reynolds was no longer present. Agreed a separate report would be brought to the Board to agree the principles for scrutiny of budget proposals.
Children & Young People	Discussion deferred until 5 th June after the appointment of the new Chair.
Co-operative & Communities	
Welfare benefit reforms, jointly with Budget & Finance	Supported for the work programme
Community Access to BSF facilities	Recommended as a priority for the work programme
Capacity building in local communities	Tentatively supported if carefully scoped. The suggestion is too wide and it is difficult to see where scrutiny could add value. A review would need to be carefully scoped. Cllr. McClements would explore further with the MD to identify potential areas.
Housing, Economy & Infrastructure	
Marches Local Transport Body	Supported for the work programme
Shaping Places consultation	Supported for the work programme
CIL and S106 policies as part of Shaping Places	Supported for the work programme but recommend this is done in one meeting
Car Parking Enforcement and 20mph speed limits outside schools and on estates	Supported deferral of CPE until 2016 except to request a written response on the date of renewal of the car parking contract at Wellington Station and the implications of another provider taking over the contract. Recommended the removal of 20mph speed limits from the work programme due to issues with enforcement.
Invest in Telford and BIDS	Discussed alongside the suggestion below.
Destination Telford as umbrella for Invest in Telford, Meet Telford & Shropshire, Visit Ironbridge	Not supported in its current form. The scope is too wide and it is difficult to see where scrutiny could add value. Recommended that any issues emerging over the year should come to the Board.
Transport Review	Recommended that: 1. Housing, Economy & Infrastructure lead on the review of fleet transport and subsidized routes with Co-operative & Communities 2. CYP committee to incorporate transport for children into a review of SEND 3. Health & Adult Care scrutiny committee to attend meetings as appropriate

Cost to the Council of cleansing illegal gypsy and traveller encampments	Not recommended as a topic for the work programme but request a response from the service area to respond to the person making the suggestion.
LEP governance arrangements	Supported for the work programme. Cllr. Turley nominated to join the proposed joint task & finish group.
Health & Adult Care	
Autism Strategy	Not recommended for the work programme
Transfer of Public Health to the Local Authority	Discussion deferred until 5 th June for discussion with Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing
Alcohol Strategy	Supported for the work programme
Response to Scrutiny Report on CHC	Supported for the work programme
Quality Accounts	Supported for the work programme
Better Care Fund	Supported for the work programme jointly with Budget & Finance
Adult Safeguarding	Supported for the work programme
CQC Area Profile	Supported for the work programme
Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee	All items supported as statutory consultations. The JHOSC will determine its own work programme.

Further to the previous discussion the Chair advised members that Cllrs. K. Austin and R. Evans had been invited to the meeting in their capacity as representatives on the West Mercia Police & Crime Panel. He invited Cllr. Austin to comment on his experience of how the PCP was working. Cllr. Austin said that the Panel was very dominated by Worcester because the County and Districts were all represented on the Panel which was what had been agreed in the national regulations for PCPs. Meetings had been held in Hereford or Worcester and we need to see if Telford & Wrekin could host a meeting. Cllr. McClements commented that the meetings of the Local Enterprise partnership were held in other local authority areas. The Chair agreed that Telford should host a meeting to send a message to the PCP and he suggested that suitable venues should be identified and the PCP Chair asked to consider holding a meeting in the borough.

It was further **agreed** that the Police & Crime Commissioner would be invited to a future Scrutiny Management Board meeting to discuss the impact of his role on crime and policing policy in Telford and Wrekin.

SMB-28 END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Chair opened the item by reminding members that Cllr. Ion had decided to step down as Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee after two years' service. He put on record his thanks to Cllr. Ion for his hard work and paid tribute to his great contribution to scrutiny, the impact of the work of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee under his leadership and to raising the profile of scrutiny locally and nationally.

The End of Year Scrutiny Performance Monitoring report had been circulated as Appendix D. There were no matters arising so the Chair asked members to reflect on the report and e-mail comments to the Scrutiny Group Specialist to take into account in the drafting of the Scrutiny Annual Report.

SMB-29 CHAIR'S UPDATES

This item was cancelled due to a lack of time.

The meeting ended at 15.50pm.

Chairman:

Date:

DRAFT

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held on Tuesday, 8 July, 2014 at 6.00 pm at Darby House, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors N A M England (Chair), K.R. Guy, T.J. Hope, R.T. Kiernan and A.D. McClements

ST-01 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

ST-02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors S. Davies and M.B. Hosken

ST-03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

ST-04 STANDARDS UPDATE

The Legal Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report which provided the Committee with an update on matters relating to the ethical framework since the last meeting in November 2013.

As this was the first meeting of the new Municipal Year, the Committee was also asked to review its terms of reference, a copy of which was appended to the report. There had been no legislative or other changes arising from case law etc, nor any new best practice guidance, and therefore the Monitoring Officer was not proposing any changes to the terms of reference at present.

Since the last report to the Committee, three new formal Code of Conduct complaints against Parish/Town Councillors had been received, although the most recent one had been withdrawn. None of the complaints had been referred for investigation. In addition, the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer had continued to give advice and information to elected members, the public and officers from both the Borough and Parish Councils on Code of Conduct matters. In response to a question about the nature of the complaints that had been received, the Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that these usually arose out of situations in some parishes where there were ongoing issues between some Members and individual residents. They were generally complaints at the lower end of the scale, and there had been no instances where allegations of serious misconduct or fraudulent activity had been made.

A “refresher” training session for Borough Councillors took place on 20 November 2013, and was attended by 24 Members. There was little in the way of feedback, but some advice on interests was addressed after the training. Unless there were any significant changes to the ethical framework, it was proposed that no further Code of Conduct training would be provided until after the local elections in May 2015.

In relation to the Independent Person, the annual subscription to Hoey Ainscough to provide independent support and advice to the Independent Person and the Monitoring Officer had been renewed for a further year.

RESOLVED -

- (a) that no changes are required to the Committee's Terms of Reference;
- (b) that the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.11pm

Chairman:

Date:

DRAFT