



**Telford & Wrekin**  
**C O U N C I L**

**Addenbrooke House Ironmasters Way Telford TF3 4NT**

## **CABINET**

**Date Thursday, 15 November 2018 Time 5.00pm**  
**Venue Meeting Rooms G3/4, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT**

### **Enquiries Regarding this Agenda:**

Democratic Services	Deborah Moseley / Stacey Worthington	01952 383215 / 382061
Media Enquiries	Corporate Communications Manager	01952 382403
Lead Officer	Richard Partington, Managing Director	01952 380102

### **Cabinet Members:**

Councillor S Davies	Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Pride Programme
Councillor R A Overton	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Enforcement
Councillor L D Carter	Cabinet Member for Finance, Commercial Services and Economic Development
Councillor A R H England	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
Councillor R C Evans	Cabinet Member for People Services, Visitor Economy and Partnerships
Councillor J C Minor	Cabinet Member for Leisure, Green Spaces and Parks
Councillor S A W Reynolds	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Councillor H Rhodes	Cabinet Member for Transport, Roads and Broadband
Councillor P R Watling	Cabinet Member for Children & Adults Early Help & Support

### **Invitees**

Councillor A J Eade	Conservative
Councillor W L Tomlinson	Liberal Democrat/Independent

## **AGENDA**

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1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
3.	<b>Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18 October 2018</b>	Appendix A 3
4.	<b>Overnight Closure of A&amp;E at Princess Royal Hospital</b>	Cllr S Davies
K 5.	<b>2018/19 Financial Management Report</b>	Cllr L D Carter Appendix B 7

Continued ...

K 6. **Declaration of Lightmoor Local Nature Reserve**

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

**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](http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20243/council_meetings/365/filming_photography_recording_and_use_of_social_networking_at_meetings)

## CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 15 November 2018 at 5.00pm in Meeting Rooms G3-G4, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2018

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2018)

**Present:** Councillors S Davies (Leader and Chair), R A Overton (Deputy Leader and Vice Chair), L D Carter, A R H England, R C Evans, J C Minor, S A W Reynolds and H Rhodes.

**Also Present:** Councillors A J Eade (Conservative Group Leader) and W L Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat / Independent Group Leader)

**CB-026**      **Apologies for Absence**

None.

**CB-027**      **Declarations of Interest**

None.

**CB-028**      **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**CB-029**      **Overnight Closure of A&E at Princess Royal Hospital**

The Leader provided an update on the Council's work to safeguard overnight A&E services at Princess Royal Hospital. 3000 people attended the recent march in protest of the closure and council leaders from across the West Midlands had supported the Council in opposing the closure. The Leader stated that the Trust entering Special Measures had negatively affected recruitment at SaTH and urged the Government to intervene rather than monitor. He called for the Future Fit Process to be halted and supported a national approach to support the Trust.

The Cabinet Members thanked the members of the public who had attended the march and signed the petition. Members supported the innovative approaches for encouraging recruitment at SaTH, such as the free accommodation for Doctors.

The Conservative Group Leader and Liberal Democrat / Independent Group Leader also expressed their concerns about the proposals and supported a cross-party approach. The Conservative Group Leader and Liberal Democrat / Independent Group Leader called for a renewed effort for members of the public to sign the Council's online petition.

**CB-030**      **2018/19 Financial Management Report**

**Key Decision** identified as **Financial Management Report 2018/19 Update** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 15 August 2018.

### **Reserved for Council**

Councillor L D Carter, Cabinet Member: Finance, Commercial Services & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance & Human Resources and Chief Financial Officer.

It was reported that the net projected outturn position for 2018/19 was estimated to be within budget. This was a positive position despite £7.6m savings being required to balance the 2017/18 budget, which currently left £4.8m uncommitted balance in the central contingency. Senior Managers would aim to sustain this position if possible, so that the one-off contingency benefit was available to support the medium term budget strategy. However, it was noted that potentially the Council could face significant financial pressures if, for example, the winter was particularly hard or if the NHS faced significant winter pressures.

Children's Safeguarding and Early Help & Support continued to be key areas of focus and both had cost improvement plans in place to reduce costs and deliver savings. These plans were monitored on a regular basis both by senior managers and Cabinet Members.

A number of variations from the approved budget were reported, including some beneficial variances. The key areas highlighted were:

- A benefit of £2.2m relating to Treasury Management activities - the majority of which related to benefits from low interest rates for short term borrowing.
- A benefit of £0.6m relating to the Property Investment Portfolio and delivery of benefits ahead of schedule from the Council's £50m Growth Fund Investments.
- Children's Safeguarding was a key pressure with an anticipated requirement for £2.9m additional investment necessary in the current year. This mainly related to the cost of placements for Looked after Children and the cost of social workers. A four year model was in place, designed to deliver efficiencies over the remainder of the year and medium term.
- Education & Corporate Parenting – the service was currently projecting that an overspend of £0.4m in the current year mainly relating to the cost of providing school transport and an increase in the number of children with high needs.

It was noted that the capital programme totalled £74.6m which included all approvals since the budget was set. At the time of compiling the report projected spend was 98% of the budget allocation. Some new allocations and slippage had been identified which would go to Full Council in January for formal approval.

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

**RESOLVED** that –

- (a) it be noted that 2018/19 revenue spending is currently projected to be within budget and work will continue with SMT to sustain this position, and approve the transfer to reserves as detailed in section 4.3 and Appendix 2 of the report, and the use of contingency detailed in section 5 with authority granted to the Director: Customer, Neighbourhood and Wellbeing Services after consultation with the Cabinet Member: Council Finance, Commercial Services and Economic Development;
- (b) 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; and
- (c) the collection rates for NNDR, council tax and sales ledger be noted;

### **CB-031      Declaration of Lightmoor Local Nature Reserve**

**Key Decision** identified as **Lightmoor Local Nature Reserve** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 17 October 2018.

Councillor J C Minor, Cabinet Member: Leisure, Green Spaces & Parks, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Employment.

The Council had made a commitment to the retention of locally important green spaces which had value to local communities. This already included the protection afforded to the Green Network through policies in the adopted Local Plan, through the existing 200 Green Guarantee Sites and 13 Local Nature Reserves. The report sets out proposals to designate a new Local Nature Reserve at Lightmoor. Through this commitment the area of LNR protected would increase by 24.4 hectares to a total of 477.4 hectares of approved LNR. The extent of LNR provision was nearly triple the minimum recommended standard and meant that 89% of households were within 300m of greenspace. Maps showing the proposed LNRs were attached to the report at Appendix 1 and 2.

These proposals had been developed by the 'Lightmoor LNR Steering Group' in liaison with the local community including the local Parish Councils and would involve local friends groups and volunteers carrying out small scale conservation tasks as part of the management of the sites. The designation of additional LNRs further reflected the Council's commitment to promoting health and wellbeing.

The selection, declaration and management of Local Nature Reserves was a function of local authorities. The proposed sites were all within Council ownership, with land to the north east of the proposed LNR within the Council's ownership and leased under a 999 year agreement to the Lightmoor New Community.

Following the approval, the sites would progress through a formal process with Natural England prior to final legal declaration.

Members welcomed the report and supported the protection of green spaces in the Borough.

**RESOLVED that –**

- (a) the declaration of Lightmoor Local Nature Reserve be approved in principle; and**
- (b) authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Employment to complete the declaration process.**

The meeting ended at 17.46.

**Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices**

Jonathan Eatough  
Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning  
Date: 21 November 2018

Signed: .....

Date: .....

## CABINET

# A

**Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 18 October 2018 at 5.00pm in Meeting Rooms G3-G4, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT**

**PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2018**

**(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2018)**

**Present:** Councillors S Davies (Leader and Chair), R A Overton (Deputy Leader and Vice Chair), L D Carter, A R H England, R C Evans, J C Minor, S A W Reynolds and H Rhodes.

**Also Present:** Councillors A J Eade (Conservative Group Leader) and W L Tomlinson (Liberal Democrat / Independent Group Leader)

**CB-019      Apologies for Absence**

Councillor P R Watling

**CB-020      Declarations of Interest**

None.

**CB-021      Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**CB-022      Overnight Closure of A&E at Princess Royal Hospital**

The Leader provided an update on the Council's work to safeguard overnight A&E services at Princess Royal Hospital. This included a meeting of the Leader and the Mayor with the Consul General of India, Birmingham to promote the need for doctors among Indian Hospitals, lobbying NHS Education to secure junior doctors and training places; and arranging a petition, rally and march to support the campaign. He welcomed a meeting which had taken place between the MP for Telford, the Ward Member for Ironbridge Gorge and the Secretary of State for Health but expressed disappointment that this had only resulted in a promise to monitor the situation, rather than rescue action. He also criticised calls to place the Hospital Trust in special measures, urging instead for the instatement of a rescue plan. During his speech the Leader criticised current government policies which he considered thwarted proposed measures to support the retention of services. The Leader stated that the Cabinet would do all in their power to stop the proposed overnight closure; he called for unity across the political divide and urged anyone with any influence to stop the overnight closure happening to take action.

A number of Cabinet Members supported the Leader's sentiments, sharing personal experiences and the fears constituents had expressed about the proposed overnight closure. Cabinet Members were also alarmed by the wider impact that the proposals

would have across the West Midlands as patients were diverted to hospitals across the region.

The Conservative Group Leader and Liberal Democrat / Independent Group Leader also expressed their concerns about the proposals and supported a cross-party approach.

### **CB-023      Pride in Our High Streets – Supporting Business**

**Key Decision** identified as **Pride in Our High Street** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 19 September 2018.

Councillor L D Carter, Cabinet Member: Finance, Commercial Services & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Employment which provided an update on the Pride in Our High Streets programme. He noted that since the launch in 2015, more than £1.5m had been invested into supporting businesses in the Borough's high streets recognising their value to local communities and economies. Phase one of the programme was completed in March 2018 which had seen nearly 30 projects supported across the borough, with the Council's investment of over £800,000 matched by £400,000 in in-kind and financial contributions from local organisations delivering activity. One of the most high profile projects funded was 'Let's Go Quackers' which brought fun, creativity and a significant increase in visitor numbers and social media interest in Ironbridge and Southwater generating £32,000 for charities Severn Hospice and the Jayne Sargent Foundation.

Phase 2 of the programme was investing a further £700,000 directly into High Streets, providing grant funding to bring empty properties back into use, improving shop fronts and facades and working with Parish and Town Councils to market and promote their High Streets. The programme was taking place alongside significant investment being made by a number of Town Councils, including Wellington, Oakengates and Dawley, who were investing in excess of £1m in high street regeneration projects.

The Empty Unit Retail Grant had attracted over 60 initial enquiries. The first grant award was made in Oakengates to support the establishment/expansion of Gems Haberdashers, with another award pending for a new shop to open in Wellington and a number of other investments in the pipeline. The Property Façade Improvement programme was also underway and would be transforming key parts of 6 of the borough town high streets over the coming months.

Almost 1,000 young people had engaged in the innovative Young High Street Challenge, a unique project that involved young people directly in the future of the high streets. Such was the interest from schools and the quality of proposals to reinvigorate the High Street that 3 schools were due to see their ideas delivered in their local High Street supported by funding of £10k- £20k apiece.

The programme was also delivering a pilot scheme for high street wi-fi to meet a public demand for wi-fi over and above that already available through public buildings, cafes and other hot spots.

The targeted activity was complemented by the wider Community Pride programme, which was delivering further investment across all the borough's high streets and local centres to encourage growth.

Members welcomed the report.

**RESOLVED** that –

- (a) the progress made to date in the Phase 2 Pride in Our High Street programme be noted; and
- (b) the inclusion of Ironbridge in the Empty Retail Unit grant programme be approved for the reasons set out in the report.

**CB-024**      **Supported Employment Scheme**

**Key Decision** identified as **Supported Employment Policy** in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 19 September 2018.

Councillor R C Evans, Cabinet Member: Customer Services, Tourism & Partnerships, presented the report of the Organisational Delivery & Development Manager, Skills Service Manager & My Options Manager which set out a renewed approach to the Council's work to support a number of key groups to help them tackle barriers to employment and support individuals to fulfil their potential. The revised scheme would deliver:

- 'work experience' placements for young people and adults returning to work;
- ring-fenced apprenticeships for care leavers;
- paid-employment placements for adults with learning disabilities;
- supported internships for young people with Education, Health & Care Plans.

Members welcomed the report and ethos of raising aspiration.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed **Supported Employment scheme** be approved.

**CB-025**      **Adult Social Care Local Account 2016/17 – 2017/18 & Telford & Wrekin's Making it Real Board**

**Non-Key Decision**

In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Children & Adults Early Help & Support, the Assistant Director: Adult Social Care presented this report. Local accounts were a core component of the overall approach to sector led improvement in Adult Social Care. Other areas of the include peer challenge and support, benchmarking common data sets and making best use of resources from accessing best practice in how to deliver good outcomes for local people who use services, at a time of diminishing resources and growing demand. Together, these improvement components enabled the Council to be self-aware of performance and to set priorities through engaging with local people.

A key vehicle for engaging with local people with lived experience of adult social care was the new Making It Real Board for Telford and Wrekin. This was a national initiative that set out what people who used services and carers expected to see and experience if support services were truly personalised. There was a set of "progress markers" - written by real people and families - that could help the Service to check progress towards transforming adult social care. The aim of Making it Real was for people to have more choice and control so that they could live full and independent lives.

The draft Local Account for 2016/17 and 2017/18 was appended to the report.

Members welcomed the report, noting the outcomes that had been achieved against a backdrop of financial pressure.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted and the draft Local Account 2016/17 and 2017/18 be approved.**

The meeting ended at 6.15pm

**Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices**

Jonathan Eatough  
Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning  
Date: 24 October 2018

Signed: .....  
Date: .....

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 15 NOVEMBER 2018  
COUNCIL – 22 NOVEMBER 2018**

**B**

**2018/19 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: FINANCE & H.R. (CHIEF  
FINANCIAL OFFICER)**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER: CLLR LEE CARTER**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1.0 SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

**1.1 2018/19 Revenue**

The net projected outturn position for 2018/19 is currently estimated to be within budget. This is after using £0.8m of the centrally held contingency which leaves £4.8m available to meet any unforeseen costs or further pressures over the rest of the year, for example additional social care costs or road gritting costs should the weather over the winter months be particularly severe. If the balance of the contingency fund which is held as part of our sound financial management arrangements is not required in year, it will be used to support the delivery of services to the community as part of our overall medium term service and financial planning strategy.

It is a positive position given that £7.6m savings were required to balance the 2018/19 budget and the aim is that senior managers will sustain this position and make further improvements where possible by year end.

Children's Safeguarding & Early Help continues to be a key area of focus and there are a number of strategies underway to reduce costs and deliver savings. A cost improvement plan is in place, as is also the case with Adult Social Care. These are monitored on a regular basis by senior managers and Cabinet Members.

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

- A benefit of £2.2m relating to Treasury Management activities - the majority of which relates to benefits from low interest rates for short term borrowing. Some long term borrowing has been taken in 2018/19 to reduce interest rate exposure and the position is regularly monitored by senior finance staff with advice taken from the Council's external treasury management advisors.

- A benefit of £0.6m relating to the Property Investment Portfolio and delivery of benefits ahead of schedule from the Council's £50m Growth Fund Investments.
- Children's Safeguarding & Early Help is a key pressure area with additional investment of £2.9m required which is mainly due to the cost of placements for Looked after Children. This position is after applying £0.5m one off balances, set aside at last year end to support the delivery of the cost improvement plan. A four year model is in place which is designed to deliver efficiencies over the remainder of the year and medium term.
- Education & Corporate Parenting – overall the service is currently projecting an overspend of £0.4m. This is a combination of the cost of providing school transport and an increase in the number of children with high needs.

The funding outlook for the medium term is still uncertain however it is anticipated that the Council will need to identify a further £20m-£25m savings by the end of 2020/21 on top of the £117m savings already delivered, so it is important that we maintain our excellent track record of robust active budget management and maximise the position in 2018/19 which will assist in future years.

## 1.2 **Capital**

The capital programme totals £74.6m which includes all approvals since the budget was set. At the time of compiling this report projected spend was 98% of the budget allocation.

There are some new allocations, re-phasing and virements identified which will go forward to Full Council for formal approval.

## 1.3 **Corporate Income Collection**

Council Tax, Business Rates and outstanding Sales Ledger debt are currently slightly behind targets set. Overall, the amount of cash collected is higher than at the same point last year. In total £2.5m more cash has been collected than at the same point last year.

## 2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### 2.1 Cabinet Members are asked to:-

- (i) Note that 2018/19 revenue spending is currently projected to be within budget and continue to work with SMT to sustain this position. Also to approve the transfers to reserves detailed in section 4.3 and Appendix 2; and the use of contingency detailed in section 5 with delegated authority granted to the Director: Customer, Neighbourhood & Wellbeing Services after consultation with the Cabinet Member: Council Finance, Commercial Services and Economic Development.

- (ii) Note the position in relation to capital spend and Cabinet are asked to recommend that Council approve the new allocations, virements and re-phasing detailed in Appendix 3;
- (iii) Note the collection rates for NNDR, council tax and sales ledger.

### **SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	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	
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE</b>	To outturn within the budget set for 2018/19 at 31/3/19.	
<b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	The financial impacts are detailed throughout the report.
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	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.
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	No	Budget holders actively manage their budgets and the many financial risks and challenges that council services face, examples include the risk of a particularly harsh winter which would impact adversely on the winter gritting and adult social care budgets, the increasing dependency on income from a wide range of activities and the risk of interest rate movements. The Council has comprehensive risk management arrangements in place and an appropriate level of contingency within its revenue budget as detailed in this report.

<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	No	
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## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **4.0 2018/19 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/more volatile); less frequent financial monitoring is undertaken on budgets deemed to be medium to lower risk.

4.2 The overall 2018/19 budget position is summarised in the table below:

Service Area	Net Revenue Budget	Variation Cabinet 12 July	Movement	Current Variation	Variation as a % of Net Revenue Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Business, Development & Employment	(860)	0	0	0	0.0%
Finance & HR	9,645	(1,500)	(892)	(2,392)	-24.8%
Cooperative Council Team	1,181	0	(6)	(6)	-0.5%
Children's Safeguarding & Early Help	28,854	841	2,043	2,884	10.0%
Education & Corporate Parenting	11,943	494	(142)	352	2.9%
Adult Social Care	42,414	0	62	62	0.1%
Governance, Procurement & Commissioning	2,884	(97)	(43)	(140)	-4.9%
Health & Wellbeing	2,635	5	284	289	11.0%
Customer & Neighbourhood Services	30,875	(327)	(145)	(472)	-1.5%
Commercial Services*	1,774	62	158	220	12.4%
Council Wide	(10,278)	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,067</b>	<b>(522)</b>	<b>1,319</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>Use of Contingency</b>			<b>(1,319)</b>	<b>(797)</b>	
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>121,067</b>	<b>(522)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

\* this Service Area covers a range of services including non-commercial services such as homelessness, housing and ICT

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

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Variance £m</b>
<b><u>Business, Development &amp; Employment</u></b>	
<b>Planning Delivery</b> – planning fee additional income	-0.130
<b>Property Investment Portfolio</b> – early delivery of Growth Fund investments.	-0.653
<b>Contribution to Reserve</b> – to support future investment proposals.	+0.724
<b><u>Finance &amp; HR</u></b>	
<b>Treasury Management</b> – a benefit is currently reported due to reduced borrowing costs associated with short-term borrowing at very low interest rates. The position is regularly monitored by senior finance staff and the Council’s external treasury management advisors and some longer term borrowing has been undertaken in 2018/19 to manage the risk of interest rate exposure.	-2.200
<b><u>Cooperative Council Team</u></b>	
There are no variations over £100k to report at present.	
<b><u>Children’s Safeguarding &amp; Early Help</u></b>	
<b>Assessments</b> – the creation of in-house assessment capacity has reduced the costs of assessments.	-0.166
<b>Children in Care Placements</b> – projected spend is higher than budget as although the number of new placements has stabilised there have been an increasing number of more expensive specialist placements required for looked after children with complex emotional and behavioural needs over the course of the year which outweighs the number of targeted step downs achieved.	+2.263
<b>Partner Contributions</b> - a Joint Working Protocol is in the process of being developed to reflect the changing needs of vulnerable children and young people in Telford and Wrekin which will provide clear guidance as to how, in cases which require complex coordination, professionals from Social Care, Education and Health will work together and will assist in	

<p>determining contribution splits ensuring that there is equity in terms of financial contribution from partners including the CCG.</p> <p><b>Leaving Care</b> – the overspend relates to a small number of care leavers with high levels of needs.</p> <p><b>Staffing</b> – savings from vacant posts</p> <p><b>Contribution from Reserves</b> – set aside at 2017/18 year end to support delivery of the Cost Improvement Plan.</p>	<p>+0.547</p> <p>-0.154</p> <p>-0.500</p>
<p><b><u>Education &amp; Corporate Parenting</u></b></p> <p><b>Specialist Services</b> – increasing numbers of children and young people with high needs has meant that the service has not yet achieved anticipated savings; work is ongoing to increase the amount of traded income and to use grant funding flexibility where possible.</p> <p><b>School Transport (pre 16)</b> – the overspend relates to a saving target not yet delivered. Expenditure has been impacted by the increase in the numbers of children and young people with high needs. Work is ongoing to reduce costs.</p> <p><b>Corporate Parenting</b> – an increase in Pupil Premium Grant allocated to Telford &amp; Wrekin which has funded an element of the costs resulting in an underspend.</p>	<p>+0.170</p> <p>+0.457</p> <p>-0.131</p>
<p><b><u>Adult Social Care</u></b></p> <p><b>Purchasing</b> – the benefits of social care interventions are starting to materialise, however there is a lead time and some cost reductions will take longer to achieve. The result is a residual pressure on the 2018/19 budget.</p> <p><b>Income</b> – projected client contributions are higher than budgeted.</p> <p><b>Income</b> – projected contributions from Health due to successful negotiations with the CCG and receiving contributions to fund clients health needs.</p> <p><b>Government Grant</b> – reflects the recently announced “Winter Funding” of £0.774m.</p>	<p>+1.432</p> <p>-0.513</p> <p>-0.150</p> <p>-0.746</p>
<p><b><u>Governance, Procurement &amp; Commissioning</u></b></p> <p>There are no variations over £100k to report at present.</p>	

<b><u>Health &amp; Wellbeing</u></b>	
<b>My Options</b> – additional operating costs associated with Community Wellbeing and Community Support, Day Services and Homecare Services	+0.111
<b><u>Customer &amp; Neighbourhood Services</u></b>	
<b>Concessionary Travel</b> – lower take up of the service has resulted in the current projected underspend.	-0.101
<b>Sweeping</b> – underspend due to the tonnage for sweepings being lower than budgeted.	-0.117
<b>Street Lighting/ Highway Lighting</b> – reduction in electricity costs due to the implementation of the LED efficiency programme across the Borough.	-0.316
<b>Transfer to Reserves</b> – to fund essential play area resurfacing in 2019/20.	+0.225
<b><u>Commercial Services</u></b>	
<b>Temporary Accommodation</b> – rental income shortfall in relation to the move from one large refuge to two smaller properties which was necessary in order to meet the needs of the client group.	+0.120

## 5.0 **CONTINGENCIES**

- 5.1 The 2018/19 budget includes a prudent general contingency of £3.8m, 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 £2.1m which forms part of the approved revenue budget and will only be allocated to specific budgets when the relevant inflation information is 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:

	<b>£'000</b>
General Revenue Contingency	3.787
Inflation Contingency	2.113
<b>Total Contingencies</b>	<b>5.900</b>

<b>Previously Approved Use:</b>	-0.191
<b>Proposed Use:</b>	
Cultural/Community/Visitor/Educational Activity	-0.120
<b>Commitments:</b>	
Required to meet the current revenue pressures	-0.797
<b>Residual Balance</b>	<b>4.792</b>

The current revenue position is projected to be within budget at year end after using £0.8m of the contingency leaving £4.8m available to meet any unforeseen costs in the remainder of the year.

5.2 As part of the 2018/19 budget £17.85m of one-off resources were identified to support the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Planned use over the next two years is £7.5m which leaves £10.35m as additional assurance as we enter the next planning period which has a very high level of uncertainty. There is no information currently available to enable estimates of the impact of:-

- The move to 75% business rates retention,
- The impact of the Government's "Fair Funding Review"
- The implications of the "reset" of the business rates baseline
- The implications of the planned 2019 Comprehensive Spending Review and changes to the MoHC&LG departmental Expenditure Limit
- Any associated transitional damping or protection arrangements

All of these major changes are scheduled to come in to effect from 2020/21 making medium term financial planning projections less certain than has ever been the case previously.

It is therefore essential that the Council maintains flexibility in its medium term service and financial planning strategy and continues to develop options for delivering further ongoing savings and retaining an appropriate level of one-off resources to support the transition to the new system.

## **6.0 CAPITAL**

### **6.1 2018/19 Capital Programme**

The capital programme totals £74.6m, which includes the approvals proposed in this report.

The financial position is shown in the table below which shows projected spend is currently shown at £73.3m.

Service Area	Current Budget	Spend to Date	% Spend	Year End Projection
	£m	£m		£m
Development Business & Employment	25.67	8.1	31.68%	25.67
Customer & Neighbourhood Services	24.46	8.0	32.79%	25.95
Education & Corporate Parenting	9.65	1.8	18.31%	7.98
Adult Social Care	1.01	0.4	36.91%	1.01
Health & Well-Being	0.06	0.0	85.41%	0.06
Cooperative Council	2.14	0.3	14.17%	2.14
Governance Procurement & Commissioning	0.26	0.1	32.81%	0.26
Finance & Human Resources	2.76	0.4	12.77%	2.10
Commercial Services	8.60	3.2	36.88%	8.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>74.61</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>73.33</b>

6.2 Some new allocations, virements and re-phasing are identified for approval which are detailed in Appendix 3.

6.3 The 2018/19 capital programme relies on £10.9m of receipts as part of its funding (after adjusting for changes already approved). Capital receipts included in the medium term budget strategy are under continual review and any changes will be reflected in future budget projections.

## **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, sales ledger collection, council tax and NNDR collection are slightly behind target. However, cash collection has increased for council tax and sales ledger income streams compared to last year, although NNDR has reduced due to the national revaluation exercise.

<b>INCOME COLLECTION – Sept 2018</b>				
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Performance</b>	<b>Change in cash collected on last year</b>
Council Tax Collection	55.36%	55.70%	0.34% behind target	+£2,108,961
NNDR Collection	57.60%	59.00%	1.40% behind target	-£486,115
Sales Ledger Outstanding Debt	5.33%	4.70%	0.63% behind of target	+£827,272

### 7.3 Council Tax (£83.5m)

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 2017/18	97.3%
Year End Target for 2018/19	97.4%

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

Month End Target	Month End Actual	Last year Actual
55.70%	55.36%	55.63%

There is over £4 million more to collect in council tax during 2018/19 compared to 2017/18, and we've now collected over £2.1m more in council tax this year compared to last year. Collection rates for council tax are 0.3% behind target which has followed a similar trend so far this financial year.

### 7.4 NNDR-Business Rates (£76.3m)

The % of business rates for 2018/19 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 2017/18	98.6%
Year End Target for 2018/19	98.7%

Month End Target	Month End Actual	Last year Actual
59.00%	57.60%	58.81%

Business rates is 1.4% behind target, but business rates tends to fluctuate throughout the year slightly. Close monitoring of this will take place over the next few months.

#### 7.5 **Sales Ledger (£57.5m)**

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 2018/19 are as follows:

Age of debt	Annual Target %	Sept 2018	
		£m	%
Total	4.70	2,922	5.33%

Sales ledger performance is just outside target. Work over the next few months will focus on collecting the highest invoices which are outstanding, paying particular focus to ASC debt.

#### 8.0 **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

01/03/18 – Council, Service & Financial Planning Strategy

31/05/18 - Cabinet, Service & Financial Planning Report – 2017/18 Outturn and 2018/19 Update

1/07/18 – Cabinet, 2018/19 Financial Management Report

#### 9.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

2018/19 Budget Strategy / Financial Ledger reports

#### **Report Prepared by:**

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

Pauline Harris, Corporate Finance Manager – 01952 383701

### Summary of 2018/19 Projected Variations

Service Area	Net Revenue Budget	Variation Cabinet 12 July	Movement	Current Variation	Variation as a % of Net Revenue Budget
	£	£	£	£	%
Business, Development & Employment	(860,214)	0	0	0	0.0%
Finance & HR	9,644,991	(1,500,000)	(893,040)	(2,393,040)	-24.8%
Cooperative Council Team	1,180,878	0	(5,754)	(5,754)	-0.5%
Children's Safeguarding & Early Help	28,853,531	840,638	2,043,426	2,884,064	10.0%
Education & Corporate Parenting	11,942,642	493,898	(141,674)	352,224	2.9%
Adult Social Care	42,414,383	0	61,898	61,898	0.1%
Governance, Procurement & Commissioning	2,884,008	(97,350)	(42,676)	(140,026)	-4.9%
Health & Wellbeing	2,635,259	4,680	284,273	288,953	11.0%
Customer & Neighbourhood Services	30,875,339	(327,103)	(144,506)	(471,609)	-1.5%
Commercial Services	1,773,690	62,491	157,970	220,461	12.4%
Council Wide	(10,278,032)	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,066,475</b>	<b>(522,746)</b>	<b>1,319,918</b>	<b>797,171</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>Use of Contingency</b>			<b>(1,319,918)</b>	<b>(797,171)</b>	
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>121,066,475</b>	<b>(522,746)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

2018/19 Revenue Budget Variations over £50,000				
Description		Budget	Variation	Comments
		£	£	
<b>Business, Development &amp; Employment</b>				
Planning Determination (Statutory)	Supplies & Services	5,830	94,170	Estimated planning appeal costs based on past years performance.
AP- Planning Delivery	Net impact on Income	(1,463,300)	(130,830)	Planning fee income over delivery including additional ApT income.
Regeneration & Investments	PIP	(5,599,040)	(653,000)	Early delivery of Growth fund investments, 19/20 saving already approved.
BDE	Contributions to Reserve		724,000	Contributions to reserve to support future investment proposals
Variations under £50k		6,196,296	(34,340)	
<b>Total Business, Development &amp; Employment</b>		<b>(860,214)</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Finance &amp; HR</b>				
Treasury Management		7,559,186	(2,200,000)	Reduced borrowing costs due to low short-term interest rates. The position is regularly monitored by senior finance staff and the Council's external treasury management advisors and some longer term borrowing has already been undertaken in 2018/19 to manage the risk of interest rate exposure.
Bank Charges	Supplies & Services	64,250	(54,250)	Reduction in level of bank charges due to revised banking arrangements with Iloyds. Charges projected at similar level to 2017/18.
External Audit Fees	Supplies & Services	201,590	(100,000)	Saving from renegotiation of external audit fee with Grant Thornton
Variations under £50,000		1,819,965	(38,790)	
<b>Total Finance &amp; HR</b>		<b>9,644,991</b>	<b>(2,393,040)</b>	
<b>Cooperative Council Team</b>				
Variations under £50,000		1,180,878	(5,754)	
<b>Total Cooperative Council Team</b>		<b>1,180,878</b>	<b>(5,754)</b>	
<b>Children's Safeguarding &amp; Early Help</b>				
CIC Placements		13,079,120	2,262,779	Projected expenditure is running at a significantly higher level than the budget and also 2017/18 expenditure (which was £14.2m). There have been a significant number of new or more expensive placements for young people with complex needs during the year, which have more than outweighed the stepdowns that have been achieved. From the Council's perspective, some of these placements are for young people with significant health needs, particularly around mental health. However, in the absence of confirmation from the CCG of the contributions they will make, the monitoring currently assumes the same level of CCG contributions to placements costs as in 2017/18, i.e. £280,000. The one exception to this is CCG contributions to the prospective costs of a young person stepping down from a Tier 4 bed, for whom we have assumed a CCG contribution of half the placement costs - this is in addition to the £280,000.

2018/19 Revenue Budget Variations over £50,000				
Description		Budget	Variation	Comments
		£	£	
Leaving Care		391,542	546,631	A small number of young people have recently left care but have a very high level of need. Seven young people account for over 60% of the projected expenditure in this area.
Staffing - salaries		10,428,983	(158,418)	Significant expenditure continues to be incurred on agency staff in areas where recruitment continues to be challenging, but savings from vacancies are forecast to exceed the additional costs associated with agency staff.
Assessments		367,003	(166,133)	The variation reflects the creation of an in house service offering mother and baby assessments which has reduced the requirement for external assessments to be undertaken.
Children with Disabilities		38,050	77,319	The variation is due to adaptations made to a house to enable a young person to move from residential accommodation to foster carers. The investment will be more than offset by savings in placement costs.
Children in Care Adoption Allowances		180,340	70,568	There has been a significant increase (from 18 to 27) in young people adopted since the start of the year, with a corresponding increase in adoption allowances. Whilst this has created a budget pressure in this area, an increase in adoptions is likely to be positive for the financial situation of Safeguarding as a whole as, it means that the children and young people are not being placed in more expensive options.
Joint Adoption Service		506,935	78,095	T&W is part of a joint adoption service with Shropshire Council. An increased budget for the service was agreed between the two authorities earlier in the year and a repeat of the underspend against budget in 2017/18 is unlikely to be achieved. See also comment above regarding adoption allowances
Under £50k		3,006,096	579,007	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>27,998,069</b>	<b>3,289,848</b>	
Use of contingency			(500,000)	
Independent Review - Staffing		533,824	86,137	The cost of the agreed staffing numbers currently exceeds the available budget.
Independent Review - Under £50k		321,638	8,079	
<b>Total Children's Safeguarding &amp; E.H.</b>		<b>28,853,531</b>	<b>2,884,064</b>	
<b>Education &amp; Corporate Parenting</b>				
Specialist Services		616,826	169,778	The service has recently restructured but in the context of increasing numbers of children and young people with high needs, the service has not yet been able to reduce costs sufficiently to achieve the savings target. Work is ongoing to increase the amount of traded income generated by the Education Psychology service and to use grant funding flexibly to offset costs where possible.

2018/19 Revenue Budget Variations over £50,000				
Description		Budget	Variation	Comments
		£	£	
School Transport (pre 16)		2,515,653	457,000	Expenditure on home to school transport is currently forecast to be at a similar level to 2017/18, but last year and this year's budgets included significant savings targets. There is on going work in this area to deliver these savings, including encouraging parents to transport their children to school where possible and more sharing of taxis. The number of coaches required to transport children to mainstream schools has been reduced from September 2018 and further reductions will be made in future years as denominational transport ceased for new pupils in September 2017. and changes in catchment areas will also reduce the number of coaches required. However, expenditure on transport is being impacted by the increase in the numbers of children and young people with high needs in the area, as the majority of expenditure on education transport is related to high needs. This is offsetting some of the savings that are being delivered.
Transport (post 16)		165,420	50,000	This area has recently transferred across to Education & Corporate Parenting from Business, Development & Employment. The variation arises from a combination of some 2017/18 costs falling into 2018/19 and increases in contractual costs. Work is ongoing to clarify the costs from September 2018 and a more precise projected outturn will be possible after this work.
Corporate Parenting		201,684	(131,458)	Looked after Children (LAC) are entitled to a higher rate of Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) and the grant is overseen by each local authority's virtual head. The grant can be used both for the local authority's duties and also allocated to the schools attended by LACs. An increase in the PPG being allocated to T&W has enabled more of the costs of the Corporate Parenting team to be funded by PPG, thus producing a budget saving.
Variations under £50,000		8,443,059	(193,096)	
<b>Total Education &amp; Corporate Parenting</b>		<b>11,942,642</b>	<b>352,224</b>	
<b>Adult Social Care</b>				
Purchasing - all client groups		50,487,442	1,432,493	Although there is some pressure relating to the purchase of block care packages for ALD residential clients, projections for most other client groups are currently showing the benefits of Social Care Interventions. However, the implementation lead time for some of the interventions has resulted in some expected cost reduction in services taking longer to achieve, this is particularly true of the movement of clients to independent living in supported accommodation, and the delivery of reductions to the numbers in the current My Options day care services. Some of this pressure will be offset by the "Winter Funding" grant detailed below.
Income generation:	Client contributions	(5,379,623)	(512,989)	It is difficult to forecast the level of client contributions for the year as they are means tested based on capital wealth and income of the client being cared for. The estimates are based on current known information and it is anticipated that the level of income will be more than the original base estimate.
	Health contributions	(926,000)	(150,000)	Continued successful negotiation with the CCG in receiving a contribution to clients with a partial health need or full health funding in a few cases in addition to an increased contribution to reablement activity means that current forecast income is in excess of the budget set.

2018/19 Revenue Budget Variations over £50,000				
Description		Budget	Variation	Comments
		£	£	
Operational teams	Government Grant	(6,574,234)	(745,903)	The variation reflects the "Winter Funding" grant recently announced by Government, the Council's allocation being £774,291 in 2018/19. This will be used to offset the pressure projected within purchasing and operational teams which arises from the need to improve Delayed transfers of care performance, thereby getting patients home quicker and freeing up hospital beds.
Variations under £50k	Employee and operational expenditure	5,237,306	43,483	This pressure will be offset by the " Winter Funding" grant detailed above.
		(430,508)	(5,186)	
<b>Total Adult Social Care</b>		<b>42,414,383</b>	<b>61,898</b>	
<b>Governance, Procurement &amp; Commissioning</b>				
Assurance services		72,302	(54,344)	Largely arising from additional income generated from providing advice and support re GDPR/Data protection
Legal Service		1,098,611	61,910	Pressure arising from reduced level of income generated and printing /operational costs
Budgeted recharges for the above services		(1,170,913)	0	
Variations under £50k		2,884,008	(147,592)	Largely down to achievement of income generation which is included in the proposals for savings over the next two years, and some savings on general operational budgets
<b>Total Governance, Procurement &amp; Commissioning</b>		<b>2,884,008</b>	<b>(140,026)</b>	
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>				
My Options	Trading Account	467,001	111,184	Community wellbeing and Community support, day services and homecare services respectively are the areas of the business under pressure. Overall income generation remains strong with the Community day service being at capacity, however the costs of operating the services has increased on last year and this is resulting in reduced contributions to offset other costs of operation. The position is reviewed monthly and this has been a steadily improving projection for the year with cautious optimism that the outturn will continue to improve as the year progresses
Variations under £50k		2,168,258	177,769	
<b>Total Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>		<b>2,635,259</b>	<b>288,953</b>	
<b>Customer &amp; Neighbourhood Services</b>				
Concessionary Travel	Supplies & Services	1,653,820	(101,078)	Reduction in costs of concessionary travel as a result of lower take up of service.

2018/19 Revenue Budget Variations over £50,000				
Description		Budget	Variation	Comments
		£	£	
Waste Management	Employees	307,900	(51,748)	Post being held vacant to contribute towards future savings targets.
Sweeping	Third Party Payments	276,870	(117,264)	Underspend on waste due to the tonnage for sweepings being significantly lower than budget, this is consistent with reduced tonnages experienced in 2017/18.
Street lighting	Premises Related Expenditure	607,780	(176,233)	Reduction in electricity costs due to the implementation of the LED efficiency programme across the Borough
Highway Lighting	Premises Related Expenditure	779,910	(140,216)	
Off Street Car Parking	Income	(214,180)	57,792	Impact of pay and display machines at Ironbridge being out of action for a period of time whilst new machines were being installed.
Trading Standards	Employees	349,510	(74,100)	Early delivery of restructure savings which is being used to offset income pressures in the current year
Transfer to Reserves			225,000	To fund essential play area maintenance in 2019/20
Variations Under £50k		27,113,729	(93,762)	
<b>Total Customer &amp; Neighbourhood Services</b>		<b>30,875,339</b>	<b>(471,609)</b>	
<b>Commercial Services</b>				
Housing & Nuplace	Temporary Accommodation - Income	(236,510)	120,461	Rental income shortfall in relation to the move from one large refuge to two smaller properties to meet the needs of the client group. This reduction in size has led to an income shortfall. Currently reviewing use of second property which may mitigate this pressure or adjusting the rental amount as a family home to bring in additional income. This review will be completed by end of October.
	Temporary Accommodation - Contribution from reserves	0	(60,000)	Use of one off reserves in relation to temporary accommodation pressure.
Variations under £50k		2,010,200	160,000	Projected income pressures within Leisure linked to the potential impact of new competitors entering the gym market locally, the full impact of which is currently being reviewed but could significantly increase this pressure. An action plan is in place to mitigate this pressure as far as possible. There is also a projected pressure for the Arthog Outdoor Education Centre which is linked to a reduction in bookings from Shropshire Schools between January-March 2019. An action place is in place to mitigate this pressure as far as possible.
<b>Total Commercial Services</b>		<b>1,773,690</b>	<b>220,461</b>	
<b>Corporate</b>				
<b>Total Corporate</b>		<b>(10,278,032)</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>121,066,475</b>	<b>797,171</b>	

**Capital Approvals - by Service Area**

Appendix 3

<b>Virements</b>							
Scheme	Service Area	Funding Source	18/19 £	19/20 £	20/21 £	21/22 £	Later Yrs £
Asset Management Plan - General Works & Surveys	Commercial Services	Prudential	(30,000.00)				
All Other School schemes	Education & Corporate Parenting	Prudential	30,000.00				

<b>Rephasing</b>							
Scheme	Service Area	Funding Source	18/19 £	19/20 £	20/21 £	21/22 £	Later Yrs £
Customer Services Systems Development	Customer & Neighbourhood Services	Prudential	(500,000.00)	500,000.00			
Telford Growth Package	Customer & Neighbourhood Services	Prudential	560,362.66	(560,362.66)			
Telford Growth Package	Customer & Neighbourhood Services	External	(982,603.57)	982,603.57			
Newport Innovation & Enterprise Package	Customer & Neighbourhood Services	Grant	(1,000,000.00)	1,000,000.00			
Managing the funding of the capital programme	Finance and Human Resources	Capital Receipts	2,780,000.00	(2,880,000.00)	(900,000.00)	3,000,000.00	(2,000,000.00)
Managing the funding of the capital programme	Finance and Human Resources	Prudential	(2,780,000.00)	2,880,000.00	900,000.00	(3,000,000.00)	2,000,000.00
Efficiency scheme capitalisation	Finance and Human Resources	Capital Receipts	(2,000,000.00)	2,000,000.00			
Property Investment Programme	Development Business and Employment	Prudential	(1,000,000.00)	1,000,000.00			
HCA Liabilities Sites	Development Business and Employment	External	(1,358,116.01)	1,358,116.01			
Wholly Owned Investment Company	Development Business and Employment	Prudential	(644,000.00)	644,000.00			
All Other school schemes	Education & Corporate Parenting	Capital Receipts	(700,000.00)	700,000.00			
All Other School schemes	Education & Corporate Parenting	Grant	(3,180,216.00)	3,180,216.00			
All Other School schemes	Education & Corporate Parenting	S106	(31,585.75)	31,585.75			
St Georges Regeneration	Commercial Services	Prudential	(566,000.00)	566,000.00			
Estate Car Parking	Customer & Neighbourhood Services	Revenue	(300,000.00)	300,000.00			
Orleton Park recreation	Development Business and Employment	Prudential	(950,000.00)	950,000.00			
Housing	Commercial Services	Prudential	(709,027.25)	709,027.25			
Housing	Development Business and Employment	Prudential	(1,850,000.00)	2,000,000.00	(50,000.00)	(50,000.00)	(50,000.00)
Housing	Development Business and Employment	External	(150,000.00)		50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>(15,361,185.92)</b>	<b>15,361,185.92</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

<b>New Allocations</b>							
Scheme	Service Area	Funding Source	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	Later Yrs
All other School Schemes	Education & Corporate Parenting	Grant	1,263,294.13				
All other School Schemes	Education & Corporate Parenting	Revenue	36,471.37				
All Other School schemes	Education & Corporate Parenting	External	52,050.69				
Performance information systems	Co-operative Council	Revenue	78,460.00				
Asset Management Plan - General Works & Surveys	Commercial Services	Revenue	90,000.00				
ICT/ eGov	Commercial Services	Revenue	100,000.00				
Estate Car Parking	Customer and Neighbourhood Services	Revenue	300,000.00				
Property Investment Programme	Development Business and Employment	Revenue	155,200.00				
Rights of Way	Customer and Neighbourhood Services	Revenue	100,000.00				
Legacy Fund	Co-operative Council	Revenue	(49,158.67)				
Integrated Community Alarms	Early Help & Support	Prudential	133,000.00				
Newport Innovation & Enterprise Package	Customer & Neighbourhood Services	External		(122,875.05)			
Town Centre Connectivity	Customer & Neighbourhood Services	Prudential	1,324,542.00				
Town Centre Connectivity	Customer & Neighbourhood Services	External	(1,324,542.00)				
Freshwater First	Customer & Neighbourhood Services	Grant	(27,000.00)				
Housing	Commercial Services	Capital Receipt	(110,000.00)				
Housing	Development Business and Employment	Prudential	475,000.00	(187,640.00)	(187,640.00)		
Housing	Development Business and Employment	External	(475,000.00)	187,640.00	187,640.00		
Managing the funding of the capital programme	Finance and Human Resources	Capital Receipts	82,250.00			410,000.00	
Managing the funding of the capital programme	Finance and Human Resources	Prudential	(82,250.00)			(410,000.00)	
A442 Dualling - Leegomery to Hadley	Customer and Neighbourhood Services	External	68,010.00				
LED Lighting Invest to Save	Customer and Neighbourhood Services	Prudential		167,000.00			
Children's & Adults ICT Systems Review	Early Help and Support	Prudential		70,000.00			
Pride - Community Fund Grants	Co-operative Council	Revenue	30,000.00				
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,220,327.52</b>	<b>114,124.95</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**CABINET 15/11/2018**

**DECLARATION OF LIGHTMOOR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE.**

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: BUSINESS, DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR J MINOR**

**C**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 The Council places great importance on the protection of, and the provision of access to, the natural environment. The Council has made a commitment to identify, retain and protect locally important green spaces valued by the local community for both the wildlife they support and the opportunities they provide for leisure, recreation and the positive impacts they bring to health and wellbeing.
- 1.2 The protection of the natural environment is delivered through a hierarchy of statutory and non-statutory site designations and a series of planning policies set out in the Telford and Wrekin Local Plan.
- 1.3 Telford and Wrekin's designated site network currently includes;
  - 8 Sites of Special Scientific Interest
  - 47 Local Wildlife Sites
  - 9 designated Local Nature Reserves
  - 4 adopted Local Nature Reserves
  - 4 proposed Local Nature Reserves
  - 200 Green Guarantee Sites
  - 52 Ancient Woodland Sites, and
  - 25 Local Geological Sites
- 1.4 The adoption of Lightmoor Local Nature Reserve will add to the thirteen reserves already adopted by Cabinet, increasing the coverage of adopted LNR's by 24.4 hectares to 477.4 hectares.
- 1.5 This report sets out proposals for cabinet to approve the declaration of Lightmoor Local Nature Reserve under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- 1.6 Lightmoor proposed Local Nature Reserve is situated in the south-west of Telford, approximately three miles from Telford Town Centre, and just under two miles north of the Ironbridge Gorge. The site supports a network of wooded pitmounds, ponds, pockets of unimproved species

rich grassland and a network of hedgerows. This mosaic of habitats supports a valuable and diverse assemblage of wildlife including woodland birds, amphibians, reptiles and bats.

1.7 The site has high nature conservation value and a high level of community interest and involvement. Lightmoor is owned by Telford and Wrekin Council and managed by Shropshire Wildlife Trust under a 25 year management agreement. An area of wet meadow is leased to the Lightmoor New Community who hold a 999 year lease. Members of The Lightmoor Steering Group and wider partners have played a key role in developing the designation proposal.

1.8 Maps showing the proposed LNR are presented in Appendices 1 and 2.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that cabinet:

2.1 Approves, in principle, the declaration of Lightmoor Local Nature Reserve; and

2.2 Delegates authority to complete the declaration process to the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Employment.

**3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-operative Council priorities?	
	Yes	The designation of the LNR contributes to several priorities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring that neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained</li> <li>improving the health and wellbeing of our communities and</li> <li>addressing health inequalities</li> </ul>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	The proposed LNR is a beneficial resource to people who live and visit the area.
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE</b>	Adoption at Cabinet - November 2018	

<b>FINANCIAL/ VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	<p>A 25 year management agreement has been in place with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. Through this agreement the Council provides £24,450 per year to the Shropshire Wildlife Trust to deliver the management and maintenance of the site, funded from s106 contributions.</p> <p>Legal and due diligence surveys (prior to the legal designation) will be funded from within the Strategic Planning Team budget. The surveys are estimated to be in the region of £4,000.</p> <p>The Council, in partnership with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, will continue to manage and maintain the site at its current levels. If proportionate steps are required as a result of the risk assessment (referred to in 9.2), the current Lightmoor Wildlife Park s106 funding will be utilised to cover those costs.</p> <p>(AEM 18/10/18)</p>
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	<p>The Council has power under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to establish nature reserves by way of a declaration. The declaration will stand as conclusive evidence that the land is an LNR and will be managed as such. The declaration of LNR status would place a general duty on public bodies, including the Council, when exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, the area of outstanding natural beauty, to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of that area. There is a making and publication procedure that needs to be followed regarding the declaration which includes prior consultation with Natural England. Legal Services will assist the Assistant Director: Business, Development &amp; Employment as required regarding the process.</p> <p>(Other legal points are set out elsewhere in this report)</p> <p>(IR 15/10/18)</p>
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Yes	<p>An area of proposed LNR is leased to 'The Lightmoor New Community' (identified in Appendix 3) a Nature Reserve Agreement between the Council, the Lightmoor New</p>

		Community and Shropshire Wildlife Trust will need to be composed.
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	Yes	Lightmoor is in Horsehay and Lightmoor Ward. However, the designation of the area as an LNR will deliver borough wide benefits.

## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **4. INFORMATION**

- 4.1 This report sets out a proposal for the Council to agree to declare the statutory Local Nature Reserve known as 'Lightmoor Local Nature Reserve'. This is in accordance with the provisions of Sections 19 and 21 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- 4.2 Local Nature Reserves provide opportunities for volunteering in the natural environment which increases physical activity, social interaction, encourages life long learning of new skills and allows individuals to give back to their local community which lead to increases in physical and mental wellbeing.
- 4.3 The proposed LNR is within the Council's ownership with management and maintenance provided by Shropshire Wildlife Trust, delivered through a 25 year management agreement. An area of floodplain meadow is leased to the Lightmoor New Community on a 999 year lease.
- 4.3 The site meets the necessary criteria for declaration and has a draft management plan. The proposals have been developed by the 'Lightmoor LNR Steering Group' in liaison with the local community and will involve partnership working between Telford and Wrekin Council, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, local Parish councils, friends' groups and volunteers carrying out small scale conservation tasks as part of the management of the site.
- 4.4 Informal engagement with Natural England has been undertaken. As part of the declaration process, and following Cabinet adoption, a consultation document will be issued to Natural England to seek their formal 'Welcome' prior to completion of the declaration and the associated legal seal.

### **5. STRATEGIC PLANNING**

- 5.1 Following declaration the land shown in Appendices 1 and 2 will be managed as a Local Nature Reserve and will be protected from inappropriate uses or development.
- 5.2 The selection and declaration of Local Nature Reserves play an important role in maintaining a healthy balance in spatial planning between the built environment and green infrastructure. The Telford &

Wrekin Local Plan Policies Map shows the site as a ‘Proposed Local Nature Reserve’ (pLNR). A full list of adopted and proposed Local Nature Reserves is provided in Table 1. The Local Plan commits to completing the declaration of proposed Local Nature Reserves during the life time of the Local Plan - 2031.

**Table 1: Local Nature Reserves in Telford**

<b>Declared Local Nature Reserves</b>
Dothill
Limekiln Wood
Lodge Field
Madebrook and Stirchley Dingle
Madeley Pit Mounds
Telford Town Park
The Beeches
The Ercall and St Lawrence’s Hill
The Granville
<b>Adopted Local Nature Reserves in the declaration process</b>
Apley Woods
Ketley Paddock Mound
Randlay Valley
Rough Park
<b>Proposed LNRs</b>
Lightmoor
Dawley Pools and Pit Mounds
The Cockshutt
Lillishall Hill

## **6. ACCESSIBLE GREEN SPACE STANDARDS (ANGST)**

6.1 In 2010 Natural England, the countries statutory nature conservation authority, published ‘Nature Nearby’ setting out the recommended standards for Accessible Natural Greenspace:

*“Everyone, wherever they live, should have accessible natural greenspace:*

- *Of at least 2 ha in size, no more than 300 metres from home;*
- *At least one accessible 20 ha site within 2 km of home; and*
- *One accessible 500 ha site within 10km of home; plus*
- *A minimum of one hectare of Local Nature Reserve per 1000 population”*

6.2 At the time of Telford’s inception it was intended that every 1000 of the population would have access to four hectares of green space (similar to the then current green space standard of the Greater London Plan of 7 acres per 1000 population). This standard was achieved by the 1980s.

6.3 In 2016 the Marches Ecosystem Assessment modelled accessible greenspace across Telford and Wrekin, Shropshire and Herefordshire. The analysis revealed that 89% of households within Telford and Wrekin are within 300m of accessible natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size.

- 6.4 The borough of Telford and Wrekin has an estimated population of 170,200 people (Understanding Telford and Wrekin 2017). The adoption of Lightmoor Local Nature Reserve will increase the spatial coverage of adopted LNR's in the borough by 24.4 hectares to 477.4 hectares. The declaration of these adopted Local Nature Reserves will result in approximately 2.8ha of LNR per 1000 of the population, nearly triple the minimum recommended standard.

## **7. HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLBEING**

- 7.1 During the 2011 Census, 80.2% of the population of Telford and Wrekin reported that they had 'good' or 'very good' health. However, the census also highlighted that 15,938 adults aged 16-64 within the borough were living with a long-term health problem or disability that limited their daily activities. Furthermore, it is estimated that 17,400 adults aged between 16-64 within the borough have a common mental health disorder<sup>1</sup>.
- 7.2 Health inequalities within communities are increasingly being linked to individuals' access to nature. The evidence base illustrating how access to nature is vital for good mental and physical health highlights the need for increased efforts to provide accessible and well-maintained natural areas for particularly disadvantaged groups<sup>2</sup>. It has been shown that living close to accessible green spaces can promote public health and reduce levels of obesity, heart disease, reduce stress and levels of depression.
- 7.3 The designation of additional LNRs further reflects the Council's commitment to promoting health and wellbeing. Urban green space interventions are most effective when a physical improvement to the green space is coupled with a social engagement/participation element that promotes the green space and reaches out to new target groups ("dual approach")<sup>3</sup>. The proposed designations will provide a framework to increase engagement with internal partners such as 'My Options' and 'Healthy Telford' and external partners including: The Telford Green Space Partnership, The Shropshire Wildlife Trusts 'Live Well/Work Well With Nature' project and the recent Small Woods Association social enterprise funded by Telford 50 Legacy Funding.

## **8. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- 8.1 Consultation with relevant stakeholders has taken place and the declaration of the site as an LNR has received support.
- 8.2 The proposed boundary has been subject to internal officer consultation and external stakeholder engagement. The following should be noted:

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<sup>1</sup> Understanding Telford and Wrekin 2017: A demographic, health and socio-economic profile of our communities

[http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/4628/understanding\\_telford\\_and\\_wrekin\\_2017](http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/4628/understanding_telford_and_wrekin_2017)

<sup>2</sup> Institute for European Environmental Policy (2017) Nature For Health and Equity

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organisation (2017) Urban Green Space Interventions and Health: A review of impacts and effectiveness.

- Due to the presence of mining legacy features including mineshafts a geotechnical risk assessment will need to be undertaken. Following which proportionate steps will be taken to make the land safe e.g. by fencing, installing appropriate signs informing visitors of any risks and performing risk assessments.
- Land to the north east of the proposed LNR is within the ownership of the Council and leased under a 999 year agreement to the Lightmoor New Community.

## **9. NEXT STEPS**

- 9.1 In the case that Cabinet approves the principle of declaration of the proposed Local Nature Reserve and the recommended delegation, then the required next steps include the following:
- A) A formal consultation process with Natural England will be undertaken in Winter 2018 which includes the submission of a formal consultation document and a site visit following which Natural England will write to formally 'Welcome' the site
  - B) All necessary property/title enquiries and searches being undertaken regarding land in the Council's ownership.
  - C) The Nature Reserve Agreement being entered into with the third party leasing Lightmoor meadow
  - D) The Assistant Director: Business, Development & Employment making or authorising the making of the formal declaration

## **10. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

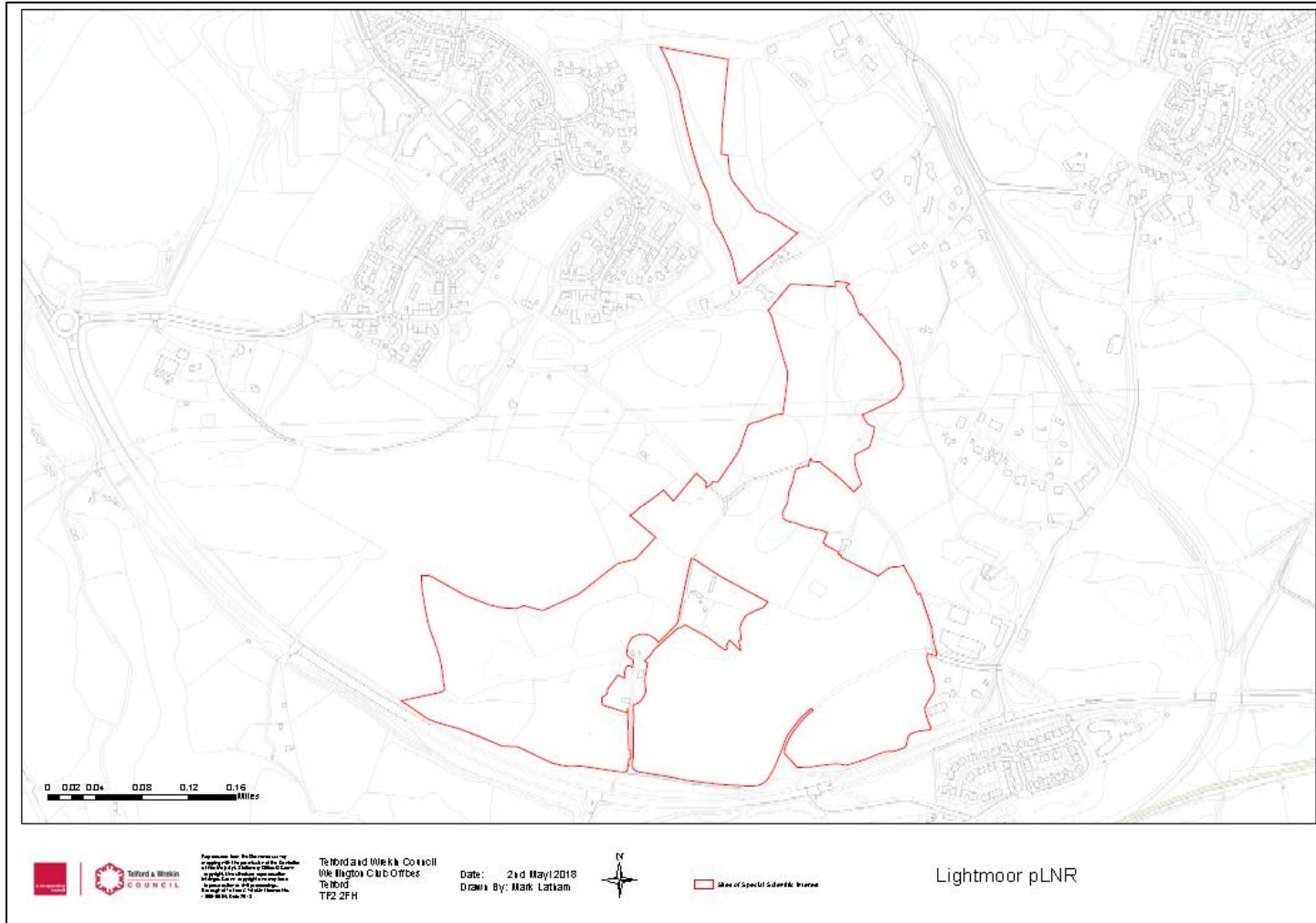
- 10.1 Cabinet 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018: Declaration of two new Local Nature Reserves: Rough Park and Randlay Valley

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 Local Nature Reserves in England: A Guide to their selection and declaration Natural England, 2009
- 11.2 Local Nature Reserves: places for people and wildlife (English Nature)
- 11.3 Accessible natural green space in towns and cities: A review of appropriate size and distance criteria (English Nature Research Reports No. I53)

**Report prepared by Mark Latham, Ecology & Green Infrastructure Specialist.**

# Appendix 1: Lightmoor Proposed Local Nature Reserve Boundary



## Appendix 2: Lightmoor Proposed Local Nature Reserve: showing areas under lease

