



Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

Addenbrooke House Ironmasters Way Telford TF3 4NT

CABINET

Date **Thursday 17th September 2015** Time **5.00pm**
Venue **Meeting Room G3/G4, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT**

Enquiries Regarding this Agenda:

Democratic Services	Phil Smith	01952 383211
Media Enquiries	Corporate Communications Manager	01952 382403
Lead Officer	Richard Partington, Managing Director	01952 380102

Cabinet Members:

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

Invitees

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

AGENDA

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2. Declarations of Interest		
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5. Exclusion of Public and Press It is recommended that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Sch. 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.		

Continued ...

K 6. **Street Lighting Service and Maintenance Contract**

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

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 17th September, 2015 at 5.00 p.m. at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER, 2015

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2015)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) and P.J. Scott (Liberal Democrat/Independent Deputy Group Leader – deputising for Councillor W.L. Tomlinson)

CB-26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S. Davies, and Councillor W.L. Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader)

CB-27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CB-28 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CB-29 A DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL FOR TELFORD & WREKIN

Non-Key Decision

The Leader, Councillor K.S. Sahota, presented the report of the Managing Director which informed Members of a proposal that had been submitted to HM Treasury on 4 September 2015 with suggestions for the devolution of a range of powers and responsibilities to the Council. A copy of the Proposal document was attached to the report.

As part of the Government's 2015 Spending Review, representative bodies, interest groups and individuals had been invited to submit written representations for devolving powers to local areas and for facilitating integration between public services. The date of the announcement and submission deadline had fallen over the summer 'recess' period, but work was undertaken with Cabinet members to complete the submission before the

deadline of 4th September. The Chair of the Telford Business Board had been closely involved in the process. The suggestions in the submission built on the existing and very positive relationship that the Council had with the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA), and the ‘Strengthening Families’ approach being taken with local partners, with the aim of accelerating the delivery of sustainable economic growth, increasing prosperity in the Borough and reducing demand and costs for the public purse. The main elements of the proposal were as follows:

- Enterprise Telford – to drive the competitiveness of Telford as a place to invest through local freedoms and flexibilities;
- Employment and Skills – joining together national and local programmes including DWP and the Council’s ‘Job Box’ initiative;
- Transport – to seek the transfer of powers to franchise all bus services which would ensure a more integrated public transport system to connect more deprived communities to employment opportunities.

The submission included a proposal for the retention by the Council of 100% of business rate growth, and building on the existing Land Deal with the HCA to bring forward more constrained and brownfield public sector sites for development. The submission also put forward the case for Telford to become the West Midlands HMRC Tech Hub, given that HMRC already had a significant base in the Borough with the Aspire ICT contract being delivered through Cap Gemini and Fujitsu.

Cllr G.C.W. Reynolds, Cabinet Member: Employment & Skills, referred to the programmes already offered by the Council to support young people into employment, and that this offer would be further enhanced if responsibility for commissioning the DWP’s Work Programme and Youth Contract were devolved to the Council. Councillor A.D. McClements, Cabinet Member: Communities, Regeneration & Transport, referred to the franchising of bus services and how it was important to have more say in how bus routes and services were run.

Councillor A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader) welcomed the suggestion for 100% retention of business rates, and offered support to help achieve that. In relation to Enterprise Telford, it was felt that any package should also include support for the refurbishment and improvement of existing industrial estates. In relation to Education and Skills, it was important that the Council worked with other agencies/institutions in order to establish common goals as to what was needed in the Borough in terms of skills and employment. Councillor P.J. Scott (Liberal Democrat/Independent Deputy Group Leader) asked if there were any proposals to support Harper Adams College, Newport in their bid for being the location for an Agri-tech centre. The Acting Assistant Director: Development, Business & Employment advised that the Council would be trying to maximise the potential of all its industrial areas/estates, and would have some discretion on how any additional funding was spent if the bid was successful. In relation to Harper Adams College, the Council had supported the bid for an Agri-tech centre through the Marches LEP, and that Enterprise Telford would be able to help attract businesses from that sector. In response to concerns that had been expressed, it was clarified that the

designation of Telford as an 'Enterprise Area' was not the same as an 'Enterprise Zone'.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Devolution proposal submitted to HM Treasury on 4 September 2015 be noted and endorsed;
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Leader and the Cabinet Member: Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Service, to enter into discussions with HM Treasury and other Government departments and organisations as appropriate, with the aim of developing a detailed arrangement for devolution of powers as outlined in the Proposal for consideration by Cabinet and Council in due course.

CB-30 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

CB-31 STREET LIGHTING SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Key Decision identified as **Street Lighting Contract** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 14 August 2015

Councillor L.D. Carter, Cabinet Member: Council Finance & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Services.

The current contract for Street Lighting and Maintenance expired on 31 March 2016. Soft market testing had been undertaken, and there was a strong indication that the Council could achieve significant energy and maintenance savings by investing in LED lighting technology. This would involve developing a viable 'invest to save' proposal as part of the procurement process. In order to look at all the different options, and to ensure that the inventory of street lighting was up-to-date and accurate, it was proposed that the existing contract with the current supplier be extended for a maximum of nine months. This would then facilitate a robust procurement process which would ultimately deliver best value for the Authority and maximise savings opportunities. The report also set out detailed financial and legal considerations regarding the proposed procurement and tendering process.

Members referred to the community safety and environmental benefits of improved street lighting. In response to a question, the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services stated that Town and Parish Councils

who provided street lighting had been contacted about whether they wished to be included in the procurement process.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that an extension to the contract with the current street lighting supplier for the provision of essential street lighting maintenance services from 1 April 2016 up until 1 January 2017, for the reasons detailed in the report, be approved;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services to negotiate and agree the terms of the contract extension referred to in (a) above;**
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services to execute all necessary contractual documentation in accordance with the Constitution, including the affixing of the Common Seal of the Council.**

The meeting ended at 5.29 pm.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

**Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services
Date: 23 September 2015**

Signed:

Date:

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 23rd July, 2015 at 5.00 p.m. at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 29th JULY, 2015

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 3rd AUGUST, 2015)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor W.L. Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat/Independent Group Leader)

CB-13 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CB-14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr A.J. Eade (Conservative Group Leader)

CB-15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A.R.H. England declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 – Youth Justice Plan – in relation to his role as a JP in the Youth Court.

Councillor S. Davies declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 – Youth Justice Plan – in relation to his work as a Solicitor representing people in the Youth Court.

CB-16 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT 2015/16

Key Decision identified as **2015/16 Financial Monitoring** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 25 June 2015.

Part Recommendation for Full Council in relation to decision (c) not subject to Call-in

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

The net outturn position for the General Fund revenue budget was currently projected to be within budget, after applying £3.6m currently available in central contingencies pending any further commitments which may arise during the rest of the year. Further cuts to local government funding were anticipated following the Chancellor's Emergency Budget announcement, with which would require the delivery of more savings in 2015/16 and later years.

There were a number of variations from the approved budget, including the cost of Children in Care placements (overspend of £1.2m) and the cost of Adult Care and Support services (projected overspend of £3.1m mainly relating to care packages). Projected variances of over £0.100m for individual service delivery units were detailed in the report. There were benefits from Public Health projected savings of £0.3m, £0.2m relating to treasury management activities and £0.8m from the implementation of single status which would not be required in 2015/16.

The capital programme totalled £107m, which included slippage and all approvals since the budget was set. Spend was currently standing at around 95% of the budget allocation. The report detailed a number of new approvals, virements and slippage.

The collection level for Business Rates was ahead of target, whilst Council Tax collection and Sales Ledger debt were slightly behind the targets set for the year.

Councillor A.R.H. England (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care) commented on the overspend in Adult Care & Support services. The cost improvement plan was being regularly monitored, but it did take time for the savings arising from new ways of working and providing services in a different way to be fully realised. Councillor W.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Ind Group Leader) expressed concern at the implications for services of the continuing cuts in funding being imposed on local authorities by central Government, and that he would support any campaign among local authorities to protest against the scale of the cuts.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that it be noted that 2015/16 revenue spending is currently projected to be within budget and that work will continue with SMT to sustain the position;**
- (b) that the virement detailed in paragraph 4.4 of the report be approved;**
- (c) that the position in relation to capital spend be noted, and TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the new allocations and slippage detailed in Appendix 3 of the report be approved;**
- (d) that the collection rates for NNDR, council tax and sales ledger be noted.**

CB-17 TELFORD & WREKIN LOCAL PLAN

Key Decision identified as **Telford & Wrekin Local Plan 2011-2031 – Draft Plan** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 25 June 2015.

Councillor R.A. Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Planning Specialist which sought approval of the Telford and Wrekin Plan for public consultation. The full Local Plan document was available on the Council website. The Local Plan would set out how and where development would take place and guide future planning decisions up to 2031.

The Plan had a three part structure:

- Shaping the Borough – including the vision for the Borough in 2031;
- Spatial Strategy – this set out the intention that Telford remained the principal focus for new development in the Borough, with three strategic development sites at Muxton, Priorslee and The Hem. Newport's role as a market town would be consolidated through additional new homes (all with planning permission) and employment land, and within the rural area the Plan identified a number of settlements where additional development could be focussed.
- Detailed Planning Policies – the key elements of these were summarised in the report

The Plan included provision for 15,555 new homes, which was a 41% reduction on the number currently planned for. Around 80% of these new homes were either already built, under construction or had planning permission. 3,499 homes would be delivered through new site allocations in the Local Plan. At least 25% of new homes were expected to be affordable. The Plan also allocated approximately 149ha of new employment land in the Borough, which could support the creation of 25,000 new jobs. The Plan affirmed the Council's commitment to protecting and enhancing the Borough's community green spaces, natural environment and heritage. This included an updated Green Network (including Newport) and the creation of a Green Guarantee, protecting community green spaces such as parks, woodlands, recreation areas and local nature reserves. The Council was identifying 100 such sites in the Borough that the Green Guarantee would protect from any development, and would ask the community to help identify at least another 50 sites to help mark Telford's 50th anniversary in 2018.

Appended to the report was an updated Local Development Scheme which set out a timetable for delivering the Local Plan, and outlined the progress made on development plan documents since 2013.

The Plan was now at formal consultation stage. If approved, it was proposed that the consultation would be conducted over an 8 week period from 3 August to 25 September 2015. The consultation process would be as wide ranging as possible and would follow the principles of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement as well as applying the advice of the Customer, Community & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee for more open consultation events and for early engagement with Town and Parish Councils. Following

the consultation period, Officers would then review comments received, make appropriate changes to the Plan and then seek approval of the next version by Full Council. It would then proceed to the next stage of Publication and independent examination by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

Councillor S. Davies (Cabinet Member: Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Services) welcomed the Plan, and noted that Telford & Wrekin was ahead of many of other authorities in this process. Residents' concerns about housing growth had been listened to, but there was still a balance to be struck in order to meet the demand for new housing, particularly from young people trying to get on the housing ladder.

The Assistant Director: Planning Specialist reported that the Plan had been informally reviewed by the Government's Planning Advisory Service, who had advised that it met their 10 principles and that they approved of the general style and content of the Plan,

Members welcomed the proposals for protecting green spaces in the Borough, and the opportunity for local residents to put forward sites for protection.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that, in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012, the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan document, as presented with this report, be approved for the purposes of public consultation;**
- (b) that the updated Local Development Scheme, as shown at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.**

CB-18 REVISED BUS SUBSIDY POLICY

Key Decision identified as **Bus Subsidies Policy** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 25 June 2015

Councillor A.D. McClements, Cabinet Member: Communities, Regeneration & Transport, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services that sought approval for the adoption of a revised bus subsidy policy which would provide a structured methodology for deciding which non-commercial bus routes to subsidise in the future. A copy of the Policy was appended to the report. She thanked Officers for their work on this.

The Council had legal powers to enter into agreements with public transport operators to provide subsidies for services that were deemed not to be commercially viable. This was governed by a Bus Subsidy Policy that was adopted by Cabinet in 2010, and which was used to award the current subsidised tenders. However, this used a very basic set of criteria to prioritise services which were no longer deemed to be fit for purpose.

Within Telford & Wrekin approximately 98% of the network was operated commercially by Arriva. Arriva had undertaken a review of the existing bus network, and had identified several routes that were no longer considered to be commercial. Due to the timescales of the Arriva review, it was clear that if the existing tendered services were to remain as they were, it would leave significant gaps in the network and many areas without a service. As such, the Council made financial provision for an interim period to fill in as many of the gaps as possible pending the outcome of a retendering process for Council subsidised routes. The impact of the Arriva Network Review, along with the limitations of the existing Subsidy Policy, had made it necessary to review and update the Policy.

The new Policy included a Telford Route Evaluation Model that had been designed to provide a framework to robustly assess existing and new supported bus services. The criteria were set out in the report, and included catchment, deprivation, access to services, future development and bus frequency. The draft revised Policy had been presented to the Customer, Community & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, and the feedback and comments of the Scrutiny Members were appended to the report.

The Council would be going out to re-tender for subsidised services in September 2015, with a view to awarding the new services in November 2015. Services would be prioritised on the basis of the Bus Subsidy Policy.

Members sought clarification on how the subsidised bus services worked, and referred to the recent review of the bus network by Arriva which had raised a number of concerns. A question was also asked about whether the Bus User Groups had been able to feed into the process. The Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services advised that on a subsidised route, the Council paid for the driver, use of vehicle and fuel, with any passenger revenue going back into the route. The Cabinet Member stated that the deregulation of bus services was not working well, and that this had been reflected in the discussion at the last Full Council meeting about the inadequate consultation process on the changes that Arriva had made to the bus network. The Council had spoken to Bus User Groups and Town & Parish Councils, and their concerns and “hotspot” issues had been passed on to Arriva.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that in advance of a retendering exercise to be run between September-December 2015, the revised Bus Subsidy Policy, as shown at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved;**
- (b) that the cross-party support from members of the Customer, Community & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee for the revised criteria in the Policy be noted.**

CB-19 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2015/16

Key Decision identified as **West Mercia Youth Offending Service Plan 2015/16** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 25 June 2015

Full Council decision not subject to Call-in

Councillor P.R. Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Families, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Family, Cohesion & Commissioning regarding the Youth Justice Plan which was prepared on an annual basis on behalf of Herefordshire Council, Shropshire Council, Telford & Wrekin Council and Worcestershire County Council. A copy of the Plan for 2015/16 was appended to the report.

The Youth Justice Plan was a statutory document that set out how youth justice services across West Mercia were to be structured, provided and funded. It identified a number of priorities, and key actions to address risks to service delivery and improvement. The Plan identified four main priorities for 2015/16 – improving performance and developing practice, understanding young people, improved joint working and integration, and governance & communication.

The report detailed current performance for Telford & Wrekin on key national indicators for First Time Entrants to the youth justice system, the use of custody, and re-offending rates. These all generally compared favourably in comparison with national and regional performance. There were lower figures/rates for first time entrants and the use of custody, but a slight increase in the frequency rate for re-offending.

RESOLVED –

- (a) TO RECOMMEND to COUNCIL that the Youth Justice Plan 2015/16 be approved;**
- (b) that the responsibilities of the West Mercia Youth Offending Service be noted.**

CB-20 COUNCILLORS' PRIDE FUND

Non-Key Decision

Councillor S. Davies, Cabinet Member: Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Services, presented the report of the Managing Director, which updated Members on the delivery of the Ward Co-operative Fund, and sought agreement for the delivery and renaming as the Councillors' Pride Fund for 2015/16.

The Ward Co-operative Fund had been operating for the last three years on the basis of £1,000 per ward member to be used to support local community groups to deliver events and activities, or by investing in small physical improvements to their locality. This was enhanced in 2014/15 with an

additional £1,000 per ward member to be spent on environmental themed projects that supported the delivery of the aims of the 'Pride in Your Community' programme. Many projects had received match funding from Town and Parish Councils, leading to even greater value being achieved. Appended to the report were details of how Members had allocated their funding, and any agreed matched funding. It was disappointing that not all Members had spent their allocation.

£108,000 had been provided in the Council's Budget to deliver the renamed 'Councillors' Pride Fund' in 2015/16, and the principles of the scheme were set out in the report. Any funding that had not been committed by 31 January 2016 would be re-allocated to support community-based projects that supported the delivery of the Council's priorities.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the 'Ward Co-operative Fund' be re-named 'Councillors' Pride Fund' for 2015/16;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Community Participation Manager, in consultation with the relevant Ward Member in whose area the application is made, to assess and approve if appropriate applications for funding in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 4.2.4 of the report;**
- (c) that any funding that has not been allocated to eligible projects under the Councillors' Pride Fund by 31 January 2016 be allocated to community based projects that support the delivery of the Council's priorities;**
- (d) that authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection and Cabinet Member: Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Services, to allocate funding in accordance with resolution (c) above.**

CB-21 SINGLE FRAUD INVESTIGATION SERVICE AND REVENUES & BENEFITS SANCTION AND PENALTY POLICY

Non-Key Decision

Councillor L.D. Carter, Cabinet Member: Council Finance & Service Delivery, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services, which outlined the transfer of responsibility for investigating Housing Benefit fraud from the Council to a new Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS) set up by the Department for Work & Pensions. It also sought approval for the uses of penalties, sanctions and prosecutions relating to incorrectly claimed Council Tax discounts and exemptions.

Telford & Wrekin's powers and responsibilities in relation to Housing Benefit Fraud had transferred to the SFIS on 1 June 2015. However, SFIS would still

require the Council to undertake a significant amount of administration and liaison work to assist them. Anti-fraud work by the Council's Investigation Team was now more focussed on Council Tax Support and Single Person Discount. Since 2013, Council Tax Support had been funded entirely from Local Authority budgets, so any fraudulent discounts that could be identified and stopped represented a direct saving to the Council. It was also proposed to use the skills and powers of the Investigation Team to undertake investigations into suspected cases of business rate avoidance. It was up to individual Councils to decide how they tackled fraud, and appended to the report was a proposed Revenues and Benefits Sanction and Penalty Policy. This set out the legal powers available to apply penalties, sanctions and prosecutions in relation to Council Tax and Non-domestic business rates, and set out a framework for when these powers would be used. The draft Policy had been put out to public consultation and shared with the Citizens Advice Bureau and Shropshire Chamber of Commerce, but no comments had been received.

In response to a question, the Benefits Service Delivery Manager advised that prosecution would only be used as a last resort for very extreme cases of fraud.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the new Revenues & Benefits Sanction and Penalty Policy, as shown at Appendix A of the report, be approved;**
- (b) that it be noted that from 1 June 2015 responsibility for investigating Housing Benefit Fraud has transferred from the Council to the Department for Work and Pensions.**

CB-22 DRIVING DELIVERY OF THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES: 2014/15 YEAR END PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection, presented the report of the Managing Director which presented an overview of 2014/15 performance against the Council's priorities, and the updated Strategic Risk Register.

Appended to the report were the figures for each of the performance indicators linked to the Council's priorities. Among the headline messages from the analysis:

- The Council had continuing success in supporting economic growth, including a fall in youth unemployment of 2,100 people in the last 12 months;
- Improved educational attainment at EYFS, KS1 and KS2, although further work was needed to improve the progress of children from KS2 to KS4 and for vulnerable children;
- Progress in adult and children's safeguarding with more stability and consistency in approach;

- A fall of 36% in the numbers of people being accepted as homeless – this was often a result of improved preventative and supportive interventions.
- A 6.3% increase in the recycling rate, which was in excess of the 2014/15 target;
- Of the 49 measures where there was comparable data to the year before, 29 had got better, 17 had got worse and 3 had remained the same.

The Strategic Risk Register was a means for the organisation to identify and manage the substantive issues which could impact negatively on delivery of the Council's priorities. Appended to the report was an updated Register which showed the key risks identified for 2015/16 and the mitigating actions in place to manage these risks.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that performance for 2014/15 be noted;
- (b) that the Strategic Risk Register June 2015 be approved.

CB-23 ACQUISITION OF LAND AT LODGE ROAD, DONNINGTON WOOD

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection, presented the joint report of the Assistant Directors for Development, Business & Employment; Family, Cohesion & Commissioning; and Law, Democracy & People Services, which sought authority to acquire land at Lodge Road, Donnington Wood adjoining the existing well-established Gypsy & Traveller site to create a transit site of 11 plots.

The Gypsy & Traveller sites at Lodge Road, Donnington Wood and Ketley Brook, Lawley were very popular and the subject of constant enquiries from prospective tenants. Lodge Road had recently been rebuilt and extended from 13 to 25 plots. There had been a persistent problem with unlawful encampments, which led the Council to open a transit site on land off Holyhead Road, Snedshill under a temporary planning permission which was due to expire in December 2015. The presence of the transit facility had enabled illegal encampments to be effectively enforced and removed, with a significant fall in the number of such encampments since the transit site opened in April 2014. A more permanent location for the transit site was required, and HCA land next to the Lodge Road site had been identified as suitable for providing 11 transit pitches. It would be suitably screened and have a separate access. The costs of the acquisition and development of the site were estimated at £170,000, and would be funded from the re-phasing of the existing capital programme.

While all efforts would be made to deliver the new site as soon as possible, it was anticipated that there would be a three month gap between the new site

becoming available for use circa March 2016 and the expiry of the temporary planning permission at Snedshill in December 2015. It was therefore proposed to apply for an extension to the temporary permission at Snedshill until the new site was available for occupation.

Members endorsed the proposals, and noted that since the extension to the Lodge Road permanent site, there had been no occupation of the Snedshill site.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Development, Business & Employment to acquire the parcel of land at Lodge Road, Donnington Wood, as shown at Appendix 1 of the report;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Family, Cohesion & Commissioning to extend the Lodge Road land as a Transit site for Gypsies and Travellers;**
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services to seal or sign any documents to give effect to the above resolutions;**
- (d) that capital allocation and expenditure, as detailed in section 3 of the report, for the acquisition of the land at Lodge Road, Donnington Wood be approved.**

CB-24 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000

Non-Key Decision

Councillor R.A. Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing, Public Health & Protection, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services, which sought approval for a revised and updated Council Policy relating to the provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA).

In December 2014, the Office of Surveillance Commissioners issued amended guidance and procedures, and the Council's Policy had been revised to take account of these changes. These included guidance following the 'Kinch' judgement, amendments to the Central record, voluntary declared interviews, prior approval by a Magistrate and limitations for directed surveillance. The revised Policy was appended to the report. Two full days of RIPA training was provided for Officers in November 2014.

In terms of RIPA usage, during the period 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015 the Council had undertaken one directed surveillance.

RESOLVED -

- (a) that the revised RIPA Policy document, as appended to the report, be noted and approved;
- (b) that the contents of the report be noted.

CB-25 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2015/16

Non-Key Decision

The Leader presented the report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services regarding minor changes to the Outside Body appointments for 2015/16.

A request for the Council to be represented at Member level on Telford & Wrekin Healthwatch was deferred at the last meeting to allow for further information to be obtained about the nature of such an appointment. This had now been clarified as a co-opted position to the Board of Directors, and nominations had been sought from the political groups. One nomination for Councillor S. J. Reynolds had been received.

Following the appointments to Outside Bodies approved at the Cabinet meeting on 25 June 2015, it had become apparent that Councillor R.C. Evans was no longer able to continue with her role as a member of the West Mercia Police & Crime Panel. It was proposed that she be replaced by Councillor H. Rhodes.

Following the annual appointments of Members to Outside Bodies towards the start of each Municipal Year, there was a need to bring interim reports to Cabinet from time-to-time to consider minor changes in representation. It was suggested that to streamline this process, authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services to make any such minor amendments, following consultation with the Leader. The annual appointments would continue to be made by Cabinet.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that Councillor S.J. Reynolds be appointed as the Council's representative on Telford & Wrekin Healthwatch for 2015/16;
- (b) that Councillor H. Rhodes be appointed to the West Mercia Police & Crime Panel;
- (c) that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services, in consultation with the Leader, to approve "one-off" changes to representation during the municipal year following the annual appointments to Outside Bodies made by Cabinet each June.

The meeting ended at 6.00 pm.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services
Date: 29 July 2015

Signed:

Date:

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 17 SEPTEMBER 2015

A DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL FOR TELFORD & WREKIN

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR KULDIP SAHOTA

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 In July 2015, the Chancellor of the Exchequer published a policy paper "Spending Review 2015: A country that lives within its means", which set out the Government's approach to Spending Review 2015. Within this the Chancellor asked all Secretary of States to proactively consider what they could devolve to local areas and where they could facilitate integration between public services. Representative bodies, interest groups and individuals were invited to submit written representations to HM Treasury by 4 September 2015.
- 1.2 The date of the announcement and submission deadline fell over the Summer period where no Cabinet meetings were scheduled. Working with members of the Cabinet, work was completed over the Summer to prepare a proposal and ensure Telford and Wrekin Council could keep its options open and retain the ability to hold further conversations with Government around this agenda.
- 1.3 On the 4 September a proposal from Telford and Wrekin was submitted to HM Treasury. The proposal set out a series of suggestions for the devolution of a range of powers and responsibilities for consideration by the Government.
- 1.4 These suggestions built on the existing and very positive relationship that the Council has with the HCA and the 'Strengthening Families' approach taken by the Council and local partners with the aim of accelerating the delivery of sustainable economic growth, increasing prosperity in the borough and reducing demand and costs for the public purse.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet	
2.1	Note and endorse the Devolution proposal submitted on the 4th September 2015.
2.2	Delegate authority to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Leader and the Cabinet portfolio holder for Business, Neighbourhood and Customer Services to enter into discussions with HM Treasury and other Government departments and organisations as appropriate with the aim of developing a detailed arrangement for devolution of powers as outlined in the proposal submitted on 4th September 2015 for consideration by Cabinet and Council in due course.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	All
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	Borough wide impact
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	September 2015 – submission of proposal	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT		The Government are seeking to reduce the national budget deficit by 2019/20. This requires significant reductions in spending to be made and better value to be achieved from public resources. “Devolution deals” offer the opportunity to develop further innovation in the provision of public services and to deliver better value for money for taxpayers. It is therefore very important that the Council retains the ability to engage in this opportunity. As negotiations proceed full financial support will be provided as appropriate. (KC 04/09/15)
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Obviously the legal implications depend upon the nature of any proposals that are proposed however the Council is only at this stage responding to an invitation to express an interest and outline proposals for the transfer of powers from central government to local government. No

		decisions or commitments have been made and further Cabinet and Council approval would be required where detailed legal comment would be provided.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	The proposal sets out a number of opportunities. Impacts and potential risks will be assessed through any discussions that take place. As stated above, no decisions or commitments are being made at this stage.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough wide impact

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

Devolution Deal

- 4.1 The deal sets out a series of proposals for agreement between Telford and Wrekin and the Government for the devolution of a range of powers and responsibilities. Building on the HCA Land Deal and the Troubled Families approach, working in partnership with our public sector and private colleagues within the Borough, this agreement would enable Telford and Wrekin to accelerate delivery of sustained economic growth and increased prosperity in the borough – one of the key areas in the spending review for prioritising spending.
- 4.2 A summary of the main proposals is set out below. The full proposal can be found in appendix 1.
- **Enterprise Telford** - Driving the competitiveness of Telford as a place to invest –through local freedoms and flexibilities granted by Government tailoring our offer to potential investors and supporting sale of our HCA land assets.
 - **Employment and Skills** - joining together national and local programmes built on our local understanding of communities and the labour market, including DWP and our Job Box initiatives.
 - **Transport** - Transfer of powers to franchise all bus services – connecting our more deprived communities to local employment opportunities.

Future Devolution and Next Steps

- 4.3 The first phase of the devolution deal is focused on skills, business support and transport initiatives. The government is committed to further radical devolution of power within England, giving local leaders more opportunity to drive efficiencies by bringing budgets and powers

closer to the point of use.

- 4.4 A report will be brought back to Cabinet in due course to include an updated position once conversations with Government have started to take place further to the submission of the devolution proposal.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 None.

**Report prepared by Katherine Kynaston, Assistant Director,
Development, Business and Employment and Jon Power, Delivery and
Planning Manager**

Telephone: 01952 380141

‘Devolution and Partnership: Driving Growth and Prosperity’

A Devolution Proposal for Telford & Wrekin

September 2015

FOREWORD

Telford & Wrekin is leading the drive for growth in the Midlands. This is happening because of effective partnership working between the private and public sector.

To reflect our success and continue to develop the competitiveness of our offer, we have designated the whole Borough an enterprise area – **Enterprise Telford**.

Enterprise Telford is well placed to continue this drive to growth and do more, particularly through the exploitation of Homes & Communities Agency land assets which will be driven through our **HCA Land Deal**.

This devolution proposal is about delivering a better, more efficient response from the public sector to:

- support people into employment – joining together national and local programmes built on our local understanding of communities and the labour market and improving **connectivity**;
- developing a **work ready, life ready** workforce, focussed on the skill needs of local businesses, through local commissioning;
- driving the competitiveness of Telford as a place to invest – through local freedoms and flexibilities granted by Government tailoring our offer to potential investors – ultimately supporting the sale of HCA land assets.

We are not pursuing growth for the sake of growth. We want to achieve sustained levels of economic growth because it is the right thing to do for our communities, our local economy and to meet the Chancellor's commitment to driving efficiency in the public sector.

We ask that the Chancellor backs this devolution proposal.

Whilst others talk about driving growth and prosperity, in Telford & Wrekin we are delivering it now.

Cllr Kuldeep Sahota
Leader, Telford and Wrekin Council

Paul Hinkins
Chair Telford Business Board

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7. APPENDIX 1

'Enterprise Telford – the Birthplace and Home of Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering'

1. WHY TELFORD?

Enterprise Telford has a **strong** and **credible track record** of supporting and enabling economic growth which maximises the benefit to all of our communities.

- Growth in GVA (from 2010 to 2013) rose by 13.2% outstripping growth for the same period across the West Midlands (10%), United Kingdom (8.9%) and England (9.3%). Telford delivers 28% of the Marches LEP total GVA economy (25% of the total population of the LEP).
- 22.6% of the Borough's GVA came from production, making it the biggest contributor, closely followed by logistics (21.7%). Telford hosts the largest manufacturing sector as a proportion of the local economy in the region and a growing cluster of high tech manufacturing enterprises
- Unemployment has fallen to below the regional and national rate (T&W 5.9%, WM 6.8%, England 6.2%)
- Top 10 in the UK for delivering housing growth for the past 2 years

Building on this track record of growth, we have the **capacity for further growth**:

- 5 year land supply in place and permission for 13,000 new homes
- Capacity for growth with 400 acres of ready to go commercial land
- In principle agreement to a Land Deal with HCA which will drive growth through asset disposal/recycling of uplift into infrastructure
- Designated MOD national logistics hub
- £19m LEP funding for infrastructure improvement
- 2 leading universities in the Borough: University of Wolverhampton with a growing reputation for "knowledge transfer" in advanced manufacturing and Harper Adams University with an international reputation for food and agricultural technology.
- 98% superfast broadband coverage by 2017

Enterprise Telford is a core driver of growth in the West Midlands region; a key component in the **Midlands Engine for Growth**. We are the urban focus of growth in the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership and directly support the objectives of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and proposed West Midlands Combined Authority. Our role is pivotal to the Midlands' aspirations; we have the potential to unlock growth by acting as a catalyst to overcome some of the limitations faced, in particular, by Birmingham and the Black Country:

- **Competitively priced 'ready to go' housing and commercial development land** – overcoming a key obstacle to growth in the Black Country and the wider West Midlands area. The Telford New Town was originally designed to provide capacity for growth to the wider region.
- **Skilled workforce** – core to driving growth in existing businesses and securing inward investment in key sectors including advanced manufacturing, engineering and agri-technology. Telford's labour force reflects the underlying high tech nature of the local economy.

- **Established automotive supply chain** – linked to growth in Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and central to driving manufacturing growth and the wider objective of ensuring a balanced and dynamic Midlands economy.
- **Fast connectivity into the region and wider** - embedding our economic capacity and opportunities into the regional 'Engine for Growth' through the M54 to JLR I54 and the M6, M62 and A41 into the 'Northern Powerhouse'.

Telford & Wrekin Council has played a pivotal role in the success of Enterprise Telford – we have rapidly and successfully transformed the way we work to enable growth by removing barriers and obstacles. We have secured investment into the Borough including international companies BAE, Cap Gemini, GKN Sankey, Heinz and Muller.

We have achieved this whilst delivering savings in excess of £70m. We are clear that more can be done to drive growth by improving efficiency in the public sector. We want to do this because it is the right thing to do for our communities - supporting inward investment and business growth to increase opportunities and prosperity for all of our communities enabling independence and self reliance which will ultimately reduce demand on public services.

The Chancellor's determination to balance the public sector budget means that the status quo is not an option. The public sector must work better together, more effectively as a whole system – particularly local government with central government departments - to reduce duplication and policy constraints which impact on efficiency and to provide a more localised, coherent and unified focus on securing the right employment and life style outcomes that deliver more vibrant, successful and sustainable households and communities whilst reducing the demands and costs of public services.

Telford & Wrekin Council has a track record of doing this; working successfully with Government – for example our **HCA Land Deal** – to derive real benefit to the Treasury.

We are ambitious about what we will achieve through this proposed deal. Implementation of our devolution proposal will drive and sustain economic growth, improve the lives of residents in our most deprived communities and reduce demand on public services which together will reduce demand on the Treasury.

1. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Despite our track record of economic growth, there remain nationally significant pockets of deprivation within Telford. These areas suffer from higher levels of unemployment, lower levels of educational achievement, poorer health and shorter life expectancy. These challenges result in significant demand on public services which we are determined with our partners to address through our **strengthening families** approach (local Troubled Families model). This focused on improving the opportunities and lives for these families and so reduce demand on public services and the Treasury. This is **the** key priority of our Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). We have a track record of success, turning around some 365 families in phase one of the DCLG Troubled Families Programme.

This devolution proposal is focussed on improving economic opportunities for our communities, through the two themes of **'Skills to Employment'** and **'Enterprise Telford'**. With creative thinking, investment and private sector collaboration, we are making significant progress against these themes, but greater partnership working with Government departments will enable us to do more.

Skills to Employment

Our focus is on supporting people into work and working to ensure that we have a workforce which meets the skills requirement of existing and future business in the Borough.

At the start of the recession, unemployment rose rapidly in the Borough from below the regional and national rate to significantly above both – particularly for young people. In response, the Council invested £1.8m into developing **Job Box**, a programme to support young people into positive destinations (work, training or volunteer work). This approach has been very successful – more successful than the DWP 'Work Programme' in terms of outcomes for participants and cost to the public purse - and contributed to reducing the youth unemployment in the Borough from 32.5% to 12.9% below both the national (17.1%) and regional rates (18.3%).

There is though still more to do to support young people into work. Our 'NEET' rate is still too high, with these young people often the 'furthest away' from employment with hotspots in our most deprived neighbourhoods.

As unemployment has fallen below national and regional levels, our local labour market has tightened. The need to ensure that local people have the right skills to meet the needs of local businesses has become ever-more critical to sustain the competitiveness of Telford. **We don't want to become victims of our own success.**

Our themes to address these challenges are:

- **Ensuring that our young people achieve their full potential** - as they enter the workforce and throughout their career, raising aspirations and breaking cycles of unemployment and under-employment. Feedback that we have received from employers about young people is that too often people taking the first steps into the world of work are not adequately prepared for the working environment in terms of appropriate behaviour and the necessary self discipline – for example time keeping. We want to support schools to create the capacity to support all

pupils with 'life ready, work ready' activity as part of the curriculum. Our new **Life Ready, Work Ready** programme will see us create an approach to skills that inspires pupils/learners with real world opportunities and ensures our young people have the best chance to meet their full potential while delivering the skills for our growing business base. We believe this offers a national model complimenting the National Enterprise Company approach.

- **Ensuring that the Borough has a workforce with the skills to meet the requirements of our local businesses now and in the future** – supporting businesses to upskill, retrain and respond to technological change developing a demand led skills system. We are creating a Skills for Growth **Business 2 Schools Brokerage Service** to increase and coordinate employer level input into career advice from primary age up effectively linking schools, colleges, employers, careers and enterprise organisations. Where young people and their parents and carers understand opportunities open to them, schools need the flexibility in the curriculum to enable them to take up these opportunities. Equally we want to ensure business makes a commitment to drive and support education success, taking a stake in their employees of tomorrow. We want to improve the employer offer (e.g. work experience, mentoring, hands on 'awareness raising' in the classroom) and ensure consistency and quality of this. We want to establish a compact with all our schools committing them to engage with our business sector champions to drive up the quality and effectiveness of career education providing them with a package of support to enable this to happen for example in terms of transport costs, teacher time.
- **Continuing to reduce unemployment** – developing our Job Box programme as a one stop portal for advice, information and support on employment, careers, apprenticeships and supporting business to recruit and upskill. We want to better link our **Job Box** programme to DWP initiatives.
- **Improving 'connectivity'** - Telford enjoys purpose built infrastructure including serviced employment parks designed to sustain industrial and business growth. However the **New Town** legacy separation of employment and residential development and reliance on car travel has created a significant barrier to communities in our more deprived estates where car ownership rates are lower. The nature of much of our manufacturing sector is shift work located in employment parks which are not well served by public transport particularly outside of regular working hours.

Enterprise Telford

At the heart of **strengthening families** is **economic independence** which is good for the family, the wider community and local economy. Stimulating private sector investment is then a priority to create jobs and opportunities. Many leading national and international businesses are located in Telford including BAE, Cap Gemini, GKN Sankey, Epson and Heinz providing a platform and potential for solid growth in a number of key sectors.

To continue to develop the competitiveness of Telford as a place for inward investment and accelerate outcomes from our Land Deal, we have designated the Borough an enterprise area **Enterprise Telford**. Through this approach we will negotiate individually with prospective

investors to agree a competitive, bespoke deal to secure investment including, for example, business rate 'discounts'.

Through collaboration with our Universities, LEP and Telford Business Board we are about to launch the **Telford Growth Hub** – a vehicle to deliver joined up business support and stimulate the knowledge transfer to drive innovation. This will enable us to maximise on the dramatic expansion in automotive component suppliers and the creative industries developing as aero, defence and automotive sectors strive for further product efficiency. We will also focus on supporting businesses across all sectors that have yet to realise their full potential as well as improving targeting activity to increase the competitiveness of our Borough town high streets – a key part of sustaining our vibrant local communities.

This is good for Telford, for the Region and ultimately good for the Government.

We have shown what we can achieve with our own resources and through collaboration with the private sector led by the Telford Business Board, with our LEP partners and the HCA. Through greater partnership working with the Government we can fulfil the potential of our economy and local workforce - a real opportunity to benefit both Telford and the Government.

Built on both our track record of delivery and our understanding of our **challenges and opportunities** our devolution proposal is focussed on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public services in Telford & Wrekin by enabling local decision makers to determine 'what works best'. This will be achieved through the transfer of responsibility for functions and budgets to local authority control combined with specific policy 'freedom and flexibilities'.

2. OUR DEVOLUTION PROPOSALS

Skills to Employment

Devolution commissioning of skills provision – to establish joint accountability with the Skills Funding Agency for the Adult Skills Budget to improve the impact of FE colleges and training providers. This would focus on the needs of our key sectors to better ensure that employer needs are met. We have already started this approach working with business sector leads from our Business Board to determine sector skills gaps and commissioning specific training for the manufacturing sector to be provided by those bidding for skills capital funding.

Responsibility for local delivery of the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE) - enabling expansion of our Council run apprentice training programme to support SME's take up of apprenticeships, particularly higher apprentices, including enabling apprentice sharing. We have established the programme in response to feedback from SME's that whilst businesses are prepared to take on apprentices, the 'red tape' involved acts as a barrier. Devolution will allow funding to be targeted at key sectors, deprived neighbourhoods and groups.

Responsibility for commissioning the Work Programme (or replacement) and the Youth Contract or as a minimum 'payment by results' for supporting people into 'positive destinations' - we have built a very successful track record through £1.8m investment into our Job Box programme which has a higher success rate than the DWP programmes. In its first year, our Job Box has supported 549 people into a positive destination at a cost of £1093 per person. In comparison with the ESF that pays £2390 per young person moved into a positive destination and the Youth Contract that provides £1275 per young person. The work programme pays out £3800 per young person moved into and sustained into employment. Our model offers greater impact and efficiency as it is informed by our local knowledge of both the labour market and skills requirement of local businesses underpinned by the geographic focus of our work, specifically in our most deprived communities.

Local accountability for DWP functions – to ensure that provision aiming to support people into employment is driven by local need and integrated with wider services, thereby reducing duplication and maximising value for money. Building **Universal Credit** into our local model of **Strengthening Families**. This will reduce duplication, costs and improve outcomes.

Transfer of powers to franchise all bus services - to ensure that an integrated public transport system is delivered with a specific objective of connecting our more deprived communities to local employment opportunities.

Enterprise Telford

Retention of 100% of business rate growth - to recycle into investment to drive further economic growth. Addressing the infrastructure needed to 'connect our communities' to the opportunities delivered through the HCA Land Deal, investing in bringing forward more constrained and brownfield, public sector sites delivering land values and uplift from HCA sites back to Treasury and enabling our **Skills to Employment** programme. We ask to be included as a further business rate retention pathfinder linked with the Telford Land Deal.

To provide certainty and longevity to investors we also ask that additional business rate growth generated by the Council since the introduction of the new local government finance system in April 2013 is exempted from any reset of the system. This combined with the HCA Land Deal will ensure that the local economic benefits generated from this funding can be sustained on a long-term basis.

Local accountability for the national Business Growth Service - to maximise the growth potential of local businesses, our Growth Hub should manage all business support delivery built on local evidence, knowledge and engagement. National programmes provide much needed generic support, but they are not currently co-ordinated with local partners and programmes to deliver a joined-up, locally tailored approach. We need control over the design and commissioning of business provision with the ability to integrate the resources and capabilities of programmes and for partners to match this with local commissioning and account management capacity. Programmes funded through the European Structural and Investment Funds should align with local priorities and providers commit to delivery through the Growth Hub.

Creating a Telford HMRC Tech Hub - to improve efficiency in the public sector estate. HMRC is currently initiating a process to rationalise its West Midlands office base in Birmingham. In terms of efficiency, Telford is a strong alternative location for this West Midlands hub both in terms of ready capacity, skills and the competitive price structure of office accommodation as well as ready availability in comparison to Birmingham. Equally HMRC already have a significant base in the Borough through the HMRC Aspire ICT contract being delivered by Cap Gemini and Fujitsu. With our high concentration of tech workers and growing creative and digital sector, collaboration with our resident Universities and ability to draw in the support of other internationally ranked Universities across the Midlands, we offer a ready to deliver tech hub location.

Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) on capital expenditure - we ask that companies investing in plant and machinery in **Enterprise Telford** can qualify for 100% first year Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) on capital expenditure on qualifying assets, complimenting assisted area status which the Borough attracts. This will provide a further incentive alongside our own 'deal for business' to drive take up of and uplift of HCA development land in the Borough.

Local setting of charges - as part of our package to drive the competitiveness of **Enterprise Telford** set planning and licensing fees locally to respond competitively to inward investment enquiries/proposals.

3. WHAT WE WILL DELIVER

Core to our proposal is increasing **economic growth** - we want to fulfil our economic potential and this proposal will support us in achieving this.

It will drive increased productivity and the efficiency of our local economy to within the best quartile in the UK as measured by GVA. By:

- Increased productivity through a step change in matching skills to economic need-focused skills, increase the take up of apprenticeships and increase progression rates and skills level.
- Reduce unemployment and reduce levels of in particular, NEETs through a co-ordinated and locally driven support programmes for people who are out of work or leaving education.
- The roll-out of an integrated model that aligns business support and skills development through the Telford Growth Hub and delivers higher levels of R&D, entrepreneurship and innovation – adding value to the knowledge economy.
- Maximise the availability of high quality, readily available brown field development sites for housing.
- Accelerated delivery of new homes and the infrastructure to support this, creating more prosperous and sustainable communities.

This deal will provide additional flexibility in our local decision making – informed by both the needs of business and community - which will sustain and improve Telford’s competitive position as a location for inward investment and expansion by existing businesses. A key beneficiary of a growing Telford economy will be the Treasury in terms of capital receipts through HCA asset disposal – both in terms of value and pace and as a catalyst for driving the Midland Engine.

A growing economy is good for Telford and good for the Treasury.

This proposal will also see significant impact on reducing Government operational budgets:

- the proposed ‘**Telford HMRC Hub**’ will deliver reduced office accommodation costs for HMRC in the West Midlands region.
- by maximising effective support to people seeking work, improving skills and connectivity we will reduce unemployment with associated reduction on unemployment and benefit costs.
- Through our Strengthening Families model, we know that addressing worklessness and low aspirations leads to key improvements in an individual’s lives including improving wellbeing and making better choices around health and housing. Factors which typically require an intervention from public services.

Through devolution and partnership, we will deliver greater efficiency in the public sector by better targeting resources where they are most needed – whether to businesses, communities or individuals creating opportunities and improving lives with significant impact on health and wellbeing. This will only lead to reduced demand on public services with additional benefit to the Treasury.

4. GOVERNANCE

As part of the negotiation process of the development of our **HCA Land Deal** we are establishing transparent and accountable governance arrangements. We propose to take a similar approach to developing governance arrangements for this devolution proposal. Core to these arrangements will be the Telford Business Board and the Local Enterprise Partnership.

5. FUTURE DEVOLUTION

Through this proposal, Government and Telford & Wrekin Council will embark on a new relationship. The first phase of this is focussed on the skills, business support and transport initiatives set out in this document.

We believe that this is just a start of our devolution conversation and as we move forward we will want to continue to explore what further power and funding could be devolved to Telford & Wrekin together with options for improving local governance and accountability.

Our Economy

- GVA over the past three years, from 2010 to 2013, has risen by 13.2% in Telford and Wrekin, outstripping growth for the same period across the West Midlands (10%), United Kingdom (8.9%) and England (9.3%)
- 22.6% of the borough's GVA came from production and logistics 21.7%.
- A strong manufacturing base, forming an important part of the supply chain for the West Midlands' economy.
- Concentration of creative, information and communications technology enterprises showing strong integration with manufacturing and a growing reputation as a centre for 3D printing
- The proportion employed in manufacturing more than double England rate (17.6%, England 8.4%)
- An international reputation for advanced manufacturing, engineering and agri-technology
- Many companies of national importance such as BAE, Cap Gemini, GKN Sankey, Epson, Lyreco, Heinz and Muller
- Proven capacity to attract inward investment with 128 foreign-owned enterprises employing over 16,000 people

Business and Jobs Growth

- 78,000 jobs in over 5,500 businesses
- Unemployment now below the regional and national rate (T&W 5.9%, WM 6.8%, England 6.2%)
- Workforce earnings slightly higher than West Midlands (gross weekly pay £482.60, WM £479.10)
- More Business 'births' than business 'deaths' for a third consecutive year (640 new enterprises in 2013)

Capacity for Further Growth

- Telford New Town designed for population of 200,000+
- Planning in place for 13,000 new homes and a new Local Plan due for adoption within 18 months
- Over 400 acres of ready to go commercial land 23 million ft² commercial property
- 'Growth Deal' with HCA to drive growth through asset disposal/recycling of uplift into infrastructure
- £19m LEP funding for infrastructure improvement
- Transforming town centre, including a £250m Southwater development
- Top conferencing destination competing on an international market
- MOD National Logistics hub
- 12 miles from i54 and Jaguar Landrover

Skilled Population and Workforce

- A workforce of 350,000 people living within 30 minutes
- Over two-thirds of the workforce live and work in the borough (68%)
- Around 20,600 people commute into the borough, including 11,100 from Shropshire, 5,100 from the West Midlands and 3,600 from Staffordshire
- 2 Universities within the borough – University of Wolverhampton (including University Centre Telford) and Harper Adams University
- Only 8% of the population with no qualifications, with investment in bespoke skills academies to ensure a developing and more highly skilled workforce for the future

Connectivity

- Borough well connected nation-wide through the motorway network, with 4 M54 junctions and 15 minutes to the M6, with the M54/M6 North link in development
- Direct connections to international destinations via Birmingham Airport, Manchester and the East Midlands air freight hub
- Three railway stations offering easy connections to the national rail network, as well as easy access to the proposed HS2 Birmingham station
- Congestion-free travel
- International Railfreight Terminal
- 98% coverage of Superfast Broadband, due to be completed in the next 2 years

Housing Growth

- Top 10 in the UK for delivering housing growth for the past 2 years– bucking the national trend
- 5 year land supply in place and permission for 13,000 homes
- Top 5 housing developers represented in the Borough alongside major infrastructure companies

