

**A MEETING OF THE
BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN**

**Will be held at THE HAYBRIDGE RESTAURANT,
TELFORD COLLEGE OF ARTS & TECHNOLOGY,
HAYBRIDGE ROAD, WELLINGTON, TELFORD
on THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2015, following the Extraordinary
Council Meeting or at 6.30 pm, whichever is the earlier.**

**All Members are summoned to attend for the transaction
of the under mentioned business**



Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection

A G E N D A

1. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9 July 2015

**Appendix A
White
Pages 7-16**

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest and should leave the room prior to commencement of that item

4. LEADER'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council may give an oral report on matters of significance to the Borough, comment upon the Cabinet decisions or make any announcements.

Announcement

The Leader will present Telford Street Pastors with an Excellence in the Community award in recognition of their invaluable work within the Borough. Telford Street Pastors began working in the night time economy of Telford on 1st July 2011. Since then, working closely with their partners in the Borough of Telford and Wrekin and West Mercia Police, uniformed Street Pastors have made a significant contribution to reducing night time crime and anti- social behaviour in the areas of the Borough where they have worked.

5. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To note the Mayoral Engagements undertaken since the Council meeting held on 9 July 2015.

**Appendix B
White
Pages 17-20**

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To receive any questions from the public which have been submitted under Council Procedure Rules 7.11 and 7.12. The session will last no more than 15 minutes with a maximum of 2 minutes allowed for each question and answer. Questions can be asked of The Leader and Cabinet Members.

1. Question for Councillor Kuldip Sahota, Leader of the Council, from Thomas Hoof.

"Has the Leader of Telford & Wrekin Council, or any member of his cabinet attended any meetings relating to Combined Authorities, more specifically any meeting relating to the West Midlands Combined Authority or West Midlands "Super Council" and if so who?"

2. Question for Councillor Kuldip Sahota, Leader of the Council, from Lucy Allan, Member of Parliament for Telford.

"Does the Leader agree that a collaborative approach to working with Telford's MP, is in the best interests of Telford. Further, will he commit to leading his cabinet members by example to ensure collaborative working in practice?"

3. Question for Councillor Liz Clare, Cabinet Member: Leisure Services & Culture from Fiona Hunter, Director, Clifton Community Arts Centre Ltd

“Does the Council support and endorse the creation of a significant Arts-based complex within the borough to provide a community-run facility for all sections of the population and to provide a wider range of programming, involvement, training and educational facilities than currently exists?”

7. CABINET DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL **Appendix C
White
Pages 21-24**

To receive the report on the Cabinet decisions made since publication of the last Council meeting agenda. Cabinet Members may speak on these decisions and Members may ask questions of the relevant Cabinet Member for the purposes of clarification only. Members are asked to note the additional delegations to officers granted at those meetings.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET

Cabinet – 23 July 2015

(i) Financial Management 2015/16

Recommended - that the changes to the Capital Programme shown in section 1 of the report be approved.

**Appendix D
Yellow
Pages 25-26**

(ii) Youth Justice Plan 2015/16

Recommended - that the Youth Justice Plan 2015/16 be approved.

**Appendix E
Yellow
Pages 27-78**

9. MINUTES OF BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Salmon Paper

To note the following resolved Minutes:

Audit Committee – 30 June

**Appendix F
Pages 79-86**

Health & Wellbeing Board – 10 June

**Appendix G
Pages 87-98**

Licensing Committee – 9 June

**Appendix H
Pages 99-102**

Planning Committee – 24 June, 15 July, 5 & 25 August

**Appendix I1-I4
Pages 103-156**

Standards Committee – 7 July

**Appendix J
Pages 157-158**

10. **QUESTIONS**

To answer questions received under Council Procedure Rule 7.

N.B. *In accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 7.4 there will be a maximum of 30 minutes allowed for questions and answers. Any question not answered within the 30 minute time limit will receive a written reply within 5 working days.*

11. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

- (i) Councillor Andrew Eade will move, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 the following Motion.

“This Council notes with concern the Labour Administration’s refusal to adopt the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in February 2012 which has prevented the Authority from raising money from Developers to pay for secondary school provision across the Borough over a number of years.

The adoption of the CIL will also: -

- deliver additional funding for T&W to carry out a wide range of infrastructure projects that support growth and benefit the local community.
- give the local community flexibility and freedom to set their own priorities for what the money should be spent on.
- ensure greater transparency for local people who will be able to understand how new development is contributing to their community
- enable local authorities to allocate a share of the levy raised in a neighbourhood to deliver infrastructure the neighbourhood wants.

Consequently this Council resolves to instruct that a report on adoption of the CIL is presented to Cabinet as a matter of urgency.”

Councillor Stephen Bentley will second the motion.

- (ii) Councillor Angela McClements will move, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 the following Motion.

“Since the Government announcement that they will support 20,000 Syrian refugees, this Council, together with other councils across the country, have responded by saying we wish to play our part by offering support for refugees fleeing the Syrian war zone.

“However, we note with concern that the Government will only currently fund councils for the first year and expect those councils to fund a further 4 years. We therefore welcome the Local Government Association’s (LGA) stance on lobbying Government on behalf of all councils, in asking Government to recognise the long-term impact of resettling Syrian refugees in communities and urging them to make a firm commitment to make long term funding available to councils. We feel that it is not right or fair to local council tax payers that this Council should be expected to pick up the tab.

“This Council therefore calls upon the Government to fully fund Councils like Telford and Wrekin who wish to help and respond to this humanitarian crisis.”

Councillor Rob Sloan will second the motion.

KEY

Yellow paper	Recommendations from Cabinet to Full Council
White Paper	Reports submitted direct to Full Council
Green Paper	Recommendations from Committees, Boards and Commissions requiring approval by Full Council
Salmon Paper	Resolved minutes for noting only

FILMING, RECORDING & PHOTOGRAPHY

The Council supports the principle of transparency and encourages filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. It also welcomes the use of social networking websites (such as Twitter and Facebook) and micro-blogging to communicate with people about what is happening, as it happens.

There is no requirement to notify the Council in advance, but it should be noted that the Chairman of the meeting will have absolute discretion to terminate or suspend any of these activities if, in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting. Full details of the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at meetings can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20243/council_meetings/365/filming_photography_recording_and_use_of_social_networking_at_meetings

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

At each Ordinary meeting of the Council a period of **15 minutes** will be allocated for public questions. Questions can be asked of The Leader and Cabinet Members. Details of the protocol for public questions can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20243/council_meetings/364/public_questions_at_council_meetings

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday 9 July 2015 at 6.30pm at Shropshire College Hotel Ltd 'The Telford Whitehouse', Wellington, Telford, Shropshire

PRESENT:

Councillors J.C. Ashford, S.L. Barnes, S. Bentley, M. Boylan, A.J. Burford, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, L.D. Carter, E.A. Clare, G.K. Cook, S. Davies, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, A.R.H. England, N.A.M. England, R.C. Evans, V.A. Fletcher, I.T.W. Fletcher, V.A. Fletcher, J.A. Francis, C.A. Furnival, E.J. Greenaway, K.R. Guy, M.B. Hosken, J. Jones, A. Lawrence, J. Loveridge, N.C. Lowery, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, A.A. Meredith, J.C. Minor, C.P.R. Mollett, L.A. Murray (Mayor), T.J. Nelson, R.A. Overton, J. Pinter, G.C.W. Reynolds, S.A.W. Reynolds, S.J. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota (Leader), P.J. Scott, J.M. Seymour, R.J. Sloan, C.F. Smith (Speaker), M.J. Smith, B.D. Tillotson, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling and D.G. Wright.

19. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting and the Special Meeting for admission of an honorary Freeman of the Borough, held on 21st May 2015, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

20. TRIBUTE TO JEZ PRESCOTT

Council observed one minutes silence in tribute to Jez Prescott, a community worker in the Youth Innovation team who had tragically lost his life on the Brecon Beacons. The Leader paid tribute to Jez's outstanding dedication and commitment to the young people of the Borough. The thoughts of everyone at the Council were with his family, friends and colleagues at a very sad and difficult time.

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor K.T. Blundell.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Managing Director and the Monitoring Officer declared an interest in agenda item 9, Implementation of new legislation and changes to constitution – statutory officers report. The Speaker confirmed that both officers would leave the room during debate and voting on that item.

23. LEADER'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader reported on the successful T Party and on the Carnival of Giants parade. He asked members to note the building of rental homes which would be available from early next year. Consultation would begin in August on the draft local plan, reducing the number of new homes to be built from over 26000 to 15500. The new £1m refurbishment of Brookside Community Centre had been completed in June and the Town Centre Box road had also now been completed. Jobs for the Borough remained a focus.

24. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on a number of engagements that he had attended since the last meeting of the Council.

25. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following question from the public had been received.

With the biggest changes to Bus services in Telford & Wrekin in the last 10 years, I'm concerned about the lack of consultation by Arriva & the impact these changes will have on the most vulnerable. I'm pleased to see the council has raised these concerns. Could the Cabinet Member update me?

John Thompson
Chair Telford Wrekin Bus User Group
25 Broadway Avenue
Trench

Councillor A D McClements, Cabinet Member: Communities, Regeneration & Transport, told the meeting that the Council had no direct influence on bus routes. Arriva were not legally required to consult on proposals. The Council had written to the Secretary of State on this matter and also lobbied the Traffic Commissioner. The Leader of the Council had also written to Arriva insisting that they carry out full and proper consultation.

26. 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.

Upon the following question being raised, Councillor L. D. Carter, Cabinet Member: Council Finance & Service Delivery, left the room.

AFC Telford Utd Development Report – In response to a question from Councillor AJ Eade, Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Business, Neighbourhood & Customer

Service, told the meeting that this decision had not been called in that the Cabinet approval stood. In response to a further question from Councillor A. Lawrence, Councillor Davies replied that there was no conflict of interest and that the same standards were applied to all councillors. Councillor Carter returned to the room.

Planning of School Places – In response to a question from Councillor I.T.W. Fletcher, Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, replied that the Holy Trinity School in Priorslee currently remained as a Church school. He agreed to provide a written response on the transfer of assets.

27. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET

i) 2014/15 Out-turn and Initial Monitoring for 2015/16

Councillor L.J. Carter, Cabinet Member: Council Finance & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance. Councillor Carter, in reply to a question from Councillor A.J. Eade on Council debt told the meeting that in the face of huge funding cuts the Council was now collecting a further £19m of revenue when compared to 2011 revenue. The Council would continue to work relentlessly on collection of outstanding debt.

RESOLVED –

- (i) that the Revenue out-turn position and related virements for 2014/15, shown in Appendix 3 of the report (and subject to audit by the Council's external auditors), and the transfers to reserves detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report be approved;
- (ii) that the Capital out-turn position and related supplementary estimates, virements and re-phasing, shown in Appendix 4 of the report, be approved;
- (iii) that performance against income targets be noted;
- (iv) that the key issues identified for 2015/16 be noted, and the new capital allocation detailed in paragraph 8.2 be approved.

Prior to discussion of the following item the Managing Director and the Monitoring Officer left the room.

28. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW LEGISLATION AND CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION – STATUTORY OFFICERS

Councillor Kuldip Sahota, Leader of the Council: presented the report of the People Services Manager which set out proposals for changes to the disciplinary process for the Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer. The report also included minor adjustments to the Constitution arising from the meeting of Audit Committee on 30 June.

RESOLVED –

(i) That the Council’s Constitution be amended to incorporate the new legislative requirements and that Council consider approving the proposed arrangement as detailed in Appendix 1 for the disciplining and dismissal of senior staff as set out in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/881), (“the Regulations”)

(ii) That the current Independent Persons engaged by the Council for member conduct issues be invited to fulfil the role of Independent Persons under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/881), (“the Regulations”).

(iii) The Council confirm agreement for the arrangements in Appendix1 to contain a panel made up of Independent Persons and that accordingly the requirement for political balance does not apply in accordance with the provisions in section 17 of the Local Government Act 1972.

(iv) That further reports be submitted to Council as national contractual and legislative issues are determined.

(v) That the Constitutional Changes recommended by Audit Committee at its meeting of 30 June 2015 be approved.

Prior to the following agenda item the Managing Director and the Monitoring Officer returned to the room.

29. RECOMMENDATION FROM BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Audit Committee 30 June 2015

Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy

RESOLVED – That the updated policy be adopted

30. MINUTES OF BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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

Co-Operative and Communities Scrutiny Committee	29 th January
Health & Wellbeing Board	21st January and 11 March
Licensing Committee	24th March
Planning Committee	25 th February, 18 th March, 8 th April and 3 rd June

31. QUESTIONS

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

1. Councillor Peter Scott asked Councillor Shaun Davies the following question:

Newport residents continue to be concerned about their recycling offer following the closure of the Newport Recycling Centre. Following my discussions with the Leader at the end of last year, the Council offered up a free bulk recycling collection to all Newport area residents. Can the Cabinet Member: Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Services confirm any improvements to that offer to help the people of Newport recycle other items such as large garden waste?

Councillor Davies replied that the free bulk collection scheme had been extended to September 2016, and for over 65's and people with disabilities this was Borough wide. 600 bulk collections had been undertaken already. Councillors and the local press would be promoting this initiative.

2. Councillor Peter Scott asked Councillor Richard Overton the following question:

Now that the council has secured a 5 year land supply, can the Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection confirm that the remaining greenfield land in and around Newport will be preserved for the future benefit of the area and it's residents, and are there any plans to include much needed outdoor sports facilities?

Councillor R.A. Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection, replied that the Local Plan would contain a 'Green guarantee' to protect green spaces within the Borough. Section 106 contributions from approved planning applications in Newport would be used to provide new sports pitches and outdoor provision.

3 Councillor Chris Turley asked Councillor Paul Watling the following question:

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on the current situation with the four TCMAT (Telford Co-operative Multi Academy Trust) schools?

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, replied that GCSE results had been disappointing. There had been no Council representative on TCMAT board since 2014. In February 2015 the four schools had been placed in special measures with the trust now being wound down and a restructure of lead officers and staff taking place. He was confident that with the schools working in partnership with the Council that they would achieve success in the future.

4. Councillor Stephen Bentley asked Councillor Paul Watling the following question:

Would the cabinet member, explain the decision to change the names of the failing schools that the administration introduced under the co-operative banner?

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, replied that the Council had no involvement with the decision to change names; this was a matter for the governing body. He urged all councillors to support each school.

5. Councillor Stephen Bentley will ask Councillor Kuldip Sahota the following question

Will the leader explain to me how this business winning council works?

Councillor Bentley withdrew this question.

6. Councillor Stephen Bentley asked Councillor Kuldip Sahota the following question

Can the leader provide members an update with regards negotiations between the Local Authority and NHS trust with regards to the retention of Accident & Emergency provision at the Princess Royal Hospital?

Councillor Sahota replied that he had written to the Secretary of State for Health on five separate occasions since September 2013. There was no ambiguity to the position of the Council; Accident & Emergency services must be retained for Telford.

7 Councillor Nathan England asked the following question of Councillor Paul Watling

Can the Cabinet Member for Children Young People & Families comment on the current situation at TCAT where up to 80 posts are being made redundant?

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, was dismayed at the cuts, he believed that people should come together to lobby for a better deal.

32. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

This Council notes with concern the proposed changes to bus routes announced by Arriva and condemns their lack of proper consultation and consideration of community needs in Telford and Wrekin. This council therefore resolves to press Arriva for an extension to the current 19th of July deadline in order for the Company to gather views, allow proper consideration and reflection on the impact which their current actions will inflict on our community.

This Council further resolves to act on behalf of the Community and challenge Arriva's decision if proper consultation and consideration does not take place

The motion was seconded by Councillor S Bentley

The following amended motion had been submitted

This Council notes with concern the proposed changes to bus routes announced by Arriva and condemns their lack of proper consultation and consideration of community needs in Telford and Wrekin. This council therefore resolves to press Arriva for an extension to the current 19th of July deadline in order for the Company to gather views, allow proper consideration and reflection on the impact which their current actions will inflict on our community.

Although this Council has acted on behalf of the community and challenged Arriva's decision, this Council deplores the fact that communities have little influence over the local transport on which many depend and the current law makes it impossible to prevent the loss of a much valued bus service.

This Council calls on both of the Telford and Wrekin MP's to lobby their government to make changes to the 1985 Transport Services Act and give communities greater power over local transport in their area.

Following a debate on the amendment a vote was taken and the amendment was carried. A debate ensued on the amended motion.

A recorded was requested and voting was as follows:

For (30)

Councillors Burford, L Carter, Clare, Cook, Davies, A England, N England, R Evans, Guy, Jones, Loveridge, Mason, McClements, Minor, Murray, Pinter, G Reynolds, SA Reynolds, SW Reynolds, Sahota, Scott, Sloan, C Smith, M Smith, K Tomlinson, W Tomlinson, Turley, Watling

Against (23)

Councillors Ashford, Barnes, Bentley, Boylan, Burrell, E Carter, Dugmore, Eade, I Fletcher, V Fletcher, Francis, Furnival, Greenaway, Hosken, Kiernan, Lawrence, Lowery, Meredith, Mollett, Nelson, Seymour, Tillotson, Wright.

The motion, as amended was approved
It was

RESOLVED – that the amended motion be approved

(ii) Councillor E.J. Carter moved, in accordance with Council procedure rule 11, the following motion:

This council notes with regret the previous Administration's decision to close the well-used recycling centre at Newport, while at the same time granting planning permission for over a thousand new houses in the town. Consequently, this Council requests that the Administration works with the community to provide a new facility in this part of the Borough.

The motion was seconded by Councillor T.J. Nelson

Following a debate a recorded vote was requested. Voting was as follows

For (26)

Councillors Ashford, Barnes, Bentley, Boylan, Burrell, E Carter, Dugmore, Eade, I Fletcher, V Fletcher, Francis, Furnival, Greenaway, Hosken, Kiernan, Lawrence, Lowery, Meredith, Mollett, Nelson, Scott, Seymour, Tillotson, K Tomlinson, W Tomlinson, Wright,

Against (27)

Councillors Burford, L Carter, Clare, Cook, Davies, A England, N England, R Evans, Guy, Jones, Loveridge, Mason, McClements, Minor, Murray, Pinter, G Reynolds, SA Reynolds, SW Reynolds, Sahota, Sloan, C Smith, M Smith, Turley, Watling

It was

RESOLVED – that the motion not be approved

(iii) Councillor A.D. McClements moved, in accordance with Council procedure rule 11, the following motion:

“With a number of Conservative MPs now speaking out against their own Government’s ill thought-out Bedroom Tax, (including the Shropshire MP, Daniel Kawczynski) we call on our two MPs for both The Wrekin and Telford to support this Council’s opposition to the Bedroom Tax and call on the Government to scrap this flawed policy with immediate effect, which is having a detrimental and devastating effect on the lives of so many vulnerable people in our Borough who are renting from a registered housing association or other registered social landlord.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor S.A.W. Reynolds

Following a debate a recorded vote was requested. Voting was as follows

For (30)

Councillors Burford, L Carter, Clare, Cook, Davies, A England, N England, R Evans, Guy, Jones, Loveridge, Mason, McClements, Minor, Murray, Pinter, G Reynolds, SA Reynolds, SW Reynolds, Sahota, Scott, Sloan, C Smith, M Smith, K Tomlinson, W Tomlinson, Turley, Watling

Abstention (23)

Councillors Ashford, Barnes, Bentley, Boylan, Burrell, E Carter, Dugmore, Eade, I Fletcher, V Fletcher, Francis, Furnival, Greenaway, Hosken, Kiernan, Lawrence, Lowery, Meredith, Mollett, Nelson, Seymour, Tillotson, Wright.

It was

RESOLVED – that the motion be approved

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.

Mayor:

Date:

MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS
1 July 2015 to 13 September 2015

July`	1	M	Shropshire homes School Sport Festival at Shrewsbury Sports Village, Shrewsbury
	3	M	Official Opening of Crystals Cupcakes, Dawley, Telford
	4	M	Wrekin College Speech Day at Wrekin College, Wellington
	5	M	Randlay Colts Junior Football Club Annual Tournament at Stirchley Recreation Centre Playing Fields, Stirchley, Telford
	6	DM	Senior Citizens Forum at Dawley Christian Centre, Dawley, Telford
	7	M	Mayor's Charity Appeal Bike Ride, Outside Primark, Telford Shopping Centre
		M	Telford & Wrekin Historic England heritage School's Celebration Event at The Place, Oakengates, Telford
	8	M	Mayor's Charity Bike Ride, Outside Primark, Telford Shopping Centre
		M	Federation of Small Businesses Budget Day Luncheon at The Wroxeter Hotel, Shrewsbury
		M	Active Lifestyle Awards Evening at The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
	9	M	Gallery Showcase at Grange Park Primary School, Calcott, Stirchley
10	M	Dementia Friend Information Session at Wellington Cottage Care, Wellington	
	M	Telford & Wrekin Policing Area Cadets Pass Out Parade at Ercall Wood Technology College, Wellington	
11	M	Re-opening of Holy Trinity Church, Oakengates	

- M** Ironbridge Gorge Brass Band Charity Concert at The Museum of Iron, Coalbrookdale
- 12 M** Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council Fun Day at Hollinswood Pavilion Field
- M** Chairman's Civic Sunday at St Mary's RC Church, Staffordshire
- 15 M** Citizenship Ceremony at Register Office, Wellington Civic & Leisure Centre, Wellington
- 17 DM** Adams' Grammar School Speech Day & Prize giving Ceremony at Adams' Grammar School, Newport
- 21 M** Official Opening of the Museum of The Gorge, The Wharfage, Ironbridge
- 24 M** Ricoh 30th Anniversary Ceremony at Ricoh UK Products Ltd, Priorslee, Telford
- M** Re-Launch of Oakengates Theatre at The Place, Oakengates
- 25 M** Arleston Community Fun Day at Watling Centre, Arleston, Telford
- M** Malinslee & Dawley Bank Day at St Leonards & Prince George Playing Field, Malinslee, Telford
- 26 M** Opening of Dawley Town Hall Gardens, Dawley Town Hall, Dawley, Telford
- M** Civic Service at Wellington Methodist Church, Wellington
- 29 DM** Girlguiding Shropshire Camp Visit at The West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury
- August 1 M** Dawley Musical Theatre Group Summer Show at St Leonard's Church, Malinslee, Telford
- 2 M** Community Health Day at The Whitehouse Hotel, Wellington

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| | 8 | M | Telford Fire Station Open Day at Telford Firestation, Stafford Park 1, Telford |
| | 9 | M | Phillips Chartered Accountants Charity Fun Day at Telford Hornets Rugby Club, Dawley, Telford |
| | 12 | DM | Slimming World Award Presentations at Telford College of Arts & Technology, Wellington, Telford |
| | 16 | M | Post Flower Show Luncheon at The Quarry, Shrewsbury |
| | | M | Charity Ice Show in aid of The Georgia Williams Trust, Telford Ice Rink |
| | | M | Captain Webb Medal Presentation at Dawley Town Hall, Dawley, Telford |
| | 23 | DM | Mayor of Much Wenlock Garden Party at The Old Hall, Cressage |
| | 27 | M | Architects of Air VIP Preview at Southwater, Telford Town Centre |
| September | 3 | M | Fly a Flag for Merchant Navy Day at Addenbrooke House, Telford |
| | | M | RAF Shawbury Annual Reception at Officers' Mess, RAF Shawbury |
| | 10 | M | Re-opening of Specsavers Telford at Southwater Way, Telford |
| | | M | RAF Cosford Annual Reception at Hangar 3, RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton |
| | 11 | M | Association of Meat Inspectors 50 th Annual Seminar at Harper Adams University, Newport |
| | 12 | M | Nuneaton & District Swimming Gala at Wolverhampton Central Baths, Wolverhampton |
| | | DM | Gower Fun Day at St Georges Primary School, St Georges |

DM Official Opening of BMX Tract at Woodside,
Telford

M Mayor of Bridgnorth Charity Concert at St
Mary's Church, Bridgnorth

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 1 OCTOBER 2015

REPORT OF CABINET – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

MATTERS DETERMINED BY THE CABINET

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report sets out those matters determined by the Cabinet at its meetings on 23rd July and 17th September 2015.

2.0 CABINET BUSINESS

Matters that have been determined by Cabinet are listed below:

2.1 23rd July 2015

K/PC	2.1.1	Financial Management 2015/16
K	2.1.2	Telford & Wrekin Local Plan
K	2.1.3	Revised Bus Subsidy Policy
K/C	2.1.4	Youth Justice Plan 2015/16
NK	2.1.5	Councillors' Pride Fund
NK	2.1.6	Single Fraud Investigation Service and Revenues & Benefit Sanction and Penalty Policy
NK	2.1.7	Driving delivery of the Council's Priorities: 2014/15 Year End and Performance Analysis
NK	2.1.8	Acquisition of Land at Lodge Road, Donnington Wood
NK	2.1.9	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
NK	2.1.10	Representation on Outside Bodies 2015/16

2.2 17th September 2015

NK	2.2.1	A Devolution Proposal for Telford & Wrekin
K/E	2.2.2	Street Lighting Service and Maintenance Contract

Key

K	= Key Decisions
NK	= Non-Key Decisions
E	= Exempt Items
PE	= Part Exempt Item
C	= Council
PC	= Part Recommendation to Council

REPORT HEADING	DELEGATION GRANTED TO	DETAIL OF DELEGATION GRANTED
Street Lighting Service and Maintenance Contract	Assistant Director: Neighbourhood and Customer Services Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services	To negotiate and agree terms of the contract extension referred to in recommendation 1; To execute all necessary contractual documentation in accordance with the Constitution, including the affixing of the Common Seal of the Council.
LEGAL COMMENT FINANCIAL COMMENT LINKS WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EQUALITY & DIVERSITY WARD IMPLICATIONS	As described in each report considered by Cabinet. Copies of all reports have been previously circulated to all Members of the Council	

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

**CABINET – 23 JULY 2015
COUNCIL – 1 OCTOBER 2015**

2015/16 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT

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

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: CLLR LEE CARTER

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1.0 SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

1.1 2015/16 Revenue

The net projected outturn position for 2015/16 is estimated to be within budget. This is after applying £3.6m currently available in central contingencies pending any further commitments which may arise during the rest of the year. Pressures in Adult Social Services and Childrens Safeguarding continue to be the key areas of concern and both areas have cost improvement plans in place to reduce costs and deliver savings.

Further cuts to local government funding are anticipated and with the Emergency Budget having been announced on the 8 July, which will be followed by the Comprehensive Spending Review and Autumn Statement later in the year, it is clear that there will be a requirement to deliver more savings both during 2015/16 and in later years. It is therefore important that all Service Areas spend within budget by year end and take every opportunity to identify further savings opportunities and where possible accelerate the delivery of planned savings which will support the Council's future position given the financial pressures which lie ahead.

There are a number of variations from the approved budget, including some beneficial variances. The key areas to highlight are:

- Public Health projected savings of £0.3m – however this is before taking into account the impact of the in-year cuts to Public Health funding announced by the Chancellor in early June. At the time of writing this report no figure has been put on this cut but on a pro rata basis, it would equate to around £0.78m to be found this year and then on a recurring basis . Clearly the cut may not be allocated between authorities on a pro rata basis so the actual in-year reduction to be found may be greater or less than £0.78m
- A benefit of £0.2m relating to Treasury Management activities

- A benefit of £0.8m relating to the budget for the implementation of Single Status which will not be required in 2015/16
- Adult Social Services are currently projecting an overspend of £3.1m mainly relating to the cost of care packages; a cost improvement plan is in place to deliver savings which should reduce this as the year progresses.
- Children's Safeguarding also continues to be a key pressure with an overspend of £1.2m being reported, the majority relating to the cost of Children in Care placements. A cost improvement plan is in place to review costs and the placement strategy.

1.2 Capital

The capital programme totals £107m which includes slippage and all approvals since the budget was set. At the time of compiling this report, projected spend was 95% of the budget allocation.

1.3 Corporate Income Collection

The collection levels for Business Rates is ahead of target whilst Sales Ledger outstanding debt and Council Tax collection are slightly behind the targets set for the year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Cabinet Members are asked to:-

- (i) Note that 2015/16 revenue spending is currently projected to be within budget and continue to work with SMT to sustain this position; and to approve the virement detailed in paragraph 4.4;**
- (ii) Note the position in relation to capital spend and that Cabinet recommend that Council approve the new allocations and slippage detailed in Appendix 3**
- (iii) Note the collection rates for NNDR, council tax and sales ledger.**

3.0 SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-operative Council priorities?	
	Yes	Delivery of all priorities depend on the effective use of available resources. Regular financial monitoring in the financial management reports helps to highlight variations from plan so that action can be taken to effectively manage the Council's budget.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	To outturn within the budget set for 2015/16 at 31/3/16.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The financial impacts are detailed throughout the report.
LEGAL ISSUES	No	None directly arising from this report. The S151 Officer has a statutory duty to monitor income and expenditure and ensure that the Council takes action if overall net overspends /shortfalls emerge.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4.0 2015/16 REVENUE BUDGET

- 4.1 Financial management is the responsibility of budget holders and is supported by Finance staff using a risk based approach: following considerable reductions in finance resources through savings exercises more focus is given to higher risk areas (high value/highly volatile); less frequent financial monitoring is undertaken on budgets deemed to be lower risk.

4.2 The overall 2015/16 budget position is summarised in the table below:

Service Area	Current Variation
	£
Children's Safeguarding & Specialist Services	1,169,347
Education & Corporate Parenting	118,892
Family, Cohesion & Commissioning Services	306,118
Development, Business & Employment	200,000
Leisure, Culture & Facilities Management	4,670
Adult Social Services	3,057,725
Health, Well Being & Public Protection	(299,000)
Neighbourhood & Customer Services	107,268
Law, Democracy & People Services	(800,000)
Finance, Audit & Information Governance	(284,419)
Cooperative Council & Commercial Delivery Unit	0
Council Wide	0
Total Projected Variation	3,580,601
Use of Uncommitted Corporate Contingencies	(3,580,601)
Total Projected Year End Variation	0

4.3 Projected variances over £0.100m are highlighted below, other variances are detailed in Appendix 2.

Service Area	Variance £m
<u>Children's Safeguarding & Specialist Services</u>	
Children in Care Placements (CiC) – currently projecting £0.991m overspend which is an improvement when compared to the overspend of £1.558m at the end of 2014/15. This reflects 293 CiC at the 11 June 2015 (293 at 31 March 2015). Work is ongoing to further reduce costs which includes reviewing unit costs, the numbers of children in care and the placement strategy.	+0.991
Internal Foster Carer Costs – payments to Foster Carers including transport costs and foster carer training.	+0.141
Staffing (Safeguarding) – including the cost of agency social workers	+0.103
Joint Adoption Service – pressures arising from the cessation of the Adoption Reform Grant that part-funded this service and savings targets not yet delivered. Work is underway to bring spend back within budget.	+0.159

<p>Children not in Care/ in Need costs – adoption agency fees and costs relating to keeping children at home which are both alternatives to the higher care related costs.</p> <p>One off Funds – use of specific contingency set aside as part of the budget strategy</p> <p>The Service Area has a Cost Improvement Plan for 2015/16 which includes specific elements to reduce the reported overspends described above. Close monitoring and management by senior officers and members is in place to review progress against the Cost Improvement Plan targets set.</p>	<p>+0.227</p> <p>-0.750</p>
<p><u>Education & Corporate Parenting</u></p> <p>There are currently no variances over £0.100m to report.</p>	
<p><u>Family, Cohesion Services & Commissioning</u></p> <p>Transport Contracting & Commissioning – costs relating to Supporting People. The service is currently under review to deliver savings and is looking at innovative ways of providing support.</p>	<p>+0.317</p>
<p><u>Adult Social Services</u></p> <p>Purchasing budgets – the pressures reported throughout 2014/15 are continuing into 2015/16. The service has a cost improvement plan which if successfully delivered in full during 2015/16 would eradicate the overspend. This is being closely monitored by senior officers and members.</p> <p>Income – includes client contributions and contributions towards care from the CCG and funding towards Care Act costs together with use of reserves.</p> <p>Transport – spend is consistent with 2014/15 and remains over budget. A review group has been set up to look at ways to reduce expenditure and identify a more robust transport policy.</p> <p>One off Funds – use of specific contingency set aside as part of the budget strategy</p>	<p>+6.820</p> <p>-1.654</p> <p>+0.154</p> <p>-2.500</p>
<p><u>Public Health, Wellbeing & Public Protection</u></p> <p>Smoking Cessation Contract – saving arising from reduced demand and use of service.</p>	<p>-0.150</p>

<p><u>Leisure, Culture & Facilities Management</u></p> <p>Leisure Services – projected shortfalls against income targets due to the ongoing BSF works at Oakengates impacting on usage and new income targets for the proposed synthetic turf pitch.</p>	<p>+0.100</p>
<p><u>Development, Business & Employment</u></p> <p>Regeneration & Investments – Property Investment Portfolio income shortfall on current projections.</p>	<p>+0.300</p>
<p><u>Neighbourhood & Customer Services</u></p> <p>ICT – pressure arising from the increased number of Microsoft licenses required across the council.</p>	<p>+0.175</p>
<p><u>Finance, Audit & Information Governance</u></p> <p>Treasury –benefit arising from current low interest rates and lower borrowing than anticipated in the earlier part of the year.</p>	<p>-0.200</p>
<p><u>Law, Democracy & People Services</u></p> <p>Single Status - the budget for 2015/16 allowed for implementation of the single status settlement during the year which will not happen. Some associated system costs are required (see 4.4 below) and a residual underspend will remain.</p>	<p>-0.800</p>
<p><u>Co-operative Council Delivery Unit</u></p> <p>Detailed monitoring has not yet been undertaken for this Service Area in accordance with the risk based monitoring approach adopted by the Council.</p>	

- 4.4 The Council’s Payroll/HR IT system is due an upgrade (to ensure continued Supplier support and maintenance and support the implementation of single status). A business case is being developed which will be brought to a future meeting of SMT. An element of funding has been allocated in the ICT Capital Strategy towards the upgrade and it is proposed that the balance of funding required, estimated at £0.220m, is met from the single status budget underspend (mentioned above).

5.0 CONTINGENCIES

5.1 The 2015/16 budget includes a prudent general contingency of £2.776m, which is set aside to meet any unforeseen expenditure, or delays in phasing in the significant level of savings that the Council has to deliver this year. There is also an amount held centrally for contractual inflation totalling £1.744m which forms part of the approved revenue budget but is only allocated to specific budgets when the relevant inflation indices are available. Given the exceptional cuts being made in the Council's budget it is imperative that the Council has a reasonable level of contingency in order to cover increases in demand for services (e.g. safeguarding which can be significant and occur with no warning) and to allow for any delays or shortfalls in the delivery of planned savings. The current position relating to contingencies is shown below:

	£
General Revenue Contingency	2,776,000
Inflation Contingency	1,744,000
Total Contingencies	4,520,000
Commitments:	
Current commitments for contractual inflation	230,000
Total Committed Use of Contingency	230,000
Balance remaining in Contingencies	4,290,000
Required for Revenue Position	(3,580,601)
Residual balance in Contingencies	709,399

Currently £3.6m of the contingency is required to bring spend within budget in 2015/16. This leaves only £0.7m available to meet any unforeseen costs in the remainder of the year – including finding the balance of in-year cuts to public health and any other government grants following the Chancellor's budget.

6.0 **CAPITAL**

6.1 **2015/16 Capital Programme**

The capital programme totals £107m, which includes all approvals in the outturn report and those proposed in this report.

The financial position is shown in the table below which shows projected spend is currently shown at £101m (reflecting likely requirements for some further slippage of spend into later years).

Service Area	Budget	Year End Projection
	£m	£m
Education & Corporate Parenting	31.69	31.10
Development, Business & Employment	39.39	38.39
Neighbourhood & Customer Services	29.70	29.04
Adult Social Services	2.54	2.04
Customer Services	3.40	0.75
Cooperative Council Delivery Unit	0.23	0.03
Council Wide	0.12	0.00
Total	107.07	101.35

6.2 A number of virements, slippage and new allocations are put forward for approval which are detailed in Appendix 3.

7.0 **CORPORATE INCOME MONITORING**

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

7.2 In summary, the overall position shows collection levels is either on target or slightly behind the target set. Cash collection remains in a good position.

INCOME COLLECTION – May 2015				
	Actual	Target	Performance	Change in cash collected on last year
Collection Levels:				
Council Tax Collection	19.48%	19.55%	0.07% behind target	+ £361,219
NNDR Collection	23.20%	21.27%	1.93 ahead of target	+£2,227,186
Sales Ledger Outstanding Debt	11.71%	7.00%	4.71% behind target	+£434,080

7.3 Council Tax (£69.8m)

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

Year end performance 2014/15	96.7%
Year End Target for 2015/16	96.7%

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

Month End Target	Month End Actual	Last year Actual
19.55%	19.48%	19.55%

Cash collected for council tax has increased by £361k compared to this point last year, and the debit figure that we are due to collect has increased by just over £2 million. Building growth in Telford has resulted in 1133 properties being built within the last 12 months. Percentage collection is only slightly under target by 0.07% compared to this point last year.

7.4 NNDR-Business Rates (£75.4m)

The % of business rates for 2015/16 that should have been collected during the year. This target, as for council tax, ignores our continuing collection of earlier years' liabilities.

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

Year end performance 2014/15	97.5%
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Year End Target for 2015/16

97.6%

Month End Target	Month End Actual	Last year Actual
21.27%	23.20%	21.17%

We have collected £2.2million more than this time last year. The vast majority of this is due to internal TWC payments for business rates being made slightly earlier than last year.

7.5 **Sales Ledger (£34.9m)**

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

The target percent is set relating cumulative debt outstanding from all years to the current annual debit. The targets and performance of income collection for 2014/15 are as follows:

Age of debt	Annual Target %	May 2015	
		£m	%
Total	7.00	4.10	11.71%

Sales ledger performance is outside target. This is mainly due to a number of large invoices which are currently being actively pursued by the Revenues Service and Senior Managers across the organisation . Negotiations regarding payment for these invoices is currently taking place.

8.0 **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

05/03/15 – Council, Service & Financial Planning Strategy

25/06/15 - Cabinet, Service & Financial Planning Report – 2014/15 Outturn and 2015/16 Update

9.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

2015/16 Budget Strategy / Financial Ledger reports

Report Prepared by:

Ken Clarke, Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance (Chief Financial Officer) – 01952 383100;

Pauline Harris, Corporate Finance Manager – 01952 383701

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL - 1st OCTOBER 2015

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 15/16

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR; FAMILY, COHESION
& COMMISIONING.**

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 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 2015/16 be approved by Full Council

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 15/16 and the plan will be reviewed in the final quarter of 15/16 in order to prepare the Youth Justice Plan for 16/17.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	<p>Telford & Wrekin as one of the constituent authorities in the consortium employs staff and incurs the operational costs to deliver the service in Shropshire. The costs are then reimbursed by Worcestershire as host authority, and a levy is charged back to the constituent Councils..</p> <p>The Council's 2015/16 Youth Offending Service budget is £297k for the levy. This is a single levy on the authority which contributes towards the costs of the current service provision.</p> <p>Adopting the strategy is not expected to incur any additional costs over and above the current costs of operation and therefore the budget provision for 2015/16 remains sufficient. There are therefore no further financial implications anticipated from adopting the recommendation of this report.</p> <p>RP-26.6.15</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 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. 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. KF 26.6.15
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 2015/16 was prepared in May 2015 in line with the guidance issued by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), agreed at the West Mercia Youth Offending Service Management Board on 1st June 2015 and will be submitted to the YJB by the end of August 2015.

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 four main priorities¹ for 2015/16 as follows:

- (i) Improving Performance and Developing Practice
 - In response to the findings of internal and external audits work to improve identified areas of practice and quality
 - Implementation of the Short Quality Screening (SQS) Inspection action plan
 - Re-establishing the Worcester Junior Attendance Centre (JAC) and developing the programme for the Telford JAC
 - Developing service guidance and screening tools for child sexual exploitation (CSE)
 - Implementation of a single ICT system and new case management system
 - Review the management of risk processes and implementation of a single integrated intervention plan for young people

- (ii) Understanding our Young People
 - Implementation of tracker tools for re-offending, first time entrants, education, training and employment and victim work
 - Further analysis of first time entrants to gain a greater understanding of journey of the child into the youth justice system
 - Work to understand the nature and extent of harmful sexual behaviour by young people
 - Reviewing and revising methods of collecting and the use of feedback from service users
 - Building and developing the needs assessment and evidence base

- (iii) Improved Joint Working and Integration
 - Continued focus on joint issues between YOS and social care for looked after children and care leavers through the LAC and Care Leavers sub group of the Management Board
 - Developing better joint work, information and integration with relevant children services
 - Ensuring linkages with the Troubled Families and early help developments in each local authority
 - Strengthening transition work with NPS, particularly through the implementation of the Y2A case transfer arrangements

- (iv) Governance and Communication

¹ See pages 20 and 21 of the plan

- Complete the service review and agree future delivery arrangements for youth offending services across West Mercia
- Developing a more integrated approach to leadership and management of the YOS between the management team and management board
- Further development of the communications strategy
- Review of health participation in the YOS governance structure

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 38-42 of the plan.

- 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 490 for the year ending September 2014, compared to 504 for the year September 2013, a reduction of 3%. The YJB will be assisting in an analysis of first time entrants in Telford and Wrekin to inform the evidence base for what works in preventing offending locally.

- 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. In 2014/15 the custody rate for Telford and Wrekin was 0.06, compared to the rate of 0.54 for 2013/14. The performance is better than for West Mercia, 0.20.

- 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 2012/13 the frequency rate for Telford and Wrekin is 0.91 and for 2011/12 the rate was 0.85. Although the rate has slightly increased between the two years, it is in line with the West Mercia rate, 0.89 and significantly better than the national rate, 1.08.

The binary rate for Telford and Wrekin 2012/13 is 32.4% compared to 32.7% for 11/12. The Telford and Wrekin rate is slightly higher than for West Mercia, 31.3% but significantly better than England, 36.0%.

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

- Cabinet Report 24th July 2014

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- West Mercia Youth Offending Service – Youth justice Plan 2015/16

Report prepared by: Keith Barham, Head of West Mercia Youth Offending Service

Jas Bedesha Service Delivery Manager Cohesion Services

WEST MERCIA YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

2015/16



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

Youth offending partnerships have a statutory duty to produce an annual youth justice plan which must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State. It is the duty of the Local Authorities, after consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement the youth justice plan which sets out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded.

This plan and its content have been prepared in accordance with the guidance “Youth Justice Plans: YJB Practice Note for Youth Offending Partnerships” published in March 2015.

1.2 Context

West Mercia Youth Offending Service (YOS) is partnership between the Local Authorities, National Probation Service, West Mercia Police and NHS organisations across West Mercia, supported by the Office for the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner. The service is accountable to the West Mercia YOS Management Board comprised of senior officers from each partner agency.

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. The YOS was initially hosted, on behalf of the youth justice partnership, by West Mercia Probation Trust, but following the dissolution of the Trust at the end of May 2014, is being hosted on an interim basis by Worcestershire County Council pending the completion of a review of the future delivery arrangements for youth justice services.

The YOS and YOS Management Board do not work in isolation in reducing offending by children and young people and improving the outcomes for children and young people who have entered or at risk of entering the youth justice system. Other key relevant plans are the Children and Young People’s Plans, Community Safety Strategies and the Health and Wellbeing Plans for each area and the Police and Crime Plan for West Mercia. In respect of this the YOS Management Board recognise the need to make strategic alliances with other relevant boards and governance bodies and the YOS recognises the need to develop more integrated working with other services for children and young people at a local level.

The YOS is subject to three national indicators, the number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time, the use of custodial sentences and the proportion of young people receiving youth justice sanctions who re-offend .

- The rate of first time entrants in West Mercia is at its lowest level since it was first measured in the current way in 2008/09, and the rate is lower than for England.
- The rate of custody in West Mercia is at its lowest level since the current measure was introduced in 2009 and the rate has fallen each year since then. The rate is significantly below the rate for England.
- The proportion of young people re-offending in West Mercia has fallen over the past year and is significantly below the rate for England.

More detail on the service performance against these indicators including comparative data can be found in section 1.8 of the plan.

A joint Management Board and Management Team planning day was held in March 2015 where the priorities and actions within this plan were developed, based on a needs analysis and service user feedback.

1.3 Plans for 2015/16

The YOS Management Board have agreed four main overarching priorities for 2015/16, key priorities for each local area are identified in area profiles (appendices 1 to 4).

(i) Improving Performance and Developing Practice

- In response to the findings of internal and external audits work to improve identified areas of practice and quality
- Implementation of the Short Quality Screening (SQS) Inspection action plan
- Re-establishing the Worcester Junior Attendance Centre (JAC) and developing the programme for the Telford JAC
- Developing service guidance and screening tools for child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- Implementation of a single ICT system and new case management system
- Review the management of risk processes and implementation of a single integrated intervention plan for young people

(ii) Understanding our Young People

- Implementation of tracker tools for re-offending, first time entrants, education, training and employment and victim work
- Further analysis of first time entrants to gain a greater understanding of journey of the child into the youth justice system
- Work to understand the nature and extent of harmful sexual behaviour by young people
- Reviewing and revising methods of collecting and the use of feedback from service users
- Building and developing the needs assessment and evidence base

(iii) Improved Joint Working and Integration

- Continued focus on joint issues between YOS and social care for looked after children and care leavers through the LAC and Care Leavers sub group of the Management Board
- Developing better joint work, information and integration with relevant children services
- Ensuring linkages with the Troubled Families and early help developments in each local authority
- Strengthening transition work with NPS, particularly through the implementation of the Y2A case transfer arrangements

(iv) Governance and Communication

- Complete the service review and agree future delivery arrangements for youth offending services across West Mercia
- Developing a more integrated approach to leadership and management of the YOS between the management team and management board
- Further development of the communications strategy
- Review of health participation in the YOS governance structure

1. REVIEW OF 2014/15

1.1 Changes in Service Delivery Arrangements

West Mercia YOS was based on a model of a YOS delivering a defined core service supported by commissioned non-core activities. Until June 2014 the non-core activities that had not been out sourced were delivered by a centrally managed provider services team within the YOS whilst subject to a commissioning process. The resulting decision from the commissioning process was that a cluster of specific youth justice activities including bail and remand services, provision of reparation and unpaid work, Intensive Supervision and Surveillance, resettlement, mentoring and programme and activity requirements would be integrated into the YOS. A revised YOS structure was implemented in June 2014 to accommodate most of these activities within the area teams aligned to the Local Authority areas, with the provision of reparation and unpaid work and mentoring co-ordinated centrally. A structural diagram of the YOS is included in section 3 of this plan.

1.2 Review of Key Developments 2014/15

(i) Priority 1 – Reduce Offending and Protect Communities from Harm

- In recognition of increasing numbers of young people entering the service with sexual offences the YOS implemented the strategy of providing harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) assessments and interventions within the service. Twenty six practitioners in the area teams have been trained to undertake AIM2 assessments, a nationally recognised assessment tool for adolescents demonstrating HSB, and twenty two practitioners trained to deliver the Good Lives (AIM2) intervention programme. Co-working arrangements have been put in place along with a service wide support group.
- Restorative Justice training was provided across the service throughout 2014/15, with 95 staff and volunteers now trained in RJ conferencing. The service RJ policy and guidance was reviewed, updated and adopted by the Management Board.
- Intensive Supervision and Surveillance, which was partly outsourced, was brought in house and consistent arrangements implemented across the five area teams. Reparation activities across the service became centrally co-ordinated under a single manager.

(ii) Priority 2 – Enabling Staff to Deliver Now and Into the Future

- New supervision policy implemented
- Communications group established and internal communications framework agreed

(iii) Priority 3 – Finish the Job

- The responsibility for the provision of Unpaid Work for 16 and 17 year olds transferred to the YOS on 1st June 2014. The decision was taken to manage Unpaid Work within the YOS and the YOS has worked towards meeting the national specification, this has included providing the following training for staff involved in service delivery; health and safety, motivational interviewing, pro-social modelling and restorative justice. Key staff are undertaking the level three award in education and training. Young people undertaking unpaid work are able to gain an ASDAN accredited qualification.
- A comprehensive Operational Manual was developed which is supported by an exemplar record on the case management system.

(iv) Priority 4 – Get Connected, Stay Connected

- The work of the Management Board reference group on Looked After Children and Care Leavers has continued throughout 2014/15, and a work programme developed.
- Remand protocols have been developed between the YOS and each Local Authority and a PACE transfer protocol developed between the Police, YOS and Local Authority Emergency Duty Teams. Work has commenced on developing a multi-agency protocol to reduce the need to criminalise looked after children.

(v) Priority 5 - Know the Right Thing

- A number of key case audits were undertaken during 2014/15 including a mock inspection, national standards audit and an independent audit of key practice standards. These have led to revised quality assurance and performance frameworks being implemented.

1.3 Innovative Practice

The YOS has been working with a multi-disciplinary academic team from Middlesex University and Royal Holloway University of London in piloting the Mobile Application for Youth Offending Teams (MAYOT). MAYOT is a smart phone application that provides a common platform for engagement and dialogue between the case worker and young person. The application allows communication around key activities, reminders for appointments, the provision of information and an activity meter/progress chart. Team members and young people from the South Worcestershire Team have been involved during 2014/15 in the iterative co-design and testing of the application. There are now twelve YOTs either using or planning to use the MAYOT application.

1.4 Thematic Inspections

During 2014/15 the YOS Management Board has considered the findings from the following thematic inspections; The Work of Probation Trusts and Youth Offending Teams to Protect Children and Young People, Girls and Offending and The Contribution of Youth Offending Teams to the Work of the Troubled Families Programme. An action plan in relation to the findings and recommendations of the report on the work of the YOT to protect children and young people has been put in place, and reports on this have been considered by two of the LSCBs. More detailed plans are to be developed in response to the other two reports.

1.6 Youth Offending in West Mercia

More detailed information on offending types, offenders by age and gender and numbers and offenders by proportion of youth population for each local authority area are contained in appendices 1 to 4 of this plan.

- There has been a considerable reduction in the number of young people committing offences over the past ten years from 3997 young people offending in 2005 to 1295 in 2014.
- The majority (82.5%) of young people entering the youth justice system are aged 14 or over
- Nearly a quarter (23%) of first time entrants to the youth justice system are female
- The four most prevalent offence types are violence against the person, theft and handling, criminal damage and drug related offences.
- Just over a third of young people (37%) receiving outcomes that require YOS interventions are children in care
- Whilst there are some variations across the local authority areas the four most prevalent assessed areas of risk and need are thinking and behaviour, family and personal relationships, lifestyle and mental health and wellbeing.
- Young people from outside of West Mercia have a significant impact on the levels of youth crime in West Mercia. Out of area young people were responsible for 16% of all offending resulting in a substantive outcome in 2014.
- Just under half (48%) of young people receiving outcomes that require YOS interventions have mental health or emotional well being issues
- Two fifths of young people receiving outcomes that require YOS interventions have substance misuse needs

1.7 Views of Young People

The following data is taken from a ViewPoint survey of 122 young people during 2014 who were subject to court orders managed by West Mercia YOS.

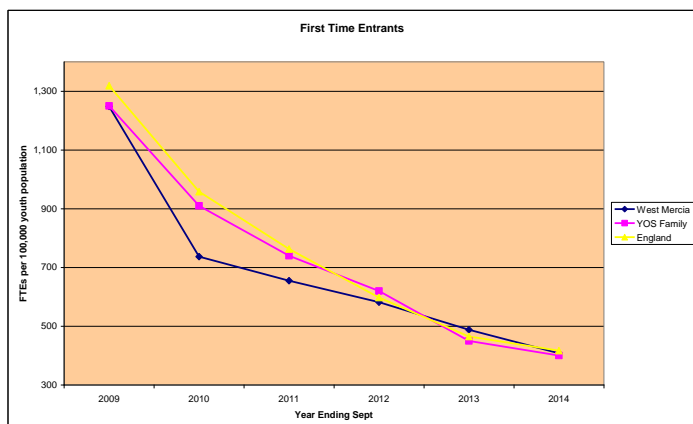
- 79% said that the work with the YOS has made them less likely to offend
- 94% said that the service given to them by the YOS was good most or all of the time
- 81% said they had enough say what went into their intervention plan
- 49% said they needed help with school, training or getting a job, of those needing help 86% said they received the help needed
- 25% said they needed help to cut down drug use and of those needing help 76% said they received the help needed.
- 31% said they needed help with relationships or things about their family, of those needing help 87% said they received the help needed.
- 24% said they needed help to deal with strange or upsetting thoughts, of those needing help 79% said they received the help needed
- 61% said they needed help to understand how to stop offending, of those needing help 93% said they received the help needed

1.8 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

(i) First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTE)



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 2014 was 408, which is an improvement on the performance for year ending September 2013 when the FTE rate was 488. The performance for the year ending September 2014 is better than the national rate of 417. The average for the family group is 400.

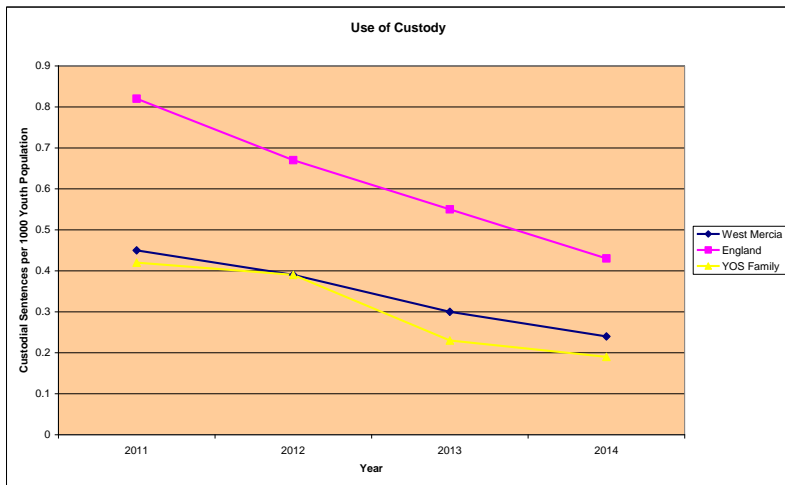
The percentage reduction in FTEs in West Mercia over the three year period between the year ending September 2009 and the year ending September 2014 was -67% compared to -68% for England and -68% for the family group.

Within West Mercia there are differing FTE rates between the four Local Authority areas, with the highest being 525 and the lowest 364. Some initial analysis undertaken in 2014 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 15/16 in order to better understand what works in preventing FTEs.

(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. West Mercia has, historically, had a low rate of custodial sentences. A lower figure denotes good performance.

For the year ending December 2014 the use of custody rate for West Mercia was 0.24 against the rate for England of 0.43, West Mercia performance is, therefore, significantly better than the national performance but slightly worse than the family group rate of 0.19. The West Mercia rate for 2014 has improved from 2013 when it was 0.30.

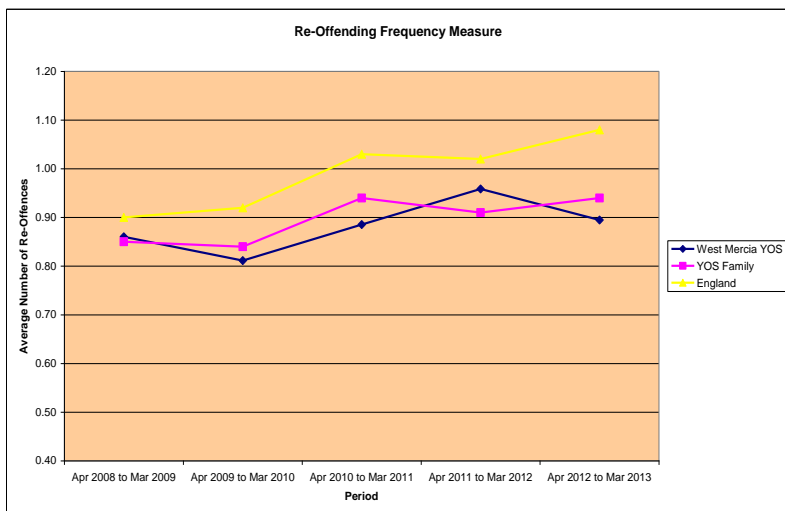


Over the three year period of 2011 to 2014 the rate has reduced from 0.45 to 0.24, a reduction of -47% which is in line in the reduction nationally over the same period.

The actual fall in custodial sentences was from 54 in 2011 to 27 in 2014, a reduction of -32%.

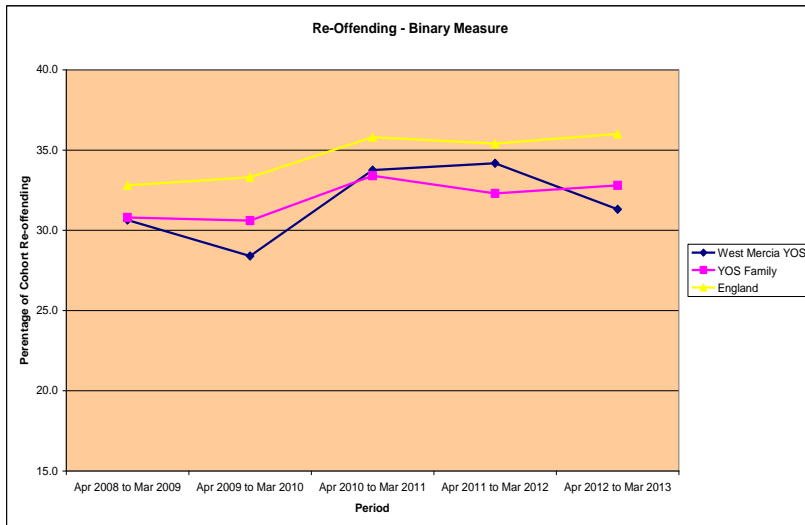
Intensive supervision and surveillance (ISS) is a community based alternative to custodial disposal. During 14/15 the YOS established a single and consistent ISS scheme for West Mercia. In 15/16 the service will develop a consistent approach to bail and remand work as part of the strategy to divert, where appropriate, young people from custodial remands and sentences.

(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. The most recent data for the re-offending measure is for the cohort identified in the year ending March 2013. In both measures a lower figure denotes good performance.

For the year ending March 2013 the frequency measure performance for West Mercia was 0.89, compared to national performance 1.08. The West Mercia performance is slightly better than for the family group which is at 0.94.



A comparison over the three year period of the year ending March 2011 and the year ending March 2013, shows no change in the rate. Over the same period the rate for England increased from 1.03 to 1.08. There was no change in the family group performance over this period.

The binary measure performance for the year ending March 2013 for West Mercia is 31.3% compared with national performance of 36.0% and a family group performance of 32.8%.

A comparison over the three year period of the year ending March 2011 and the year ending March 2013, shows improvement in the rate from 33.8% to 31.3% a decrease of 2.5 percentage points. Over the same period the performance of the family group improved by 0.6 percentage points, and the national performance worsened by 0.2 percentage points.

It should be noted that the cohort size is falling, from 3039 young people in the March 2009 cohort compared to 1150 young people in the March 2012 cohort. The number of re-offences has therefore decreased over the same period from 2614 to 1029 a decrease of -61%.

Locally the West Mercia YOS is implementing the Youth Justice Board re-offending tracking tool during 2015/16 in order to understand the characteristics of the re-offending group and inform the services approach to reducing re-offending

3. RESOURCES AND STRUCTURE

3.1 Income

The Youth Offending Service has a complex budget structure comprising of partner agency cash, seconded staff and in kind contributions and the Youth Justice (YOT) Grant from the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. The table below outlines the agreed contributions for 2015/16.

Agency	Staffing costs Seconded (£)	Payments in kind – revenue (£)	Other delegated funds (£)	Total (£)
Local Authorities ¹		68,000	1,426,470	1,494,470
Police Service	237,892		63,000	300,892
National Probation Service	168,088 ²		62,043	230,131
Health Service	139,705		66,036	205,741
Police and Crime Commissioner			180,293	180,293
YJB Youth Justice (YOT) Grant			1,410,784	1,410,784
Total	545,685	68,000	3,208,626	3,822,311

In addition to the YJB Youth Justice Grant outlined in the table there are three additional ring fenced YJB grants for 2015/16 , £2,000 for Restorative Justice, £27,571 for the provision of Unpaid Work and £54,798 for the provision of Junior Attendance Centres.

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 This represents four Probation Officers, however there are currently only two Probation Officers deployed in the YOS, the cash difference has been made available and used to directly employ two case managers. Practice is that whole Probation contribution, i.e. £230,131 is transferred to the YOS and then the YOS recharged for salary and expenses of officers deployed in the YOS.

3.2 The YJB Youth Justice (YOT) Grant

The YJB Youth Justice (YOT) Grant is provided for the provision of youth justice services with an aim of achieving the following outcomes; reducing re-offending, reducing first time entrants, reducing the use of custody, effective public protection and effective safeguarding. The grant will form part of the overall pooled partnership budget for the YOS, which is used to deliver and support youth justice services across West Mercia. The outline budget for 2015/16 is provided below, the expenditure against the Youth Justice Grant is included in this budget.

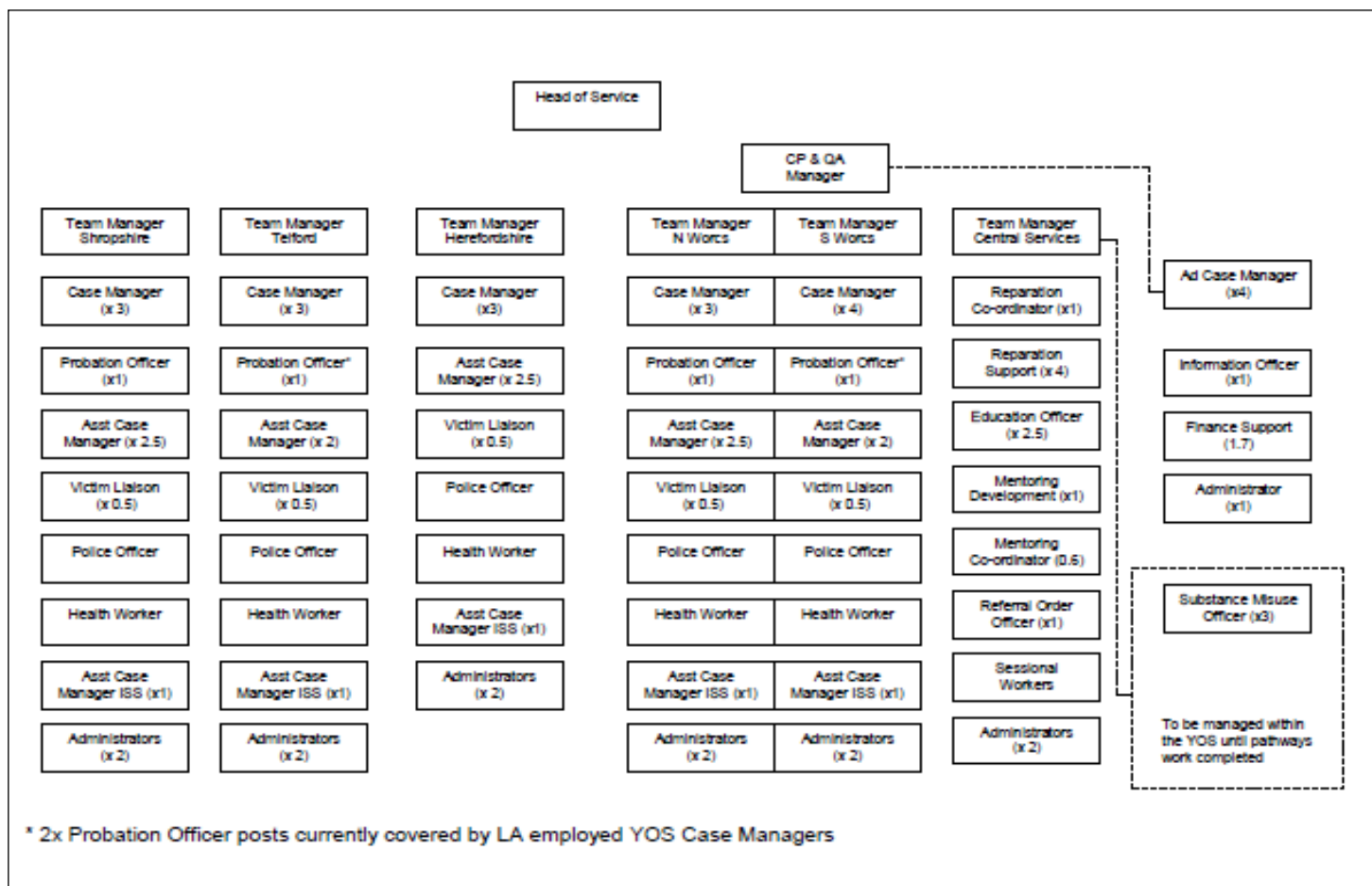
Category	Budget (£)
Salary and Wages	2,643,491
Travel and Expenses	163,685
Training and Development	28,386
Accommodation	186,323
Voluntary Associations	94,697
Commissioning	80,982
ICT	155,605
Other	107,914

West Mercia YOS is not due to implement AssetPlus, the new national assessment tool for YOTs, until 2016/17 and most of the resources required for implementation will not be required until early in 2016/17. It is expected, however, some training in advance may be required in the latter part of 2015/16 and this will be supported from part of the training and development budget.

3.3 YOS Structure and Staffing

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 in providing some services that are 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 88 full time equivalent salaried posts in the YOS. The structure is given below.



The YOS is compliant with the minimum staffing requirements outlined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as can be seen from the structural diagram above. There are four HCPC registered Social Workers within the staffing group.

3.4 Staff and Volunteers by agency, gender and ethnicity

The tables below show staff and volunteers by agency, gender and ethnicity. This data is at 1st April 2015.

PAID STAFF BY AGENCY							
Agency	Local Authorities	National Probation Service	Police	NHS Trusts	Voluntary Sector	Agency	Total
No of Staff	84	2	5	3	5	3	102

PAID STAFF BY GENDER AND ETHNICITY						
GENDER		ETHNICITY				
Male	Female	White	Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	Other Ethnic Group
42	60	96	0	1	3	2

VOLUNTEERS BY GENDER AND ETHNICITY						
GENDER		ETHNICITY				
Male	Female	White	Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	Other Ethnic Group
23	54	73	0	3	0	1

3.5 Staff and Volunteers Trained in Restorative Justice

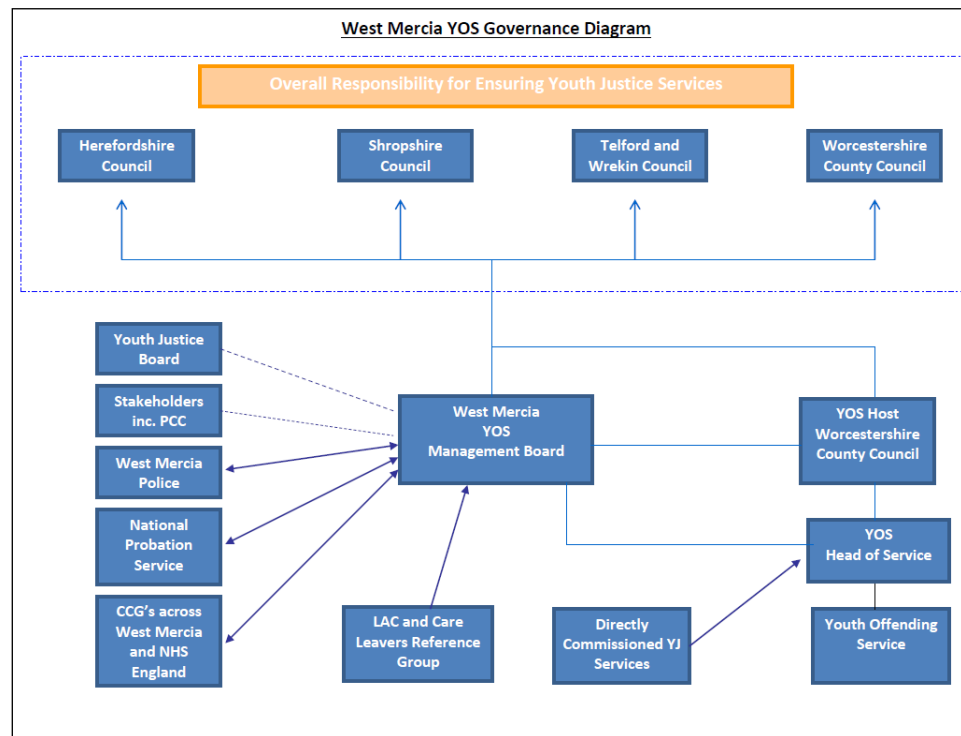
There are 63 staff and 32 panel members trained in Restorative Justice (RJ) conferencing, 8 staff are trained in managing complex cases and 5 managers have training in RJ supervision and management. There are 4 members of staff who are trainers in RJ, and 5 staff have received specific training in victim liaison and contact.

4. GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

4.1 Governance

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 and the Management Board is accountable to each of the Local Authorities for the commissioning and delivery of youth justice services.

The partnership Youth Justice Plan is approved by the Management Board and approved by each of the four top tier Councils. The diagram below outlines the governance arrangements of West Mercia Youth Offending Service.



The YOS Management Board is currently chaired by the Director of Children Services for Worcestershire County Council. The Membership of the Board at 1st April 2015 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
National Probation Service	Tom Currie	Head of West Mercia
West Mercia Police	Amanda Blakeman	Assistant Chief Constable
Local Area Team – NHS England	Becki Hipkins	Project Manager
Office for the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner	Glyn Edwards	Commissioning Manager

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 arrangements with the host agency.
- To provide the necessary governance to effectively steer the delivery of the service

The Management Board meets every six to eight weeks and monitors the performance and quality of the service through regular reporting. Where necessary the Management Board will monitor compliance with the YJB Grant conditions through exception reports. There is an agreed process of reporting community safeguarding and public protection incident reviews into the Management Board and the Board monitors the progress of critical learning review action plans as a standard agenda item

The Management Board ensures 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.

4.2 Priorities for 2015/16

The Management Board have agreed four main priorities for 2015/16

1. Improving Performance and Developing Practice
2. Understanding our Young People
3. Improved Joint Working and Integration
4. Governance and Communication

1. Improving Performance and Developing Practice

Various service audits undertaken during 14/15 identified areas of performance, quality and practice that needed to be improved and plans are in place in address the findings of these audits. Early in 2015/16 a SQS Inspection Report on the service will be published and an action plan will be developed to address the findings in that report. During 2015/16 the service will further embed restorative justice, including contributing to development of local RJ strategies where appropriate. Through the LAC subgroup it is planned to promote the use of RJ in children homes, and a funding bid is to be made to provide training for children homes, with the intention of having at least one trained practitioner in each home. The service will also work to further develop and embed harmful sexual behaviour work. The service will take over the responsibility for Junior Attendance Centres and will re-establish the Worcester centre and review and develop the programme of both the Worcester and Telford centres. Implementation of a single ICT system for the service and the migration from the YOIS+ case management system to the ChildView case management system in preparation for the implementation of the new assessment framework will also be undertaken in 2015/16. The YOS will incorporate, in practice, the work around children harming children that has resulted from a MAPPA serious case review. Revised remand management and resettlement frameworks will be developed. Specific actions under this priority are outlined on section 5 of this plan.

2. Understanding our Young People

Further work will be undertaken during 2015/16 to better understand the cohort of young people that the YOS are working with in order to better direct resources and target interventions that will reduce the risk of re-offending, the risk of harm to others and the risk of harm to the young person. It is planned to devise and implement a number of tracking tools, in particular for re-offending, first time entrants and for education training and employment. Further analysis is planned to understand first entrants to inform the evidence base for what works in preventing offending, in particular there is specific analysis planned in Herefordshire and Telford. There will be some analysis undertaken to provide a better understanding of the nature and extent of young people perpetrating sexual offence. Specific actions under this priority are outlined on section 5 of this plan.

3. Improved Joint Working and Integration

Promoting greater integrated and joint working between the YOS and other services is a key priority. Initially in 15/16 there will be a continued focus on the joint issues with LAC and care leavers, ensuring linkages with the Troubled Families and Early Help developments and information exchange with the social care services. A revised case transfer protocol between the YOS and the providers of probation services will be developed following the implementation of the web based Y2A case transfer portal. The pilot process of developing working agreements with children homes will be rolled out across the service. Specific actions under this priority are outlined on section 5 of this plan.

4. Governance and Communication

During 2015/16 the Management Board will complete the service review and agree on the future delivery arrangements for youth offending services across West Mercia. This will include ongoing communication and engagement with the staff group to ensure the service is continued to be delivered during the change process. There will be further development of and a more integrated approach to leadership and management of the service between the Management Board and Management Team. To achieve this more regular joint workshops between the Board and Team will be arranged and terms of reference agreed. The YOS will further develop the internal communications framework and put in place an external communications plan. The Management Board will seek to develop strategic alliances with other relevant boards and governance bodies. Specific actions under this priority are outlined on section 5 of this plan.

4.3 Safeguarding

Although safeguarding is not one of the four main priorities identified for 2015/16, it nevertheless remains a key area of focus for the service. The YOS has a key role in safeguarding young people, in terms of assessing and reducing the risk of harm to the young people either from their own behaviour or the actions of others and reducing the risk of harm they may pose to others.

There are specific actions under each of the four main priorities which address safeguarding within service delivery, these include the implementation of a single integrated intervention and risk plan, the development of a service statement and guidance on child sexual exploitation (CSE) and developing CSE screening tools, work to understand better the extent and nature of children harming children, in particular those demonstrating harmful sexual behaviour and improvements to vulnerability assessment and planning. There is an action plan in place which addresses the findings from the thematic inspection report on the work of YOTs in protecting children and young people.

4.4 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 second 4 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 several of the board's sub groups 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 and the MAPPA Senior Management Board.

The YOS is represented on the strategic planning groups of Troubled Families programmes across three areas and has been contributing to all four programmes mostly through the exchange of data and information. It is recognised that stronger links at the practice level need to be developed and this will be progressed during 2015/16.

The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) has a children and young peoples strategy which has four priority areas; Children in Care, Detention, Custody and Criminalisation, Stop and Search and Engagement

Locally Warwickshire and West Mercia Police have established a Children and Young Peoples Board to take forward a local plan based on the national priorities above, and the YOS are participants within this. A joint protocol regarding the PACE transfer of young people charged and denied police bail between the Police YOS and Local Authorities has been agreed. Work, through the YOS LAC and Care Leavers Group has commenced on developing a protocol to reduce the criminalisation of children in care. Further work in finalising the protocol will be managed jointly between the LAC and Care Leavers group and the Police Children and Young Peoples Board.

5. RISKS TO FUTURE DELIVERY – THE ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Risk to Future Delivery	Action	Key Priority	Owner	Timescale (by end of quarter)
Priority 1 – Improving Performance and Developing Practice				
Intervention plans not sufficiently addressing assessed risks leading to increased risk of re-offending, increased risks of harm to other or increased risks of harm to self.	Implement a single integrated plan	1	APIS Lead	Q3
	Implementation of Asset Plus – Prepare service for Asset Plus Implementation	1	APIS Lead	Q4
Gap in knowledge in what promotes engagement and compliance leading to increased levels of breach	Implementation of a compliance review process	1	APIS Lead	Q1
Inconsistent risk planning processes across the service leading to increased levels of risks	Commission a review of the service's management of risk processes	1	CPM	Q2
JACs not meeting the national specifications	Re-establish the Worcester JAC	1	CSTM	Q2
	Review and develop the JAC programmes		CSTM	Q3
Lack of coherent remand strategy risks increasing the number of remands to custody	Development of a remand management strategy	1	CPM	Q2
	Staff to be trained in bail and remand work to ensure consistent approach across the service	1	CPM	Q3
Restorative processes not embedded in practice	Launch the service RJ policy and guidance	1	RJ Lead	Q2
	Devise and implement a victim tracking tool	1	CPM	Q2
Insufficient risk management and planning with respect to vulnerability and safeguarding	To put in place service statement on CSE	1	TMW	Q3
	Develop and implement CSE screening tools	1	TMW	Q3
Inconsistent arrangements for resettlement leading to increase risks of re-offending on release from custody	Development of resettlement framework and action plan	1	TMH	Q4
YOS does not implement improvements identified from the SQS Inspection	Inspection improvement plan to be put in place	1	HOS	Q2

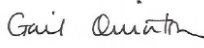
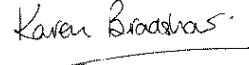



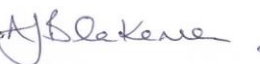


Risk to Future Delivery	Action	Key Priority	Owner	Timescale (by end of quarter)
Two ICT systems create barriers to performance monitoring and management oversight	Implement the WMP/YOS project plan to roll out the WMP hosted ICT system across the service	1	CPM	Q2
YOIS does not support the new assessment framework	Upgrade Client/Management Information system to ChildView	1	CPM	Q4
Priority 2 – Understanding Our Young People				
Insufficient risk management and planning with respect to vulnerability and safeguarding	Commission analysis to understand the nature and extent of HSB	2	HSB Lead	Q3
Insufficient understanding of reasons for differential FTE rates	Analysis of reasons behind YPs entry into YJS	2	CPM	Q2
	Analysis of previous service provision to young people entering the YJS	2	YJB SPA	Q3
	Devise and implement a FTE tracking tool	2	CPM	Q2
Not understanding matters affecting re-offending performance	Implementation of the re-offending live tracking tool	2	CPM	Q1
	Develop and implement an ETE tracking tool	2	CPM	Q3
Service development not informed by user feedback	Review and revise service user feedback process across the service	2	CPG	Q2
	Service user views to be built into Management Board performance reporting framework	2	CPM	Q3
Future planning not informed by relevant data and information	Further development of the annual assessment	2	CPM	Q4
Priority 3 – Improved Joint Working and Integration				
Disproportionate criminalisation of LAC affecting FTE and re-offending rates	Agreement of multi-agency protocol to reduce criminalisation of LAC	3	HOS	Q3
	Roll out the pilot of working agreements with children homes	3	TMS	Q2
Inconsistent decision making across West Mercia in respect to out of court disposals	Establish joint YOS/Police out of court disposal protocol	3	HOS	Q3
Unplanned transition between youth and adult services leading to increased risks of re-offending	Review and revise the case transfer arrangements between the YOS and the providers of probation services	3	HOS	Q2
	Implement the use of the Y2A portal for case transfer	3	HOS	Q2

Risk to Future Delivery	Action	Key Priority	Owner	Timescale (by end of quarter)
Lack of joint working with other agencies and services leading fragmented planning and case management	Development of protocols with social care	3	HOS	Q3
	Developing better links and joint working with other relevant services for children and young people at a local level	3	ATMs	Ongoing
Robust arrangements not in place for some key areas of discretionary practice	Review commissioning work regarding the delivery arrangements for Substance Misuse and Parenting with the Management Board	3	CPM	Q4
Assessments not taking account of full range of information sources	Develop access to Children Social Care information systems in areas where this does not exist	3	CPM	Q2
Priority 4 – Governance and Communication				
Inconsistent communication and West Mercia identity	Development of an external communications policy	4	CGC	Q2
	Staff workshop to communicate key achievements but also to communicate where improvements are required	4	HOS	Q2
	Implement a new service logo	4	CGC	Q2
Uncertain delivery arrangements for 2016/17	Complete the YOS review and agree future delivery arrangements	4	CMB	Q4
Leases coming to an end	Relocation of N Worcestershire and Shropshire Teams	4	CPM	Q2 – Q3
A disconnect between the management board and management team	Joint management board and management team workshops at 6 monthly intervals	4	CMB/ HOS	Q2/3
	Agreement of the ToR as to how the management board and management team work together	4	CMB	Q3
Health services not fully engaged in YOS governance leading to health needs of young offenders not being met	Review of health participation in the YOS Governance structure	4	CMB	Q4
	Management Board ensure that pathways are in place to access speech, language and communication assessments and service in each area	4	CMB	Q4

Key to Action Owners

HOS	Head of Service	CPM	Commissioning and Performance Manager	ATMs	Area Team Managers
APIS Lead	Lead Manager for APIS	HSB Lead	Lead Manager for HSB		
CSTM	Central Service Manager	CGC	Communication Group Chair		
RJ Lead	Lead Manager for RJ	CPG	Chair Participation Group		
TMW	Team Manager South Worcs	CMB	Chair of the Management Board		
TMH	Team Manager Herefordshire	YJB SPA	YJB Partnership Advisor		

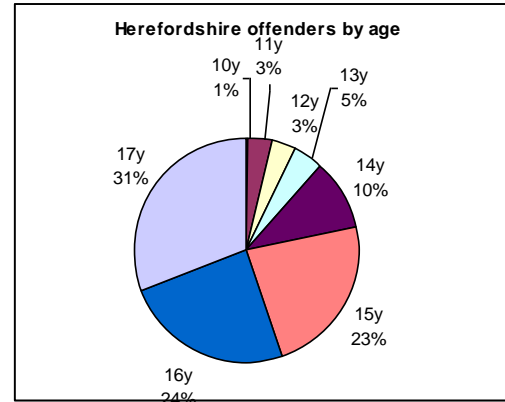
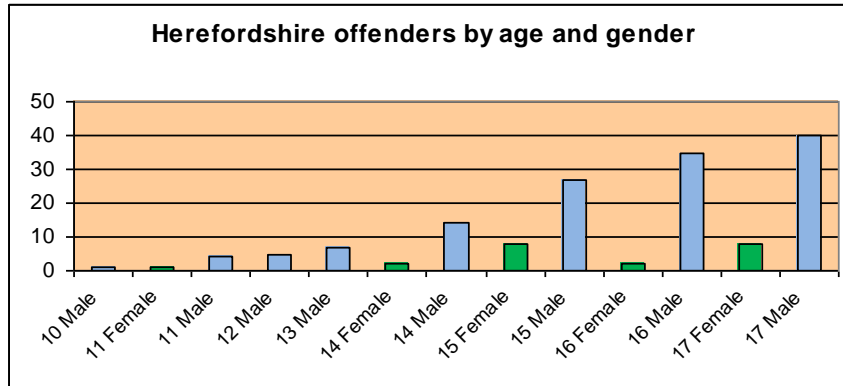
6 MANAGEMENT BOARD APPROVAL

Agency	Agency	Signature	Date
Gail Quinton	Worcestershire County Council		1 st June 2015
Karen Bradshaw	Shropshire Council		1 st June 2015
Laura Johnston	Telford and Wrekin Council		1 st June 2015
Jo Davidson	Herefordshire Council		1 st June 2015
Tom Currie	National Probation Service		1 st June 2015
Amanda Blakeman	West Mercia Police		1 st June 2015
Becki Hipkins	NHS England		1 st June 2015
Andy Champness	Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner		1 st June 2015

APPENDIX 1 - AREA PROFILE – HEREFORDSHIRE

Youth Offending Population – all Young People

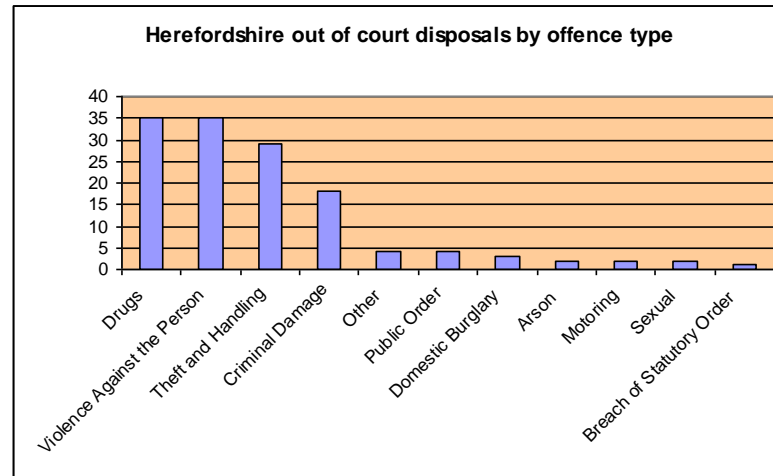
There are 16,423 young people aged 10 to 17 in Herefordshire. In 2014/15 there were 215 youth justice sanctions (youth cautions, youth conditional cautions or convictions) made on Herefordshire young people. A total of 154 individual young people accounted for these 215 outcomes, 0.94% of the youth population.



Of the 154 young people entering or in the youth justice system in 2014/15, 86% were male. The majority, 78%, were aged 15 to 17 years. The peak age of offending for both young males and young females was 17 years.

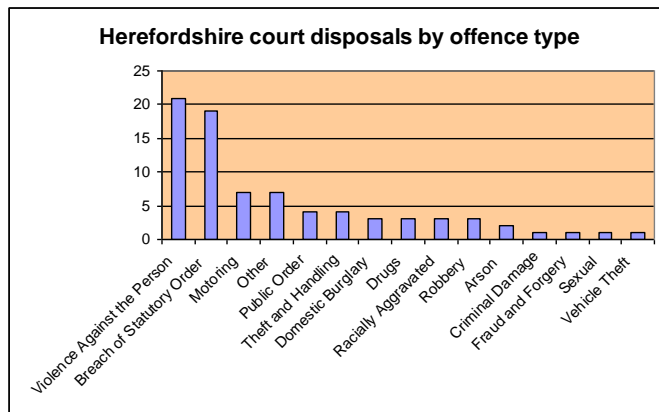
Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Out of Court Disposals

During 2014/15 there were a total of 135 pre-court disposals made on Herefordshire young people, 123 of these were Youth Cautions and 2 Youth Conditional Cautions. The YOS is required to assess all young people made subject to second or subsequent Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions and if assessed appropriate provide a programme of intervention, in 2014/15 intervention programmes were provided for 22 pre-court disposals.



The most frequently occurring primary offences for out of court disposals were drug offences and violence against the person both at 26% followed by theft and handling, 21% and criminal damage, 13%.

Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Court Outcomes



In 2014/15 a total of 46 Herefordshire young people accounted for 80 court outcomes. Orders requiring YOS interventions (Referral Orders, YROs and Custodial sentences) accounted for 47 of the 80 court outcomes.

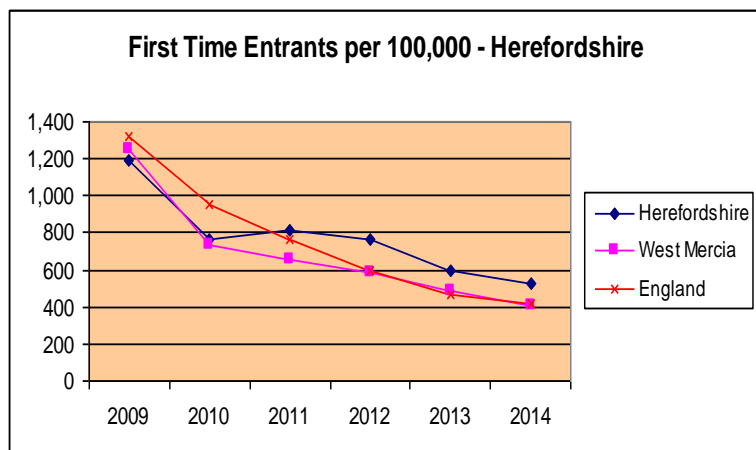
The majority, 92% of young people receiving court sentences were aged 15 to 17, with 17 year olds accounting for 38% of young people receiving a court sentence.

The most frequently occurring primary offence for court sentences was violence against the person, accounting for 26% of all outcomes. Breach of a statutory order was the next frequently occurring offence, 24%, followed by motoring, 9% 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 (Youth Caution, Conditional Caution or Conviction). Good performance is indicated by a lower rate.



In the twelve month period October 2013 to September 2014 there were 525 first time entrants per 100,000 youth population in Herefordshire, representing a reduction of -56% since the year ending September 2009. This compares with a reduction for England of -68% and for West Mercia of -67% over the same period. The actual number of first time entrants in the year ending September 2014 is 86, compared to 217 in 2009.

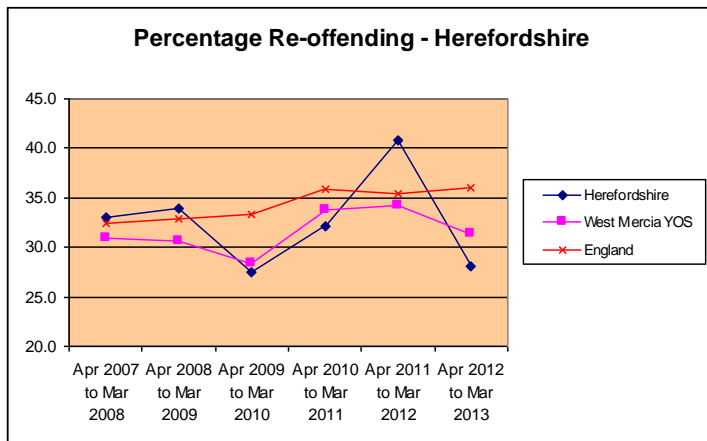
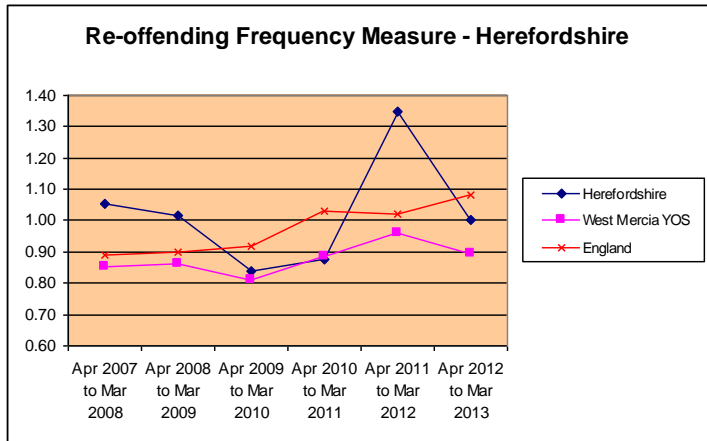
At 525 Herefordshire has the highest rate of FTEs across West Mercia, the next highest rate being 490. Some analysis into reasons for the higher has been undertaken, and it has been found that in part it is due to a higher detection rate and a lower proportional use of informal disposals. Further analysis on FTEs across West Mercia is planned for 2015/16.

(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 4 custodial sentences during 2014/15, equating to a rate of 0.24 custodial sentences per 1000 youth population this represents a reduction in custodial sentences from 2013/14 where there were 5 custodial sentences equating to a rate of 0.30. The 2014/15 rate of 0.24% compares to a West Mercia rate of 0.20. The national rate for 2014/15 was not available at the time of writing but in 2013/14 it was 0.52. Custodial sentences accounted for 5% of all court outcomes in Herefordshire, compared to 6.3% 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 2013.

The frequency measure performance for Herefordshire for the year ending March 2013 is 1.00, compared to the West Mercia performance of 0.89 and national performance of 1.08. Herefordshire is, therefore, performing less well than for West Mercia but better than England. The performance is an improvement from the year ending March 2012 when the frequency rate was 1.35.

For the year ending March 2013 the binary measure for Herefordshire is 28.1% compared with a West Mercia performance of 31.3% and a national performance of 36.0%. In terms of the binary measure Herefordshire is performing better than West Mercia and significantly better than England. It should also be noted, however, that 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 221 with 222 re-offences in 2013. The number of actual re-offences has therefore decreased by -61% between 2008 and 2013.

Locally the West Mercia YOS is implementing the Youth Justice Board re-offending tracking tool during 2015/16 in order to understand the characteristics of the re-offending group and inform the services approach to reducing re-offending.

Links to Other Plans

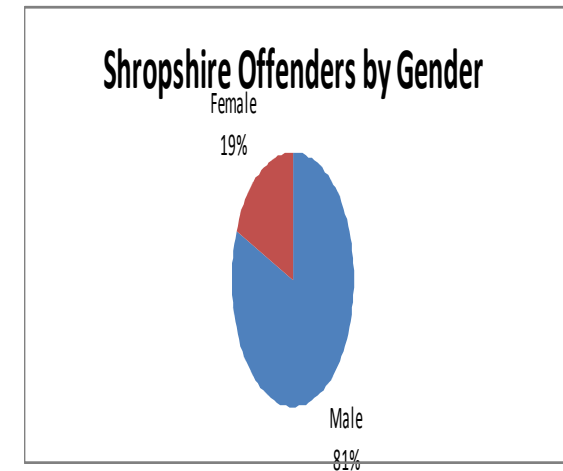
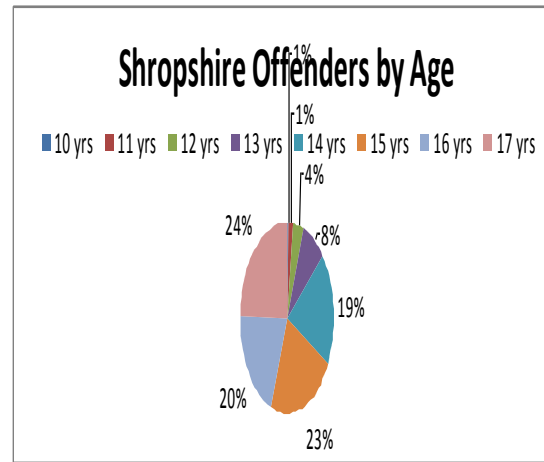
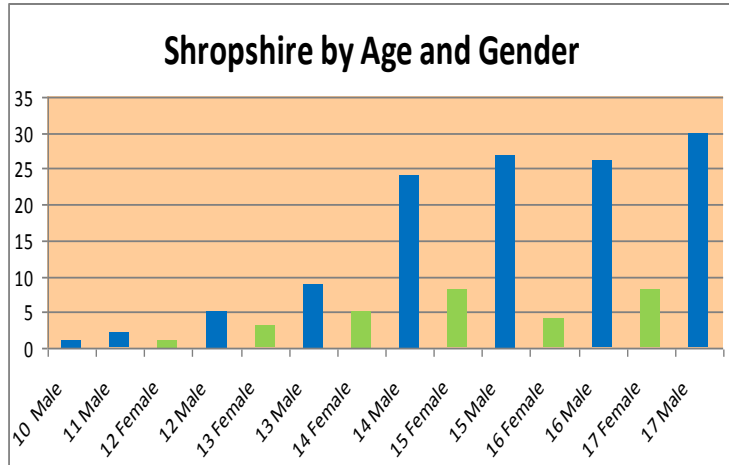
The Children, Young People's Plan 2015 - 2018 has a section on "Managing Challenges to Young Peoples Social Inclusion". Within this section the reduction of first time entrants to the youth justice system, reducing the rates of re-offending and repeat anti-social behaviour and ensuring the education, employment and training and accommodation needs of young offenders are addressed and met are priorities. Key planning priorities include developing the evidence base for effective intervention programmes to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, ensuring capacity for accommodation for remands and PACE beds and developing pathways to meet the additional needs of young people who are in the youth justice system.

The Community Safety Strategic Plan for 2014 -2017, contains the priority to reduce offending and re-offending and bring offenders to account, under which success measures are reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system and re-offending by young people. Another priority in the plan is reducing the harm caused by alcohol and drugs, this has a particular link across as 40% of young people receiving YOS interventions have assessed substance misuse needs.

APPENDIX 2 - AREA PROFILE – SHROPSHIRE

Youth Offending Population – all Young People

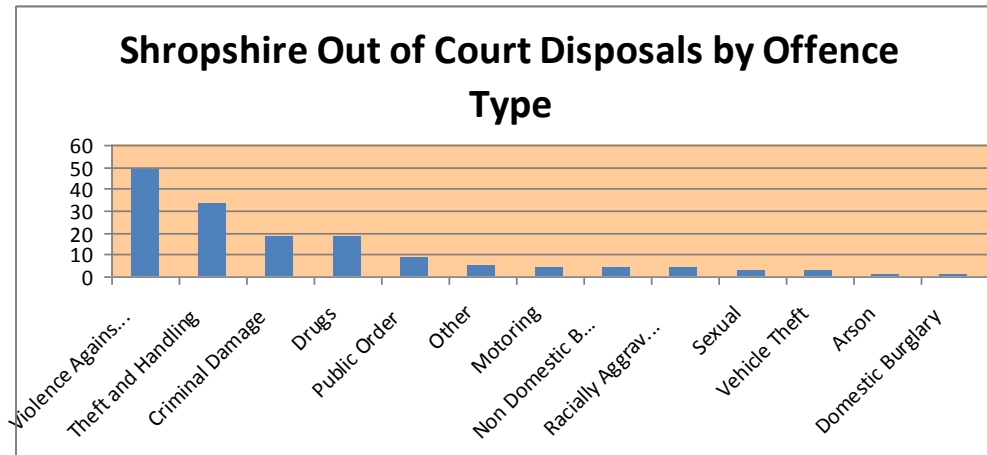
There are 28,588 young people aged 10 to 17 in Shropshire. In 2014/15 there were 204 youth justice sanctions (youth cautions, youth conditional cautions or convictions) made on Shropshire young people. A total of 153 individual young people accounted for these 204 outcomes, 0.54% of the youth population.



Of the 153 young people entering or in the youth justice system in 2014/15, 81% were male. The majority, 68%, were aged 15 to 17 years. The peak age of offending for both young males and young females was 17 years.

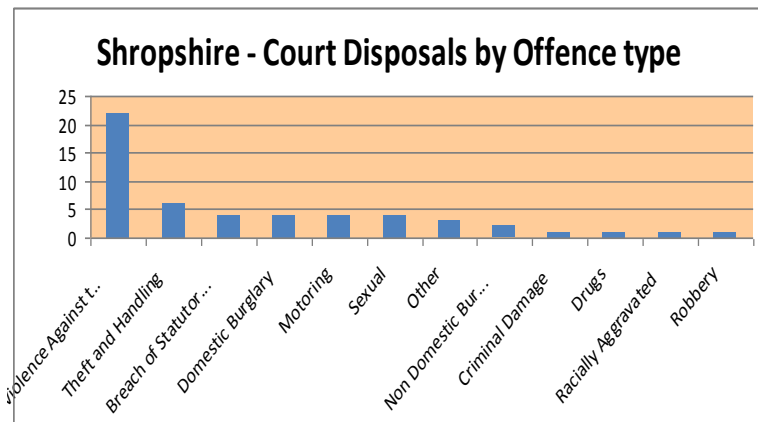
Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Out of Court Disposals

During 2014/15 there were a total of 150 pre-court disposals made on Shropshire young people, 144 of these were Youth Cautions and 6 Youth Conditional Cautions. The YOS is required to assess all young people made subject to second or subsequent Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions and if assessed appropriate provide a programme of intervention, in 2014/15 intervention programmes were provided for 83 pre-court disposals.



The most frequently occurring primary offences for out of court disposals were violence against the person, 33%, followed by theft and handling, 22%, criminal damage 12% and drug offences 12%.

Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Court Outcomes



In 2014/15 a total of 40 Shropshire young people accounted for 53 court outcomes. Orders requiring YOS interventions (Referral Orders, YROs and Custodial sentences) accounted for 45 of the 53 court outcomes.

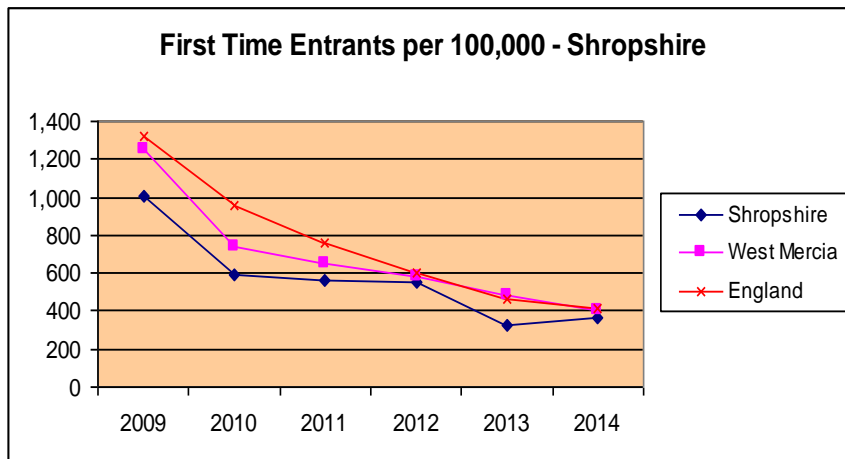
The majority, 77% of young people receiving court sentences were aged 15 to 17, with 17 year olds accounting for 28% of young people receiving a court sentence.

The most frequently occurring offence for court sentences was violence against the person, accounting for 42% of all outcomes. Theft and handling was the next frequently occurring offence, 11%, followed by breach of a statutory order, burglary, motoring and sexual offences, each accounting for 8% of court 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 (a Youth Caution, Conditional Caution or Conviction). Good performance is indicated by a lower rate



In the twelve month period October 2013 to September 2014 there were 364 first time entrants per 100,000 youth population in Shropshire, representing a reduction of -64% since the year ending September 2009. This compares with a reduction for England of -68% and for West Mercia of -67% over the same period. The actual number of first time entrants in the year ending September 2014 is 103, compared to 311 in 2009.

At 364 Shropshire has the lowest rate of FTEs across West Mercia, the next lowest rate being 369 and the highest 525. Some analysis into reasons for the differential rates has been undertaken, and some further analysis is planned for 2015/16.

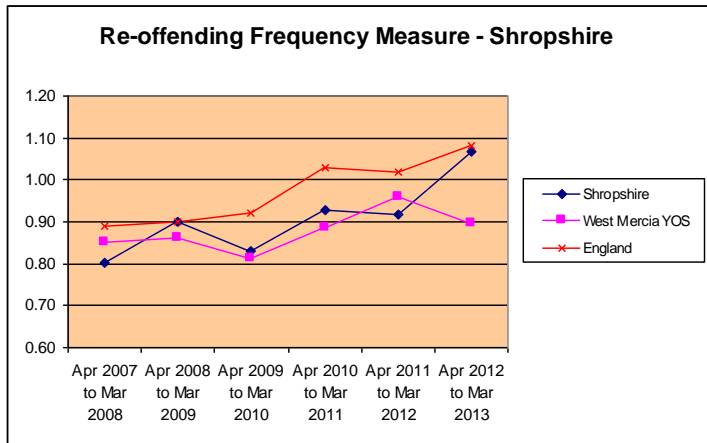
(ii) Use of Custody

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 6 custodial sentences during 2014/15, equating to a rate of 0.21 custodial sentences per 1000 youth population this represents an increase in custodial sentences from 2013/14 where there were 3 custodial sentences equating to a rate of 0.10. The 2014/15 rate of 0.21% compares to a West Mercia rate of 0.20. The national rate for 2014/15 was not available at the time of

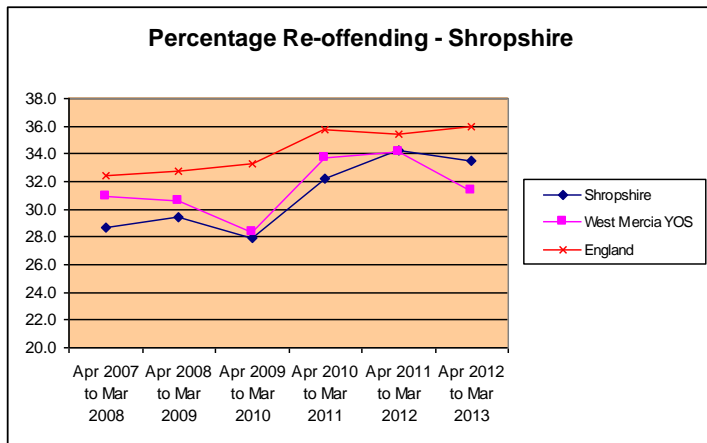
writing but in 2013/14 it was 0.52. Custodial sentences accounted for 11% of all court outcomes in Shropshire, compared to 6.3% of all court outcomes across West Mercia.

(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 2013.

The frequency measure performance for Shropshire for the year ending March 2013 is 1.07, compared to the West Mercia performance of 0.89 and national performance of 1.08. Shropshire is, therefore, performing less well than for West Mercia but slightly better than for England.



For the year ending March 2013 the binary measure for Shropshire is 33.5% which is higher than the West Mercia performance of 31.3% but is significantly better than the national performance of 36.0%. It should also be noted, however, that 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 239 with 255 re-offences in 2013. The number of actual re-offences has therefore decreased by -55% between 2008 and 2013.

Locally the West Mercia YOS is implementing the Youth Justice Board re-offending tracking tool during 2015/16 in order to understand the characteristics of the re-offending group and inform the services approach to reducing re-offending.

Links to Other Plans

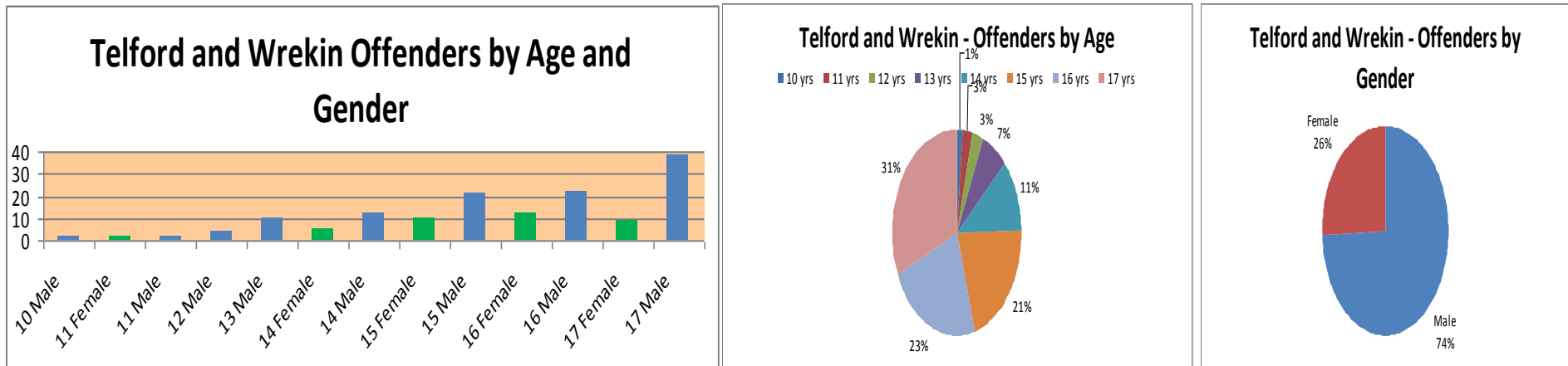
The Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014 has a key outcome area of ensuring the emotional wellbeing of young people by focusing on prevention and early intervention. Within this outcome area reducing the involvement of young people in the criminal justice system and addressing mental health and substance misuse issues are specifically referenced. Within the population of young people receiving YOS interventions in West Mercia 47% have mental health issues and 40% substance misuse issues. A key area of focus for the Children's Trust is transition planning and arrangements, and within this a key outcome is reducing the number of young people who are NEET. This will make a contribution to reducing the risks associated with offending behaviour as 38% of 16 and 17 year olds receiving YOS interventions are receiving less than 16 hours ETE.

There are direct links between the Youth Justice Plan and the priorities in Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2014 – 17. In particular priority one, reducing serious harm, and the sub priorities reducing offending and re-offending and alcohol and drug misuse. The YOS directly contributes to these two sub priorities in the direct work undertaken to reduce re-offending and in the delivery of substance misuse interventions to young people who are in the youth justice system, 40% of young people in the youth justice system have substance misuse issues. One of the key strands under reducing re-offending is increasing compliance, and the YOS is establishing a process of compliance reviewing during 2015/16

APPENDIX 3 - AREA PROFILE – TELFORD AND WREKIN

Youth Offending Population – all Young People

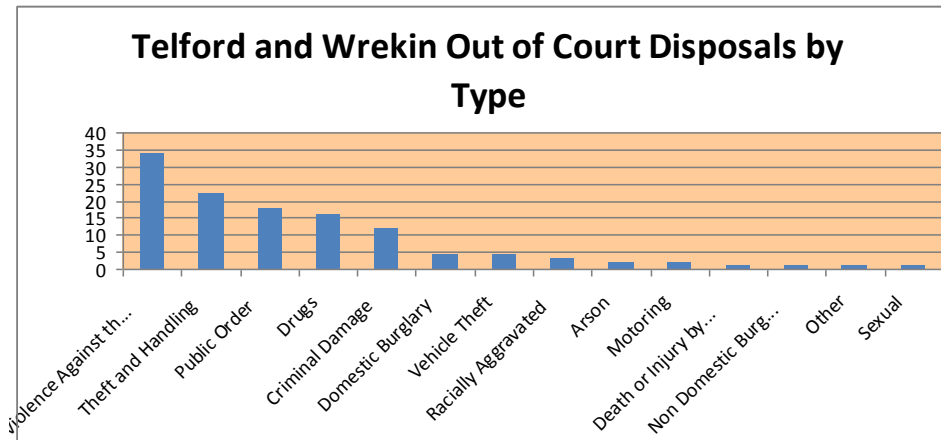
There are 16,578 young people aged 10 to 17 in Telford and Wrekin. In 2014/15 there were 175 youth justice sanctions (youth cautions, youth conditional cautions or convictions) made on Telford and Wrekin young people. A total of 149 individual young people accounted for these 175 outcomes, 0.9% of the youth population.



Of the 149 young people entering or in the youth justice system in 2014/15, 74% were male. The majority, 76%, were aged 15 to 17 years. The peak age of offending for young males was 17 years and young females 16 years.

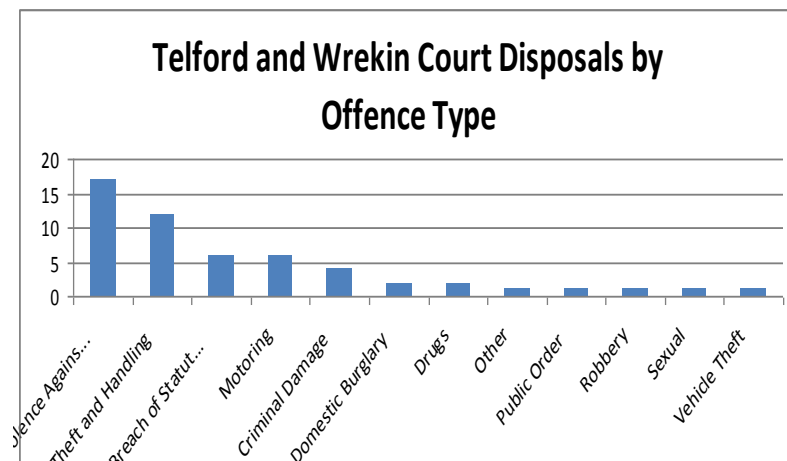
Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Out of Court Disposals

During 2014/15 there were a total of 121 pre-court disposals made on Telford and Wrekin young people, 120 of these were Youth Cautions and 1 Youth Conditional Caution. The YOS is required to assess all young people made subject to second or subsequent Youth Cautions and all Youth Conditional Cautions and if assessed appropriate provide a programme of intervention, in 2014/15 intervention programmes were provided for 44 pre-court disposals.



The most frequently occurring primary offence for out of court disposals was violence against the person, 28%, followed by theft and handling, 18%, theft and handling, 22%, public order offences 18% and drug offences 13%.

Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Court Outcomes



In 2014/15 a total of 43 Telford and Wrekin young people accounted for 54 court outcomes. Orders requiring YOS interventions (Referral Orders, YROs and Custodial sentences) accounted for 40 of the 54 court outcomes.

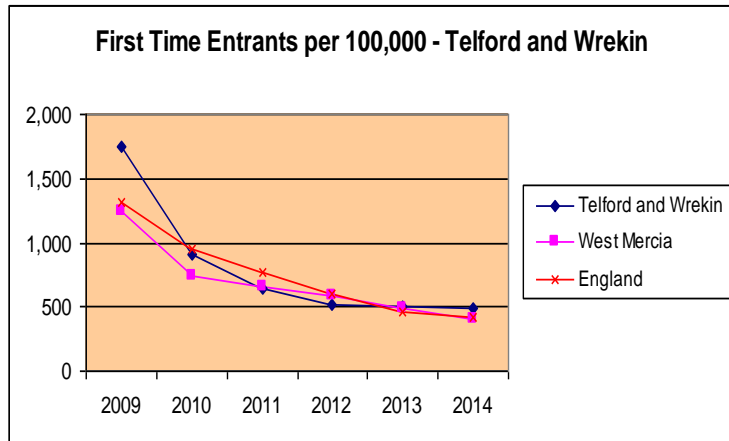
The majority, 95% of young people receiving court sentences were aged 15 to 17, with 17 year olds accounting for 60% of young people receiving a court sentence.

The most frequently occurring offence for court sentences was violence against the person, accounting for 31% of all outcomes. Theft and handling was the next most frequently occurring offence, 22%, followed by breach of a statutory order, 11% and motoring offences 11%. These four categories of offences accounted for 75% 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 (a Youth Caution, Conditional Caution or Conviction). Good performance is indicated by a lower rate.



In the twelve month period October 2013 to September 2014 there were 490 first time entrants per 100,000 youth population in Telford and Wrekin, representing a reduction of -72% since the year ending September 2009. This compares with a reduction for England of -68% and for West Mercia of -67% over the same period. The actual number of first time entrants in the year ending September 2014 is 82, compared to 317 in 2009.

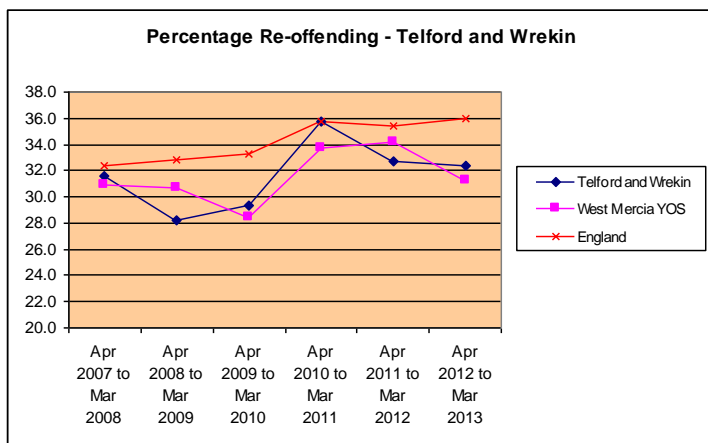
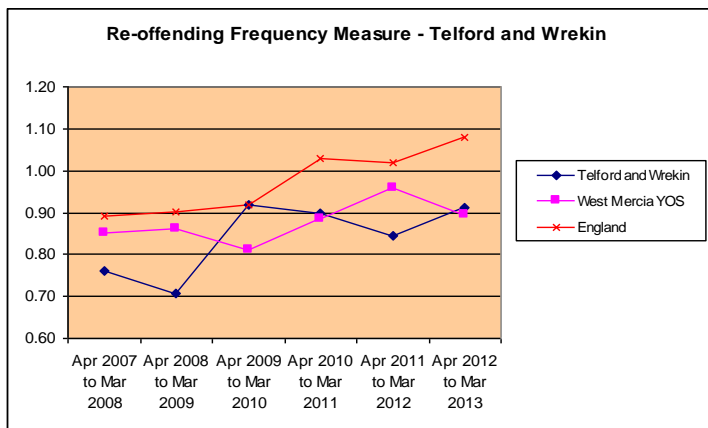
At 490 Telford and Wrekin has the second highest rate of FTEs across West Mercia, with the highest rate at 525 and lowest at 364. Some analysis into reasons for the differential rates has been undertaken, and some further analysis is planned for 2015/16, this will particularly focus on Telford and Wrekin.

(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 was 1 custodial sentence during 2014/15, equating to a rate of 0.06 custodial sentences per 1000 youth population this represents a decrease in custodial sentences from 2013/14 where there were 9 custodial sentences equating to a rate of 0.54. The 2014/15 rate of 0.06 compares to a West Mercia rate of 0.20. The national rate for 2014/15 was not available at the time of writing but in 2013/14 it was 0.52. Custodial sentences accounted for 1.8% of all court outcomes in Telford and Wrekin, compared to 6.3% 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 2013.

The frequency measure performance for Telford and Wrekin for the year ending March 2013 is 0.91, compared to the West Mercia performance of 0.89 and national performance of 1.08. Telford and Wrekin is, therefore, performing in line with West Mercia and better than England.

For the year ending March 2013 the binary measure for Telford and Wrekin is 32.4% compared with a West Mercia performance of 31.3% and a national performance of 36.0%. It should be noted the overall cohort sizes are decreasing year on year. In the year ending March 2008 there were 629 offenders in the cohort and 479 re-offences compared to a cohort size of 173 with 158 re-offences in 2013. The number of actual re-offences have therefore decreased by -67% between 2008 and 2013.

Locally the West Mercia YOS is implementing the Youth Justice Board re-offending tracking tool during 2015/16 in order to understand the characteristics of the re-offending group and inform the services approach to reducing re-offending.

Links to Other Plans

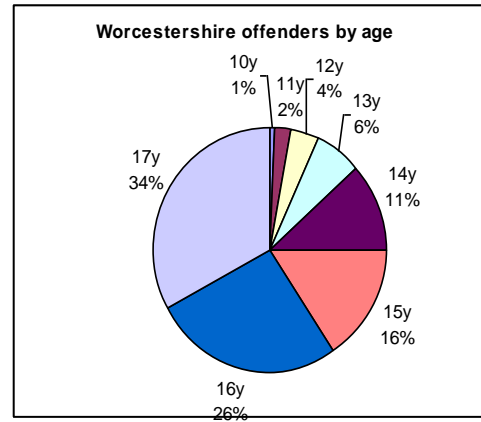
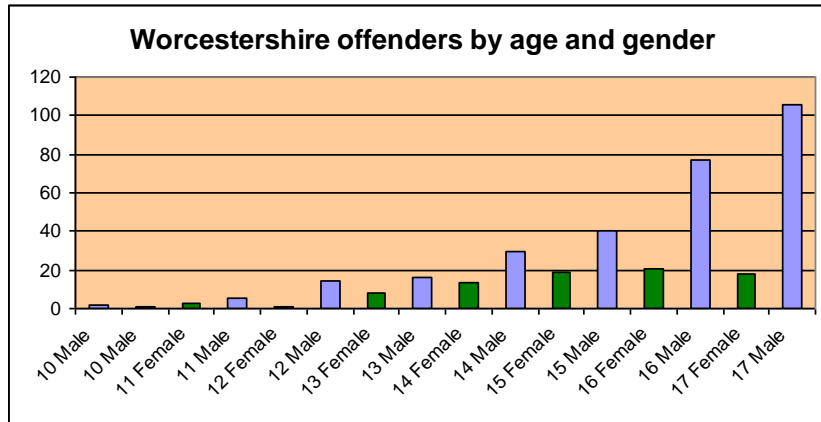
Two of the targeted areas for improved outcomes in the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2013 – 2016 that are relevant to this plan are Live Well and Work Well. Within Live Well reduced offending and re-offending is outcome measure. In Work Well the reduction of young people who are NEET is an outcome measure. NEET 16 to 18 year olds are over represented on the youth offending population with 41% of 16 and 17 year olds YOS clients in West Mercia receiving less than 16 hours ETE. There is an outcome measure to reduce the number of children in care entering the youth justice system for the first time and for those in the system reducing re-offending.

Two of the year three priorities in the Community Safety Plan 2013 -16 are; identify and tackle harm associated with all offending types and reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour has on people, places and communities. Under the first of these priorities is the reduction of offending and re-offending and tackling child sexual exploitation.

APPENDIX 4 - AREA PROFILE – WORCESTERSHIRE

Youth Offending Population – all Young People

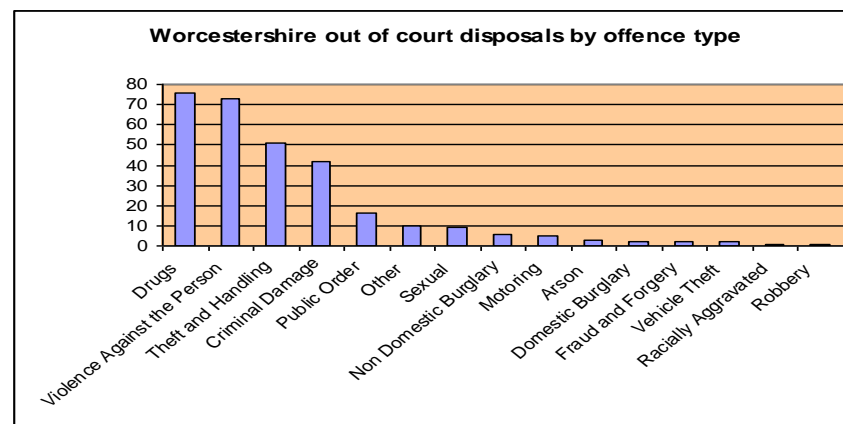
There are 51,282 young people aged 10 to 17 in Worcestershire. In 2014/15 there were 476 youth justice sanctions (youth cautions, youth conditional cautions or convictions) made on Worcestershire young people. A total of 374 individual young people accounted for these 476 outcomes, 0.73% of the youth population.



Of the 374 young people entering or in the youth justice system in 2014/15, 78% were male. The majority, 75%, were aged 15 to 17 years. The peak age of offending for young males was 17 years and young females 16 years.

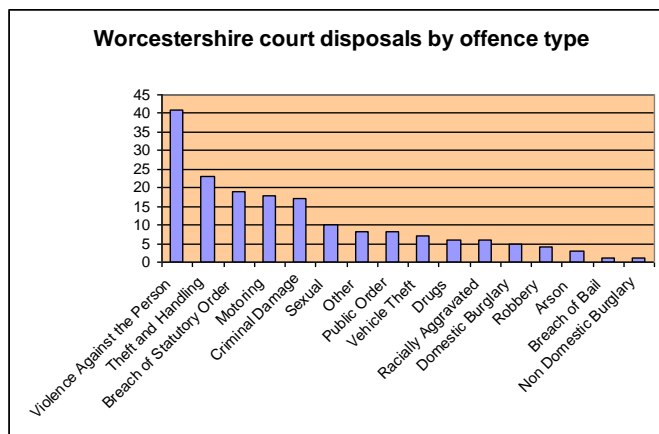
Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Out of Court Disposals

During 2014/15 there were a total of 299 pre-court disposals made on Worcestershire young people, 282 of these were Youth Cautions and 17 Youth Conditional Cautions. The YOS is required to assess all young people made subject to second or subsequent Youth Cautions and all Youth Conditional Cautions and if assessed appropriate provide a programme of intervention, in 2014/15 intervention programmes were provided for 64 pre-court disposals.



The most frequently occurring primary offence for out of court disposals were drug offences, 25%, followed by violence against the person, 24%, theft and handling, 17% and criminal damage 14%.

Youth Offending Population – Young People Subject to Court Outcomes



In 2014/15 a total of 125 Worcestershire young people accounted for 177 court outcomes. Orders requiring YOS interventions (Referral Orders, YROs and Custodial sentences) accounted for 136 of the 177 court outcomes.

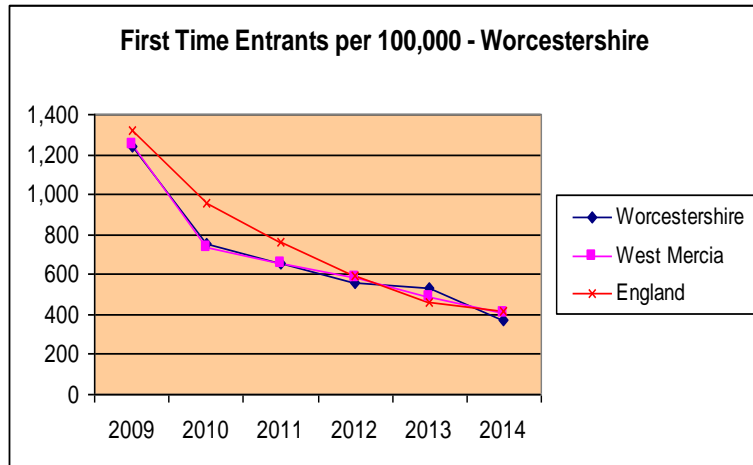
The majority, 86% of young people receiving court sentences were aged 15 to 17, with 17 year olds accounting for 39% of young people receiving a court sentence.

The most frequently occurring primary offence for court sentences was violence against the person, accounting for 23% of all outcomes. Theft and handling was the next frequently occurring offence, 13%, followed by breach of a statutory order, 11%, motoring 10% and criminal damage 10%. These five 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 (a Youth Caution, Conditional Caution or Conviction). Good performance is indicated by a lower rate.



In the twelve month period October 2013 to September 2014 there were 369 first time entrants per 100,000 youth population in Worcestershire, representing a reduction of -70% since the year ending September 2009. This compares with a reduction for England of -68% and for West Mercia of -67% over the same period. The actual number of first time entrants in the year ending September 2014 is 190, compared to 698 in 2009.

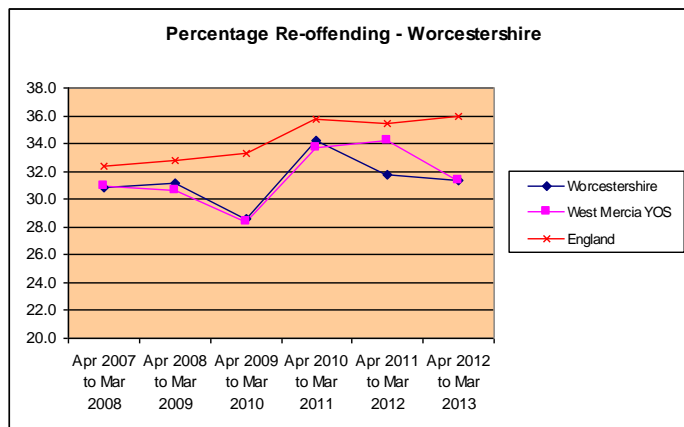
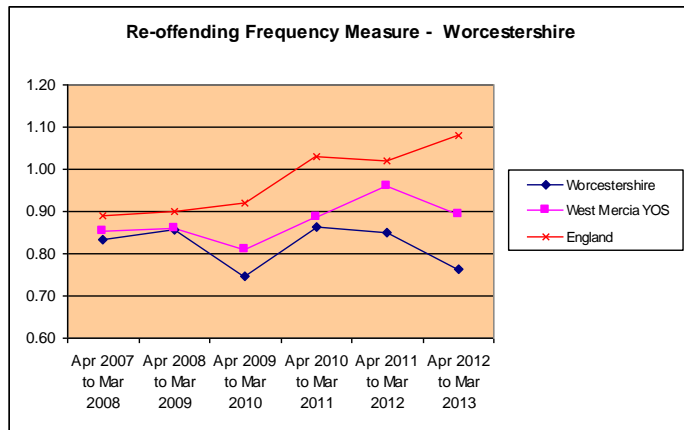
At 369 Worcestershire has the second lowest rate of FTEs across West Mercia, with the highest rate at 525 and lowest at 364. Some analysis into reasons for the differential rates has been undertaken, and some further analysis is planned for 2015/16.

(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 12 custodial sentences during 2014/15, equating to a rate of 0.23 custodial sentences per 1000 youth population this represents a reduction in custodial sentences from 2013/14 where there were 15 custodial sentences equating to a rate of 0.29. The 2014/15 rate of 0.23% compares to the West Mercia rate of 0.20. The national rate for 2014/15 was not available at the time of writing but in 2013/14 it was 0.52. Custodial sentences accounted for 6.7% of all court outcomes in Worcestershire, compared to 6.3% 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 2013.

The frequency measure performance for Worcestershire for the year ending March 2013 is 0.76, compared to the West Mercia performance of 0.89 and national performance of 1.08. Worcestershire has, therefore, better performance than for West Mercia and England. The performance is improved from 2012 when it was 0.85.

For the year ending March 2013 the binary measure for Worcestershire is 31.3% compared with a West Mercia performance of 31.3% and a national performance of 36.0%. This represents slightly improved performance since 2012 when it was 31.8%. 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 517 with 394 re-offences in 2013. The number of actual re-offences has therefore decreased by -70% between 2008 and 2013.

Locally the West Mercia YOS is implementing the Youth Justice Board re-offending tracking tool during 2015/16 in order to understand the characteristics of the re-offending group and inform the services approach to reducing re-offending.

Links to Other Plans

Worcestershire's Children and Young People's Plan 2014 – 17 has two linked priorities to the youth justice plan; children and young people have a healthy lifestyle and children and young people are helped at an early stage. In terms of the healthy lifestyle priority, key areas of focus are reducing the harm caused by drugs and alcohol and improving the emotional health including access to mental health support. Within the group of young people receiving YOS interventions in West Mercia, 33% have substance misuse issues and 40% mental and emotional health issues. Under the priority that children and young people are helped at an early stage the main focus is the early help strategy. It is through the early help strategy that those young people who are at risk of entering the youth justice system for the first time are targeted for intervention.

The Worcestershire Community Safety Board's Community Safety Agreement 2015 – 16 has three directly relevant strategic priorities; reducing re-offending, harm reduction which includes safeguarding and alcohol and drug misuse. The YOS will directly contribute to these priorities through work to reduce youth re-offending, ensuring that young people are protected from harm and in the direct delivery of substance misuse interventions to young people in the youth justice system.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Audit Committee held on Tuesday, 30 June 2015 at 6.00pm in Meeting Rooms G3 and G4, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, Shropshire

PRESENT: Councillors R Sloan (Chair), C F Smith (Vice Chair), I T W Fletcher, A Lawrence, W L Tomlinson and D G Wright.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Ian Pennington (Director at KPMG).

OFFICERS: K Clarke (Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance), P Harris (Finance Manager - Corporate Finance & Customer Services), J Marriott (Audit & Information Governance Manager), B Morris (Finance Team Leader) and D Moseley (Democratic Services Support Officer).

The Chair welcomed new and returning Members to the Committee's first meeting of the 2015/16 municipal year.

AUC-01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors K R Guy and S A W Reynolds

AUC-02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

AUC-03 MINUTES

The Chair noted on page four of the minutes re: Financial Controls Review that he had suggested the Interim Director of Care, Health & Wellbeing and Interim Assistant Director: Adult Social Care provide an update on IT Systems and Unbilled Income. He considered that a wider update was required and would request the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care to attend. He understood that a similar item appeared in the Scrutiny Work Programme but since the budget was a large percentage of the Council's overall budget, he felt that it was important that the Audit Committee take an overview.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 27 January 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

AUC-04 REVIEW OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Audit & Information Governance Manager informed the Committee that it was good practice to review the Terms of Reference on an annual basis to ensure that the work of the Committee assisted the Council in meeting its statutory obligations. The report suggested two amendments: that the Committee meet privately with the external auditor as required, rather than annually, and that the Committee received the Caldicott Guardian's annual report. The profile of the Caldicott Guardian had

been raised within the Authority and the Interim Director of Care, Health & Wellbeing had, therefore, requested to bring this report to Audit Committee.

It was also noted that it was proposed that the terms of reference would be reported direct to Council as part of the report on the "Implementation of New Legislation and Changes to the Constitution – Statutory Officers" which would prevent delay in the presentation of the Caldicott Guardian's report.

RECOMMENDED that the terms of reference attached to the report at Appendix A be adopted by Council at its meeting on 9 July 2015.

AUC-05 KPMG INTERIM REPORT 2014/15

Mr I Pennington, Director at KPMG advised the Committee that this was the second report in a suite of four. The first had reported on planning for the audit work and the report before the Committee was the first update after the interim visit. Mr Pennington highlighted specific areas of the report:-

- Organisational Control Environment – Focussing on the culture and discipline among senior managers, this area had been judged "sound".
- Review of Internal Audit – Some recommendations were made regarding sampling and file review processes.
- Controls over key financial systems – This section included two provisional scores, as the majority of work which would form the final score would be done in the final update. Some weakness had been identified with regard to bank reconciliation and leaver controls.

The Committee asked whether timely clearance of reconciling items on bank reconciliation had been an ongoing issue. The Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance indicated that there were over 430K transactions totalling £2.1b and it was very difficult to reconcile every transaction. Mr Pennington appreciated it was difficult to pin down cash in transit and the Audit & Information Governance Manager mentioned that the amounts would vary on a month by month basis. The Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance added that the discrepancy related to additional income and did not raise concerns that any cash had gone missing. A lot of the Council's management systems were electronic and matches were made within the system. It was intended to carry out a manual check in April to attempt to pinpoint which areas were potentially causing the discrepancy. Mr Pennington considered that it was probably a glitch in one particular system but noted that such incidents required a judgement call to be made: the figures involved were relatively small and may be unwound the following month so was it worth spending time and money on a solution? He would be concerned if the figures were mounting month on month, but that was not the case. The Finance Manager noted that whilst the figure quoted in February was £30K, by 31 March it had reduced to £11K, so there was evidence that sums were being found. The Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance felt that it was doubtful the manual check would create a completely balanced reconciliation but, whilst the Service was looking at ways to reduce the imbalance, they were limited by how much resource was available to allocate to cash reconciliation.

- Specific Audit Risks – Group Accounting was no longer a key audit risk as the set up of the Council's the subsidiary company, Nuplace, had sensibly been delayed. This risk would reappear in next year's audit. Rules relating to the accounting for local authority maintained schools had been agreed and were relatively straightforward. The Finance Team Leader confirmed that school balances were a separate part of the accounts.
- VFM – Key risks identified were the savings plans and commercial projects. It was important to ascertain whether these projects had been properly accounted for and this work would be finalised over the next few weeks.
- Key issues and recommendations. The Auditor had taken the unusual step of highlighting an issue already identified and prioritised by Internal Audit: leaver controls. It was very important that notification of leavers was given in a timely manner to avoid the risk of overpayments.

The Audit & Information Governance Manager pointed out that the overpayments mentioned in the report had all been recovered in full. The detail of how many employees were involved was not available. Mr Pennington impressed upon the Committee the importance of having satisfactory controls to remove individuals leaving employment from all Council systems. The Audit & Information Governance Manager noted that a 'leavers checklist' procedure was operated, which included removal of individuals' access to ICT applications. A report highlighting this issue had been made to the Senior Management Team; an update would be made at half-year in order to keep this important issue high on the radar and improve the situation. The Chair was concerned to identify whether it was specific services which were not operating satisfactory leaver controls so that messages could be targeted in those areas, rather than across the board.

AUC-06 KPMG ANNUAL AUDIT FEE LETTER 2015/16

Mr Ian Pennington, Director at KPMG reported on the annual audit fee for 2015/16 which was based on the Audit Commission's Scale of Fees for 2015/16. However, the closure of the Audit Commission had resulted in a decrease as no fees were payable to them. Some decrease in the scope and scale of the work required by the Auditor had also had a downward impact on the fee.

AUC-07 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2014/15 AND UPDATE 2015/16

The Finance Manager gave an overview of the report which set out Treasury Management activities for 2014/15 and details of the position for 2015/16 to date. Overall the report delivered very good news.

Cllr W L Tomlinson asked, with the creation of Nuplace, would borrowing be placed in the new company or would the Council lend after borrowing from the PWLB? The Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance advised the latter option. Cllr W L Tomlinson asked about the age of mature borrowing. The length of borrowing varied, and the Assistant Director would be looking to smooth the maturity profile of the overall debt portfolio and would not take one loan maturing in 30 years time as this would expose the council to a high level of exposure to whatever interest rates were at that time. Some temporary borrowing was currently available quite

cheaply but this could lead to a requirement to constantly look for the best rates, especially as rates were fluctuating and funds were not always available in the market. The Finance Manager advised PWLB rates were: 10 years - 2.55%, 20 years 3.12% and 40 years 3.67%. Cllr A Lawrence referred to the borrowing levels mentioned in paragraph 7 of the report and was advised that there had been some changes made by Central Government to the way in which repayments worked and the Assistant Director: Finance, Audit & Information Governance confirmed that regular monitoring of loans took place, as well as opportunities to take a discount. Cllr W L Tomlinson also asked how changes in interest rate would affect Nuplace and was advised that public accounting would be very important to demonstrate that the company was being charged a commercial rate and that the return was used to support the delivery of services.

RESOLVED – that the contents of the report and the performance against Prudential Indicators be noted

AUC-08 **2014/15 INTERNAL AUDIT QUARTER 4 UPDATE REPORT AND THE INTERNAL AUDIT & INFORMATION GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Audit & Information Governance Manager presented the Internal Audit Quarter Four update report 2014/15 which gave details of the work undertaken in this period and the Internal Audit and Information Governance Annual Report. Referring to the RAG report, it was noted that a greater focus had been spent on Red and Amber rated reports as set out on page 54 of the agenda pack:-

- Moorfield Primary – Follow up work expected to complete in July 2015
- Unstructured Data Storage – This work had now been superseded
- Shared Lives – This work was complete
- BRJ School – This work had been reassessed Yellow and would become an Academy in September. Members noted that although the school would change its name to an Academy, it would remain the responsibility of the Local Authority for some time. The new Head had received a copy of the follow up report and would visit in September; it was important to ensure that the correct governance for the new school was in place.

The Audit & Information Governance Manager also commented on the number of recommendations made by type in 2014/15. Fewer reports had been issued in this period due to reduced resource and the late award of the external audit contract. The trend towards an increase in policy and procedure recommendations followed continued restructure and loss of staff with limited succession planning in place.

The Audit & Information Governance Manager also drew attention to sections of the report which provided an update on Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAA), Performance, Performance Against External Review, Improvement Activity and Customer Feedback.

The report also included the 2014/15 Information Governance Annual Report. The Audit & Information Governance Manager highlighted the section of the report relating to Information Rights and pointed out the significant decrease in data security incidents, demonstrating the success of training across the organisation.

The Information Governance Work Programme was included as an appendix to the report.

The Committee welcomed the report and extended their thanks to the Audit & Information Governance Manager and her team, noting the limited resources available and the time which had been devoted to Adult Social Care.

The Committee queried whether the Internal Audit team would provide support to Nuplace. The Audit & Information Governance Manager stated that the Team had not been approached to provide this service but she would take a cautious approach and explore whether a conflict of interest existed. Mr Pennington (KPMG) indicated that in his opinion, there would not be a conflict but the Audit & Information Governance Manager noted that the involvement of Internal Audit would need to be formalised.

RESOLVED – that:

- (a) the Internal Audit update information for quarter four 2014/15 be noted; and**
- (b) the Internal Audit & Information Governance Annual Report for 2014/15 be noted.**

AUC-09 THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2014/15

The Audit & Information Governance Manager presented the Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15 which outlined whether the Council had been adhering to its Local Code of Corporate Governance. She particularly referred Members to paragraphs 5 (The Governance Framework) and 6 (Review of Effectiveness) and noted the Action Plan at Annex 1 to Appendix A of the report including six recommendations related to governance, encompassing continued restructures and changes in regulations.

RESOLVED – that the Annual Governance Statement 2014/15 be approved and that the information in the report be noted.

AUC-10 CORPORATE ANTI-FRAUD & CORRUPTION POLICY – 2014/15 ANNUAL REPORT & POLICY UPDATE

The Audit & Information Governance Manager presented the Annual report on Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption activity and sought the Committee's endorsement of an updated policy for approval by Council. The report included a comprehensive update on the benefits caseload and an appendix detailing the internal audit work undertaken for fraud and corruption risk areas. The updated policy included some minor changes to reflect the new Single Fraud Investigation Service, the extension of the 'Everyday Telford' App to include fraud reporting, organisational changes and to ensure consistency with the Council's Constitution.

Some discussion took place regarding data matching and access to third party government information, eg DVLA. The Audit & Information Governance Manager advised that some joint work took place and noted the agreements in place as part of

the National Fraud Initiative as set out at paragraph 7.4 of the report. Members also noted that the retention of the Benefits Investigation Team was subject to an Invest to Save bid which offset salaries against recovered Council Tax.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Annual report on Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Activity be noted
- (b) to agree the updated Corporate Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy and to **RECOMMEND** its adoption by the Council.

AUC-11 DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15

Members of the Audit Committee had attended at a training session on the Accounts prior to the Committee Meeting.

Members were advised of the timetable to the production of the final accounts. It was acknowledged that the draft Statement of Accounts had been published later than the main agenda and it was **AGREED** that Members should review the paperwork and forward any queries to the Finance Manager, Pauline Harris, so that these could be addressed before the next meeting.

Comments at this stage included:-

- An explanatory footnote to be added to the Workforce Analysis
- Pension provision negative equity
- Addition of schools in the balance sheet to reflect all assets
- Addition of fixed assets from 2016/17

AUC-12 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN AND INFORMATION GOVERNANCE WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

The Audit & Information Governance Manager reported on the proposed Internal Audit Plan and Information Governance Work Programme for 2015/16. Following queries, Members noted the requirement to include work regarding the Subsidiary Company, Nuplaces, and that the proposed loan to the MOD had not been taken up as part of the Defence Gateway bid - it had been subject to a separate negotiation and the MOD had not taken up the option.

RESOLVED – that the Internal Audit Plan 2015/16 be approved and the Information Governance Work Programme for 2015/16 be noted.

AUC-13 OUTLINE OF BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS 2015/16

The Committee noted the business to be transacted at meetings during the forthcoming year.

The meeting ended at 7.17pm

Chairman:

Date:

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on Wednesday 10th June 2015 at 2.00pm in Meeting Room G3, Ground Floor, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford TF3 4NT.

PRESENT: Cllr R Overton (Chair) (Telford and Wrekin Council), Dr M Innes (Vice-Chair) (Clinical Commissioning Group), Cllr A England (Telford and Wrekin Council), Cllr E Clare (Telford and Wrekin Council), Cllr K Blundell (Telford and Wrekin Council), Cllr J Seymour (Telford and Wrekin Council), Liz Noakes (Telford and Wrekin Council), J Chaplin (Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin), Cllr P Watling, (Telford and Wrekin Council), D Evans (Clinical Commissioning Group) P Taylor (Telford and Wrekin Council) and L Johnston (Telford and Wrekin Council)

Also Present: M Bennett (Head of Commissioning, Integrated Care), M Jhawar-Gill (Commissioning Specialist and Contracts Officer: Commissioning Vulnerable People: Family and Cohesion Services) and A Mason (Independent Chair: Telford Safeguarding Adults Board)

Officers: M Cumberbatch (Legal Services) J Power (Delivery & Planning Manager) and J Clarke (Democratic Services Officer).

The Chair welcomed and introduced Cllr K Blundell to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Following the last meeting of the Board the Council with TACT had won a national LGC award for the development of the recovery orientated Drugs and Alcohol Strategy.

HWB-01 MINUTES

L Noakes asked the Board to note that the Commissioning intentions would need to be reviewed in year due to the announcement last week that £200m was being taken from the national Public Health Grant this year – this equated to 7% of the Council's budget which was £700K-£800k. The Public Health Team were currently looking at the impact that this may have.

Following a discussion it was:

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 11th March 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair subject to the following changes:

Page 2 – 6th paragraph “Emergency contraception services needed to be more uniform for patients and order that they were not confused with what was on offer” – replace “and” with “in”

Page 6 – HWB-37 Bullet Points – replace “IAX” with “IAPT”

Page 8 – HWB-39 2nd paragraph “Cllr England felt that he would only be consulted a Lead Member for Mental Health and not be consulted as a governor of the Trust. He wanted to ensure that there was a strong consultation process including the

foundation of the Trust” – replace “consulted a Lead” to “consulted as Lead” and “foundation of the Trust” to “Foundation Trust”.

P8 – HWB-39 – 5th paragraph – remove the word “was” from “. . . related piece of work was currently being undertaken . . .”

Page 11 – 9th paragraph – “It would not be possible to put forward and unaffordable option” – replace with “put forward an unaffordable option”.

Page 12 – 1st paragraph – “Mikes Innes confirmed the system of approach was a “bottom up” design and that the affordability was tested initially and once this had been established the quality of the officer was considered” - replace with “Mike Innes confirmed the system of approach was a “bottom up” design of the clinical model and that the affordability was tested independently once the quality of the offer had been established”.

Page 12 – HWB-42 – first Bullet points – replace “Early Health’s” with “Early Help”.

HWB-02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Vicki Taylor (NHS England), J Tozer (Community Safety Partnership) and Dylan Harrison (Clinical Commissioning Group).

The Board were informed that Dawn Wickham, NHS England, was no longer in post. A substitute Member of the Board, Vicki Taylor, had been appointed

HWB-03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

HWB-04 PUBLIC SPEAKING

No members of the public had registered to speak.

HWB-05 REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

M Cumberbatch presented the report on the Terms of Reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This was an opportunity to bring the Terms of Reference up to date and in line with current legislation and was considered good practice.

Several changes had been made to the Terms of Reference approximately 18 months ago where there had been changes to the HWB who now met 4 times per year. Changes to the quorum and the Board membership had also been incorporated, together with a general update following the transition from Shadow Board to full Board.

The report suggested no changes to the Terms of Reference at the present time as there had been no legislative changes. Prior to this year’s election the Government had announced changes to the local functions and a consultation exercise by the DCLG had taken place which closed on 6th March 2015. This new legislation would provide for Local Authorities to

delegate functions if they wished to. There were currently no further information on this legislation.

M Cumberbatch suggested that the Terms of Reference may need to be brought back to the Board later in the year if there were any developments with regard to the new legislation, but considered that there were no changes necessary at this stage.

Cllr J Seymour considered that the Terms of Reference were very wordy and repetitive. Although she understood the need for the depth of information it was requested that the Terms of Reference be set out with bullet pointed information for ease of reading. Cllr Seymour also queried if the Membership was politically balanced as following the election the balance of Members had changed and this would mean changes to the balance on the Board.

M Cumberbatch advised the Board that the regulation were very basic and quoted “at least 1 elected Member”. This Board membership did not follow the political balance rules. The decision with regard to allocation to the Board had been made by the Leader of the Council.

The Chair informed the Board that there was no statutory requirement to have opposition members on the Board, but that the Leader had wanted to make sure that the opposition had a voice on the Committee and had gifted seats to the Opposition Groups.

Cllr A England commented that he was frustrated that the Board did not drive enough change through co-operation and co-ordination. He was of the opinion that the Board could have an influence if they focussed their minds and he referenced points 7, 12 and 13 on Appendix 1 to the report.

Cllr L Clare commented that although the Board needed a comprehensive terms of reference she was also of the opinion that it may be useful to take out some information and also agreed that bullet points would be worthwhile considering.

P Taylor suggested that there would be a clearer idea of the Leadership Role once the national policy drivers had come forward.

M Cumberbatch suggested the Board consider the options with regard to the Terms of Reference and that he would consider the guidance and statute with regard to the political balance and continue to monitor changes to the legislation and any potential changes to the Board's membership.

RESOLVED – that the Board confirm the Terms of Reference at Appendix 1 to the report.

HWB-06 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD STRATEGY REFRESH – PROPOSED PROCESS

J Power presented the report on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh.

The report outlined the proposed approach for reviewing and refreshing the current strategy which would expire at the end of March 2016.

A development session had been organised for the 23rd June where it was hoped that Members would attend, engage and develop a vision for the priorities of the Board which would be consulted upon during Summer 2015.

It had been recognised that since the adoption of the strategy in 2012/13, significant changes around health and social care had occurred including the introduction of the Care Act and the Better Care Fund. The strategy was due to be reviewed and was a good opportunity to ensure the strategy was relevant and focussed on priorities that individual partners were unable to progress alone.

The new strategy needed to be in place by 1st April 2016. It would be a 3 year strategy running from 2016/17 to 2018/19. Three key steps had been identified within the timescale which were:

- HWBB Development Session 23rd June 2015
 - Agree a small number of high level priorities for the Board which were aspirational, transformational and meaningful
- 6 Week Consultation Period 20th July - 30th August 2015
 - To be undertaken with key stakeholders (including CATPS), partners, service users, carers, staff and members of the public
- Draft Strategy
 - The strategy would include comments received as part of the consultation exercise and approved by the Board in December 2015

P Taylor informed the Board that a meeting had been held with David Evans and Richard Partington together with members of the CCG and Senior Officers of the Council. The discussion was around the vision, the governance arrangements and the challenges ahead. At this meeting it was agreed that 3 groups of officers would meet in June for discussions and it was asked if it would be possible, in order for these meetings to take place, to defer the HWBB Development Session from 23rd June for a month or so, which would enable the officer groups to bring the work undertaken to the Development Session. This would also mean that the public consultation would also need to be deferred to a later date but still with the aim of bringing the Strategy back to the Board in December 2015.

It was suggested to the Board that if required maybe there could be an additional or extra HWBB meeting.

J Power commented that the Board needed to make sure that any significant changes were considered collectively but that it would be possible to delay the development session as requested.

L Noakes suggested that this was a timely review process and that there was a need to focus on key priorities that really needed transformational change and that the Board needed to be in a position to be able to flexibly review priorities on an annual basis if required.

J Chaplin commented that a consultation process during the summer months ie July/August during the school holidays would not be beneficial and suggested that this took place in September/October.

Cllr L Clare agreed and added that the school holidays also had an impact on staffing levels. Cllr Clare also suggested that it was important to have the correct priorities in order to get the

right and proper outcomes and that maybe some priorities be discontinued and other priorities be brought on board.

D Evans gave his support to P Taylor's suggestion of deferring the workshop in June in order that the officer discussions be undertaken to establish a clear vision for both organisations and make suggestions around governance arrangements. It was also suggested that it was important to overcome any tensions to ensure the work of the Board and its partnerships rise to future challenges.

Cllr P Watling welcomed the opportunity to review the priorities in light of the changes to funding.

Cllr J Seymour also welcomed the comments due to the changes following the Care Act and the BCF and the importance of understanding this new legislation.

The Chair suggested that the recommendation be amended to "the next development session" and the consultation be undertaken in the Autumn.

Following the discussion it was:

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the proposed strategy refresh process be approved;
- b) Board Members attend and engaged in the next Development Session which would focus on developing and agreeing a high level vision and priorities for the Board with consultation taking place in Autumn 2015; and
- c) the draft 2016/17 – 2018/19 Strategy is presented to the Board on the 9th December 2015 for approval.

HWB-07 AUTISM UPDATE – THE AUTISM STRATEGY 2014-2017 UPDATE AND THE AUTISM SELF-ASSESSMENT SUBMISSION (MARCH 2015)

P Taylor reported to the Board that Autism was a current priority of the Board and that the legislation with regard to this was still very young and only introduced in 2009. The legislation introduced the need for an Autism Strategy and Action Plan. The Department of Health check to see that these strategies and plans were being implemented and this has been done by introducing a strategy refresh in 2014 called "Think Autism". This work had been co-ordinated by M Jhavar-Gill and this had been signed off by the CCG and the Council. There was a national recommendation that the self-assessment should be reported to the Board in 2015. At 4.9 to the report the date should read January 2015 and not "2014".

Cllr J Seymour brought to the attention of the Board that the report referred to at 2.3 to the recommendations, the Autism Self-Assessment, was missing from the papers.

M Jhavar-Gill presented an update on the Autism Strategy 2014-2017 and the Autism Self-Assessment submission (March 2015). There were a number of new Commissioners, along with the CCG, working to refresh the Autism strategy. The Action Plan was slightly out of date and further work was to be undertaken. The Steering Group had previously been asked to focus on adults but now children and young people issues were incorporated into the Strategy. The Board were asked to note how the capital grant had been spent with regard to learning disability and confirmed that this would be under the responsibility of the Partnership

Board. A Task and Finish Group were undertaking work with regard to parent carers of adults with Autism and raising concerns regarding funding. A meeting was due to take place to re-assure the parent carers' funding was in place until 31st March 2016. Work was continuing despite a slight drop in funding, although this would be at a lower level. Any issues raised were being picked up under the wider consultation which included the parents of carers of children. The Board were asked to engage in the consultation which was due to end in August/September 2015.

P Taylor referred the Board to the self-assessment that had taken place during February/March and the consultation responses from service users and asked Manny Jhawar-Gill to take the Board through the main points.

Manny referred to the RAG ratings at items 4.10-4.12 to the report which were undertaken using strict assessment criteria. There were a number of Amber and Red areas which could be found at 4.12 to the report and these were used to assess the work at the time of submission. A training module had now been developed and was ready to be rolled out, although it was thought that this needed to be more "Telfordised" with anecdotal information from local people. The Ollie module for staff would be updated going forward for the wider training programme. With regard to the housing specific criteria, the housing strategy was split into distinct groups. Discussions with Commissioners would take place to look at housing for people with autism more broadly, but this was not specifically mentioned within the self-assessment. Work was taking place regarding data cleansing and data sources from the hub. This would help with forward planning for both the CCG and the Council who were keen to gain an insight into who uses the service and the types of service users. They would also look at reasonable adjustments that may need to be undertaken by wider employers and businesses, especially around kite marks and accreditations, in order to entice businesses to support placements and paid work.

The Chair asked if there had been any consultation with the Job Centre, Job Box or Job Junction?

M Jhawar –Gill commented that the assessment looked more broadly at this area.

Cllr A England thanked M Jhawar-Gill and all officers involved with this work and welcomed the report and actions. With regard to the red rating at 4.12 to the report Cllr England asked if there had been any engagement with the Criminal Justice System as he had found that people with a lack of capacity were often in court and sentenced with little comprehension as to what was happening. It was important to ensure that early intervention was in place for those people with a lack of capacity or no understanding of what they had done. It was suggested that a structure was put in place in order that these people were not criminalised.

Cllr P Watling suggested that Custody Suite Staff and the Youth Offending Service and Young People Services needed to have a better understanding of Autism especially with regard to the relationship these people had with authority figures.

Cllr J Seymour raised the point that this had been on the "to do" list for the Criminal Justice System for some years. Now that officers had identified this as an issue it was hoped that this would move forward more quickly. Cllr Seymour also asked for further information with regard to 4.5 at Annex 1 to the report.

M Jhawar-Gill confirmed that this was not necessarily a financial resource that was required. The Hub could help to deliver diagnoses. The diagnostic part of the process took approximately 3 hours but the Hub could be involved with the latter part and help with the

data collection around consultations and information around Autism together with future careers advice. The funding was supplemented by a capital grant and the contract had been awarded to "Listen not Label" who bid for the funding and were awarded the full amount in order to support the project with equipment and software. This would remain the property of the Local Authority and could be used as a resource for schools.

Cllr J Seymour asked about the expectations at Item 6 on Appendix 1 to the report.

L Johnston confirmed that West Mercia Youth Offending Service Board had drafted up a Youth Justice Plan for the wider West Mercia Service that included Telford and that she would look to establish the link between this work and that of the Plan.

It was asked if there was any data to show the size of the problem?

M Jhavar-Gill said that information highlighted in the Youth Justice Plan was used to understand the national landscape and was not based on Telford data.

Cllr A England queried who had been consulted on this work, ie Youth Offending Service, Probation Service? It was also suggested that consultation be undertaken with the CPS the Youth Service, Telford and Wrekin Council and the Police.

J Chaplin offered the services of Healthwatch who would be happy to talk to people and bring back the responses.

Cllr E Clare raised the issue of housing and the Red RAG rating at 4.12 to the report. Cllr Clare considered housing to be a real issue and queried whether there was any figures on housing waiting lists and what was available. She asked the Board if it needed to be realistic in its expectations. There had been a new development at High Mount in Donnington but these facilities were few and far between.

It was confirmed that feedback on the numbers would be circulated to Members of the Board and that there was another project being considered for lower level accommodation with support.

P Taylor reminded members of the Board with regard to the local development of specialist housing, although it was hoped to try and support people to live in their own home. Locally a high proportion of adults with learning difficulties were supported in residential care and the Board needed to look at alternatives, ie the developments such as the Extracare Housing Schemes. There had recently been a scheme in Ketley and there may be further schemes coming forward.

M Jhavar-Gill commented that the assessment had been looking more broadly at accommodation issues and the offer of tracking services and the issues of transition from residential schools in readiness for independent living. They were currently tracking 13/14 year old children in residential care in order to see the level of support and care needed for the child and the family. Any outcomes would be identified and incorporated into the wider piece of work.

M Innes recognised the challenging numbers at 3.1 of Appendix 1 of the report. The figures were difficult to predict. The figures were based on a predictive prevalence and more accurate data was needed in order to compare where they were in order to get a true picture of diagnoses.

M Jhavar-Gill confirmed that national prevalence data had been used and 30 adults had been assessed and there were at least 30 new cases.

M Innes suggested that any further reports were more clear on the numbers.

RESOLVED – that

- a) **the All Age Autism Strategy 2014-2017 and the accompanying Autism Action Plan to include progress against the action plan to date and to include the 15 Priority Challenges from Think Autism (DH 2014) be approved;**
- b) **overall governance for the Autism Strategy be with the Telford & Wrekin Learning Disabilities Partnership Board with the Health and Wellbeing Board receiving an annual report on progress, with a softer accountability to report to Aiming High and South Staffordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Autism Partnership Board be confirmed; and**
- c) **how the Autism Capital Grant would be spent be noted.**

HWB-08 TELFORD AND WREKIN SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD: GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

A Mason presented the report on the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Adult Board Governance Arrangements.

Telford Safeguarding Adults Board had met for the first time in April 2015. Three sub-groups had been established which were:

- Quality, Performance & Operations (QPO)
- Partnership, Training, Learning & Development (PTLD)
- Service User Communication and Community Engagement (SUCCE)

Good progress was being made.

A Strategic Plan had been published without consultation which set priorities with wider partners and stakeholders and set out a plan until the end of the year. This was to look at the new requirements of the Care Act and this was going through the development stage. Suggestions and ideas were sought in order to work more effectively which may involve changes to Board Membership and sub-group membership. The Board ideally wanted to be structured and ambitious and improve outcomes and this would be moved forward in the first 6 months.

Cllr J Seymour commented that following the Groups being set up and the initial meetings, she was concerned about the amount of time taken up looking at cases which involved the Police, the CCG, Adult Safeguarding Manager and the Telford and Wrekin Board Manager and the amount of manpower that was required.

A Mason confirmed that the initial management support had been undertaken by a light admin structure and not from front-line staff and this was there to support the Panels, Boards and Sub-Groups and that this had been funded by the Council, CCG and the Police.

P Taylor confirmed to the Board that there had been no detrimental effect on services and resources within the Council's Safeguarding Team and with their workload. The Care Act came into effect in April 2015 which required Local Authorities to establish a statutory Safeguarding Adults Board, which needed an Independent Chair to oversee the quality of local safeguarding arrangements including the Council's responsibilities. The Chair was an additional cost but this was seen to be a positive in order to drive forward safeguarding. It was recognised that the previous Board was not fit for purpose and not delivering against the new agendas and a small resource had been needed to establish and service the Board. The Council received a small amount of additional funding (£16,000) which was given notionally for new safeguarding. The budget was currently £62,000 for support. Together with the £16,000 of additional new money, two statutory partners, the Police and the CCG, were to contribute £12,000 each so the additional cost would be just over £20K. This was something that should have been spent previously.

Cllr J Seymour asked if the Children's Safeguarding would still continue?

P Taylor confirmed that there was a 0.3 Manager Position, a 0.2 DASU/Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) which would look at the synergies of Board Management roles and produce detailed guidance regarding the role.

Cllr J Seymour raised further concerns whether there was enough capacity.

A Mason commented that every Safeguarding Board would need to have an Independent Chair.

Cllr E Clare asked why Wrekin Housing Trust had been picked as a Board Member when there were other landlords out there?

A Mason replied that the Board wrote as widely as possible to landlords but that Wrekin Housing Trust were the only ones that showed an interest and were willing to attend.

Cllr E Clare asked who was representing the Trust?

P Taylor confirmed that it was Andrew Johnson.

A Mason confirmed that it was difficult to send people to the Board and they had nominated substitutes ie for items such as extracare facilities.

Cllr E Clare asked if the Board had closed agendas?

L Johnston confirmed that the Children's Board had closed meetings.

A Mason commented that the documents were available on the website as this was a public Agenda.

P Taylor confirmed that the Board itself did not deal with individual cases, only agreed serious case reviews. The terms and conditions of the Adult Safeguarding Board were statutory.

Following the discussion it was

RESOLVED – that

- a) the governance arrangements which were in place for the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Adults Board (TWSAB) were noted; and
- b) future updates would be provided on an annual basis – this would be used to present the TWSAB Annual Report (which included progress and achievements of the Board during the last 12 months).

HWB-09 BETTER CARE FUND UPDATE

M Bennett and C Jones presented an update on the Better Care Fund.

M Bennett confirmed that there had been progress on both the S75 and the work across the whole year. The funding work had brought together 5 Agreements into the S75 agreement and the S256 agreement. They were currently working through the Terms and Conditions and the Schedule in order that they could avoid conflict to help move forward and deliver health and social care within the legal document and framework. M Bennett did not want to underestimate how important it was to get the agreement signed off in order to avoid the risk of contract issues and performance issues. General agreement was in place although they were still working on areas such as service specifications. It was the intention that this work would be ready by the end of the month which was the end of the 1st quarter. A summary BCF progress report was presented – M Bennett described the different elements of the programme and that in the last quarter of 2014/15 the BCF target reduction in non-elective admissions had been met but that there had, however, been an increase in non-elective admissions in older people and that delayed transfers of care had reduced in the latter part of the year. With regard to patient experience, Age UK had been asked to carry out a process to get a clearer picture of patient experience and feedback from those with long term conditions and a stakeholder event would take place in July which had been extended to carers. More work around community understanding and caring at home was needed in order to improve independence, save money and reduce costs. The programme of work was ongoing.

M Bennett confirmed that 65+ was the challenge area with increasing rates of admissions and people staying in hospital longer. A more detailed analysis was needed as it was hard to say if a rapid response had been effective.

The Chair raised the issues around Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC) – there were no percentages in the figures about the causes of the delays.

M Bennett said that this could be added to the report. It was now easier to identify people who were being discharged earlier and that the delayed transfer numbers had reduced. These issues had been looked at over the last few months and a focus on length of stay had been undertaken.

The Chair asked if this was evidence based.

M Bennett said that there had been a lot of discussion and planning around this area.

D Evans agreed that it would be helpful to show the percentages as there may be controlling factors around A&E when people who were medically fit to be discharged had been delayed. This would show the benefits of being almost at target. Mr Evans thanked the staff involved who had worked very hard.

Cllr J Seymour welcomed the report as the work and improvements had shown results but she was disappointed that the BCF Board had cancelled two meetings. She wondered if there had been any underlying concerns, difficulty of attitudes or challenges. Cllr Seymour was concerned that money may be held back if targets were not met.

M Bennett confirmed that new dates had been circulated. He would circulate the dates in order to make sure Cllr Seymour was aware of these. Reports had been requested on workstreams and progress meetings were to take place with stakeholders.

C Jones confirmed that a need had been identified for the NHS, CCG and the Council to look at governance. This was currently being considered as a key issue alongside health and social care. They were currently taking stock and it was hoped that this work would be completed by the end of the month. Further changes would need to be made in order to work more smartly.

M Bennett informed the Board that an awful lot of work was happening, but that this was not as co-ordinated as he would have liked it to be. At 3.3.20 to the report, the diagram aimed to give an understanding around the work of the BCF and other non-BFC funded work that would contribute to the targets.

Cllr L Clare asked how the membership of the BCF Programme Management Board had been chosen.

M Bennett confirmed that Board had been set up on the 14th March and board members had been constituted from stakeholders with regard to the BCF Plan.

Cllr J Seymour confirmed that she had been chosen to be on the Board as the Board Sponsor for supporting people to live independently.

P Taylor praised the staff of the NHS and the Local Authority who were at the front end of the services. Something appeared to be working compared to other parts of the county. They had to abide by the BCF. He was pleased that this had now been simplified for the local service area. The "jigsaw" diagram described the whole of the Health and Social Care system not just the BCF pot. Telford and Wrekin needed to show leadership.

Following the discussion it was:

RESOLVED – that

- a) the progress of the Better Care Fund programme be noted;**
- b) the progress of the development of the Section 75 Pooled Budget Agreement be noted; and**
- c) that the respective organisation ensure that they support and facilitate approved BCF implementation within the identified timescales.**

The meeting ended at 3.42pm

Chairman:

Date:

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Tuesday 9th June 2015 at 6.00 pm at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PRESENT

Councillors H Rhodes (Chair), M Boylan, G Cook, J Francis, C Mason, S J Reynolds, M Smith and J Seymour

Officers in attendance: L Noakes (Assistant Director: Health, Wellbeing and Public Protection), S Fisher (Principal Licensing Officer), C Phillips (Licensing Technical Officer), T Street (Solicitor) and B Williams (Democratic Services Support Officer)

LC-10 MINUTES

Reference was made to minute LC-8 – Street Trading Consent Policy, and what the results of the consultation had been. The Licensing Technical Officer reported that three responses were received – two from TWC Parks Division and one from “Lions Day”, none of which were negative. There were two comments about the proposed fee. All comments had been discussed with the Chair, and as there had been no significant adverse comments, the revised street trading policy had been adopted. The fee for the ‘umbrella’ consent had been agreed at £137 for five commercial traders.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

LC-11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors I T W Fletcher and M Hosken

LC-12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

LC-13 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL’S STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the report of the Service Delivery Manager: Public Protection which notified Members of the requirement to review the current Statement of Licensing Policy, and sought approval for a 12 week consultation with affected persons and bodies.

The current Statement of Licensing Policy had been in place since January 2011, and there was a statutory requirement that it must be reviewed every five years. Officers had reviewed the Policy in line with Best Practice guidance, and proposed amendments were highlighted in the draft policy document appended to the report. The majority of the proposed amendments were due to changes in the law, and sections had been added on

- sexual entertainment;
- the Licensing Authority as a responsible authority;
- Health as a responsible authority;
- Early morning Restriction Orders;
- Late Night Levy;
- Non Payment of Annual Fee.

The Policy had also been revised in places to ensure it was more user friendly.

The Council was required to consult with a number of persons and bodies, and these were set out in the report. In addition, it was proposed that all premises licence holders in the Borough, town and parish councils, local community organisations and national organisations should be consulted. A full list of the persons to be consulted was appended to the report. Copies of the document would also be displayed at Council Offices/libraries and on the Council website. Following the consultation period, the Statement of Policy would be taken to Full Council on 26 November 2015 for approval.

During the ensuing discussion, Members referred to some grammatical errors and also suggested minor changes in wording to clarify certain points. For example, in respect of paragraphs 5.5 and 5.6 concerning relevant representations, it was felt there needed to be more clarity as to when the Licensing Authority could or could not impose conditions, and when it was appropriate for it to make representations. The Principal Licensing Officer advised that the Licensing Authority was unlikely to make a representation unless evidence had been provided by another Authority, but that the wording could be looked at to make it clearer. In response to a question about paragraph 6 – and the deletion of the Pool of Conditions, it was advised that the Home Office had removed these from their s182 Guidance. In relation to paragraph 15, concern was expressed that personal licences would have no expiry date, and how a check could then be kept on their validity. The Principal Licensing Officer advised that while representations had been made to the Home Office, legislation had been passed which meant personal licences no longer needed to be renewed. Licence holders would need to inform of a change of address to the authority they were licensed with.

RESOLVED -

- (a) **that, subject to the inclusion of the minor amendments raised at the meeting, the revised Statement of Licensing Policy be approved for consultation;**
- (b) **that a twelve week consultation to review the Statement of Licensing Policy, beginning on 22 June 2015 and ending on 14 September 2015, be approved.**

LC-14 REVIEW OF GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES

The Licensing Technical Officer presented the report of the Service Delivery Manager: Public Protection, which notified Members of the requirement in the

Gambling Act 2005 for the Council's Statement of Licensing Principles to be reviewed every three years, and sought approval for a 12 week consultation period with all relevant organisations.

The current Statement of Licensing Principles came into effect in January 2013, and there was a statutory requirement that it must be reviewed every three years. Officers had reviewed the Statement in line with experience of implementing the current document and with Best Practice guidance, and proposed amendments were highlighted in the draft Statement of Licensing Principles document appended to the report. The Gambling Commission was currently consulting on its updated Guidance, and any amendments to the Guidance would be reflected in the final Statement of Licensing Principles. The key changes related to:

- From April 2016, operators were required to submit a local risk assessment with any new or variation application;
- The introduction of 'Bet Watch' Schemes where appropriate;
- A requirement for gambling premises to notify the licensing authority of any test purchase results conducted by the Gambling Commission or their own organisation.

In Telford & Wrekin, there were currently 24 licences issued under the Gambling Act – 18 betting premises, 3 bingo premises and 3 adult gaming centres.

The Council was required to consult with a number of persons and bodies, and these were set out in the report. These included all existing licensees, registered clubs, and those who represented businesses, residents and community groups in the Borough. A full list of the persons to be consulted was appended to the report. Copies of the document would also be displayed at Council Offices/libraries and on the Council website. Following the consultation period, a final Statement of Principles would be taken to Full Council on 26 November 2015 for approval.

A question was asked regarding the Gambling Commission Guidance consultation and how this would impact on the revision of the Statement of Licensing Principles. The Licensing Technical Officer stated that the Gambling Commission would have the opportunity to comment on the Council's Statement and to suggest any changes that would accord with any updated Guidance.

RESOLVED -

- (a) that the revised Statement of Licensing Principles be approved for consultation;**
- (b) that a twelve week consultation to review the Statement of Licensing Principles, beginning on 22 June 2015 and ending on 14 September 2015, be approved.**

The meeting closed at 6.36pm.

Chairman:

Date:

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday, 24th June 2015 at 6.00pm in the Haybridge Restaurant, Telford College of Arts and Technology, Haybridge Road, Wellington, Telford TF 1 2NP

PRESENT: Councillors J C Minor (Chair), N A Dugmore, J A Francis (substitute for N C Lowery), E J Greenaway, J Loveridge, M J Smith, P J Scott and C R Turley.

PC-016 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 3 June 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendment to the minute in relation to planning application TWC/2013/0685:

The words “could appeal if the application was refused and objectors to the application” to be inserted after “The Applicant” in the 11th line of the 6th paragraph .

PC-017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr N C Lowery

PC-018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

With regard to planning application TWC/2015/0039 – Cllr E J Greenaway confirmed that she was a member of Lawley and Overdale Parish Council but had not been involved with any discussions on this application.

With regard to planning application TWC/2015/0265 – Cllr C R Turley confirmed, for information only, that he was a Trustee on the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust.

With regard to planning applications TWC/2011/0827, TWC/2011/0871 and TWC/2013/0855 Cllr P J Scott confirmed that he was a member of Newport Town Council and had been involved with some discussions on 2 of these applications. The Legal Advisor confirmed that, providing Cllr Scott had kept an open mind and not pre-determined his decision, he could take part in consideration of these applications if he so wished.

With regard to planning application TWC/2015/0039 - Cllr J A Francis confirmed that this application was on the edge of her Ward - Ketley & Overdale – but that she had not taken part in any discussions on this application.

PC-019 DEFERRED/WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

None

PC-020 SITE VISITS

Cllr J A Francis requested a site visit on TWC/2015/0039 – The Wrekin View Public House, Milners Lane, Dawley Bank, Telford.

Following a discussion between Officers and Members, a vote for a site visit took place, but was not carried.

PC-021 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.

The Planning Officer suggested that she gave an overview of all three of the Newport applications on the schedule, prior to each application being considered separately on their individual merits. Following the announcement that the Council now had 8.2 years of deliverable housing land, applications with a resolution to grant subject to the signing of a S106 agreement were being brought back to Committee.

The 5 year housing supply position now enabled officers and the Committee to focus on the up-to-date housing supply policies CS1 and CS7. Members were reminded that they had already resolved to grant planning permission and that the technical aspects of the application had already been accepted. Previously there was a shortfall with the housing land supply and the NPPF ruled that where policies were out-of-date planning permission should be granted unless there were adverse impacts that would significantly outweigh the benefits. Following the recent Objectively Assessed Housing Need Report, the Council now had 8.2 years of deliverable land for the Borough. This report acknowledged that there had been an under-supply of new housing in the last 8 years from the start of the Core Strategy in 2006 until 2014. Policy CS1 set out a level of delivery for Newport for 60 dwellings per year. Only 304 dwellings were built during this time and using the delivery target of 60 dwellings per year, there should have been 480 dwellings built which left a shortfall of 176 dwellings. This averaged out at 38 dwellings per year instead of the 60 per year target.

In April 2015, the AMR indicated a 625 dwelling commitment, but it may be unlikely that this quantity of development would be met due to delays on lead in times and outline applications then requiring reserved matters applications, and there was no guarantee that these developments would be built. This meant that whilst the Borough had a 8.2 year housing land supply, this did not mean that planning applications could be refused on housing supply issues alone. The supply of deliverable land needed to be maintained into the future and beyond 2016. In addition, there was a need for affordable housing within Newport which had a shortfall of 134 affordable dwellings over the last 9 years so it was necessary for supply to catch up with need. Development on the remaining few brownfield sites in Newport would not yield the number of houses to achieve the CS1 delivery targets or the provision of 35% of affordable housing required by Policy CS6, as brownfield sites often had above normal costs that made viability a particular problem.

Objectors had raised concerns that following the grant of planning applications that these often came back for a reduction in affordable housing at a later date on the grounds of viability. This had occurred at Audley Avenue (17%) but the development of land off Wellington Road provided 20% affordable housing on-site with a monetary provision for 15% affordable housing off-site elsewhere in Newport. Each application needed to be assessed on its merits.

With regard to the issue of determination using the Local Plan process, as the Council had not yet published a draft Local Plan, no weight could be attached to this and it would be premature to determine applications on this basis and therefore this could not be used in advance to make decisions with regard to the Newport applications.

Other material elements were the S106 contributions and the recent Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) changes that came into force in April 2015. As a result of this, the pooling of financial conditions was restricted to no more than 5 contributions to a single type of infrastructure. Highway network improvements were envisaged from all applications determined and this had a proportional impact on contributions which meant that these contributions now needed to be broken down into specific elements for each application although the contributions remained the same. Education specific school infrastructure projects had now been identified.

These were the main issues that were common to all three sites, which would now be considered individually.

a) TWC/2011/0827 – Land to the North of Audley Avenue, Newport, Shropshire

This application was for outline planning permission to the North of Audley Avenue, Newport, to include access for the erection of up to 215 no dwellings, highway works, public open space, allotments and associated infrastructure development following demotion of buildings. The development included 17% affordable housing, highway works, bus subsidy and shelters along Audley Avenue, provision of open spaces, play area on Shukers Field, a new sports pitch at Burton Borough school for school and community use, transfer of land to extend the nearby allotments and transfer of land to be used for continued sports pitch provision. The report originally came before Committee on 14th November 2012 where it resolved to grant permission subject to a Section 106 Agreement. The application was then brought back to Committee on 23 July 2014 to seek a variation to some of the S106 contributions which included a reduction in the amount of affordable housing provision to 17% for viability reasons.

Cllr A Meredith, Ward Member for Newport South and East, considered that there was irrefutable evidence before the Committee to reject the application. The outline application was dated 2011 but this did not come forward to Committee until November 2012 subject to the contribution of 35% of affordable housing. St Modwens brought the application back to Committee in 2014 for 215 houses with a reduction to 17% affordable housing due to economic viability. It had now been 4 years and no full plan had been produced. Cllr Meredith considered that enough time had been wasted and that the application should be rejected.

J Rossiter spoke on behalf of the applicant, St Modwens Properties, in favour of the application and the officer's recommendations in the report. This land had been identified within 'Shaping Places' and was chosen for the principle reasons of location, accessibility, affordable houses and being a sustainable housing development. The applicant had taken part in discussions with the public and this had resulted in the provision of the sports pitch and open space. Newport Town Council had also been offered land to be put into their control on the existing Shukers Field site together with a fully equipped play area. A full size playing pitch would be provided at Burton Borough School which would be transferred to the Council. The delivery of the housing was in accordance with policy CS1, and would assist in meeting the identified provision of 60 dwellings per year. There were no objections from the Councils engineer., and the site benefitted from an open drainage system.

The Planning Officer confirmed that consultation had taken place with Sport England, Severn Trent Water, Shropshire Council, the Environment Agency, Chetwynd Aston and Woodcote Parish Council, Newport Town Council and TWC Environmental Health. Newport Town Council had objected to the application and additional comments could be found on the update report.

Members were informed that objections had been raised on the separate Station Road, Newport application in respect of policy OL6, Open Space, and the Planning Officer added an additional comment regarding this. Audley Avenue's loss of a playing field under OL6 had been offset by private open space being brought into public use, together with the provision of allotments and the sports pitches. A balance had been applied with regard to the Policy conflict with OL6 as the development was sustainable and near to the town centre and services. It conformed with the Development Plan and the NPPF. In light of the 5 year housing land issue, new development was needed in order to secure Newport's role as a market town and this was sustainable in terms of the NPPF, even with the policy conflict.

Members were asked to grant the outline planning permission subject to the recommendations on page 12 and 13 of the main report and the conditions from the previous report and the update report changes.

Cllr P J Scott commented that this application made the most sense out of the three and the sports provision was needed, it gave the allotments to the Town Council and made much needed improvements to Shukers field. However, added to the other housing development proposals, there would be 616 new houses in one small area of Newport. He considered that affordable housing was being used to pass these applications and each time it was subsequently being taken out or reduced. He wanted to see Newport grow, but was concerned with putting all these houses in one small patch of Newport and therefore it was suggested that this application should be deferred.

Cllr N A Dugmore commented that he remembered the site well from the site visit which took place and his concerns had not been mitigated through the update report around Policy OL6, the NPPF, planning balance and appropriate weight. He was concerned about the loss of employment, and suggested that more suitable areas

were considered. The development would constrict the Cemetery's expansion and once full a new cemetery would have to be found. There were also drainage problems around this area. Local school places were full, and the size of the development was not sustainable. Previously there had not been a 5 year land supply, but now this had come into play, it was an opportunity to make sure that the development was in the right place. Cllr Dugmore considered that this was not a sustainable development and should be rejected.

Cllr E J Greenaway expressed her concerns regarding the viability of the scheme and the 35% affordable housing target in Newport. Policy CS6 was now relevant due to the 5 year land supply. This development only contained 17% affordable housing, and it was questioned whether this was enough to justify the use of a greenfield site.

Cllr C R Turley reminded Members that this application was for 215 houses only. There was a pressing need to support and encourage the younger working population, and provide both market and affordable housing, to achieve a balanced stable community, which this application did provide. Greenfield development was part of the Core Strategy on the built up edge of Newport and was consistent with policies CS1 and CS6 and the NPPF. The application was sustainable, was in line with both national and local policy and the S106 conditions, as shown in the recommendation in the update report, provide enhanced benefits to the local community.

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist commented on some of the points raised. He reiterated Cllr Turley's point that this application was one of three being considered and was for 215 houses as all other applications were separate. Members had previously approved the site and the technical detail and there had been no significant changes to form a different recommendation. This was an accessible location and near to other developments with open space and community facilities with much needed affordable housing. With regard to viability, this provision was within the boundaries of planning law. The Officers were satisfied that the viability assessments were suitable. The only way of providing affordable housing was through the approval of market housing. The S106 provided affordable housing on national policy through the NPPF. This development was therefore considered sustainable as set out in the NPPF.

Upon being put to the vote, it was:

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2011/0827 that authority be delegated to the Development Management Service Delivery Manager to grant outline planning permission, subject to:

(a) the applicants/Council as landowner entering into a Section 106 agreement/Memorandum with the Council (terms to be agreed by the Service Delivery Manager of Development Management) relating to:

- **Affordable housing – 17% for viability reasons**
- **£314,072 for highway works to the A518/A41 (South) roundabout and its approaches and the links along the A518 between this roundabout and**

Audley Avenue and between Audley Avenue and the proposed new access for the Station Road site (ref: TWC/2011/0871)

- **£120,000 towards Newport Town Centre bus subsidy**
- **£10,000 towards Public Transport infrastructure for bus shelters along Audley Avenue**
- **£5,000 towards Travel Plan monitoring**
- **Primary education element (£291,433) to Newport Infants expansion and secondary element (£238,445) to Burton Borough expansion**
- **£162,000 off site NEAP children's play area on Shukers Field**
- **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**
- **Transfer of land to the Council for new sports pitch at Burton Borough School for dual school/community use**
- **£225,000 towards improvements to Shukers Playing Field, with any underspend to go towards affordable housing**
- **Transfer of 0.22ha of land to Newport Town Council for extension to existing nearby allotments**
- **Transfer of 1.6ha of land to Telford & Wrekin Council to be used for continued sports pitch provision as part of the enhanced Shukers Field playing fields area**
- **£9,000 towards planning and financial monitoring of planning conditions and Section 106 agreement (this is a maximum figure and may be changed if, in the opinion of the Service Delivery Manager of Development Management, such change is required).**

(b) to the conditions and informatives set out in the report and the update report, with authority to finalise and impose additional conditions to be delegated to the Service Delivery Manager of Development Management.

b) TWC/2011/0871 – Land East and West of Station Road, Newport

This application was for the erection of up to 350 no dwellings (Use Class C3); extra care housing (Use Class C2); 4.5ha of employment land (Use Classes B1, B2 and B8); public open space and landscaping provision including sports pitch and landscaped park; demolition of existing industrial buildings; highway works and associated infrastructure development (Outline to include Access).

The supermarket aspect of this application had now been removed and withdrawn.

This development first came to the Committee in December 2013 when permission was granted subject to the signing of the S106 conditions, but this had not been completed.

Cllr S Stacey spoke on behalf of Church Aston Parish Council who expressed their concerns that this application had been brought back to Committee some 18 months on. The Parish Council had previously agreed the development but since this time

there was now a sufficient supply of houses until 2022 and sufficient planning approvals until 2031. Following the judgment from the recent Tibberton Inquiry, these 350 homes were considered to be an urban development within Newport. The residents of Church Aston valued their open land and it was of local importance and had been the subject of a village green application. The Development Plan open land Policy OL6 sought to protect green space. With regard to sustainability there was insufficient jobs within Newport to justify 600 new homes within the next 5 years or so. This development could mean an extra 900 people living in Newport as a result of the new houses. As the employment land was potentially being built on this development was considered unsuitable. There was not the need for a further 350 houses and this development was not sustainable and there would be a loss of the visual separation between Church Aston and Newport, together with the loss of a much loved local resource.

Cllr A J Eade, Ward Member for Church Aston & Lilleshall, reminded Members of the Secretary of State's ruling. He commented that there was no longer a shortage of housing as the Council now had a 5 year land supply and that there were no considerable material considerations. The position had clearly and fundamentally changed and now came under Core Policy CS1, CS6 and CS7 as Newport was a rural area. This development was on a greenfield site and not a brownfield site and Policy OL6 should not be ignored. The policy was now up-to-date and this was open land and incidental land next to built up land. All members were aware of the value of open green land to local people and OL6 was relevant to this area. With the development of 350 houses the open land would be lost and it would be detrimental to the area. Now that the Council had an 8 year land supply this development did not need to take place and the development between Newport and Church Aston could be resisted. Cllr Eade asked Members to use their independence when making their decision.

Cllr A A Meredith, Ward Member for Newport South and East, commented again on the "irrefutable evidence" against developing this land with regard to Policy OL6 relating to open space. The Draft Local Plan sought to retain open space in the Borough and this was a large part of the green open space which was in under-supply. The Court of Appeal rejected arguments and confirmed that OL6 did apply to this land. If this development was approved it may have to go back to the High Court which would be unjustifiable costs and add to the £1.5m already spent.

Anna Bend, Applicant's Agent, spoke in favour of the application and the Officer's recommendations. The land was allocated within Shaping Places and the application had previously been approved for 350 houses with an element of affordable housing. The dwellings occupied less than half the site and there was an 80 bed extra care facility. A playing pitch had been allocated within the site and a contribution towards the bus service and highway improvements. This development included 35% affordable housing and was a one-off opportunity for a balanced settlement. The impact of the loss of ground had been addressed. The development would take several years and would take place in a co-ordinated manner and contributed to the employment offer in Newport in order to sustain economic prosperity and tenants would be offered the chance to re-locate within the development. Improvements to the A518 would take place. This development was economically sustainable and would be an £9.41m spend in Newport and would be

of significant benefit. There would be employee opportunities of 300 jobs during and after the build. A consultation process had been undertaken.

The Planning Officer informed Members that a consultation had taken place with Newport Town Council, Environment Agency, Natural England, Severn Trent Water, Shropshire Fire Service, Telford and Wrekin Council Drainage Engineers and Save Newport. Letters of objection had been received from Mark Pritchard and 48 local residents. The S106 had been amended in order to make the highway conditions more specific and there had been an update to the Education provision.

Despite the 8.2 year land supply, Newport was still under-delivering and fell short of the CS1 target. The land supply needed to be continued beyond the 8.2 years. The development was sustainable and brought housing and employment which would help to maintain Newport's role as a market Town and its existing services. There would be a qualitative improvement on both formal and informal recreation facilities. The update report contained information regarding the relevance of policy OL6 in the determination of the previous supermarket application. The Appeal Judge ruled that the Planning Inspector for the Audley Avenue supermarket application was entitled to form her view regarding the relevance of OL6 to that application, but did not rule that it was a reason for refusal. With regard to the land consisting of the designated public footpath (Hutchinson Way) and the permissive paths that crossed it, although these areas were considered locally important as informal recreational resources, there was no legal right to enter the surrounding land other than along the paths, and therefore the land could not be treated as an open space. This application had a qualitative gain with regard to the provision of informal and formal open spaces and play areas and the pitches and this was weighed against the NPPF. This development would be a significant boost for the land supply and was a material consideration. There were no significant changes to the development and there was a need for housing supply within Newport and this was a sustainable development. The Planning Officer asked Members to approve the recommendations contained within the report and the changed to the S106 in the update report.

Cllr P J Scott re-iterated to the meeting that they were discussing 616 in total as a development for 215 houses had just been approved in Audley Avenue. Cllr Scott was not completely against development within Newport and employment was also needed, but as the Council now had a 5 year land supply and this application was for 350 houses, he suggested that the application be deferred until it was needed. If the application could not be deferred then he would have to refuse the application.

Cllr N A Dugmore was disappointed that this development had not been put forward for a site visit as it was for some 350 dwellings and employment land.

The Chair expressed his concerns about a site visit and a vote then took place as to whether a site visit was needed in the circumstances. With the majority of members not being in favour of a site visit, the motion for a site visit was defeated.

Cllr Dugmore referred to the update report with regard to Policy OL6 and the weight that was given on Policy CS1, CS6 and CS7. When the development had previously come before the Committee there had been a lack of a 5 year land supply. He considered that this development was not sustainable due to the lack of school

places. He was also concerned with the access onto the road for the extension to the employment land. Cllr Dugmore was of the option that as no site visit would take place and due to the fact that the Council now had a 5 year land supply that this development was unsustainable and should be refused.

Cllr C R Turley reiterated that the housing land supply figure was a minimum. He referred the Committee to the benefits that would come from the S106 agreement both in the original report and the update report. This was a substantial investment into Newport.

Cllr E J Greenaway commented that the amount of money contained within the S106 agreement was only necessary due to the land being developed. Shaping Places was not relevant to this development as Policy OL6 was more relevant. The employment units would be demolished and would take 15 years to re-build. There was no ability to expand this employment land further.

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist addressed the Committee with regards to the 5 year housing land supply. The Council needed to plan for the longer term as set out in the NPPF as the 5 year land supply was a short-term measure as there needed to be a continuous flow of housing. The figure of 5 years was chosen as it was considered to be a reasonable amount of time. There was a continuing need for housing in the longer term. With regard to Policy OL6 and open land, it was clear at the public examination of the Core Strategy that greenfield land would be needed and that this land was not always publically accessible and a distinction needed to be made between "public accessible land" and "open space". This development brought an extra care facility and new employment opportunities and the issue of new employment land would be addressed within the Local Plan. No issues had been raised with regard by Highways or Education and they were satisfied with the development. The Development was sustainable under the terms of the NPPF and the open space brought forward new areas for the community in excess of what they already had access to. The Assistant Director considered that there was sufficient evidence for Members to come to a decision on the recommendations before them.

Following the discussion it was:

RESOLVED - that with respect to planning application TWC/2011/0827 that authority be delegated to the Development Management Service Delivery Manager to grant outline planning permission, subject to

(a) the applicants/Council as landowner entering into a Section 106 agreement/Memorandum with the Council (terms to be agreed by the Service Delivery Manager of Development Management) relating to:

- **£820,596 towards Highway works to the A518 Station road roundabout and its approaches and the links along the A518 up to Audley Avenue (but not contributing towards the cost of works the proposed new access for the Station Road site (ref: TWC/2011/0871));**
- **£10,000 for public transport infrastructure for bus stops along Station Road;**

- £7,500 for Public Rights of Way diversions and associated enhancements and footway improvements for on-site sections;
- £360,000 for public transport service enhancements towards diverting local bus services into both parcels of the site;
- £10,000 for Travel Plan monitoring (comprising £5,000 (C class uses) + £5,000 (B class uses));
- Commuted maintenance sum for the Station road PUFFIN crossing;
- £100,000 for Public Art within the site or within vicinity of site;
- Primary Education element (£474,425) for remodelling of Church Aston Primary School and Secondary Education element (£388,166) to Burton Borough Expansion;
- Open space/landscape maintenance sums to be agreed, depending if land to be transferred to the Council;
- 35% of affordable housing;
- £20,000 towards planning & Financial monitoring of planning conditions and section 106 (this is a maximum figure and may be changed if, in the opinion of the Service Delivery Manager of Development Management, such change is required);
- In the event that the North Audley Avenue application TWC/2011/0827 does not commence, that land for the sports pitch for joint community/school use at Burton Borough school be transferred and a memo of undertaking is produced by the council as land owner, requiring the provision of the sports pitch before the 75th dwelling is constructed;
- An appropriate obligation (if required) to secure that a four-arm roundabout is constructed on Station road to ensure that adequate highway features are in place to address potential traffic arising from this development in the context of other developments which may or may not involve accesses on to Station Road in this location; and

(b) the conditions and informatives set out in the report and the update report.

- c) TWC/2013/0855 – Land to the rear of Willow Tree Cottage, Station Road, Newport, Shropshire

The Planning Officer informed the Committee that this was a different scale of development to the previous two. This was a triangle shaped piece of land that was surrounded by application TWC/2011/0871, land east and west of Station Road, Newport. The development was for 51 dwellings with a single access point and originally came before Committee in 2014 where the Committee granted the application subject to the signing of a S106 Agreement.

Cllr A A Meredith, Ward Member for Newport South and East, addressed the Committee that the Council now had an 8.2 year housing land supply and that this application was not needed. He also suggested that this development was of a high density and poorly laid out and that the Council should demand a better development from the Developer concerned.

Mr G Wade, local resident, confirmed to the Committee that this application had been considered some 14 months previously. He commented that he was not against proportionate growth, but that this application was not proportionate. He re-affirmed his concerns at the loss of privacy and light and the negative impact that this development would have. There were issues with regard to drainage, foul water, sewerage and with the access on the development. Mr Wade was concerned regarding adverse health issues and contamination from the building site. He considered this development to be overly urban and high density and redundant due to the 5 year housing land supply. Mr Wade suggested that a site visit took place.

Mr H Thorn, Applicant's Agent, informed the Committee that this application was detailed and was only for 51 dwellings and was for less than 10% of the applications approved earlier in the meeting. He considered that even with an 8 year housing land supply that officers have confirmed that the development accords with policy and was consistent with the NPPF. Access issues would be discussed if planning consent was granted. A house close to the boundary had been removed from the plans and replaced with parking spaces and an amended application had been submitted. The application would be sustainable as the development would be built quickly and this would enable them to house people quickly.

The Planning Officer confirmed that a further consultation process had been undertaken with Severn Trent, the Police, Drainage Engineers, Newport Town Council and Chetwynd Aston and Woodcote Parish Council. There had been 25 letters of objection. The development was still considered to be sustainable and was close to facilities and services and helped to address the housing situation in Newport despite the 8.2 year housing land supply. The objections around Policy OL6 had already been discussed but any loss would be offset by the provision of financial contributions for off-site children's play equipment which was deficient within Newport. The loss of this land did not constitute a reason to refuse the application. With regard to the land ownership issues and the access, this did not need to be resolved prior to approval of the application. This would be a civil matter. There were no material considerations to warrant refusal of the application. The Planning Officer asked the Committee to grant permission.

Cllr P J Scott commented that this development would be surrounded by 565 houses already approved, with a further 150 likely to be approved on two further sites across the road. This would be a concentration of 770 houses in one small area of Newport. Cllr Scott suggested that this application be deferred until it is known what housing was needed within Newport. He considered that Newport had now received more than their allotted share of development and that he could not support the application.

Cllr N A Dugmore also commented that Newport had been forced to have more than their fair share of housing, which he considered was to generate income from the new homes bonus. This particular plot of land was high density and it would work out at 32.7 dwellings per hectare and that this was at the extreme end of the density. Cllr Dugmore was concerned with the ground levels of the land as it was situated on the old railway line. He commented that if the development was of a much lower

density then this may be more acceptable, but that in its current form he could not approve the application.

Cllr E J Greenaway expressed her concerns with regard to the over-development of the site and had great concerns regarding the corner properties. She considered that this application was not acceptable in this area and was a poorly designed development. She raised concerns with regard to the parking which were close to the main road and with the ground levels. Cllr Greenaway also confirmed that it would be more acceptable to have a development that was less dense which could be more considerate to the people living in the area.

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist addressed some of the concerns that Members raised. The design was a presentation of the co-ordinated views of officers who were satisfied with the proposal. There was a need for housing and in particular the affordable housing was important due to the household growth and the need for homes as presented earlier in the evening. There was proportional development taking place across the Borough and this was proportional to the numbers already in the Local Plan. There were no defensible reasons to refuse this application.

The Planning Officer commented regarding the housing numbers and that policy CS1 was a delivery target that expected 60 dwellings per year to be built and come out of the ground in Newport. Granting these housing applications did not mean that the 60 per year target had been exceeded, because all the housing granted at the meeting would not all be built in one go. It would take several - outline applications have to be followed by reserved matters and this can take up to 3 years to submit. The Chair asked about the time projection for this development. The Planning Officer suggested that an average build rate on site was 30 houses per year, so 350 houses would take about 10 years to build.

Following the discussion it was:

RESOLVED - that with respect to planning application TWC/2013/0855 that authority be delegated to the Development Management Service Delivery Manager to grant outline planning permission, subject to

(a) the applicants entering into a Section 106 agreement/Memorandum with the Council (terms to be agreed by the Service Delivery Manager of Development Management) relating to:

- £63,320 for Highway works to the A518/Station Road roundabout and its approaches and the links along the A518 up to Audley Avenue (but not contributing towards the cost of works to the proposed new access for the Station road site (ref: TWC/2011.0871));
- Primary Education element (£67,333) for remodelling of Newport Junior School and Secondary Education element (£46,895) to Burton Borough £29,400 towards offsite play to Wallshead Way Play area recreation and a commuted sum towards future maintenance to be agreed;
- 33% affordable for viability reasons (11 affordable rented and 6 shared ownership dwellings);

- **£10,347.45 towards planning & financial monitoring of planning conditions and section 106 (this is a maximum figure and may be changed if, in the opinion of the Service Delivery Manager of Development Management, such change is required) monitoring costs;**
- **An appropriate obligation (if required) to secure that a four-arm roundabout is constructed on Station road to ensure that adequate highway features are in place to address potential traffic arising from this development in the context of other developments which may or may not involve accesses on to Station Road in this location; and**

(b) subject to the conditions and informatives set out in the report and the update report.

d) TWC/2015/1093 – Site of Lyndale, Middle Lane, Cold Hatton Heath, Telford

Cllr S Bentley, Ward Member for Edgmond & Ercall asked Members to consider a deferment on this application in order for the officer to consider the additional information submitted at the meeting and for the applicant to continue to re-consider their application.

A vote took place and it was:

RESOLVED - that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/1093 it was unanimously agreed that a deferment take place in order for the developers to re-consider their proposals.

e) TWC/2015/0039 – The Wrekin View PH, Milners Lane, Dawley Bank, Telford, Shropshire

This Application was on the site of The Wrekin View Public House, Milners Lane, Dawley Bank, Telford, Shropshire for the erection of a retail unit (use class A1) with ATM servicing, refuse and plan area with associated car parking, access, landscaping and diversion of footpath.

The Planning Officer confirmed that this was an area on the site of the public house. A petition had been received containing 250 signatures. A supplementary Sequential Assessment had been submitted by the applicant which had been assessed by Development Plans team, who concurred with the report.

Cllr D Blackburn spoke on behalf of Lawley & Overdale Parish Council. He expressed concerns regarding bus stops, access points and no restrictions on the 30 mph limit. Concerns were also raised regarding the car parking at the shop and the public house together with concerns regarding delivery lorries near to the play area. The Parish Council also raised the possibility that the shop could lead to anti-social behaviour issues. Cllr Blackburn also raised concerns regarding the Rights of Way in this vicinity. Concerns were also raised with regards to Policy S25 and the design statement and it was considered the shop should be 100 metres away. There had been a contradiction of policy viewpoints and a lack of coherent consultation. The Parish Council were concerned on the impact of other nearby shops and there could

be the loss of an established business. Cllr Blackburn asked the Committee to reject the application.

C Wright, Applicant's Agent, confirmed to Members that this Scheme was an additional community facility which would secure the long-term future of the public house. The report addressed the matters raised by objectors. The development fully accorded with Policies and was sustainable. Its character would sit comfortably within the street scene. Concerns regarding competition with other local shops was not before the Planning Committee for determination as this development was not large enough to regulate competition. With regards to car parking, there were 12 spaces for the shop customers and 17 spaces for the public house. This level of parking was considered to be more than adequate by the site visit and no objection had been raised by highways. The playground area was considered to be open and safe to use and there were no objections from the Parks and Open Spaces officers. A 2 ½ metre wide open strip would be left between the park and the shop and a high close boarded fence would be erected on the boundary of the play area. The Rights of Way issues had been addressed and incorporated within the scheme. The development fully accorded with the national and local policies and there were a number of benefits to the local community including consumer choice, 20 local jobs and the long-term security of the public house. The Committee were therefore asked to approve the application.

The Planning Officer informed Members that this development was on white land which was not restricted from development. It conformed to the policies within the local plan and the NPPF to enable a strong competitive economy and a sequential approach had been taken as this was considered an edge of town centre development and there were no other suitable sites available or accessible for community use. The proposed retail unit supported the local economy, would create local jobs, bring additional choice and support the future of the public house. The Officer asked Members to approve the recommendation.

Cllr N A Dugmore confirmed that he was not against the development in principle, but had concerns regarding traffic and hours of operation. The convenience store would create a greater flow of traffic. With regard to the creation of jobs, this would only be beneficial if there was no loss of employment with other shops close by. Cllr Dugmore suggested that hours of operation of the shop be fixed as well as conditioning the construction /operational hours of the development as these both needed to be controlled. Cllr Dugmore also raised concerns regarding the 29 parking spaces and that customers may park on Milners Lane if the car park was congested and considered double yellow lines should be requested if the development was approved. .

Cllr E J Greenaway asked if a retail impact assessment had been undertaken. She was concerned about anti-social behaviour issues and how this would be regulated, and there were concerns with regard to the play area, the bus stops and long operating hours and the rights of way near to older-people's properties. She was in favour of promoting jobs but was concerned about the impact on other nearby shops.

The Planning Officer confirmed that a retail impact assessment only needed to be undertaken with developments creating 2,500 sq metres or more retail floor space

and as this development fell below this threshold officers were unable to request the information. It was reminded that the NPPF encouraged healthy competition, and the role of the applicant to pursue if viable. Condition 12 to the report related to opening hours of the retail unit and Condition 7 related to hours of construction..

Cllr Dugmore raised the concern of the footpath created around the rear of the store and considered external lighting should be provided.

Cllr C R Turley stated that the viability of the store would be determined by market forces and that concerns raised with regard to anti-social behaviour, traffic and parking were unfounded. Other retail facilities with a similar set up had no issues with parking and traffic on the main through roads. Cllr Turley welcomed the development which was bringing £1m of investment and 20 new jobs into the area and he supported the application.

Following the discussion it was:

RESOLVED: that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0039 planning permission be granted, subject to the conditions and informatives set out in the report and the update report.

- f) TWC/2015/0265 – Land adj and rear of The Crown Inn, 10 Hodge Bower, Ironbridge

This application sought the erection of 5 no dwellings on land adjacent and rear of The Crown Inn, 10 Hodge Bower, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire.

The Planning Officer informed Members that this application was for 2 pairs of 2 semi-detached houses and 1 detached house to the rear of the public house which had recently been granted consent for conversion. This site had been purchased as a whole and was within the World Heritage Site but the applicant had decided in order to move the development forward, due to necessary reports required on this site, that it would be undertaken in two separate applications - and this application was the second for the area to the rear of the car park.

Cllr J M Seymour spoke on behalf of Cllr N Lowery, Ward Member for Ironbridge Gorge, who had given her apologies. Cllr Seymour informed the Committee that this application had an inextricable link to the Grade II listed public house and she asked why these applications had been considered separately. She queried whether the design and access of the site was stable within the Ironbridge Gorge as it was off the beaten track. She considered that this development did not reflect the surrounding properties within The Gorge and was concerned with the increased usage of the lane as this would be detrimental to safety and cause congestion. Highways had not been consulted on the viability of this becoming a sub-street. Compliance with HE3 was required for development within a conservation area. It appeared that a degree of leniency had been used in order for the development of the Grade II listed being undertaken. The Article 4 Direction had been introduced to protect Heritage sites and Cllr Seymour suggested that this application be deferred in order for this to be considered.

The Planning Officer confirmed that this development was on green network although it was a car park and had no historic value or ecology and could be considered as previously developed land. With regard to the development, this had previously been submitted as 6 dwellings; and more recently been reduced to 5 dwellings with a property being removed at the front of the site in order to respect a neighbouring habitable window and remove the cramped formation on access. As the density of the development had been reduced a further consultation process was undertaken and some of the objections removed ie The Gorge Parish Council, conservation and neighbour objection had been reduced from 32 to 13 letters of objection. The pub had operated on a caretaker operation in order to ensure the safety of the listed building through occupation. The principle of development had been established and the land was now redundant and had no value as green network as it was a hard surfaced. With regard to the land stability and, the information submitted showed that this area was not affected and no special mitigation requirements were needed. The officer also confirmed there would be no further highway safety impact than that already existing; there was poor justification to say that intensification of traffic would be an issue due to the size of the car park associated with the pub as this could have been a popular venue and had 26-28 parking spaces. It was considered that the 5 units would not intensify the traffic at Hodge Bower with the junctions of either Lincoln Hill or Madeley Road. With regard to the fatality reported by the neighbour, there was no record of this, and no further comment could be made. The design had been amended, but it was not considered that any form of standards had been relaxed. With regard to Cllr Seymour's comments relating to the Article 4(2) Direction, which specifically removed certain residential permitted development rights, the officer clarified this application was a distinctly different application that required consent. Furthermore, the conditions proposed would remove all residential permitted development rights, going further than the Article 4(2) direction if permission was granted. The Planning Officer asked Members to recommend the development for approval.

Cllr J A Francis asked if there was a total of 12 properties to be developed on this site, 7 from another development and 5 for this development. She raised concerns regarding the possibility of 24 cars using this junction as it stood and with the constraining wall, boundaries and levels.

Cllr E J Greenaway raised concerns regarding the development land being in Instability Zone 3 and the Local Development Plan stabilisation measures.

The Planning Officer confirmed that this area had undergone a 12 month monitoring period and that there had been no movement within this time that required protection measures.

Cllr Greenaway asked about preserving and re-enforcing street patterns in respect of the outline of the map on page 311 of the Agenda and Policy UD2.

The Planning Officer confirmed that the World Heritage Site was not built on a distinctive building line and was of different forms and shapes. The properties were in clusters and not modern streets. Officers were satisfied with the proposed development reflected the character of the area.

Cllr N A Dugmore raised concerns with the parking to dwellings ratio and expressed that it was presumptive to presume that there would be only 1 car per dwelling in the centre of Ironbridge in relation to the listed building conversion. He was happy that 1 dwelling had been removed from the development site, but was concerned that cars may park on Hodge Bower if spaces were limited. Cllr Dugmore also raised concerns with regard to traffic getting in and out of the main road and asked if there were any extra traffic measures that could be introduced on this site.

The Planning Officer confirmed that the 5 units had sufficient car parking facilities, and that the application for the converted Listed Building had been approved with sufficient parking to the front of the building. The sizes of the units in the Listed Building, or the level of parking provided for them were not part of this consideration and that it was this application site alone that was for Members' consideration.

Cllr C R Turley made a general comment regarding the lack of parking within Ironbridge. He considered that if the listed building was left untouched it would become an eyesore. There were no objections from The Gorge Parish Council or the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust or the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust.

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist confirmed that this former car park was on brownfield land within the World Heritage Site. This was a positive development which would secure the future of the adjacent listed building which was an important part of the street scene. Highways Officers were satisfied with the development and had raised no objections; this development would have a positive impact on the World Heritage Site.

RESOLVED: that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0265 that planning permission be granted subject to the conditions and informatives set out in the report and the update report

g) TWC/2015/0309 – Land adjacent Grangefields, Hay Street, Tibberton, Newport, Shropshire

This application was for outline planning permission for 3 no detached dwellings with all matters reserved on land adjacent to Grangefields, Hay Street, Tibberton, Newport, Shropshire.

The Planning Officer confirmed that this application had been submitted for an extra 1 dwelling over and above what had already been permitted, but was a low density site within which the 3 units could be accommodated. There was no impact on the rural area and officers were satisfied with the proposals.

Cllr N A Dugmore asked which was the extra unit and were these now a different design or house type.

The Planning officer explained that this plan just showed how the units could be accommodated.

Cllr Dugmore raised that in application TWC/2014/0236 that the Inspector had said that Tibberton was less sustainable due to its remoteness and lack of services and

the reliance on private transport. Policies CS1 and CS7 needed to demonstrate a specific need and this development would be against policy.

The Planning Officer confirmed that on this occasion consent had already been given for 2 units - these could be erected and at a later date an application to infill with an additional unit could be submitted.. Policy CS7 identified High Ercall/Waters Upton and Tibberton as suitable settlements where development in the rural area was focused, and the appeal decision acknowledged this but did not agree with the scale of development the appeal proposed, or its location. .

Cllr P J Scott confirmed that every area needed to take a certain amount of housing. He raised concerns regarding the junction of Hay Street and the B5062 but as this was not introducing a lot of traffic this should be acceptable. This was a beautiful area and as the development would work he was happy to support the application.

Cllr E J Greenaway commented regarding the Highways and the visibility splay at unit 1. She was concerned that if the tree was removed and not replaced then there would be nowhere for the visibility splay to be placed.

The Planning Officer confirmed that application was for outline consent only and no access points had yet been confirmed and that the reserved matters would deal with the landscaping. The trees were category C trees and of medium quality so there was a possibility that these trees could be removed and replaced. There may be considerations with regard to hedge protection and the visibility splays could be set back, but this was for the reserved matters application.

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist confirmed that the appeal decision was important, but the scale of the proposed application, together with Tibberton being a key settlement should also be considered. The site and scale was relevant and this scheme was considered proportional.

Following the discussion it was:

RESOLVED: that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0309 outline planning permission be granted, subject to the conditions and informatives set out in the report.

h) TWC/2015/0196 – Car Park, Chapel Street, Oakengates, Telford, Shropshire

This application sought a change of use from a car park to a hand car wash (Sue Generis) at the Car Park on Chapel Street, Oakengates, Telford, Shropshire.

Members had attended a site visit prior to the meeting.

Cllr E J Greenaway expressed severe concerns regarding safety, foul water and deliveries onto Oxford Street.

Cllr J A Francis expressed the view that this land was unsuitable for the purpose.

Cllr N A Dugmore was concerned with the whole site with regards to blocked drains, sinking paving, taps, services, electric cabling under the block paving which was only half submerged and left unconnected in the centre of the site. He commented that other than a car park, this land could not be used for any other purpose and he was against the application.

Cllr P J Scott expressed his concerns with regard to drainage and the state of the land, loading and unloading of lorries and considered this to be a totally unsuitable use.

Cllr J Loveridge moved a recommendation that this application be refused.

The reasons for refusal were as follows:

- inappropriate use
- intensification of site prejudicing highway safety
- conflict with neighbouring uses
- inappropriate infrastructure to support use by virtue of water supply and drainage.

It was:

RESOLVED: that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0196 it was unanimously agreed that this application be refused on the grounds of inappropriate use, intensification of site prejudicing highway safety, conflict with neighbouring uses, inappropriate infrastructure to support use by virtue of water supply and drainage.

The meeting ended at 8.49pm

Chairman:

Date:

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday, 15th July 2015 at 6.00pm in the Telford Suite at Shropshire College Hotel School Ltd (The Telford Whitehouse Hotel), Watling Street, Wellington, Telford TF1 2NJ

PRESENT: Councillors J C Minor (Chair), N A Dugmore, E J Greenaway, J Loveridge, N C Lowery, M J Smith and C R Turley.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors J A Pinter (for Planning Application TWC/2015/0217), J M Seymour (for Planning Applications TWC/2015/0274 and TWC/2015/0414) and S Bentley (for Planning Applications TWC/2015/0157 and TWC/2015/0405)

PC-022 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 22 June and 24 June 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

PC-023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor P J Scott

PC-024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

With regard to planning application TWC/2015/0496 Councillor N A Dugmore advised that he was a member of Donnington & Muxton Parish Council but had not been involved in any discussions on this application.

With regard to planning applications TWC/2010/0828 and TWC/2015/0233, Councillor E J Greenaway advised that she had been a member of the Lawley Steering Group which had provided community input to the original blueprint for the Lawley Ironstone development, but had had no involvement with any specific planning applications relating to the Lawley 8 development.

PC-025 DEFERRED/WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

None.

PC-026 SITE VISITS

Councillor C R Turley referred to planning application TWC/2015/0496 – variation of planning permission at Revivie, Wellington Rd, Donnington. There were concerns that the applicants had not adhered to the agreed conditions of the original permission, and that a site visit would be useful for Members to see the suitability of the building that was being used as a woodwork workshop. It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0496, determination be deferred to the next meeting in order to allow for a site visit to take place on 5th August 2015 at 4.00pm.

PC-027 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/2015/0217 – Site A, Pool Hill Road, Horsehay, Telford

This was a full application for the erection of 14 affordable dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping. The application site (0.38ha) formed part of a larger parcel of land in a semi-rural setting between Dawley and Horsehay. The site was currently covered by grass and shrubs and was used for grazing by horses. The application was a resubmission of a previous application which was withdrawn due to a requirement to carry out a Great Crested Newt Survey.

Councillor J A Pinter, Borough Ward Member, spoke on behalf of other Ward Members and local residents. Local roads (including some parts that were just single carriageway) were already heavily used, and were often used as shortcuts. This development would only add to the congestion. There was also the likelihood of more on-street parking, leading to a further impact on highway safety. There were few local amenities and infrastructure (eg no bus route) to support this development. There were concerns about the stability of the land on this site, and issues of flooding caused by historic infilling of old mines. This was an unsuitable site, the proposed housing would be out-of-keeping with the character of the area, and would be detrimental to the amenity of existing residents in the area.

Mr B Evason, a local resident, addressed the Committee and stated that there was strong feeling in the local community against this proposal. The amenity of local residents would be harmed, the scheme would encroach onto the Green Network and result in the loss of green space, an increase in traffic volumes and parking as a result of this development would lead to increased dangers to road users, and the design of the houses were out-of-character with the semi-rural nature of the surrounding area, and represented over-development of the site. This was a high risk development in a former coal mining area with possible hidden dangers, and he did not believe that the scheme was viable.

Ms C Thomas, the applicant's Project Manager, addressed the Committee and stated that this scheme was part of a wider project to bring forward more affordable housing in the Borough. There was high demand for such housing in the local area, and a lettings policy would be agreed with the Council to ensure priority for local people. The applicants were committed to developing this site, and were prepared to subsidise the high costs of site preparation, including the proposed conditions for remediation and stabilisation works before the commencement of the development. The proposed drainage scheme submitted with the application would help to slow surface water flows to the mains sewer through attenuation tanks located under parking areas.

The Planning Officer advised on the principle of development, site layout and design, impact upon residential amenity, highways issues, land stability and coal mining, ecology issues, flood risk and drainage and impacts on local infrastructure. It was confirmed that the site was not within the Green Network, and was designated in the Local Plan as a committed site. There was a Section 7(1) Consent for this plot of land, and a previous outline application for residential development was granted in 2008. It was considered that the proposed development was acceptable in terms of design, density and layout. There were satisfactory provisions in respect of access and off-street parking, and there would be a financial contribution towards off-site highways improvements, particularly at the Doseley Road/Pool Hill Road junction. In terms of ecology/wildlife, information had very recently been received that there may be newts in two ponds within the curtilage of the site. These would need to be assessed/surveyed in order to see whether a licence was required, and it was suggested that the recommendation in the report be amended to give delegated authority to Officers to request a newt survey of the two ponds as part of the conditions for planning consent.

During the ensuing debate, Members asked a number of questions regarding the proposals, including the level of financial contribution towards highways improvements, whether the 100% affordable housing could be enforced if it was not part of the Section 106 Agreement, and what were the implications of the proposed newt survey. The Planning Officer and the Council Solicitor advised that a viability appraisal had been submitted by the applicants which confirmed that a larger contribution would compromise the viability of the scheme; that a condition could be attached to any consent to ensure the housing provided was retained as affordable; and that if any mitigation measures were needed arising from the newt survey, the applicants would need a licence to proceed. While welcoming the provision of affordable housing, some Members expressed concerns regarding the ground conditions of the site, the impact of increased traffic on Station Road, the level of financial contribution that was being proposed for highways improvements, and the layout and design of the development. Given that there was now a need for an ecology survey of the two ponds within the curtilage of the development, it was suggested that consideration of the application could be deferred, pending the results of the survey.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0217 that determination be deferred to allow for an ecological survey to be undertaken into the possible presence of newts in ponds adjacent to the site.

(b) TWC/2015/0274 – Priorslee Academy, Priorslee Avenue, Priorslee, Telford

This was an application for the erection of one demountable building which would be used for pre-school and after-school clubs. The building would be sited to the east of the existing Academy on an embankment adjacent to the school running track.

Councillor J M Seymour (on behalf of the two Borough Ward members) commented on the objections that had been received from Priorslee Pre-School and others. It was felt that many of these comments were subjective and not in themselves material planning considerations. The Planning Officer's report made clear that there was not expected to be a significant increase in traffic and impact on highway safety as a result of this development, and that the proposed new pre-school would increase choice for local residents as well as providing employment opportunities. It was noted that the applicant had applied for a permanent permission in order to ensure certainty for the school pupils and curriculum, and it was suggested that the Officer's recommendation to grant a temporary consent for five years should be deleted.

Mr J Barker, Chair of Priorslee Pre-School, addressed the Committee and spoke against the application. He questioned the need for another pre-school facility in this area, and expressed the view that the Priorslee Community Centre (which shared the site with Priorslee Academy) could be lost to the wider community as the Academy expanded further. The Community Centre was a well-used space that hosted a lot of local groups, and should be retained for community use.

Mr A Lane, the applicant's agent, advised that consent had been granted for new classroom extensions in 2012 but that the funding had not yet been forthcoming to allow this to proceed. The present application would provide two classroom spaces for a breakfast and after-school club, and a pre-school facility for 3-4 year olds. There was a waiting list for the pre-school, and demand was likely to increase with the building of more houses in the area. Sport England had now accepted that the location of the building was on a part of the playing field that was incapable of forming part of a playing pitch. The application was for a permanent planning permission and this would be the ideal outcome, but the applicants were prepared to accept the proposed temporary consent for five years.

The Planning Officer advised on the principle of residential development, highway safety, and the need for this facility. A number of representations had been received, with 13 letters in support and 25 letters raising objections. Two additional letters of objection were referred to in an update report that was tabled at the meeting. However, these letters had not raised any matters that were material planning considerations. It was considered that the proposed development was acceptable and compliant with local and national policy/guidance. In terms of the application for permanent planning permission, given that there were already two demountable buildings across the site, it was considered appropriate to only grant temporary permission. The proposed five year consent would allow the School to build the previously approved extensions which would then allow for a reduction in the number of demountable buildings. It would also enable the Local Planning Authority to consider the impact of the proposed use on traffic and the local economy.

Clarification was sought regarding the Community Centre, and the Planning Officer confirmed that it formed no part of this application. There was an existing pre-school using the Community Centre.

On being put to the vote, it was unanimously:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0274 that planning permission be granted, subject to the conditions set out in the report.

(c) TWC/2015/0157 – Former Dairy Crest Ltd site, Crudgington, Telford

This was an outline application for the demolition of existing commercial buildings and erection of 111 dwellings with associated amenity space and car parking, and erection of commercial units, creation of public open space with attenuation ponds, play space, landscaping and highway improvements. The application included a proposed layout (with the dwellings to be provided around a central village green) and access arrangements, but all other matters were reserved at this stage. The application site was located to the west of Crudgington village, and covered 6.08 ha of commercial brownfield land that was formerly Crudgington Creamery. There was a mixture of vacant commercial buildings currently on the site.

Councillor S Bentley, Borough Ward Member, addressed the Committee. He welcomed the consultation that the applicants had carried out with residents and the Parish Council, and the efforts that had been made to mitigate the loss of employment arising from the closure of the Creamery. This was a brownfield site that was suitable for such development, and the application was in line with national and local planning policies. It would help local people to get a property in the area, would provide employment opportunities and there would be benefit to the local community through the contributions being proposed for education, highways and public open space. There was one concern that the financial contribution for highways improvements was being earmarked for the Shawbirch roundabout scheme further down the A442. It would be more appropriate for improvements to be made to the Crudgington crossroads next to the application site.

The Planning Officer advised on the principle of development, layout, highways issues, ground contamination and stability, flood risk and drainage, trees, landscaping & open space, ecology, impacts on infrastructure and planning obligations/section 106 contributions. The application was a departure from the Local Plan in that Crudgington was not one of the settlements identified for housing development in the rural area in policy CS7. Also any change of use for employment land would be in conflict with the Core Strategy. Nevertheless, the site was vacant, brownfield land and, like the proposed development of the former British Sugar site at Allscott, it was considered that the strategic nature of the development needed to be considered in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and its presumption in favour of sustainable development. It was considered that the mixed use development would be highly sustainable, with a number of benefits including employment floor space, enhanced linkages to nearby villages, generous open space provision and significant enhancements to the visual appearance of the site. It would represent the loss of a significant commercial site in the rural area, but there did not appear to be any sustainable alternative commercial use. In terms of improvements to Crudgington crossroads, the Highways Officer had undertaken capacity modelling exercises and had concluded that there were no defensible grounds to seek improvements to the junction solely as a result of this development. However, there was concern at the cumulative impact on the local roads network if an application for 130 dwellings on a site 1km to the north at Waters Upton was granted on appeal. It was therefore proposed to retain an option to use the

commuted sum towards improvements to Crudgington crossroads if this became a higher priority. There were not considered to be any technical issues to prevent the development from proceeding or any issues that could not be mitigated against through the use of conditions. A further representation had been received from the applicants, which was summarised in a tabled update report. This had not raised any new issues. In conclusion, it was considered that the application represented a sustainable form of development and a viable and plausible use of a redundant brownfield site, and was recommended for approval.

Members asked questions regarding the proposed contributions for primary and secondary school provision, whether a mini-roundabout at the Crudgington crossroads could be considered, the number of trees that would be lost, and the size of the proposed workshops. The Planning Officer advised that the education contributions would be ring-fenced and that capacity at Crudgington Primary School could be expanded through the replacement of existing demountable classrooms. Based on the advice from the Highways Officer, further traffic management measures at the crossroads were not currently required, and there might be implications of land acquisition to accommodate a roundabout. Information on the exact number of trees that would need to be removed was not available at the meeting, but there would be a requirement for replacement planting. The workshop units were aimed at small businesses, and there would be flexibility in terms of their size and usage.

Members welcomed the scheme and the re-use of a currently redundant brownfield site. It was therefore moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. On being put to the vote, it was:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0157 that authority be delegated to the Service Delivery Manager: Development Management to grant planning permission, subject to:

- (a) The applicant/landowners 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 = 9 units (tenure split 5 affordable rent units and 4 shared ownership units)**
 - (ii) Education contribution = £560,722**
 - Primary School contribution £250,066 (allocated towards expansion at Crudgington Primary School)**
 - Secondary School contribution £183,508 (allocated towards expansion at Charlton Secondary School)**
 - Transport costs £127,148 (used for the transportation of secondary school aged pupils to the Charlton Secondary School)**
 - (iii) Highways contribution = £52,402 (To be used by the Council as a contribution towards improvements to existing junctions on the A442 on the highway corridor between and including Crudgington Crossroads and Shawbirch Roundabout. However, Local Highway Authority wishes to also retain the option to spend the money on improvement works to Crudgington Crossroads if these are**

- considered a higher priority as a result of other development coming forward in the local area)**
- (iv) Public Open Space**
 - **Contribution of £225,021 (towards the adoption and maintenance of public open space within the development)**
 - **Provision of Local Equipped Play Area (LEAP) and outdoor gym**
 - (v) Broadband provision to be provided by the developer**
- (b) the conditions and informatives set out in the report.**
- (d) TWC/2015/0405 – Heath House, 17 Middle Lane, Cold Hatton Heath, Telford

This was a full application for the erection of a two storey 3 bedroom detached dwelling with detached 3 bay garage. The dwelling would sit within the extensive grounds of the smallholding of Heath House, with access from an existing track from Middle Lane. The proposed dwelling would incorporate a number of design features, including a sedum green roof, to minimise its impact on the environment through extremely low energy demands and ‘futureproofing’ to ensure it continued to perform through its lifetime.

Councillor S Bentley, Borough Ward Member, addressed the Committee and spoke in favour of the application. It did not impact on any neighbouring properties, and was an innovative building that would have very low energy usage and could become a good practice example of a sustainable dwelling. Waters Upton Parish Council fully supported the application, and there had been no objections received.

Mr C Purves, the applicant, and Ms J Bleach, applicant’s agent, addressed the Committee. The dwelling was a simple, refined dwelling that would have a minimal impact on its surroundings, and had been designed to blend into the topography of the site. There would be sympathetic cladding and panels to the exterior, and a number of technical innovations. The proposal had been welcomed by a MADE Design Review panel, and was supported by a number of specialist companies and experts. It would meet rigorous environmental standards, and would have an energy performance 88% better than a typical new-build dwelling.

The Planning Officer advised on the principle of development, the impact on the character and appearance of the area, and technical issues relating to access, parking, drainage, ecology and landscaping. The application site did not fall within one of the three settlements identified in Local Plan policy CS7 for development in the rural area. However, it was not in open countryside and needed to be considered in the context of the settlement of Cold Hatton Heath – an area of low density, sporadic development. While it was technically contrary to policy, the “grand design” of the proposed dwelling did mitigate against this in terms of being an innovative concept with a detailed schedule of materials accompanying the application, and would lead to a low impact dwelling with clear environmental credentials. A further comment had been received from the Council’s drainage engineer in respect of the preferred means of discharge of surface water to a well, and this was outlined in a tabled update report. As a result, an additional condition was required, and this was shown in an amended recommendation in the update report. There were no other

technical issues, and it was considered overall that the development was acceptable in the context of sustainable development established through the National Planning Policy Framework.

Members welcomed the proposal and felt it was an excellent project that incorporated a number of exciting design features that would greatly reduce the building's visual impact in the landscape and impact on the environment.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0405 that planning permission be granted, subject to the conditions and informatives set out in the update report.

(f) TWC/2015/0414 – 63 Derwent Drive, Priorslee, Telford

This was a part retrospective application for the erection of a single storey rear and side extension and first floor rear extension. The dwelling was set within a predominately residential area where the majority of the properties were detached. The single storey side extension and the single storey element of the rear extension on their own would be classed as permitted development. However, the two storey element of the rear extension did require planning consent. The maximum height of the extension would be 6.75m and matched the height of the existing house.

Councillor J M Seymour (on behalf of the two Borough Ward Members) addressed the Committee and pointed out that a previous application for a two storey extension had been refused in 2007 because of the impact and loss of amenity on neighbouring properties. This application would have a detrimental impact on nearby houses, with loss of privacy and issues of overlooking. The scale of the development was excessive and would disproportionately increase the size of the dwelling. There was concern that this application was being recommended for approval when it was no different to the one that was refused. If Members did decide to grant consent, it was suggested that a condition be added for the use of frosted glass in the first floor window on the rear elevation.

The Planning Officer advised on the scale and design of the development, and on any issues of overlooking and the loss of privacy. It was considered that the proposals would not adversely increase overlooking issues for neighbouring properties, that the extensions were of an acceptable design and in keeping with the existing dwelling and were in accordance with local and national planning policies. There had been two letters of objection, and some of the issues raised were addressed in the report. The application that was refused in 2007 related to a two storey extension and the loss of open space in relation to a proposed change of use of the land. Also since then, there had been considerable changes in the regulations governing permitted development.

Some Members felt that it would be beneficial for the Committee to view the potential impact on neighbouring properties before making a decision, and it was moved and seconded that a site visit be undertaken. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated.

The Planning Officer clarified issues raised about the retrospective part of the application and which elements would constitute permitted development. If there were concerns about overlooking, a condition could be added to require frosted glass in the first floor rear window.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0414 that planning permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in the report, and an additional condition for the treatment of first floor windows on the rear and side elevations in order to minimise any overlooking or loss of privacy.

(g) TWC/2010/0828 – Land at Ironstone, Lawley, Telford

This was an application for the variation of condition 16 of planning permission W2004/0980 to exclude the areas comprised within reserved matters application ref TWC/2010/0627 and within plots G4 and G5 as defined within the phasing plan drawing number 006 rev L from the effect of condition 16. This application was considered in conjunction with planning application TWC/2015/0233 – Reserved Matters, Lawley Phase 8.

The original Section 106 Agreement for the Lawley Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) contained a requirement for 25% affordable housing with a mix of shared ownership and social rented houses. Members had already agreed to several variations to the affordable housing provision on different phases of the Lawley SUE based on viability appraisals, and these were set out in the report. The current application sought agreement for a Deed of Variation to reduce the affordable housing provision on Phase 8 to 12% and remove the overall obligation of a £100,000 contribution for sustainable development, payable on the occupation of the 1000th dwelling.

The Planning Officer reported that to date almost a third of the 3,300 houses planned for Lawley SUE had been built. The completion of the scheme was vital to the Borough's strategic housing needs, and Officers had been working with the developers to find ways of making sure the scheme was still viable and deliverable. The applicant had submitted a viability appraisal with the Reserved Matters application for Lawley Phase 8 to justify the reduction of affordable housing in this phase. Following careful assessment, it was considered that the reduction of affordable housing provision to 12%, and the use of some Green Network land for Phase 8a to facilitate this, was acceptable on viability grounds and to secure the long term future on Lawley SUE. In addition, the removal of the obligation to pay £100,000 was considered acceptable as a means to ensure that Phase 8 could be completed. It was recommended that the Deed of Variation should include a review mechanism in the event of any market appreciation.

During discussion of the application, some concern was expressed at the further loss of contributions and affordable housing and it was asked how the viability was worked out. The Planning Officer advised that the details were commercially sensitive, but there was an Officer in-house who assessed the viability taking into account such things as the cost of the land, any abnormal costs arising from groundworks etc, and the Section 106 contributions. Members recognised the importance of keeping the Lawley Ironstone project on track during a difficult economic period, and that 12% affordable housing was reasonable in the circumstances.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2010/0828 that authority be delegated to the Service Delivery Manager: Development Management to make a Deed of Variation to the Section 106 Agreement to:

- (i) reduce the affordable housing provision on Phase 8 to 12%;
- (ii) remove the obligation to pay the £100,000 sustainable development contribution; and
- (iii) include a review mechanism in the event of any market appreciation, as well as any other legal wording changes necessary to make the s106 Agreement legally binding .

(h) TWC/2015/0233 – Lawley Phase 8, Lawley, Telford

This was a Reserved Matters application for 561 dwellings including details for landscaping, layout, appearance, siting, access and parking. This application was considered in conjunction with the request for a Deed of Variation to vary the terms of the Section 106 Agreement for planning application TWC/2010/0828 – Land at Ironstone, Lawley.

Phase 8 would provide a mix of dwellings/house types and the reserved matters application had been prepared in the context of an ongoing review of the Lawley Design Codes and a series of pre-application meetings and design workshops. Consequently, Phase 8 differed from previous phases in that it proposed a network of streets where landscaping and parking had been positively integrated from the outset to avoid problems with below ground utilities later on site. For viability reasons the extent of Phase 8 had been extended to include an area of land that was currently designated as Green Network, and shown as informal open space in the Development Framework. This would enable the provision of affordable housing on this phase, albeit reduced to 12% (see application g) above). Following some Officer concerns over detailed aspects of the scheme, the applicants had submitted further amended plans, and comments on these were included in an update report tabled at the meeting. These included comments from the Highways Engineer, Urban Design, Drainage Engineer, Parks & Opens Spaces and Environmental Health (Pollution Control).

The Planning Officer advised on the principle of development, affordable housing and viability, loss of Green Network, design, highways/street layout/car parking/public footpaths, open spaces and recreation, trees and ecology, and ground conditions, drainage and noise. The development was largely in accordance with the Development Framework and Design Codes, and any departures were considered to be acceptable and would retain the unique character and appearance of the Lawley SUE. The loss of Green Network land could be mitigated by environmental and community benefits that would result from an enhanced layout design. There were also exceptional circumstances in terms of the benefit to the future integrity of the overall Lawley SUE and to ensure completion of Phase 8 and the delivery of affordable houses. The comments on the further amended plans had not led to any change in the recommendation for the grant of Reserved Matters, but there were some amendments to the proposed conditions and these were shown in the update report.

During discussion of the application, some concern was expressed at the loss of Green Network land, and the limited environmental benefits that would be gained from this development. Reference was also made to the comments of TWC Parks and Open Space in the update report regarding rights of way and areas of landscaping within adopted highways. The Planning Officer advised that these matters would be addressed through conditions.

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0233 that authority be delegated to the Service Delivery Manager: Development Management to grant Reserved Matters, subject to the conditions outlined in the update report and any others that officers consider necessary to ensure compatibility with the outline application.

The meeting ended at 8.12 pm

Chairman:

Date:

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday, 5th August 2015 at 6.00pm in the Telford Suite at Shropshire College Hotel School Ltd (The Telford Whitehouse Hotel), Watling Street, Wellington, Telford TF1 2NJ

PRESENT: Councillors J C Minor (Chair), I T W Fletcher (Substituting for Cllr N Dugmore), E J Greenaway, J Loveridge, N C Lowery, M J Smith and C R Turley.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors S Bentley (for Planning Application TWC/2014/1116), K Blundell (for Planning Application TWC/2014/0746), M Boylan (for Planning Application TWC/2015/0448), S Burrell (for Planning Applications TWC/2014/1080), and C Mason (for Planning Application TWC/2015/0496)

PC-028 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 15 July 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

PC-029 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr N Dugmore

PC-030 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

With regard to planning application TWC/2015/0448 Councillor E J Greenaway advised that she was a member of Lawley & Overdale Parish Council but had not been involved in any discussions on this application.

PC-031 DEFERRED/WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

None.

PC-031 SITE VISITS

With regard to planning application TWC/2014/0980 officers requested that a site visit take place with Members meeting at 3.30pm at the Lakeside Plant Centre in Priorslee.

PC-032 TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 2015 (13 SYCAMORE TREES AT ST MICHAELS CHURCHYARD MADELEY)

The Arboricultural Officer presented the report to Members. The TPO was made on 17th February 2015 in respect of 13 sycamore trees within St Michaels Church Yard. An objection to the order had been lodged by the Vicar of the Church who was concerned about the effect of the trees on the adjoining wall.

However, the Councils' Officers were of the opinion that they would be able to repair the wall in such a way that the trees could be retained as these were clearly marked on the 1883 map and were of significance. The wall could be shored up without the loss of the trees which would create a space as the trees were not fully grown and there would not be a need to dismantle the wall.

The area marked G1 on the map contained the 13 sycamore trees and two trees on the opposite side of the Church Yard numbered 12 and 13 were not included in the Tree Preservation Order.

Two of the trees marked within the G1 area were of poor form and these would be removed and replaced this would not change the grouping and there would be no requirement to modify the TPO.

The Arboricultural Officer confirmed to Members that the proposed sleeper construction to the wall could be adjusted if necessary with movement of the wall and the trees would be managed and dead-wooded. Both the trees and the wall were in situ when the 1883 map was marked and the trees were mature at this point. It was considered that the wall was an ancient wall and part of the church and that the trees have been planted purposefully and evenly placed. There would be movement of the trees, but this work would enable both the tree landscape and the wall to be preserved.

Following the discussion it was:-

RESOLVED – that the Borough of Telford & Wrekin (13 Sycamore Trees at St Michaels Church Yard, St Michaels Church, Church Street, Madeley, Telford) Tree Preservation Order 2015 be confirmed without modification.

PC-033 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/2014/0746 – Maxell Europe Ltd, Hortonwood, Telford, Shropshire TF1 6DA

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist Addressed the Members regarding the application before them.

This had been the fourth time that this application had been before the Committee and the written report set out the relevant matters to be considered. The principle reason why the application needed further consideration by Committee was the Council's announcement that it now has a five year housing land supply. All other matters had previously been considered acceptable by Members. The application was subject to both national and local policy and provided much needed housing and performed an enabling role for employment opportunities at Hortonwood that included the applicant's proposed relocation of its modular buildings manufacturing enterprise from Oswestry, which would create 120 new jobs. Committee was advised that the attainment of a 5 year land supply should not be considered a ceiling and that there was a responsibility for the council to provide sufficient housing land for the Plan period and beyond. The Planning training that Members had received advised them to look beyond local issues and concerns and look at applications on a Borough-wide context in respect of investment, facilities and community support, jobs, roads and education.

The Planning officer addressed members that this was an outline application for the erection of a mixed use development comprising of up to 495 no dwellings (Use Class C3), a local centre (Use Class A1) and public open space with associated access and

landscaping following the demolition of an existing factory. He advised that the National Planning Casework Unit acting for the Secretary of State had notified the Council that it had received requests for the application to be called-in for consideration. The NPCU intended to consider the request over the coming few weeks; for the time being the Council could not issue planning permission.

The Chair informed Members that a 500 signature petition had been handed to him from the Friends of Apley Woods.

Cllr A Twyford, Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council spoke on behalf of the Parish Council. In 2011, Shaping Places had identified the site as suitable for mixed housing and employment but that this had been a desk-based NPPF exercise. The site scored well with regard to strategic highway services but this did not take into consideration the scale, density and proximity, schools and infrastructure. The issues with regard to the school catchment areas meant that some families were having to take children to different schools each morning which was adding to the pressure on the highways, increasing the risk of accidents and making it difficult to use sustainable transport. It was families that paid the price as children were unable to walk to school in safety and their friends did not necessarily come from where the local area. The development would put an extra 500 cars onto already congested roads and together with this and other recently approved developments, such as Allscott and Crudginton, only added to the impact on roadways and emergency services at peak times. Cllr Twyford asked Members to recognise the inadequacies of this desk-based exercise in the light of its disproportionate scale and the effect this would have on the schools and hospital services.

Cllr K Blundell, Ward Councillor, addressed Members with regard to the application before and discussions at the June 2015 meeting. At this meeting the application was deferred due to the density of the scheme, the infrastructure and the effect on the green network. Cllr Blundell considered that the Developers developers had largely ignored this request and have only reduced the development by a meagre 45 homes and not the significant changes that were expected. This development contained 42% green network, and quarter of which would be built on which would affect the ecological environment. The Council now had an 8 year housing land supply and 3,500 houses were due to be built. This application did not protect the green network, it was unsustainable, it would have a significant detrimental impact on roads and infrastructure and put additional pressure on doctors surgeries, schools and jeopardise emergency services to the hospital. Cllr Blundell could see no justification for this development that would outweigh the financial gains. The Council was the custodian of the Borough and was there to protect it.

Cllr K Blundell read out a Statement on behalf of Cllr B Tomlinson, adjoining Ward Councillor, who was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Tomlinson was unhappy that the resolution did not reflect the minutes which were to negotiate a significant drop in housing numbers, look at highway infrastructure, the effect on the hospital and green network protection. One quarter of the green network would be lost if this development took place and it "flew in the face" of the Local Plan. There were no concrete plans to improve the highway and strategic plans could not be relied upon. Members had a duty to residents to look after their best interests.

Mr S Warner spoke on behalf of the Friends of Apley Wood. At the meeting held on 22nd June the Applicant had been asked to produce a smaller scheme on brownfield land and that he felt let down by the proposals with regard to the green network.

Mr Warner felt insulted that this had been suggested as a “misunderstanding” and that these proposals with regard to schools and the road network only served to compound concerns. There was now more than an 8 year land supply and the draft Local Plan had already allocated land up to 2031. Mr Warner asked for justification as to why this site was being built on green network and was against policy OL2, OL3 and OL4 with regard to building on green network in exceptional circumstances. In this case Mr Warner could see no exceptional circumstances and no legal justification. He was grateful for the changes to the buffer zone and the retained area of green network had improved but he could not see that flowers and cut grass were an improvement to ecology and the environment and that this comprised the value of the green network.

Mr N Scott spoke on behalf of J Ross Developments. Mr Scott confirmed that there were two key issues that came before the Committee being the extent of the development and the green network. The new proposals had sought to address concerns and had reduced the dwellings to below the levels envisaged for the site in the Shaping Places consultation document that informed the latest new replacement Local Plan. The proposals now amount to a density of 22 dwellings per hectare which was considered to be low density. The width of the buffer had now been increased from 20m to 40m to the roads and garden with the buffer to the built frontages being 55m. The proposals also indicate that 43% of the application site would be public open space and would contain a greater amount of accessible green network. Land had been gifted to the Council to improve the highways and there was provision within the proposed Local Centre to provide a new facility for the Shawbirch Medical Centre. Visitor parking spaces had also been increased. The land was in private ownership and not managed for nature conservation; incursion had already been made into the green network when the car park extension to Maxell had been constructed, which encroached to within 5m of Apley Woods. This development would improve the function of the green network and would provide an enhancement to the quality of the green network area, which would also be properly managed. This was more than a just a proposal for residential development. Pickstock had invested in Telford and had already created 200 jobs. Elements Europe also wished to stay in Telford and create 120 jobs. This development would provide an enabling opportunity that would allow Elements Europe to relocate into a purpose built unit. This in turn would help facilitate investment and bring local benefits.

The Planning Officer advised Members on the key issues regarding housing numbers and the current value of the existing green network area of the site. The existing green network had very limited value as a community resource and was not publicly accessible. Whilst utilised predominantly as an agricultural ploughed field, the area nevertheless had some landscape value. The minimum buffer had now been increased from 20m to a minimum 40 metres (55m to the façade of the closest dwelling). The proposed car park had been increased to 30 bays. Although there had been a modest reduction of 8% in the number of dwellings proposed, this did help ease the density of the overall development and enabled a greater amount of green network to be retained and enhanced. No objections had been raised by landscape officers or the Council’s Arboriculturalist in relation to the proposed landscape strategy. This would result in significant improvement and enhancement of the site’s green space, which would also be supported by the S106 Agreement contributions proposed, which amounted to £180k to assist in improving conditions and facilities at Apley Woods and Apley Pool. The Planning Officer believed that the scheme should be supported.

During the ensuing debate, Members asked a number of questions regarding the submission from the Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council, the reduction of 45 dwellings, local transport provision, competition between other local Town

Centres/Neighbourhood Centres, green network issues and the lack of environmental benefit, residents' concerns, the protection of employment land, highway capacity and pinch points, reductions to the 15% affordable housing provision, primary school provision and the impact on local highway network and access to the Princess Royal Hospital. The Planning Officer and the Assistant Director: Planning Specialist advised that there were no grounds on which to base a refusal and that if Members were minded to approve the application that controls could be put in place with regard to the ecology and conservation management. With regard to affordable housing, the Council had commissioned the District Valuer to undertake a viability assessment which had considered the level of affordable housing provision. This enabled the Officers to negotiate 15% affordable housing. Members were advised that developers often invite Committee to consider viability issues but that once signed, a section 106 Agreement could only be varied by Planning Committee. With regard to green network, current Wrekin Local Plan policy permits development within the green network provided there are clear community benefits arising from the development and that improvements and enhancement to the site occurred. The green network was currently in private ownership and had no real community function. This development provided accessible open space which did not affect the woodland and brought forward S106 contributions to enhance the woodland area. Members were reminded that Education Officers were satisfied that sufficient school provision would be provided through appropriate financial contributions. Highway Officers had carefully considered the likely impacts on the local highway network and raised no objections provided appropriate financial contributions were made to highway improvements together with land being transferred to the LHA in order to improve the Shawbirch roundabout. Members were advised that the Council had received LEP funding for necessary highway improvements along the Borough's northern corridor; this scheme is critical to the delivery of these highway improvements and in turn crucial to the continued economic development of the Borough. A meeting had taken place with Hospital Consultants with regard to the impact on hospital provision and no issues were raised. Members were asked to consider the application in a Borough-wide context and approve the recommendation to grant planning permission.

RESOLVED - that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/0746 that authority be delegated to the Service Delivery Manager: Development Management to grant planning permission, subject to the Secretary of State confirming that the Council as Local Planning Authority can determine the application, that delegated authority be given to the Service Delivery Manager (Development Management) to grant Outline Planning Permission subject to the applicant entering into a section 106 legal agreement with the Local Planning Authority (precise terms of the Agreement to be delegated to the Service Delivery Manager, Development Management) relating to the following:

- The provision of 15% on site affordable housing;
- The provision of the total sum of £1,614,205 to be paid by the Owner to the Council as a contribution towards the following education facilities in the following amounts:
 - £1,085,231 towards the provision of facilities at Millbrook Primary School, Leegomery; and
 - £528,974 towards the provision of education facilities at Charlton School, Wellington;
- The payment of £112,350 as a contribution towards the cost of highway works to the Shawbirch Roundabout
- The payment of £46,200 as a contribution towards the cost of highway works to the Leegomery Roundabout

- **A payment of up to £50,000 for the provision of a Control Crossing over Whitchurch Drive**
- **A payment of the sum of £30,000 as a contribution towards the provision of Bus Stops along Whitchurch Drive**
- **A payment of £50,000 as a contribution towards the costs of works to improve footpaths around Apley Pool;**
- **A payment of £130,000 as a contribution towards the cost of providing accessible disabled angling facilities and environmental improvements around and within Apley Pool**
- **Approval of scheme of maintenance of Local Centre landscaping and drainage via a management company and approval of scheme of maintenance for POS (which will require a commuted sum if adopted by the Council);**
- **Approval of drainage scheme and details of maintenance of drainage features (which will require a commuted sum if adopted by the Council);**
- **The approval prior to commencement of the Local Centre public art (to the value of £100,000) to be implemented concurrently with the Local Centre (this may be better placed in planning conditions and delegated authority is sought to finalise this option);**
- **The transfer of land to the Council at nil cost sufficient to effect Shawbirch junction improvements;**
- **A payment of £5,000 for Travel Plan monitoring;**
- **A payment of £11,500 for financial management and monitoring of the legal agreement**

together with the conditions set out in the report.

- (b) TWC/2014/1080 – Land south and west of Tibberton Motor Repairs, Mill Lane, Tibberton, Newport

This was an outline application for residential development (up to 22 houses) and construction of a modified vehicular access, with associated highways and drainage infrastructure and other accommodation works with all other matters reserved.

This application had last been before the Committee on 22nd June 2015 but had been deferred following the receipt of the Inspector's decision on another site in Tibberton to allow Officers and the applicant to consider that decision. A resolution to grant subject to completion of an appropriate section 106 agreement had been made by Committee prior to the announcement that the Council now had a 5 year housing supply but the section 106 agreement had not been completed prior to the announcement.

Cllr J Berry spoke on behalf of Tibberton and Cherrington Parish Council. In 2011 the development land was marked on the maps as a nursery and a house was built on the site following the agricultural use being lifted. He believed that the site was on a 100 year flood plain. Cllr Berry explained several plans that had been tabled at the meeting to the Committee Members. He asked Members to be reasonable, responsible and representative in making their decision.

Cllr S Burrell, Ward Councillor, addressed Members regarding the local planning flood risk and struggled to see how the site was deemed appropriate. There were no buildings within the flood plan. He considered that this was not about building units, but whether or not this was a Level 2 or Level 3 flood risk. In February 2015 there was no 5 year housing land supply and this application would not have been supported if the housing land supply had been in place and by using a sequential test. Each case should be examined on its own merits and Tibberton was less sustainable due to its

remoteness. There was limited evidence of need and it was hoped that collectively powers were used to ensure that the development did not take place.

Mr J Wright spoke on behalf of local residents. The land was part brownfield land part agricultural land and a change had been made in the mid 1960s. Later 70% of this area had become a greenhouse and formed a hay store. Part of the land contained the existing house which was built under TWC/2011/0795. A car repair facility was also held on part of the brownfield land. H10b did not allow extension of the village. Policy H10 carried no weight and had no benefit as this development contained a small strip of green field which was in open countryside. The development was also considered to be on the flood plain and would have a detrimental effect and cause over-development. If the Committee were not provided with the correct information, how were they able to make an informed decision. There would be substantial harm to the character of the area and the development would be subject to potential flooding. The Council now had a 5 year housing land supply and there were discrepancies in the report. Mr Wright asked the Committee to refuse the application.

Mr A Williams, the Applicant's Agent, wanted to put to rest the worry of flooding. The Environment Agency had been consulted and then asked to double check that the development was not on the flood plain. This was confirmed. The flood plain was contained within the banks and there was no sustainable objection on this ground. The Committee previously visited this site and it was deemed as a suitable site and complied with both local and national policies. The site was not in open countryside and was a well contained development. It conformed to Policy CS1, CS7 and CS10(b). The partial brownfield site had concrete footings and housed industrial buildings and there had clearly been previous development on the site. The site was surrounded on 3 sides and did not encroach into the countryside. The Development brought forward 40% affordable housing and delivered a much better financial package per dwelling.

The Planning Officer thanked the Agent for clarifying the position with regard to the flooding of this site. Members' attention was drawn to Page 122/123 of the report with regard to the Tibberton Appeal. This application needed to be considered in a different manner as it did not encroach into the open countryside in the same way and it was not visually exposed. Members were asked to grant approval to the application.

A discussion took place regarding policies, the inspector's report, limited hard evidence of local need and the need and demand and it was considered that only 4 affordable houses were required following recent consultation. Concerns were raised whether the land was horticultural land or brownfield land and the issues with the maps and the locations of the development. Further concerns were raised with regard to the flooding of the river Meese and one of the proposed dwellings being built on the site of a pond. The planning agent stated that there was no pond. The Planning Officer stated that the layout was illustrative only as this was an outline application.

The Planning Officer and the Assistant Director: Planning Specialist confirmed to the Committee that the Government's Agency had made the position clear with regard to the drainage and flood risks and that they were charged with assessing these situations across the Country. The 5 year housing land supply did not have a ceiling and the Council had a responsibility to provide a long-term housing supply in both the urban and rural areas. Officers believed that there was a need for affordable housing and that the land had previously been developed and was consistent with recent applications at Allscott and Crudgington. Some members raised further concerns regarding the economic, social and environmental benefits of this development and the need for

highway improvements and an extension to the local school if this application was approved.

The recommendation to approve was proposed and seconded but not carried. Members were asked to elaborate further upon their reasons for refusal and after further debate reference was made to the Tibberton decision letter, paragraph 34, and also to scale and considered that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/1080 that planning permission be refused on the grounds that the proposed development would extend the village in such a way as to harm its established form and character as a settlement and to encroach into open countryside and the scale of the development would cause further harm.

(c) TWC/2014/1116 – Land north of Hilbrae Pets Hotel, Ellerdine Heath, Telford

This application was for the erection of a free range egg poultry building and 8 no feed bins and creation of new access from Hazels Road. The free range farm would house 64,000 birds within the range area on the outskirts of Ellerdine Heath near to the Hilbrae Pets Hotel. Amendments had been made during the application process to the access and the erection of the food bins.

Cllr C Purves spoke on behalf of Ercall Magna Parish Council. The Parish Council were concerned that this was more than just a poultry house. The shed was vast. This was not agricultural land built or a built up area and had provoked a lot of comments regarding planning restrictions and policy. The building was to be 225m long which was 20% bigger than a hangar at RAF Shawbury. There were to be 8 large food silos which were higher than the roof line and 64,000 hens would be house. The site was close to the A442 within the rural area and there were only a few small scatter houses within Cold Hatton and Ellerdine. Ercall Magna Parish Council were very concerned to the major threat to the rural area as there were more significant scale buildings appearing on this northern edge of the rural area. The Parish Council were aware that future applications of a Solar Farm of some 285 acres and 2 more chicken sheds were on the horizon.

Cllr S Bentley, Ward Councillor, raised concerns regarding the management plan, harmful substances and the water protection zone which were omitted from the report and referred the Committee to policies E6, UD2, CS2, CS12 and CS15. He also raised concerns regarding inherent virulent diseases and emergency planning. It was felt that policies had been used to justify the development and that the community fears and concerns had not been investigated fully. If Members were unable to refuse the application, Cllr Bentley suggested that it be deferred in order that the application could area could be further investigated following the concerns.

Mr D Collier from David Collier Rural Planning spoke on behalf of local residents. Concerns had been raised with regard to noise, water pollution and highways and the adverse effects this application would have on the visual impact of the skyline. Key advice from design guides regarding new buildings suggested that buildings should be not visible on the skyline and this was paramount from the public viewpoint. It was suggested that an alternative site be explored as the local residents did not accept that these building would fit the local areas as they were made from untreated galvanised steel. Large buildings made intrusion inevitable. He referred to policies E6, UD1 and UD2. Mr Collier asked that the application be refused on the grounds of visual impact and a more suitable site be sought.

Ms M Speedhouse, the Applicant's Agent informed Members that the photo montages now included the feedbins for their information. The Applicant had carefully considered the sites in order to meet the demand for free-range and that this has to be located within units which enough areas for the hens to range around the building ie 1 hectare per 2,500 birds. The Applicant housed the birds to a high welfare standard which explained why the buildings were larger. The expansion was important to the business and created employment. This site was considered the most suitable for free-range. A new contract had been awarded to the Applicant and the business could not continue to grow without the new site and the Applicant had worked with officers in order to reduce the impact. Noise and pollution issues were fully controlled by the Environment Agency and covered by noise and odour management plans. There had been no previous issues with the Applicant or his sites. This was a rural, important agricultural business and the development was proposed on a suitable site.

The Planning Officer addressed Members that it was important to note that this was a business renowned for its productions. The Environment Agency had already given the Applicant a permit and in making this recommendation the case officer had visited one of the other sites to assess implications, noise and transport. The development was within the rural areas and the land was classed good to moderate so did not create a loss of high quality land. The main issues for consideration included the principle of development, the highways, the visual amenity and the environment. The impact was considered to be minor and the access point had been moved away from Hilbrae. There had been 200 local representations following the first consultation but following the re-siting of the access point the re-consultation exercise only gained 33 objections which was a significant reduction. With regard to the access point, there would be 3 egg collections per week and 2 food deliveries per week. The site was not far from the A442 and should not cause a big impact. Staff would arrive in domestic cars and vans, and manure would be collected on a tractor and trailer and vans and this would have been expected with the site's previous use for the production of crops which would have meant that up to 200-300 movements would have been made within the harvest season by HGVs and tractors. Now that the access point had been moved the location of the track would enable the road to be widened and was acceptable. With regard to the issues around the pathway and the dog walking at Hilbrae Kennels officers did not consider that the walkers would be affected as an element of the track that Hilbrae had access to would remain. It was acknowledged that the building was large, however it would be housed in the centre of a field and at a far distance this impact would be fairly limited and was not considered to cause a detrimental visual impact. The Environment Agency considered that there was no significant impact; the development complied with the regulations and bird welfare and was pretty similar to what was around in the area, managed by the same farmer. A noise assessment had been undertaken and there was no requirement for any noise mitigation measures. With regard to odour there was a manure management plan in place. With regard to the ground source water pollution, the Environment Agency had found no evidence which was detrimental and had already issued a permit. With regard to the SSS, concerns from Natural England had already been addressed and were now considered to have little impact on the residents following the relocation of the access. There were no issues regarding archaeology or surface water drainage. An update report had been tabled at the meeting relating to additional comments received. The Officers considered the development acceptable, as this supported a rural enterprise within a rural area. Highway issues had been addressed with the access being relocated. The development did not affect the landscape setting or the visual amenity. If the Committee were minded to approve the application, it would then be referred to the NPCU for their consideration.

Members discussed the right of way along the track for local dog walkers; the officer confirmed that no right of way was being closed or diverted. Points of clarification were raised regarding traffic movements, the spreading of manure and fly control. Concerns were raised regarding the over concentration of egg production within the gateway to Telford, the visual impact and the need to consider more appropriate sites. The Planning Officer advised the Members that there were existing farm holdings in the region and the highway movements with a tractor and trailer were consistent with other agricultural uses. With regards to the handling of manure, control of this lay with the Environment Agency through the permit.

RESOLVED - that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/1116 that planning permission be granted, subject to the Secretary of State confirming that the Council as Local Planning Authority can determine the application and subject to the conditions set out in the report.

(d) TWC/2015/0448 – Telecommunications Mast, Old Park Way, Old Park, Telford

This application was to replace the existing 14.8m monopole Telecommunications Mast with a 21m monopole mast and the installation of 1 no 30cm diameter dish and ancillary development at Old Park Way, Old Park, Telford, Shropshire. The 2 existing cabinets would remain and the existing mast removed.

Cllr D Blackburn spoke on behalf of Lawley & Overdale Parish Council who had received strong concern from local residents regarding the mast being placed so close to a residential area which would be used to increase 4G and 5G signals in the Rock. The mast would become an unwelcome land mark to many residents. There was a simple compromise in that the mast be kept to its current 14.8m height and maintenance work take place to the tree canopy in order to increase 4G and 5G signal. There were no safety barriers around the mast and there were concerns regarding safety if a vehicle was to hit the mast. Local residents had also raised health concerns regarding the size and strength of the new mast.

Cllr M Boylan, Ward Councillor, raised concerns that this mast would be a further 6.2m higher than the existing mast which would bring the total height to almost 70ft. Cllr Boylan considered the mast to be in the wrong place and that it could operate at its current height if the trees were lopped. He further considered that it would be no more expensive to relocate the mast than remove and replace the existing one. Health concerns were also raised by Cllr Boylan as they had not yet been proven or unproven. There were 21 masts within a 3 kilometre radius and as 4G signals were supposed to be stronger he questioned why there was a need to build bigger masts. It was asked that this application be refused.

Mr J Fowler spoke on behalf of local residents. The mast was 60m away from his house and would be twice the height and 4 times more powerful than the original mast. Mr Fowler was concerned with residents' health with the mast being so close to houses and was not against improvements, but not at any costs. Mr Fowler considered that local environmental concerns and the views of local residents had been ignored. He suggested that the mast be moved to the Forge Retail Park as there were no schools or houses within this area. Policy T21 stated that any development should be designed and sited to minimise the visual impact and be a response to customer demand, but there was no evidence to support that this was the case. A petition with hundreds of signatures had been signed and it was asked that Members consider the proposed

mast to that of the original application. Lucy Allen, MP and also written to the Council expressing her concerns.

Mr J Hunter, Applicant's Agent spoke regarding the getting connected campaign that had recently run in the Shropshire Star which was a joint campaign between Vodafone and 02 to upgrade existing masts within the area to increase 2G, 3G and 4G capabilities. Lucy Allen, MP had recently spoke regarding the social and economic benefits within the urban area. Countrywide a programme of work called "Connecting Shropshire" proposing new heights at many sights had been approved under delegated power. This programme used existing sites to be enhanced and the proposals would strengthen the quality of Vodafone and 02 and was a national policy.

The Planning Officer addressed the Committee and confirmed that at a previous appeal the Inspector did not see the need for barriers. With regard to health, this could not be considered as part of the application as the Government issued guidelines which the Council was unable to dispute.

During the ensuing discussion Members raised concerns with regard to environment and amenity issues, the health effects and antennae height. This mast would have an unacceptable impact on the area as it would be increased by some 50%. It was a substantial distance from trees and the side view was not a wooded backdrop. Members were in favour of better connectivity but felt that this mast was disproportionate and considered that there would be more suitable sites elsewhere.

Following the discussion it was:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0448 that the application be unanimously refused on the ground that the mast caused unacceptable visual impact due to the height of the mast.

(e) TWC/2015/0496 – Reviive, Wellington Road, Donnington

This application was a retrospective application to vary condition 2 of Planning Permission TWC/2013/0118 to allow the movement of the woodwork workshop from the main building to another building on the main site at Reviive, Wellington Road, Donnington. Previously the work had been undertaken inside the building with the doors closed and was a successful business. Previously this had been used as a workshop and car valeting area.

The Planning Officer informed Members that the woodwork noise was causing a nuisance to residents and that this application had been deferred at the last meeting in order for a site visit to take place. Prior to the meeting a site visit had taken place at the site whereby Members had visited the original workshop and the new workshop area. Equipment had been switched on to consider the noise levels and Members visited a residential property close to the site in order to assess the noise heard both in the garden and in the house. The business was open 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Members were asked to grant a six month consent in order for a more comprehensive assessment to take place. An update report had been circulated to Members which contained a further objection from Councillor E Clare.

Cllr J Lavery spoke on behalf of Donnington & Muxton Parish Council and confirmed to Members that this development had previously been used as a car showroom and that

it had never received any complaints from the neighbours regarding noise despite being fully surrounded by residents. This was a retrospective application which clearly showed that the business had tried to work without planning permission and showed little respect or regard for senior citizens that heavily populated the surrounding area and were at home during the day. It was suggested that the applicants should comply with the original conditions of the application before more disturbance was created.

Mr Molyneux on behalf of local residents played a short video clip, which was played at half volume and showed the level of noise residents could hear which was taken from the corner of the house, through double glazed windows and could often be heard over the television. Residents were of the opinion that hand tools to repair donated items were supposed to be used but, in fact, power tools and possibly an industrial capacity petrol engine was being used. Local residents found they were unable to sit or work in the garden and were unable to open their windows which could be avoided if the work was carried out in the main building with the roller shutter doors closed. Mr Molyneux was of the opinion that furniture was not being repaired but being made. There was no objection to the workshop on the site provided that it was in the original workshop and the doors closed to prevent the noise. Concerns were raised if this application was granted whether further machines would be introduced of a totally different variety and much more high pitched sound. It was asked that this application be refused and re-located back within the original area in order to protect the local amenity.

Cllr C Mason, Ward Member, commented that this application would have been completely unnecessary if the applicants had carried out the conditions in the original application. He had known that the doors were left open and had heard some of the tools and machinery which had been different to that which had been heard earlier on the site visit. Cllr Mason raised concerns regarding the site's condition following a prior visit he had made when he had seen settees being piled up by the Housing Trust within the site and was worried that this was becoming a dumping ground. It was suggested that the applicant put their house in order before any further conditions were granted

A discussion took place and Members were concerned with regard to the noise nuisance and the use of machinery near to the local houses and a lack of respect shown to local residents which was affecting their wellbeing. This area within the site was not suitable to house heavy duty machinery and noise levels could not be reduced. Further concerns were expressed that any conditions imposed on the Applicant were unlikely to be enforced.

Following the discussion it was unanimously:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0496 that the application be refused due to the unacceptable impact on the local amenities and local residents.

(f) TWC/2015/0035 – Land rear of 6 & 7 Blue House Barns, Chetwynd Road, Newport

This application was for the erection of 2 no dormer bungalows with associated garages within land to the rear of 6 & 7 Blue House Barns, Chetywnd Road, Newport, Shropshire. The development was contained within the existing complex and was not an encroachment or extension into the countryside and there was no objection due to the small scale of the development. This site was included in the draft Local Plan.

A discussion took place and Members commented that although this development did contribute further to the highway issues off Blue Barns that this would be minimal.

Following the discussion it was:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0035 that planning permission be unanimously granted subject to the conditions set out in the report.

The Chair informed the Committee that this was Gareth Thomas' last meeting as a Planning Officer of the Council and he wished to give his appreciation and thanks to Gareth for his contribution to the work of the Committee. The Committee Members then thanked Gareth and offered their best wishes for his future career.

The meeting ended at 9.38 pm

Chairman:

Date:

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday, 25 August 2015 at 6.00pm in the Telford Suite at Shropshire College Hotel School Ltd (The Telford Whitehouse Hotel), Watling Street, Wellington, Telford TF1 2NJ

PRESENT: Councillors J C Minor (Chairman), N A Dugmore, J A Francis (as substitute for Councillor E J Greenaway), J Loveridge, N C Lowery, P Scott, M J Smith and C R Turley

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors S L Barnes (for planning application TWC/2015/0217) and I T W Fletcher (for planning application TWC/2014/0980)

PC-034 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor E J Greenaway

PC-035 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PC-036 MINUTES

Councillor P Scott noted that his attendance at the meeting had been omitted.

RESOLVED – that subject to including the attendance of Councillor P Scott, the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5 August 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

PC-037 DEFERRED/WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

None.

PC-038 SITE VISITS

None.

PC-039 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 application TWC/2014/0980.

(a) TWC/2014/0980 - Land between Castle Farm Way and A5, Priorslee, Telford, Shropshire

This was an outline application for residential development of up to 1100 dwellings, a commercial/employment centre (use classes B1a, A1, A2, A3, A4 and C3 uses) retention of existing farm shop, garden centre and play barn, erection of a primary

school, local centre (use classes A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, C3 and D1 and D2 (community building)) a retirement village, with associated strategic landscaping, attenuation areas, open space, highways and other associated infrastructure with detailed approval for access arrangements from Castle Farm Way (A4640) and Watling Street (A5) with all other matters reserved. Members had attended a site visit earlier in the day and an update report was tabled which set out objections received since the publication of the report. A statement from Highways England was also tabled.

Cllr I T W Fletcher, the local Ward Member, spoke to oppose the application on the grounds that it was contrary to Core Strategy Policy CS7 and Wrekin Local Plan saved policy H9 which defined where development within the rural area should take place. He also referred to the requirement in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to enhance the viability of the rural area but he considered Priorslee to form part of the urban boundary. He further noted that the application would place a strain on infrastructure and questioned housing need in terms of the draft Local Plan.

Councillor V A Fletcher addressed the Committee as the representative from St Georges & Priorslee Parish Council. The Parish Council objected to the application on the grounds of sustainability, potential for urban sprawl, suitability of flats for retired people, whether the GP surgery would be occupied, flooding and drainage, limited employment opportunities, increased vehicle movements, suitability of proposed access, traffic congestion and highway safety, light pollution and overdevelopment. She noted that the Lakeside Garden Centre and Quackers play barn had been offered tenure by the landlord.

Mr P Thomas, a local resident also spoke against the application on the grounds of scale, that the application was contradictory to the draft Local Plan consultation, excessive development leading to urban sprawl, environmental concerns, lack of demand as nearby HCA land and the Celestica site remained undeveloped, the rate at which housing growth would occur, the number of reported objections being less than actually received, concerns about traffic and highway safety and strain upon infrastructure. He felt that the application was inconsistent with residents' requirements and that the negative impacts would be significant and lasting.

Mr M Parkinson, of Peter Brett Associates LLP, who was the Transport Consultant for the Applicant, spoke in support of the application, pointing to the allocation of the site in the emerging Local Plan, supporting the borough's future housing needs, provision of employment opportunities, primary school and open space. He referred to the careful design and traffic modelling which had taken place, significant mitigation measures including public transport, pedestrian and cycle enhancements and financial contributions towards off-site improvements. In conclusion, he considered that there were no severe residual impacts which would preclude development.

The Planning Officer referred the Committee to the sections of the report dealing with the main planning issues which were briefly set out on page 11 of the agenda paperwork and explained the Section 106 Agreement contributions. The Legal Advisor requested some flexibility in the contribution sum for financial management and monitoring of the legal agreement, with £200,000 being the maximum figure.

In response to questions and concerns expressed by some Members, the Planning Officer advised that the proposed density of the site was not high, particularly in the context of the extensive play space, and there were sites in the borough with three times higher density development. The construction phase would be conditioned as to hours of operation and routes of entry and egress. Condition 14 addressed noise mitigation issues though the required provision of a barrier and acoustic treatment at the southern boundary. Members had seen a mix of rural and urban uses on the site visit and the government supported the release of arable land to development when it was judicious to do so. Regarding housing figures based upon cumulative applications in the vicinity, one of the applications had not been presented to the Committee and was, therefore, not considered as part of this process. He also noted some fears that the residential care village would not be viable and advised that Section 106 planning obligations were legally binding.

With regard to concerns relating to Highways and Access, the Transport & Highway Development, Neighbourhood & Customer Services Service Delivery Manager clarified that a number of options had been considered for the access off the A5 before it had been agreed to provide a ghost island junction which provided a dedicated right turn lane to limit standing traffic. The placement of the junction was somewhat constrained by land ownership but had been moved as far away from the crest of the hill as possible. Modelling for the design had been based upon recorded speeds of 60mph rather than the speed limit (50mph). There was also provision for an enhanced gateway with dragon's teeth markings at the start of the 50mph zone. The visibility splays were satisfactory. The proposal accorded with design criteria set out in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges and had been through a robust assessment and safety audit check. He also noted the current signposting to the MOD and Hortonwood off the A4640 was a topic of concern and he advised that a review of strategic signage would be likely to redirect this traffic to the A442 dual carriageway as the most appropriate route.

The Transport & Highway Development, Neighbourhood & Customer Services Service Delivery Manager explained that a strategic model was more beneficial than a traditional transport assessment because a transport assessment was site-focussed but a strategic model included committed and future applications in order to robustly take account of the wider picture and impact on the traffic network. The model was not a design tool.

The Transport & Highway Development, Neighbourhood & Customer Services Service Delivery Manager clarified the Highways Strategy in terms of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) providing some funding and the remaining coming from planning applications.

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist confirmed that the proposed Grange Farm site which some Members had included in their housing calculations was not allocated in the Local Plan and the future of that application would be in the hands of the Committee at a later date. He had also chaired the transportation meeting between the Council's Highways Engineers, Planning Officers and applicant's consultants and he considered that the issues had been thoroughly considered. He also commented upon the density of the proposals meeting government policy

advice and that the scale and long-term delivery of the development would assist the Council in its duty to ensure that a housing land supply existed into the future.

Some Members expressed further concerns about the site topography rendering open space unusable, flood risk, the need to ensure that affordable housing did not fall below the proposed level, that there were insufficient one or two bedroom properties included in the proposal and that there was a lack of consistency with a Garden City offer.

Clarification was sought with regard to floodlights at the proposed sports pitches and the Planning Officer confirmed that the conditions included that there should be no floodlighting.

Some Members considered that the proposals complemented development in the South and West of Telford and that if the application were to be refused, the Council could be exposed to speculative applications in other locations in the North of the borough. The support of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was noted together with consistency with the NPPF and the recent statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the government's Productivity Plan relating to growth in rural communities.

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist summed up advice to the Members that the application was compliant with the NPPF and Local Plan. There was demand for housing and the Council's statement that an 8.2 year housing land supply existed was not a ceiling and that the duty remained to ensure delivery of housing over a longer period. With regard to employment opportunities, the Local Plan allocated a number of sites in close proximity for employment use. The "Garden City" approach had been outlined recently by government and the Town & Country Planning Association and, in the opinion of officers, the proposed development was consistent with "Garden City" principles. Planning obligations were legally binding and any future modification would be in the hands of the Committee. The garden centre located on site had been offered a significant lease and supported the development. The site comprised mixed uses which would provide for a sustainable community assisted by the scale of development. There were no objections from Defra, Heritage England, Highways England or utilities and NHS England had been consulted on the proposals. In conclusion, he believed that this application would support the long term policy for housing need in the borough. It was well considered and would assist the Council to ensure that speculative development elsewhere in the borough could be effectively resisted.

Upon being put to the vote, it was, by a majority:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2014/0980 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 the Local Planning Authority (with authority to finalise the terms thereof to be delegated to Development Management Service Delivery Manager) relating to:-**

- (i) The provision of on site affordable housing of not less than 20%, split in tenure between affordable rent and shared ownership (80:20), with £2,026,113.96 to be applied off site;
 - (ii) The provision of 1.82 ha of land for a new primary school capable of accommodating 420 pupils;
 - (iii) A payment of £4.75m towards the construction of a 210 pupil school with a “420 pupil core” to allow for its expansion over time;
 - (iv) A contribution of £1,099,619 towards secondary education;
 - (v) A contribution of £1,183,500 towards the planned improvements at Limekiln roundabout and Junction 4 of the M54;
 - (vi) An annual payment of £125,000 a year over a seven year period (total £875,000) towards a bus subsidy connecting the site with Telford, subject to the following:
 - (a) The developer will make the first payment following the completion of the 270th dwelling;
 - (b) The Council will apply the money towards a bus service and will use any fares received either to: (a) extend the life of the bus service beyond seven years; or (b) apply the funds towards the promotion of other sustainable transport modes in the event that it determines that the bus service generates sufficient income to be self-sustaining;
 - (vii) A contribution of £15,000 towards travel plan monitoring;
 - (viii) To identify a GP surgery site within the development, to market it over a 36 month period for sale/ rent and to offer the GP surgery first offer on the site;
 - (ix) The provision of a recreational lake on the site; and
 - (x) A contribution of £200,000 towards the financial management and monitoring of the legal agreement. (This is a maximum figure and may be changed if, in the opinion of the Development Management Service Delivery Manager such change is required.) All cash contributions will be index linked to changes in the Retail Price Index and the agreement will be reviewed before the submission of Phase 2 reserved matters.
- (B) the conditions set out in the report (with authority to finalise conditions and reasons for approval to be delegated to the Development Management Service Delivery Manager).
- (b) TWC/2015/0217 - Site A, Pool Hill Road, Horsehay, Telford, Shropshire

This was an application seeking full permission for the erection of 14 affordable dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping. The application was a resubmission of TWC/2014/0930 which had been withdrawn due to a requirement to carry out a Great Crested Newt survey. Councillor J Pinter, one of the local Ward Members, had requested that the application be determined by the Planning

Committee. The application had been considered by the Planning Committee on 15 July 2015, when members resolved to defer the application to allow a further Great Crested Newt Inspection Survey to be carried out to include ponds in the neighbouring property at 33 Station Road.

Councillor S L Barnes, one of the local Ward Members, spoke to oppose the application in terms of traffic management and safety, ecology, sustainability, use of mining land for development and the reduced planning obligations since the previous permission granted in 2008. He noted the level of local opposition to the proposals.

Mr B Evason, a local resident, also spoke against the application referring to strong local feeling and how much the community valued its green space and relative tranquillity. He considered that there would be adverse impacts to the residents including highways safety related to the access and lack of traffic calming measures. He noted that due to historic coal mining activity the land was contaminated and unstable which meant that affordable housing on the site was not viable. He criticised the design and density of the development and expressed concern that the impact on neighbouring properties which had been built without foundations had not been considered and local wildlife habitats would be lost.

Mr T Hindle, the Applicant's Agent, spoke in support of the application which formed part of the Telford Small Sites Affordable Housing Programme. He referred to the planning history at the site, discussions over highways concerns, parking facilities, land stabilisation, ecology and contribution towards improvements at Doseley Road.

The Planning Officer drew Members' attention to aspects of the report relating to planning history, density, scale and design, access and parking, financial contributions towards Highways, viability and affordable housing. He advised that coal mining remediation was a civil matter.

In response to questions, the Assistant Director: Planning Specialist explained that the Telford Small Sites Affordable Housing Programme was being delivered in partnership with the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) in response to the recession in order to stimulate the provision of affordable housing in the Borough. It was a separate project to Nuplace, the Wholly Owned Company which had been established to deliver the Council's Housing Investment Proposals.

Members also questioned the position with Right to Buy and were advised by the Assistant Director: Planning Specialist that legislation had yet to be determined by the government. The Planning Officer confirmed in the first instance the development would consist of 100% affordable housing but it was intended that staircasing agreements could be agreed in future although this was a decision for the Registered Social Landlord who was delivering the site. The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist advised that staircasing was an established principle which allowed residents a variety of tenure options to suit their needs. The Planning Officer also advised that Council policy normally only required affordable housing on developments of fifteen or more units and whilst there had initially been higher financial contributions towards highways, there were issues of viability and, therefore, the contribution had been reduced in favour of maintaining 100% affordable housing.

In response to Members' comments, the Assistant Director: Planning Specialist advised that the site was within walking distance of Dawley and that there was a post office, shop and public house in the vicinity. Dawley and Horsehay were previous industrial areas so the development density and design was consistent with the mixture of buildings in the area. He advised the government had tightened the rules around Section 106 planning obligations which made it more difficult to negotiate community benefits. Satisfactory geotechnical information had been received but the onus in this regard was upon the landowner and developer.

Upon being put to the vote, it was, by a majority:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0217 the Development Management Service Delivery Manager be authorised to grant planning permission subject to the applicants/landowners entering into a Section 106 Agreement with the Local Planning Authority (with authority to finalise the terms thereof to be delegated to Development Management Service Delivery Manager) for financial contributions of £7,500 towards highways improvements (to be spent specifically on improvements to the junction of Pool Hill Road and Doseley Road) and further subject to the conditions set out in the report (with authority to finalise conditions and reasons for approval to be delegated to the Development Management Service Delivery Manager).

(c) TWC/2015/0255 - Site of Adamson House, Bridge Road, Horsehay, Telford, Shropshire

This was a full application for the erection of 4 terraced dwellings together with the erection of 6 apartments following demolition of Adamson House with associated parking and landscaping.

Members welcomed the application and on being put to the vote it was unanimously:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0255 the Development Management Service Delivery Manager be authorised to grant planning permission subject to the applicants/landowners entering into a Section 106 Agreement with the Local Planning Authority (with authority to finalise the terms thereof to be delegated to Development Management Service Delivery Manager) for financial contributions of £600 per dwelling for 2 beds or more towards the Poolside play area or Shirefields play area and further subject to the conditions set out in the report (with authority to finalise conditions and reasons for approval to be delegated to the Development Management Service Delivery Manager).

(d) TWC/2015/0580 - Land adjacent 44 Cherrington Lane, Tibberton, Newport, Shropshire

This was an outline application for up to two detached dwellings on land adjacent to 44 Cherrington Lane which formed part of the landholding of the applicant and was

currently used for equestrian purposes. Tibberton Parish Council had requested that the application be determined by the Planning Committee.

Ms P Bicknell representing Les Stephan Planning Ltd, the Applicant's Agent, spoke in support of this small scale application which she considered was policy compliant. She commented upon the status of the applicant in the community and the current equestrian use of the land. She noted that Tibberton Parish Council had objected to the application on the grounds that a recent appeal for development in the vicinity had been refused but she pointed out that this was incomparable as that application was for 60 dwellings. She considered that this application would contribute to a more steady housing growth and help to meet housing aspirations of the future.

Members expressed their disappointment that Tibberton Parish Council had not registered a representative to speak to support this call-in.

The Planning Officer reminded the Members that Tibberton village was a focus of development in the rural area in accordance with Core Strategy policy CS7 although Wrekin Local Plan saved policy H10 adopted a more restrictive view. He concurred with the applicant's agent that this application was not comparable to the recent appeal against refusal for 60 dwellings in the area and that in contrast this development was of an appropriate and sensitive design which accorded with government policy to raise the number of homes in the countryside.

Although some Members expressed reservation about the potential for further encroachment on rural land, Members generally considered that the development would have limited impact and would contribute to a reasonable rate of growth in the area. The recent statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the government's Productivity Plan relating to growth in rural communities was also noted.

On being put to the vote it was:-

RESOLVED – that with respect to planning application TWC/2015/0580 the Development Management Service Delivery Manager be authorised to grant planning permission subject to the applicants/landowners entering into a Section 106 Agreement with the Local Planning Authority (with authority to finalise the terms thereof to be delegated to Development Management Service Delivery Manager) for a financial contribution of £500 per dwelling towards a Traffic & Speed Management Scheme on the B5062 in the vicinity its junction with the access roads into Tibberton. The monies are to be paid upon commencement of the development, indexed and any unspent monies after 5 years refunded to the applicant and further subject to the conditions set out in the report (with authority to finalise conditions and reasons for approval to be delegated to the Development Management Service Delivery Manager).

The meeting ended at 8.10pm

Chairman:

Date:

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held on Tuesday, 7 July 2015 at 6.00pm in Meeting Room G2, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

PRESENT: Councillors M J Smith (Chair), R J Sloan (Vice-Chair), S Barnes, A J Burford, N A M England, C P R Mollett and P J Scott

ST-01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor R T Kiernan.

ST-02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

ST-03 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 20 January 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

ST-04 STANDARDS UPDATE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

The Deputy Monitoring Officer gave the apologies of the Monitoring Officer for his absence and presented the report on his behalf.

Complaints:- There had been no formal complaints since the publication of the report. Advice and information continued to be available to elected Members, members of the public and officers of borough and parish councils via the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer.

Training:- As requested by this Committee, the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer had presented a training session on 18 May 2015 as part of the post-election Member induction process. 14 Members had attended, nine of which were newly elected. Members welcomed the provision of training but acknowledged that the intensity of the induction programme could be over-whelming and it was not always possible for members to juggle busy diaries to accommodate specific dates. At the request of Members, it was agreed that the Deputy Monitoring Officer would discuss arrangements for a further training session in the autumn with the Member Services Officer. The internal training session lasted approximately 45-60 minutes with questions and the session would not be dependent on numbers. The Committee encouraged all Members to attend.

DPI Forms:- The Deputy Monitoring Officer reported that there were six outstanding DPI forms all other Councillors had returned their forms.. The Deputy Monitoring Officer described the legal obligations regarding submission of the form within 28 days of appointment. The Committee agreed that a reminder should be sent to the Councillors who had not yet submitted their forms. With regard to Town and Parish Councils, it was not possible at this stage to say how many were missing in total but

seven Councils had not submitted any forms at all. It was possible that the clerks were collecting forms to submit all together. All DPI forms would be publicly available via the Borough Council's website.

Code of Conduct Complaint Procedure:- The Deputy Monitoring Officer outlined the current complaints procedure. He informed the Committee that at the last meeting, Members had debated whether or not the Monitoring Officer should advise Members when a complaint was received regardless of whether it was dealt with under the Monitoring Officer's discretion and not referred to the Committee. Members considered that it was important for all Members to receive notification of complaints against them. It was considered that this was normal practice in other complaint systems and that disclosure reflected the Council's values. It would also allow the subject of the complaint to reflect on their behaviour accordingly. Members agreed that the disclosure should apply to borough and parish and town councillors. Members were unanimously in support of the changes outlined in Appendix 2 to the report.

Terms of Reference:- The Deputy Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that it was good practice to review the Terms of Reference on an annual basis but no changes were recommended.

RESOLVED – that

- (a) the contents of the report be noted;**
- (b) the Code of Conduct complaints process be updated to include the suggested amendments made at Appendix 2 of the report; and**
- (c) no changes be made to the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee.**

The meeting ended at 6.28pm

Chairman:

Date: