



Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

Addenbrooke House Ironmasters Way Telford TF3 4NT

CABINET

Date	Thursday, 28 January 2016	Time	5.00pm
Venue	Meeting Room G3/G4, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT		

Enquiries Regarding this Agenda:

Democratic Services	Phil Smith	01952 383211
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Cabinet Members:

Cllr K Sahota	Leader
Cllr R Overton	Deputy Leader & Housing, Public Health & Protection
Cllr L Carter	Council Finance & Service Delivery
Cllr E Clare	Leisure Services & Culture
Cllr S Davies	Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Services
Cllr A England	Adult Social Care
Cllr A McClements	Communities, Regeneration & Transport
Cllr G Reynolds	Employment & Skills
Cllr P Watling	Children, Young People & Families

Invitees

Cllr A Eade	Leader – Conservative Group
Cllr W Tomlinson	Leader – Liberal Democrat/Independent Group

AGENDA

		<u>Cabinet Member</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.	Apologies for Absence		
2.	Declarations of Interest		
3.	Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7th January 2015		Appendix A
K	4. Pride in Your High Streets and Local Centres	Cllr S Davies	Appendix B
NK	5. Delegation of Powers to Appoint Hackney Carriage Stands Within The Borough	Cllr R Overton	Appendix C

<u>Key</u>			
K	Key Decision	C	Item reserved for Council
NK	Non-Key Decision	Orange	Exempt Item

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 28th January, 2016 at 5.00 p.m. at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY, 2016

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 2016)

PRESENT: Councillors K.S. Sahota (Leader and Chair), L.D. Carter, E.A. Clare, S. Davies, A.R.H. England, A.D. McClements, R.A. Overton, G.C.W. Reynolds and P.R. Watling

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor N.A. Dugmore (Conservative Deputy Group Leader)

CB-68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) and W.L. Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader)

CB-69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CB-70 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CB-71 PRIDE IN YOUR HIGH STREETS AND LOCAL CENTRES

Key Decision identified as **Pride in Your High Street** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 23 December 2015. (Decision delegated to Assistant Director: Development, Business & Employment).

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Services, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Employment, which detailed the projects that had been recommended for funding from the Pride in Your High Streets and Local Centres Fund.

The Fund comprised of two parts – a Revitalise Fund of £800k for projects to help High Streets and Local Centres increase footfall and support local traders, and an Innovation Fund of £200k to support promotions and activities for attracting people to visit and use High Streets and Local Centres. The Fund was launched in April 2015 as part of the Council's business winning,

business supporting agenda, and further supported the Council's wider strategy of community enablement. The report set out the application process that bidders had followed, and by the close of applications in September 2015 25 applications had been received for the Revitalise Fund and 22 applications for the Innovation Fund. Each application was assessed by Council Officers and reviewed by panels of independent assessors in line with the Council's priorities and the key criteria that had been agreed for each Fund.

Appended to the report were the projects that, following evaluation, were being recommended for approval. All nine High Streets and Local Centres had submitted successful projects with proposals from Parish and Town Councils, public, private and voluntary sector partners. To avoid conflict of interest on behalf of Members with indirect links to specific bids, it was proposed that the formal approval of the projects for funding be delegated to the Assistant Director. Due to a lack of suitable applications, there was some unallocated funding. It was proposed to ring fence these sums to those High Streets that would not receive their full allocation, and to roll forward into future years to fund further High Street initiatives.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the projects identified in Appendices 1 and 2 to receive support through the Pride in Your High Street & Local Centres Fund be noted, subject to the signing of Grant Funding Agreements between Telford & Wrekin Council and the successful bidders;**
- (b) that the ring fencing of any unallocated grant funding to those High Streets which would not receive their full allocation, and the roll forward of any unallocated funding into future years to fund High Street initiatives, be approved;**
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Employment, in consultation with the Assistant Director: Health & Wellbeing, to determine and distribute funds from the Fund to successful project applications.**

CB-72 DELEGATION OF POWERS TO APPOINT HACKNEY CARRIAGE STANDS WITHIN THE BOROUGH

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Health, Wellbeing & Public Protection, which sought approval to delegate the Council's powers in respect of the appointment of stands for hackney carriages.

Existing Byelaws for hackney carriage stands made in 1975 related to 7 stands, of which only one was still in existence. To reflect the current provision of hackney stands and to ensure effective enforcement, the Byelaws needed to be revoked and replaced. It was then proposed that the local authority's

powers in respect of the appointment of hackney carriage stands be delegated to the Licensing Committee and named Officers.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Council’s powers under Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to approve the appointment of hackney carriage stands be delegated to the Licensing Committee, Public Protection Service Delivery Manager and Principal Licensing Officers, subject to:**
 - (i) the Public Protection Service Delivery Manager and the Principal Licensing Officers be delegated to appoint any stand for hackney carriages or vary the number of hackney carriages to be at each stand, in accordance with Section 63, where the Authority has not received any objections;**
 - (ii) the Licensing Committee be delegated to appoint any stand for hackney carriages or vary the number of hackney carriages to be at each stand, in accordance with Section 63, where the Authority has received any objections.**

- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director with responsibility for Public Protection, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to take the necessary steps to revoke the Byelaws dated 17th February 1975 made under the provisions of Section 68 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and under Section 171 of the Public Health Act 1875 for Hackney carriage stands.**

The meeting ended at 5.25 pm.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

**Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Legal, Procurement & Commissioning
Date: 3 February 2016**

Signed:

Date:

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 7th January, 2016 at 5.00 p.m. at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 13th JANUARY, 2016

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 18TH JANUARY, 2016)

PRESENT: Councillors K.S. Sahota (Leader and Chair), L.D. Carter, E.A. Clare, S. Davies, A.R.H. England, A.D. McClements, R.A. Overton, G.C.W. Reynolds and P.R. Watling

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) and Councillor W.L. Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader)

LAURA JOHNSTON AND PAUL TAYLOR

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Leader reported that this would be last Cabinet meeting to be attended by Laura Johnston, Director of Children's Services, and Paul Taylor, Director of Health, Wellbeing & Care, who would be leaving the Council this month. He thanked them for all their work and the contribution they had made to the delivery of important services to the people of Telford & Wrekin.

CB-60 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CB-61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

CB-62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CB-63 2015/16 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Key Decision identified as **2015/16 Financial Management** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 11 November 2015.

Part Recommendation to Full Council in relation to decision (b) below not subject to Call-in

Councillor L D Carter, Cabinet Member: Council Finance & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance, which provided Members with the latest financial monitoring information for 2015/16.

The net projected outturn position for 2015/16 for all service budgets showed a considerable improvement of £5.4m on the position reported to Cabinet on 10 December 2015. The main reason for this change was a benefit of £5.3m which related to the rescheduling of debt, and which followed detailed technical work and discussions with the Council's external auditors. After taking this revenue benefit from debt rescheduling, the Council would be within budget by £4.015m at year end. This sound financial management meant that £4.212m of contingencies held centrally would not be required in the current year. Therefore one-off resources of £8.227m were projected to be available at year end to support the delivery of future service and financial planning strategies, and would enable one-off costs associated with the delivery of on-going savings to be funded.

There were a number of variations from the approved budget, including the cost of Children in Care placements (overspend of £1.8m) and the cost of Adult Care and Support services (projected overspend of £1.6m). There were benefits from Public Health projected savings of £0.77m imposed by Government and £0.8m from the implementation of single status which would not be required in 2015/16. All projected variances over £0.100m were detailed in the report.

The capital programme totalled £92m, which included all approvals since the budget was set. Spend was currently standing at 98% of the budget allocation. The report detailed some slippage, together with some proposed changes to the funding of the capital programme.

The collection levels for Council Tax, Business Rates and Sales Ledger were all ahead of target, and this was a very positive situation.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that it be noted that 2015/16 revenue spending is currently projected to be within budget at year end, and that work continue to sustain this position;**
- (b) that the position in relation to capital spend be noted, and TO RECOMMEND to COUNCIL that the slippage detailed in Appendix 3 of the report and changes to capital funding outlined in paragraph 6.3 of the report be approved;**
- (c) that the collection rates for NNDR, council tax and sales ledger be noted.**

Key Decision identified as **Service & Financial Planning Strategy 2016/17 – 2017/18** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 11 November 2015.

Council decision – not subject to Call-in

Councillor L.D. Carter, Cabinet Member: Council Finance & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Managing Director and the Chief Financial Officer, which set out the proposed service and financial planning strategy for the period 2016/17 to 2017/18 with specific budget proposals for 2016/17, and the proposed engagement and consultation activities with the community. He thanked the Chief Financial Officer, his team and officers from across the Council for all their hard work in managing the finances and preparing the draft budget.

The Cabinet Member set out the background and context to the budget round, particularly in relation to the unprecedented cuts in Government grant funding since 2010, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent spending announcements in his Autumn Statement which had indicated a further cut of 53% in local government funding over the next few years. Over £80m of savings would have been delivered by April 2016 - equivalent to nearly £1,100 for every household in the Borough. The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement had cut the Council's Revenue Support Grant by 20.81% in the next year alone, and the position was made worse by the loss of around 8% of grant funding due to the Government's use of grant "damping" and out-of-date population data for the Borough. In the light of this financial background, it was now inevitable that there would be significant consequences on the services that were delivered. The Administration would continue as far as possible to protect the most essential services for vulnerable children and adults, including the implementation of the Government's new social care precept on Council Tax that would increase the budget for adult services by £1.6m next year. It was also committed to investing in Telford's future and in promoting jobs and growth for the Borough. Attracting new businesses also benefitted the Council through increased income from business rates. The Council would continue to seek to generate income from adopting a commercial approach, building on innovative "invest to save" projects such as the Solar Farm which was now generating more than expected income for the Council.

However, despite all this the Council could no longer afford to continue to do everything that it currently did. The report contained details of over 200 savings proposals, but the main focus of public consultation would be on 32 services where the cuts had the most significant impact on the public. The proposals included:

- Closing council-run libraries at Dawley, Donnington, Hadley, Madeley, Newport and Stirchley and ending the mobile library service
- No council-run youth clubs
- No council-run community centres
- No council-run markets
- Less Council run children's centres

However, the Council would be working with Parish & Town Councils, community organisations and voluntary groups to explore how a number of these services could continue from April 2017, run in a new way by different organisations and not by the Council. The most significant cuts had been held back until 2017 to allow time to explore possible alternatives and consult with service users.

It was proposed to consult residents on three possible council tax options. The first was to “freeze” council tax and implement the 2% “precept” the Government had assumed Telford & Wrekin would put into its Council Tax to raise extra funds ring fenced for adult social care services. Residents would also be asked if Council Tax should be raised by an additional 1.2% or 1.9% (over and above the 2% Government assumed adult services precept) to help lessen cuts to key services. This was because councils would no longer receive a grant from Government if they froze Council Tax.

In terms of the base budget position, the Council was facing a projected funding gap of £10.462m for 2016/17, which after the application of savings proposals, additional cost pressures and the 2% social care precept gave a projected net surplus of £0.486m.

Attached to the report were a number of appendices, including savings proposals, Impact Assessments of the savings proposals, the Capital Investment Programme, details of Reserves and Balances and details of education related Section 106 Agreements. A programme of community engagement and consultation on the budget proposals would be undertaken over the next few weeks. This would seek views particularly on the specific savings proposals and council tax options, as well as highlighting simple ways that residents could help the Council to save more money. Details of the communication and engagement plan were appended to the report. Final proposals would be considered by the Cabinet on 25 February 2016 for recommendation to full Council on 3 March 2016.

Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) advised that his Group was preparing alternative budget proposals. He agreed that it was a very tough grant settlement, but that the savings already made in the last five years showed what could be achieved. He welcomed the protection of services for the most vulnerable, but was concerned at the proposals to close libraries. There was also concern at the rise in debt and prudential borrowing, and that the focus should be more on investing in core services. He stated that his Group would be happy to work with the Administration in seeking a fairer funding settlement from Government and getting the best deal on the retention of business rates. Councillor W.L. Tomlinson ((Lib Dem/Independent Group Leader) highlighted the unfairness of Government grant funding, and also offered support for any lobbying of Government. He welcomed the initiatives to find alternative sources of income, and it was recognised that the Council would have to be more innovative to find additional savings. The Council was being forced into this position by Government, and the proposed closure of libraries was concerning. He asked for enough time to be given to find any alternative providers for running the libraries.

A number of Cabinet Members spoke of the difficulties that the Council now faced in setting a budget, and that the hard service choices were being forced on the Council by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was stressed that the Council would do all it could to work with partners on finding ways to mitigate some of these cuts, and that facilities would not be closed if a cost-effective alternative way of running them was available. Parish and Town Councils were urged to get involved, and it was hoped that there would be a positive response from the local community. Members also welcomed the offers of support from the Opposition Group Leaders in relation to lobbying Government, and that it was important that the local MPs were also supporting a fairer funding deal for the Borough.

RESOLVED –

- (a) **that the service and financial planning strategy as set out in the report be approved for consultation with the community between 8 January and 7 February 2016;**
- (b) **To RECOMMEND to COUNCIL that the transfer of £3m from the projected 2015/16 underspend, which largely arises from debt rescheduling - as set out in Section 12 and Appendix 13 of the report, to the Invest to Save/Capacity Fund, and the transfer of £3m to the Severance Fund, be approved.**

CB-65 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2016/17

Key Decision identified as **Council Tax Support Scheme 2016/17** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 9 December 2015.

Recommendations to Council – not subject to Call-in

Councillor L.D. Carter, Cabinet Member: Council Finance & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Customer Services, which set out the proposed policies for 2016/17 in relation to Council Tax Support and the Council Tax Hardship Fund.

The Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme was introduced in April 2013 to award council tax discounts to customers who were on low incomes, based on a series of principles and eligibility criteria. A review of the 2015/16 scheme had taken place, and it was recommended that some changes be made to the scheme that would result in some savings to the overall annual cost, as well as reflecting some technical and legislative amendments that were necessitated each year by Government. The main proposed changes to the Policy were the introduction of an upper limit cap on income from state benefits, the introduction of an estimated minimum weekly income for working age self-employed people who had been trading more than 12 months, and the removal of the 'Family Premium' from the assessment of Council Tax

Support. These changes would only affect a small number of claimants, but would reduce costs by £0.241m.

A full public consultation on the proposed changes to the Scheme had been undertaken, which included writing directly to 500 customers who would be most affected by the proposals. Copies of the consultation document and summary of responses were appended to the report. 584 responses were received, and there was overwhelming support for the recommended options/changes. The cross-party joint Customer, Community & Partnership and Finance & Enterprise Scrutiny Committees had also considered the proposed changes and were fully in support of the recommendations – a copy of their response was also appended to the report.

The Hardship Fund had been invaluable over the last two years in providing additional support to the most financially vulnerable customers, and it was proposed to fund the Scheme for a further 12 months at a cost of £30,000. The policy for awarding Council Tax hardship would remain unchanged. It was proposed to engage with specific customers affected by the changes to the Support Scheme to make them aware of the Hardship Fund.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

- (a) that the Council Tax Support Scheme Policy for 2016/17, as shown at Appendix A of the report, be approved;**
- (b) that the Council Tax Hardship Policy and fund of £30,000 continues in 2016/17.**

CB-66 TRANSPORT GROWTH STRATEGY

Non-Key Decision.

Councillor A.D. McClements, Cabinet Member: Communities, Regeneration & Transport, presented the report of the Assistant Director of Neighbourhood & Customer Services, which set out the transport infrastructure and investment that was required to accommodate future housing, business and population growth within the Borough. The full Strategy (Appendix A to the report) had been available for Members to view on the Council website.

The Strategy considered the impact and potential improvements in relation to public transport, cycling and walking, rail and car. Work had been undertaken using the Telford & Wrekin Strategic Transport Model to understand the impact of future growth on the network. Stakeholder impact on transport issues arising out of the recent consultation on the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan had also been taken into account. The Strategy identified potential improvements to the network to meet future transport needs, as well as providing the evidence base for the transport element of the Local Plan. A number of tables in the report detailed:

- short term schemes to be delivered by 2020 for which funding had been partially secured through the LEP, DfT and developer contributions;

- Other highway improvements that may be required by 2020, but which were subject to funding coming forward;
- Longer term infrastructure schemes to deliver strategic priorities up to 2031.

The report also set out the potential funding streams for this investment, much of which would be subject to successful bids for grant funding via Central Government and the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership. The Strategy also set out how the Council would continue to secure developer contributions for a wide range of transport improvements as development sites came forward. This could be affected by restrictions on the pooling of Section 106 contributions from developers. The Council had a good track record of securing investment in the local transport network, and Officers were to be congratulated on this success.

Councillor W.L. Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader) stated that it was vital that the transport infrastructure was in place to support the growth of the Borough. The Cabinet Member added that she would be organising a Members' Information Seminar to explain the detail in the Strategy further, and she would be meeting with local Ward Members to discuss individual schemes that were being proposed within their Ward.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Transport Growth Strategy, as shown at Appendix A of the report, be approved;**
- (b) that the ongoing need to secure developer contributions and Central Government funding to deliver the Strategy, as well as the current restrictions on S106 contributions, be noted.**

CB-67 TELFORD & WREKIN LOCAL PLAN

Key Decision identified as **Telford & Wrekin Local Plan** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 11 November 2015.

Recommendations to Council - not subject to Call-in

Councillor R.A. Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Planning Specialist, which confirmed that the Council was now ready to publish a version of the Local Plan that it intended to submit to the Secretary of State for an independent examination. The latest 'Publication' version of the Local Plan was appended to the report in the form of documents that could be viewed by Members on the Council website.

Public consultation on the previous version of the Plan had resulted in 385 representations from residents, parish & town councils, local organisations and businesses. As a result of the comments and advice received, Officers had made a number of revisions to the Local Plan – although these did not alter the overall thrust of the Plan and, in particular, the Borough's housing

requirement of 15,555 new homes by 2031. The main changes were summarised in the report, and included new boundaries of three proposed 'strategic landscapes', designating Lawley and Ironbridge as District Centres, reduction in the minimum amount of employment land to be delivered over the lifetime of the Plan, greater emphasis of the Town Centre as a sub-regional centre, rewriting of policies affecting the provision of rural housing, and allocated Housing Sites at The Beeches and The Nedge had been reduced in area.

The Council had also prepared an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which provided the estimated infrastructure needs associated with the levels of growth anticipated in the Local Plan. No projects identified in the IDP had been identified as critical to the delivery of the Plan.

If approved by Full Council, the latest version of the Local Plan would be formally published for a period of 6 weeks to allow for further representations to be made. Subject to any further revisions, it could then be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a Planning Inspector.

Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) believed that the requirement for over 15,000 new houses was still too high, and there was no clear understanding of where this figure came from. There was a danger that the supply of houses would out-strip the creation of new jobs, and the current Plan was not sustainable. There was concern at the inclusion of Housing Allocation Site H1 at Muxton – there was no need to build houses in this location on green-field, open countryside. The Cabinet Member stated that the overall housing requirement had been reduced from the figure in the earlier draft Plan, and that a large number of those dwellings had already been built or received planning permission. It was the Government who were applying the pressure for more houses to be built. It was believed that the Local Plan was robust and addressed the needs of the Borough up to 2031.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND to COUNCIL

- (a) that the Publication Version of the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan and the Policies Map be approved for publication and submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Planning Specialist (or any Officer authorised by this post-holder) to exercise all the Council's powers (besides those which are non-executive powers) relating to the processing of the Local Plan through to adoption, including all the powers under the 2012 Regulations and the 2004 Act relating to the preparation and submission of documents and information to the Secretary of State, the independent examination and further publication up to adoption;**

- (c) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Planning Specialist (or any Officer authorised by this post-holder), during the period between publication/submission and the end of the independent examination, to recommend to the planning inspector conducting the independent examination any changes to the Publication Version of the Local Plan or the Policies Map which the Assistant Director (or authorised Officer) considers appropriate in response to representations which may be received or changes in circumstances which may occur during this period.

MICHAEL BARKER

At the end of the above item, the Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Public Protection reported that this would be the last Cabinet meeting attended by Michael Barker, Assistant Director: Planning Specialist, before his retirement. He thanked Michael for all his work on the Local Plan, and other Members paid tribute to his long standing contribution to the Authority.

The meeting ended at 6.07 pm.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services
Date: 13 January 2016

Signed:

Date:

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**CABINET – 28 JANUARY 2016****PRIDE IN YOUR HIGH STREETS & LOCAL CENTRES****REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT****LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR SHAUN DAVIES****PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT****1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

- 1.1. The Pride in Your High Streets & Local Centres Fund (the Fund) is comprised of two parts with a total fund value of £1m, both subject to bids:-
 - The Revitalise Fund of £800k to be used for projects that will help revitalise High Streets and Local Centres, increase footfall and support local traders.
 - The Innovation Fund of £200k which will support promotions and activities that will attract people to visit and use the local High Streets and Local Centres, adding to the attraction of the Borough as a destination of choice for visitors.
- 1.2. The Fund was launched in April 2015 and applications were invited from nine High Streets and Local Centres around the Borough, with a final deadline for submission of the 30 September 2015.
- 1.3. The Report sets out the projects approved to receive support from the Fund in line with Officer recommendations and the findings of the relevant Independent Panel. Decisions take into account the criteria set out for each element of the Fund and will deliver investment totalling c.£800,000 into projects in all 9 High Streets and Local Centre. The investment will be delivered in collaboration with Parish and Town Councils, the community and voluntary sector and through a range of projects will encourage visitors and footfall, support High Street businesses and employment and encourage more community events and activities bringing benefits across the Borough. Where funds remain unallocated the Report confirms that these will remain ring-fenced to the High Streets and Local Centres that have not received their full allocation and will be used to support initiatives which will be developed in partnership with local bodies and communities.
- 1.4. Successful bidders will still be expected to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Council.
- 1.5. The fund further supports the Council's wider strategy of community enablement, providing community based solutions to some services and providing these in new and different ways as the Council, because of cuts it must make in its budget, can no longer afford to provide such services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet note the projects identified in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to receive support through the Pride in Your High Street & Local Centres Fund subject to the signing of Grant Funding Agreements between Telford & Wrekin Council and the successful bidders
- 2.2 That Cabinet approves the ring fencing of any unallocated grant funding to those High Streets which will not receive their full allocation, and the roll forward of any unallocated funding into future years to fund future High Street initiatives
- 2.3 That Cabinet delegate responsibility to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Employment in consultation with the Assistant Director: Health & Well-Being to determine and distribute funds from the Fund to successful project applications.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	The proposals within this report will contribute directly towards the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and create jobs as a 'Business Supporting, Business Winning Council' • Ensure that neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained • Regenerate those neighbourhoods in need and work to ensure that local people have access to suitable housing
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION / DELIVERY DATE	Projects are expected to commence in March 2016 and complete by end of March 2017. The release of funds to individual projects will be aligned with proof of expenditure by the project, and with delivery of agreed outcomes.	
FINANCIAL / VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	As stipulated within the Cabinet report of the 19 th March 2015, all successful bidders will be required to evidence the availability of match funding and confirm their business plan for the long-term sustainability of their projects prior to the confirmation of funding. Successful bidders will be required to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Council prior to the release of funding which will define; the terms of the grant, the purpose for which it can be used, the arrangement for the drawdown of funding, which will be upon the receipt of evidence of expenditure, repayment and claw back arrangements for grant and the ongoing monitoring of grant to ensure that grant funding is being properly applied and outputs are being delivered. Financial advice and support will be provided as required. JAC 181215
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Any decision made by the Authority can be subject to challenge in respect of its reasonableness or lawfulness. Therefore a robust and transparent assessment procedure was developed so as to avoid challenge of either the process followed or recommendations made by Officers and the Assessment Panel . The assessment and award process also sought to ensure that a breach of the State Aid Rules does not arise either directly or indirectly by the award of grant funding to individual organisations or joint ventures which could distort competition and affect trade by favouring certain undertakings. Legal Services have developed a standard form of grant agreement that will be used in each award of funding
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	This investment will have a wide economic impact on the Borough in terms of regeneration and the development of new services. It will further trigger increased spend by local residents and visitors attracted by the new services and facilities available and the promotional activity.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	The initiative will impact on wards which include High Streets and / or Local Centres.

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Pride in Our High Streets & Local Centres Fund was launched in April 2015 to help deliver physical and social regeneration across the Borough and support the Council's business supporting, business winning agenda and complements the existing Pride in Your Community Programme.
- 4.2 The Fund is open to voluntary, public and private sector organisations, and funding can be used to improve buildings, community infrastructure and facilities, organise events and purchase items for projects within the Borough. The funding will support projects that are of community or strategic importance in terms of high street and local centre regeneration and that have potential to support or create local employment opportunities.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- 4.4 The Cabinet Report dated 19th March 2015 entitled Pride in Your High Streets & Local Centres Fund set out in detail the essential criteria to be met by project applications as well as the bidding process and evaluation process. Workshops for potential applicants were held in Oakengates, Dawley and Newport.
- 4.5 General guidance was made available to application teams regarding the evaluation process and evaluation criteria, with care taken to ensure that applicants did not interpret guidance as confirmation of the merits of any one particular proposal.
- 4.6 In the light of the projects put forward, to avoid conflict of interest on behalf of Members linked with bids e.g. through their Membership of Parish or Town Council's or other organisations bidding, it is proposed to amend the Cabinet approval process from that set out in the original Cabinet Report. Following the evaluation process set out below and considering the advice from Independent Panels of assessors, Officers have determined the list of projects to be funded.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDING

- 4.7 The Revitalise Fund is capped at £800k and funding for any one High Street or Local Centre is restricted to £100k. The Innovation Fund is capped at £200k and funding for any one High Street or Local Centre is restricted to £20k.
- 4.8 The evaluation process had to take into account the total value of projects applied for in each of the 9 eligible High Streets or Local Centres meaning that a project would not necessarily be funded even if it did meet all of the criteria set out in the Guidance and Applications forms.
- 4.9 Applications for funding can focus on a single High Street or Local Centre, or across a number of High Street/Local Centres (multi site).

APPLICATION SUMMARY

- 4.10 By the close of applications in September 2015 25 applications had been received for the Revitalise Fund and 22 applications were received for the Innovation Fund.

INTERNAL EVALUATION

All applications were assessed by Officers from Telford & Wrekin Council. This process considered whether applications met financial and legal requirements and standards relating to disbursement of public funds, checked that projects did not conflict with or overlap with projects already being delivered or funded by Telford & Wrekin Council and considered if projects offered value for money.

In the case of both elements of the Fund projects were reviewed by panels of independent assessors and their recommendations considered in the selection of projects to be funded.

APPLICATION ASSESSMENT: REVITALISE FUND

4.11 The Assessment Panel (AP) for Revitalise Fund applications consisted of representatives from:

- Telford Business Board
- Connect Consultancy; Business Development Consultant
- Speakers' Corner Trust

4.12 The assessment was conducted in relation to the Council's priorities and the following key criteria:

- Demonstrate sustainability and lasting legacy post funding
- Provide value for money
- Encourage Innovation
- Ensure community engagement
- Number of jobs created/safeguarded
- Increase in footfall to the high street or local centre
- Redundant or empty building brought back into economic use
- Addition of a new service or function to the high street or local centre
- Promote 5 ways to Well Being
- Make the high street and local centre safer
- Extend the 'established' operating hours of the high street or local centre
- Help make the high street or local centre cleaner and more pleasant
- Stimulate and encourage entrepreneurship
- Involve local young people in the bidding process or encourage them to be involved in delivery

APPLICATION ASSESSMENT: INNOVATION FUND

4.13 A separate panel of independent assessors conducted an assessment of Innovation Fund applications. The Assessment Panel (AP) for Innovation Fund applications consisted of representatives from:

- Walkabout Wrekin Group
- Age UK
- Cap Gemini

4.14 Similar guidance was provided to this panel and the assessment was conducted against the Council's priorities and the following criteria:

- Stimulate and encourage new audiences or visitors for the local centre or high street
- Demonstrate community engagement and support cohesion
- Promote 5 ways to Well Being
- Demonstrate some lasting legacy or sustainable outcomes as a result of the project
- Provide employment for local artists and suppliers
- Involve local young people in the development of the project or encourage them to be involved in delivery

PROPOSED INVESTMENT

4.15 Appendix 1 and 2 list the projects which on the basis of evaluation are to be approved. All 9 High Streets and Local Centres submitted successful projects with proposals from Parish and Town Councils, public, private and voluntary sector partners ensuring communities across the Borough will benefit. Investment will create opportunities for new retailers through pop up shops and provide support to both new and existing traders and businesses to thrive. In other High Streets investment is to be made into improving the physical environment of centres with paving, landscaping and other improvements to buildings enabling the community to influence

and take responsibility for their High Street's vitality, and stimulating more visitors to our historic centres. Alongside this through the Innovation Funds a wide range of celebratory events and community activities will be delivered encouraging visitors and footfall on the High Street. Events will include music, fairs and art trails delivered through collaboration between the local community and voluntary sector.

- 4.16 Appendices 1 and 2 do show some unallocated funding. This is due to there being a lack of suitable applications and, in relation to the Innovation Fund, there having been no applications for this element of the Fund in some High Street areas.
- 4.17 Where there is unallocated grant or there is project slippage outside the project delivery period, funds will be ring fenced to those High Streets which have not received their full allocation. These unallocated funds will be rolled forward to fund further High Street initiatives including enabling Town and Parish Councils or other organisations to provide services that enhance the public use of the High Street or local centre.

NEXT STEPS

- 4.18 All applicants will receive a notification letter advising them whether their projects have been successful or unsuccessful (this notification would be subject to final Cabinet approval).
- 4.19 Unsuccessful teams will be invited to meet with officers to discuss their projects and officers will remain in contact with teams to advise them about future opportunities. Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Council before grant funding can be confirmed. Council Officers will offer assistance with this process and establishing implementation plans with clear milestones for delivery over the next couple of months

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of meeting of 19th March 2015 ([link](#))

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report prepared by Steve Hill, Business Support & Skills Team Leader, tel: 01952 384418

Appendix 1 – Revitalise Fund: Projects Recommended for Funding

The following projects are recommended to Cabinet for funding from the Revitalise Fund.

Projects relating to each High Street & Local Centre			
High Street / Local Centre	Application	Funding applied for	Recommendation subject to Grant Funding Agreement
Donnington	<u>Good-2-Great</u> Support to retail traders including workshops, shop front display, mystery shoppers, etc (see below)	Up to £38,900	Recommended for funding
Dawley	<u>Great Dawley Town Council</u> Purchase of Lord Hill building and subsequent refurbishment. Linking with national BMX site and leisure facilities.	£100,000	Recommended for funding
Hadley	<u>Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council</u> Area improvements including car park resurfacing, bus stop replacement, seating, and extensions to the services provided by the Kings Head. Links with the new Hadley Centre.	£77,000	Recommended for funding
	<u>Good-2-Great</u> Support to retail traders including workshops, shop front display, mystery shoppers, etc (see below)	Up to £23,000	Recommended for funding
Ironbridge	<u>The Gorge Parish Council</u> Improve visitor experience	£35,550	Recommended for funding
	<u>Wave-Length</u> Popup shop venture (see below)	£8,943.50	Recommended for funding
	<u>Good-2-Great</u> Support to retail traders including workshops, shop front display, mystery shoppers, etc (see below)	Up to £38,900	Recommended for funding
Madeley	<u>Madeley Living History Project</u> Russell Square refurbishment (paving, landscaping, drainage, etc.) Encourage footfall through from High Str, through Russell Gardens to new commercial area including Aldi Space for events, and emphasis on war memorial. Cultural space.	£41,971	Recommended for funding

Projects relating to each High Street & Local Centre			
High Street / Local Centre	Application	Funding applied for	Recommendation subject to Grant Funding Agreement
	<u>Wave-Length</u> Popup shop venture (see below)	£8,943.50	Recommended for funding
	<u>Good-2-Great</u> Support to retail traders including workshops, shop front display, mystery shoppers, etc (see below)	Up to £38,900	Recommended for funding
Newport	<u>Newport Town Team</u> Innovation & Enterprise Centre Encouraging local start-ups, developing tourism offer, renovation of derelict Toll House building	£88,500	Recommended for funding
	<u>Good-2-Great</u> Support to retail traders including workshops, shop front display, mystery shoppers, etc (see below)	Up to £11,500	Recommended for funding
Oakengates	<u>Wave-Length</u> Popup shop venture (see below)	£8,943.50	Recommended for funding
	<u>Good-2-Great</u> Support to retail traders including workshops, shop front display, mystery shoppers, etc (see below)	Up to £38,900	Recommended for funding
St Georges ¹	<u>The Gower Heritage & Enterprise Group</u> Renovation of the Gower school house building	£22,403	Recommended for funding
	<u>The Gower Heritage & Enterprise Group</u> Gower exterior renovation to bring the public facing aspects of the building up to the same standard as the inside.	£17,800	Recommended for funding
	<u>Operation Facelift</u> General infrastructure and building upgrade. Creation of Village Green	£60,000	Recommended for funding
Wellington	<u>Wellington H2A</u> H2A Tourism. Heritage trail, website, printed booklet celebrating independent retail offer in Wellington.	£17,000	Recommended for funding
	<u>Wave-Length</u> Popup shop venture (see below)	£8,943.50	Recommended for funding

Projects relating to each High Street & Local Centre			
High Street / Local Centre	Application	Funding applied for	Recommendation subject to Grant Funding Agreement
	<u>Good-2-Great</u> Support to retail traders including workshops, shop front display, mystery shoppers, etc (see below)	Up to £38,900	Recommended for funding
Total allocated for Revitalise projects			Up to £724,998
Unallocated funds			£75,002
¹ Funding for St Georges will be limited to the £100,000 cap. Totals might vary slightly as a result.			

Appendix 2 – Innovation Fund: Projects recommended for Funding

The following projects are recommended to Cabinet for funding from the Innovation Fund.

High Street / Local Centre	Application	Funding requested	Recommendation subject to Grant Funding Agreement
Dawley	<u>Friends of Dawley Park</u> Week long music festival	£10,000	Recommended for funding
	<u>Great Dawley Town Council</u> Multiple events for community groups	£10,000	Recommended for funding
Donnington	<u>Donnington Partnership</u> Community activities	£1,446	Recommended for funding
Ironbridge	<u>Macmillan Cancer Trust</u> Public art trail	£18,345	Recommended for funding
Madeley	<u>Anstice Community Trust</u> Events at the Anstice Hall	£4,720	Recommended for funding
	<u>Anstice Community Trust</u> Victorian fair	£7,146	Recommended for funding
Newport	<u>Newport Town Team</u> 'An Eventful Town' – collaborative projects for community and voluntary groups	£20,000	Recommended for funding
Oakengates	<u>Oakengates Events Ltd</u> Key annual events	£12,000 - £15,000	Recommended for funding. Anticipated to be a partial award between £12k and £15k
St Georges ²	<u>Pisces WM</u> Celebratory events at key venues e.g church, cricket ground. Related to funded Bidding Fund project.	£4,500	Recommended for funding
	<u>Citizens Engagement CIC</u> Activities	£16,514	Recommended for funding
Total allocated			£104,671- £107,671
TOTAL fund available			£200,000
Max. Unallocated			£95,329

² Funding for St Georges will be limited to the £20,000 cap.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 28 JANUARY 2016

**DELEGATION OF POWERS TO APPOINT HACKNEY CARRIAGE STANDS
WITHIN THE BOROUGH**

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: HEALTH WELLBEING & PUBLIC
PROTECTION**

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR RICHARD OVERTON

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

Under Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 a district/borough council may appoint stands for hackney carriages. This report seeks cabinet approval to delegate the local authority's powers in this respect to the Council's Licensing Committee, Public Protection Service Delivery Manager and to the Principal Licensing Officers. In addition delegation is sought to revoke the necessary sections of the Byelaws made under the provisions of Section 68 of the Town Police Clauses 1847 and under Section 171 of the Public Health Act 1875 for Hackney carriage stands.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To delegate its powers under section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to the Licensing Committee, Public Protection Service Delivery Manager and Principal Licensing Officers to approve the appointment of hackney carriage stands subject to the following:-

2.1.1 The Public Protection Service Delivery Manager and the Principal Licensing Officers be delegated to appoint any stand for hackney carriages or vary the number of hackney carriages to be at each stand in accordance with section 63 where the Authority has not received any objections;

2.1.2 The Licensing Committee be delegated to appoint any stand for hackney carriages or vary the number of hackney carriages to be at each stand in accordance with section 63 where the Authority has received any objections.

2.2 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Assistant Director with responsibility for Public Protection, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to take the necessary steps to revoke the Byelaws dated 17th February 1975 made under the provisions of Section 68 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and under Section 171 of the Public Health Act 1875 for Hackney carriage stands.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-operative Council priorities?	
	Yes	Protect and Support vulnerable children and adults. Protect and create jobs as a Business Supporting, Business Winning Council.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	Ensure that neighbourhoods are safe. Adequate local taxi services are considered an important and legitimate part of the transport system.
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	Following consultation it is hoped that all Taxi ranks can be 'appointed' and properly marked by 30/6/2016.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The designation of taxi ranks will require road markings and signage which will be funded through the existing Highways Capital Programme or revenue budgets. The management and costs of enforcement and prosecution will be contained within existing Public Protection resources and revenue budgets. JAC 011215
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Under S63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 a district/borough council may from time to time appoint stands for hackney carriages for the whole or part of a day in any highway in the district/borough which is maintainable at the public expense and with the consent of the landowner, on any land in the district/borough which does not form any part of a highway and may

		from time to time vary the number of hackney carriages permitted to be at each stand. TS 30 November 2015
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	<i>Opportunities</i> – will enhance transport facilities for commuters, in particular those who may have reduced mobility <i>Risk</i> – None
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	This report has Borough wide implications

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

- 4.1 Once Cabinet have agreed the delegation the Principal Licensing Officer will put in place the relevant consultation immediately accompanied by the draft orders to appoint hackney carriage stands within the borough.
- 4.2 The Byelaws relate to 7 hackney carriage stands of which only one hackney carriage stand is still in existence. To reflect the current provision of Hackney stands and to ensure effective enforcement the Byelaws need to be revoked and replaced.
- 4.3 Licensing and enforcement duties in respect of hackney stands are contained within the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and can be enforced by delegated officers of the Council and/ or police constables.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 5.1 There are no previous Minutes.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

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