

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 7 July, 2009 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford

PUBLISHED ON MONDAY, 13th JULY, 2009

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN THURSDAY, 16th JULY, 2009)

PRESENT: Councillors J.M. Seymour (Deputy Leader - Chairman for the meeting), S. Bentley, E.J. Carter, M.B. Hosken and A. Lawrence

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors R.K. Austin and G.M. Green (Opposition Group Leaders); Councillor T.J. Hope (Cabinet Assistant)

CB-29 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 23rd June, 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CB-30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors A.J. Eade (Leader) and S.P. Burrell

CB-31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S. Bentley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 – Personalisation – Transforming Adult Social Care, as a member of his family was in receipt of the service.

CB-32 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF FIRST POINT ADVICE CENTRE

Key decision identified as **Scrutiny Commission/Scrutiny Management Board Reports** in the Forward Plan published on 16 June 2009.

Councillor D.R.W. White, Chairman of the Scrutiny Leadership Board, presented a report which set out the recommendations of the Board following a meeting held in March 2009 at the location of the new First Point Advice Centre at Telford Central Library. At that time, the Centre had only been operating for two weeks, and Scrutiny Members had been keen to see how many enquiries had been received, and what interaction there had been between the different agencies/services providing advice to residents on issues arising from the “credit crunch” and the economic recession.

Members were impressed by the numbers of people accessing First Point, and by the co-operation between the organisations participating in the scheme. It was felt that the general ambience of the Library setting provided a welcoming environment, and that perhaps the Council’s presence in District

Centres around the Borough could be enhanced by providing a similar service at local Libraries. The Board's recommendations to Cabinet were that:

- there should be continual monitoring of the First Point Advice Centre to ensure that the appropriate ranges of services are provided to the public;
- consideration should be given to providing a permanent point of contact for Council services in the town centre vicinity;
- the use of library facilities to offer a first point of contact for Council services throughout the Borough should be considered, especially in areas where the library is used on a part-time basis.

Councillor A. Lawrence, Cabinet Member for Resources, presented a report that outlined the proposed response to the recommendations made by Scrutiny Leadership Board. He thanked the Scrutiny Leadership Board for their comments and recommendations, which the Cabinet were very supportive of. A report would be brought to the next Cabinet meeting with a proposal for a "One Stop Shop" to be developed on the ground floor of Civic Offices. This would create a permanent and much larger facility than First Point, and would bring together many more council and partner services into one facility, in turn offering more joined-up services and improved access to services. In relation to the use of other library facilities in the Borough, this was in line with the Customer Strategy and would be taken into account as part of the current review of Leisure and Culture. Councillor R.K. Austin enquired as to whether mobile libraries could be provided with some kind of link to the Advice Centre, and it was agreed that this was something that could be explored.

RESOLVED – that the response to the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Leadership Board, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

CB-33 THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2007

Key Decision identified as **Community Strategy/Local Area Agreement/Priority Plans** in the Forward Plan published on 16 June 2009.

The Strategic Locality Manager presented the report of the Head of Policy, Performance & Partnership which suggested a process to enable local organisations to put forward proposals that required Central Government action to support and improve the sustainability of local communities.

The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 (SCA) aimed to enable local communities, organisations and public bodies to propose, through their local council, changes at a national level to help deliver projects and work locally to support and improve sustainability. The Government had asked that local areas should first try to prioritise and agree the proposals to be submitted via a 'Local Panel'. Following this, the Council would submit the proposals to the Local Government Association, who would be responsible for short-listing a small number of proposals for the Secretary of State's consideration.

Following expressions of interest for a significant number of town and parish councils, it was proposed to convene a SCA Local Panel meeting towards the end of July 2009. It was suggested that the Panel be formed from the Local Parishes Forum with additional representatives invited from the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), Wrekin Area Committee of Parish & Town Councils, and from local Groups. A letter had been sent to all Town and Parish Councils and the CVS asking for any proposals to be submitted.

Members expressed doubts as to the value of this process, and questioned whether the Council should be involved if there was no legislative requirement for it to make a submission under the SCA.

RESOLVED – not to endorse the process set out in paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8 of the report.

CB-34 TELFORD & WREKIN RURAL PLAN

Key decision identified as **Telford & Wrekin Rural Plan** in the Forward Plan published on 16 June 2009.

Councillor S. Bentley, Cabinet Member for Environment, and Councillor T.J. Hope (Cabinet Assistant: Rights of Way/Rural Agenda) presented the report of the Corporate Director: Environment & Regeneration, which sought approval for the content of the Rural Plan for Telford & Wrekin.

Over the last nine months, the Council had been developing a Rural Plan for the Borough in consultation with parishes, partners and officers. The purpose of the Plan was to acknowledge and respond to the issues affecting people living within the rural areas, and to maximise the opportunities available to them. A copy of the draft Plan was appended to the report. The draft Plan defined the rural areas of the Borough, provided a profile of these areas and set out the key issues under three broad headings – a sustainable rural economy, sustainable rural communities and a sustainable rural environment.

Following the first meetings of the Telford & Wrekin Rural Forum, and research done with local organisations and communities, an action plan had been developed to move forward the Plan and its underlying objectives. The action plan could be funded from within existing budgets.

Members welcomed the Plan, and the opportunities it provided to address issues such as affordable housing. Through consultation on the Plan and the setting-up of the Rural Forum, barriers had been broken down between the Council and people/organisations living and working in the rural areas. The involvement of the National Farmers Union and the local clergy was welcomed, and it was suggested that Womens' Institutes could play a role in making sure women's issues were reflected in the Plan.

RESOLVED – that the Telford & Wrekin Rural Plan be approved.

CB-35 PERSONALISATION – TRANSFORMING ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Councillor Bentley withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Key Decision identified as **Putting People First – Proposed Model** in the Forward Plan published on 16 April 2009.

The Head of Prevention & Protection presented the report of the Corporate Director: Adult & Consumer Care, which informed Members of the Government's aim to develop a model for personalisation of adult social care by 'Putting People First'. The report also set out proposals as to how the Council could approach the organisation and arrangement for services by 2011 in order to meet the transformation requirements.

Putting People First was published as a government protocol towards the end of 2007. It was presented as the basis for joining up services around individuals and was the first time that such a wide-ranging protocol had been produced. The government had stated that Putting People First would set the direction for adult social care over the next 10 years and more.

A programme for Putting People First in Telford & Wrekin was established from July 2008, following earlier work to consider how the Council should rethink community care. The programme had involved work across six main areas to develop proposals for achieving personalisation of adult social care services. They were based on helping people who used social care services, families and their carers by;

- Improving ways to gain access to information and services;
- Providing brokerage to support and assist in choosing services;
- Enabling the promotion of independence and avoiding unnecessary dependency;
- Allowing more influence and control for the individual through personal budgets;
- Working with providers to develop flexible and responsive care service;
- Developing the workforce and skills for the future.

Options for each area were developed from local and national sources so that best practice and effectiveness could be identified. This work resulted in a set of proposals that were now being brought together as a 'target operating model'. The model set out the process and arrangements that the Council would aim to have in organising adult care and the support needed to achieve personalisation of services.

Subject to agreement in principle, the next phase of work would focus on pilot projects and systems development to test the key parts of the future model. In

view of the scale and complexity of these changes, a two year programme was proposed so that the full personalisation approach was in place for all social care services by mid 2011. There would be further consultation with service users, staff and others on the final proposals and subsequently for implementation of the programme.

Reference was made to the recent Members' seminar on this topic, and that it would be useful to have a further seminar later in the year for an update on progress.

RESOLVED -

- (a) **that the principles of personalisation for adult social care services, and the implications for fundamental changes in the way care and support is organised and arranged in Telford & Wrekin, be noted;**
- (b) **that a further report be brought to Cabinet following pilot work, so that the new model of personalised services can be considered for full implementation during 2011.**

Councillor Bentley returned to the meeting.

CB-36 SMALL SITES AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME

Key Decision identified as **Small Sites – Affordable Housing Programme** in the Forward Plan published on 16 June 2009.

Councillor E.J. Carter, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, presented the joint report of the Head of the Integrated Housing Project and Head of Asset & Property Management, which updated Members on the establishment of a Small Sites Affordable Housing Programme in partnership with the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA).

In response to the recession, the HCA and the Council, through the Housing & Regeneration Partnership, was trying to stimulate the provision of affordable housing in the Borough by developing a programme of small sites for affordable housing. It was anticipated that the programme would run over 2-3 years, and involve approximately 10 sites of varying sizes which would deliver in the region of 200 affordable units in total. Five sites had already been identified by the HCA, and these would come forward as a first phase of development. A number of Council owned sites were currently being assessed for inclusion in the programme. A development partner – likely to be a Registered Social Landlord – would be procured in order to deliver the programme. It was intended that the Council would work with the chosen development partner to secure planning permission for the chosen sites, and that the sites would be disposed at nil value to the partner. The Council would incur costs in bringing forward these sites, and it was recommended that New Growth Point funding be made available to fund the programme over the next two years.

During the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that as part of the process for identifying appropriate sites for inclusion in the programme, relevant Ward Members should be consulted. In response, the Cabinet Member stated that he was in agreement to the suggestion, and proposed an amendment to recommendation 2.5 in order to reflect this.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the establishment of a Small Sites Affordable Housing Programme in partnership with the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA), be endorsed;
- (b) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of the Integrated Housing Project to enter into a collaboration agreement with the HCA, which will formalise the partnership and set out the objectives and expectations of the Programme;
- (c) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of the Integrated Housing Project to negotiate and finalise the arrangements for the joint procurement with the HCA in the appointment of a development partner;
- (d) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of the Integrated Housing Project, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, to authorise any necessary work to bring forward the Council's sites;
- (e) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Asset & Property Management, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and relevant Ward Members, to identify appropriate Council owned sites for inclusion in the Small Sites Affordable Housing Programme, and thereafter to dispose of those sites to the procured development partner at nil value;
- (f) that the use of New Growth Point funding, as detailed in paragraph 7 of the report, be approved.

CB-37 THE FUTURE OF THE CORONERS' SERVICE WITHIN SHROPSHIRE

Non-Key Decision

Councillor A. Lawrence, Cabinet Member for Resources, presented the report of the Interim Corporate Director: Resources regarding the future of the Coroners Service in the light of the potential impact of the Coroners and Justice Bill and the fact that the current Coroner for Telford & Wrekin had indicated that he intended to resign from his position in September 2009.

Although Coroners were appointed and funded by Local Authorities, the Coroner was not a Local Government Officer but held office under the Crown. The Government wanted to strengthen and improve the service that Coroners currently provide, and had published proposals in a Coroners and Justice Bill currently before Parliament. The Bill proposed a new governance structure, with a senior Coroner for each Coroner area, to be supported by area Coroners and assistant Coroners. This would have the effect of halving the numbers of existing full and part-time Coroners. It was also proposed to give Coroners powers to improve the effectiveness of investigations.

The current Coroner for Telford & Wrekin, Michael Gwynne, had indicated that he wished to retire in September 2009. It was clear from the Bill that a like-for-like replacement would not be a sustainable solution, and discussions had been held with all the Coroners within Shropshire as to how to manage the service in the future. The favoured option was for a county-wide service under a single Coroner. This process could start by amalgamating the Telford & Wrekin and North and Mid Shropshire areas following Mr Gwynne's retirement.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Head of Legal Services be authorised to approach with Shropshire Council with a view to developing a shared coronial service within Shropshire;**
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Head of Legal Services to work to secure agreement from the Ministry of Justice to proposals for a shared approach that are agreeable to both Councils;**
- (c) that the thanks of the Council be passed on to the current Coroner for his commitment and exemplary way that he has carried out his duties during his tenure.**

The meeting ended at 5.47 p.m.

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

**Jonathan Eatough
Head of Legal Services
Date: 13 July 2009**

Signed:

Date:

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET 21 JULY 2009

PERFORMANCE AGAINST LAA/VISION 2026 MILESTONES AT END OF YEAR 2008/09

REPORT OF HEAD OF POLICY, PERFORMANCE & PARTNERSHIPS

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To set out end of year performance against LAA targets and Vision 2026 ambition 'milestones'.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That:

- Performance against LAA/Vision 2026 milestones is noted;
- The proposals to drive improvement against these targets are approved.

3 Vision 2026 and LAA Targets

- 3.1 In early 2009, the Council and its LSP partner organisations agreed a revised Vision 2026 setting out longer-term ambitions for the Borough. These focused on the following themes:

- **An Enterprising and Innovative Community**
- **A Strong and Inclusive Community**
- **A Learning Community**
- **A Modern City**
- **A Sustainable Green Community**
- **A Safe, Caring & Healthy Community**

- 3.2 Our 36 LAA2 targets (2008-11), negotiated with Government Office West Midlands in 2008, are an important mechanism by which we will drive forward delivery of these ambitions. Together with our LAA targets, the Vision identified 33 'key success measures' with which to benchmark progress against these long-term ambitions.

- 3.3 Achieving these improvement targets will represent a real challenge to the Council and its key partners and Thematic Partnerships – we are working to address some of the most intractable problems and cross cutting issues in the Borough - teenage pregnancies, young people and adults not in work,

educational attainment and low level of skills, alcohol abuse, violent crime and anti-social behaviour, obesity, homelessness and climate change.

3.4 This set of indicators are either from the National Indicator Set (NIS) or local indicators – all are in the revised Priority Plans, and, as reported, at end of year monitoring, many of these indicators are new. This has meant:

- An absence of baseline and/or benchmarking data making target setting challenging;
- there were ‘gaps’ in the collation of performance data throughout the year – although this has now improved at year end.

3.5 We do now have data and targets for 29/36 LAA indicators and 20/33 Vision 2026 ‘milestone’ measures. **Where we have both data and targets (49/69):**

- **14 or 48% of LAA indicators are on target**
- **12 or 60% of the separate Vision milestone measures are on target.**

	Number of indicators	No data	No target	With data/target	On target
LAA	36	3	4	29	14 (48%)
Vision 2026	33	7	9	20	12 (60%)
Total	69	10	13	49	26 (53%)

3.6 Where we have appropriate trend data, 11/16 (69%) LAA targets and 7/10 (70%) Vision milestones have shown improvement. We have set out a summary assessment of LAA targets /Vision milestones in Appendix 1.

3.7 The LAA indicators currently not on target (together with an indication of whether there was any improvement in the year) are:

NI	Area	Lead	Direction of Travel 2008/09
8	Adult participation in sport/physical activity (NI 8)	Telford & Wrekin Council	Worse
30	PPO re-offending rate (NI 30)	Safer, Stronger Partnership	Better
56	Obesity in year 6 primary school children (NI 56)	Telford & Wrekin Primary Care Trust	Better
75	5+ A*-C GCSE including English/Maths – (NI 75)	Children’s Trust	Better
79	Level 2 qualification by 19 (NI 79)	Children’s Trust	Better
80	Level 3 qualification by 19 (NI 80)	Children’s Trust	Better
92	Narrowing the gap in Foundation Stage (NI 92)	Children’s Trust	Better
112	Under 18 conception rate (NI 112)	Telford & Wrekin	Better

NI	Area	Lead	Direction of Travel 2008/09
		Primary Care Trust	
117	Young people not in education, employment, or training (NEETS) (NI 117)	Children's Trust	Worse
142	Vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living	Telford & Wrekin Council	N/A
152	Working age people on out of work benefits (NI152)	Job Centre+	N/A
154	Net additional homes (NI 154)	Telford & Wrekin Council	N/A
159	Supply of ready to develop housing sites (NI 159)	Telford & Wrekin Council	N/A
165	Workforce qualified to level 4 (NI 165)	University of Wolverhampton	N/A
186	CO2 Reductions (NI 186)	Telford & Wrekin Council	N/A

Driving Improvement

- 3.8 Although not all LAA targets have been achieved in this first year of monitoring, there is overall a positive direction of travel against some of the most difficult/intractable issues in the Borough, for example 'teenage pregnancy'. As noted, these LAA targets and Vision 2026 milestones were set out to measure progress against what is seen to be locally important in terms of improving the quality of life in the Borough – delivering against them is a real benchmark of how well we are delivering our shared Vision.
- 3.9 A key focus to drive improvement against them will be for the Delivery/Action Plans for indicators not on target to be reviewed – this will be reported back as part of 5 month monitoring. Exception reporting will also take place against these plans at 8 month monitoring. LAA targets where little or no performance progress is evident will be scrutinised more closely through this process – we want to ensure that, where necessary, issues/challenges are fed into service and financial planning processes for 2010/11. Another key focus is to ensure that targets are agreed, wherever possible, for all indicators as soon as feasible – progress on this will be reported at 3-month monitoring.
- 3.10 We also want to build on existing practice, for example within the Children Trust, of breaking down key targets to sub-Borough level – e.g. clusters and/or wards. Ensuring that this is undertaken consistently will enable the better targeting of resources at areas of greatest need and also to assess how well the 'gap is being narrowed' between our more vulnerable/deprived communities and the rest of the Borough.

3.11 Key to delivery of our LAA targets and Vision milestones is partnership working. Across the Thematic Partnerships there are processes in place to regularly review performance and action plans against LAA targets – we want to ensure that this approach is consistently applied. We are also seeking to complement and add value to these processes by providing a further level of independent challenge and, where appropriate, to highlight other delivery options and/or strategies. To deliver this, we are looking to review, refocus and strengthen the Partnership Performance Group. This Group will report to the Council's CMT and the LSP Agenda Group.

4 Background: LAA Targets

4.1 The new Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a performance contract between the Telford & Wrekin Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the Government to deliver improved outcomes against both national and local priorities.

4.2 Through this contract, the Council, as the accountable body, and its LSP partner organisations will use their resources, both mainstream and those provided through an LAA2 Area Based Grant, to achieve a total of 35 'stretched' improvement targets (and 16 Department for Children, Schools & Families mandatory 'stretched' targets), over the 3 year period 2008-11. Some targets, however, are subject to revision following the proposed 2008/09 (national) Place Survey or as part of the annual 'refresh' process in 2009.

4.3 The Area Based Grant comprises of some 30 existing external funding grants, totalling around £9m in 2008/09, and provides a 'single pot' of funding to support the delivery of LAA targets. However, these funding streams are already largely committed and built into the Council's 3 year spending plans.

4.4 As well as making a difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in the Borough, achieving our LAA targets will result in a (likely) maximum £1m reward grant from Government.

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 LAA targets and Vision milestones have significant equal opportunity implications. Achievement of these targets has the potential to narrow the gap between our most and least deprived and vulnerable communities. This framework has been designed to improve the quality of opportunity within the Borough.

6 Environmental Impact

6.1 A key element of the LAA and Vision 2026 framework is to improve the quality of the environment within the Borough. Failure to improve these targets will mean that important changes to the quality of the environment will not have been achieved.

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 The council has the statutory responsibility and is the accountable body for the LAA.

8 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The LAA gives the Council and its partners the freedom to pool specific non-mainstream grants (within a new Area Based Grant) in order to better meet agreed Council Plan/Community Strategy targets. These targets are monitored and managed through a performance management framework both with the Council and LSP.
- 8.2 Under the LSP2 model, external area-based funding streams will in future either be mainstreamed, as part of local authorities' Revenue Support Grant, 'pooled' within a 'single pot' Area Based Grant (ABG), or remain outside as ring-fenced special grants (e.g. Sure Start and Supporting People Grants). The ABG is worth around £9m in 2008/09, rising to £12m in the following two years (NB this is **not** new money).
- 8.3 The Treasury, through the CSR 2007, has confirmed that financial incentives in the form of Performance reward Grant (but not pump-priming grant) for achieving stretch target will be available. Government has not yet announced how this will be applied.

9 Ward Implications

- 9.1 LAA & Vision 2026 milestones will impact on all wards. However, many of the Borough's intractable problems which this framework seeks to address are disproportionately concentrated in the more deprived wards of Telford. It is the objective of this framework to 'narrow the gap' between these wards and the rest of the Borough.

10 Links with Corporate Priorities

- 10.1 Vision 2026 sets out the LSP long-term ambitions for the Borough which informed the medium-term Community Priorities and Strategy. Both the Vision 2026 milestones and LAA targets are a key part of the framework to deliver these strategic objectives.

Report prepared by Jon Power, Partnership & Performance Manager. Tel 80141.

Appendix One: Performance Against LAA and Vision Milestones

An Enterprising and Innovative Community

	Number of indicators	No data	No target	With data/target	On target
LAA	2	0	0	2	1 (50%)
Vision 2026	8	3	2	4	4 (100%)
Total	10	3	2	6	5 (83%)

LAA Targets	Vision 2026
Indicators on target	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI 172 - small businesses showing employment growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borough GVA rate Workforce employed in knowledge economy NI 151 - overall employment rate NI 171 - new business registrations
Indicators missing target	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI152 - working age people on out of work benefits – no previous data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a
Indicators without targets and/or data	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value/volume of business tourism- no data Increase visitors - no data Increase visitor spend - no data Median earnings of employees - performance has improved but no target set for 2008/09

A Strong and Inclusive Community

	Number of indicators	No data	No target	With data/target	On target
LAA	6	0	1	5	2 (40%)
Vision 2026	3	1	3	0	0 (0%)
Total	9	1	4	5	2 (40%)

LAA Targets	Vision 2026
Indicators on target	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI 5 - satisfaction with local area - was 71%, now 78.3% NI 156 - households living in temporary accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a
Indicators missing target	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI 92 - narrowing the gap in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a

<p>Foundation Stage – this has improved but missed target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI 117 - NEETS – performance has continued to deteriorate – see also ‘Learning Community’ • NI152 - people on out of work benefits– no previous data 	
Indicators without targets and/or data	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI 1 - % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together (73%)– no target 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction with the Council (50%) – no target • IMD rank – no target • IMD – areas in 10% most deprived nationally – no target

A Learning Community

	Number of indicators	No data	No target	With data/target	On target
LAA	14	1	3	10	5 (50%)
Vision 2026	6	2	0	4	0 (0%)
Total	20	3	3	14	5 (36%)

LAA Targets	Vision 2026
Indicators on target	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI 72 - Early Years Foundation Stage achievement • NI 87- Secondary school persistent absence rate • NI 99 - LAC achieving level 4 in English KS2 • NI 100 - LAC achieving level 4 in maths KS2 • NI 101 - LAC achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE including English & Maths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI 164 - Level 3 workforce qualifications
Indicators missing target	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI 75 - 5+ A*-C GCSE including English/Maths – this has improved but missed target • NI 79 - Level 2 qualification by 19 – improved but missed target • NI 80 - Level 3 qualification by 19 – improved but missed target • NI 117 Young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) – performance deteriorated. An extensive project is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary school half day absence– improved but missed target • Secondary school absences – improved but missed target • NI 148 - care leavers in NEETs – performance deteriorated • NI 164 - work force qualified to level 3 - performance deteriorated

<p>currently being undertaken to improve performance - this includes a NEETs action plan, a monthly steering group led by DCS and the employment of extra resource to oversee the implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI 165 - workforce qualified to level 4 – no previous data 	
Indicators without targets and/or data	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI 73 - KS2 Level 4+ in English/Maths – no target NI 93 - progression by 2 levels in English between KS1 and KS2 – no target and performance has deteriorated – no target NI 94 - progression by 2 levels in Maths between KS1 and KS2 – no target and performance has deteriorated – no target NI 163 - workforce qualified to level 2 – no performance data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS1 Attainment NI 106 - young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education

A Modern City

	Number of indicators	No data	No target	With data/target	On target
LAA	2	0	0	2	0 (0%)
Vision 2026	2	0	1	1	0 (0%)
Total	4	0	1	3	0%

LAA Targets	Vision 2026
Indicators on target	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a
Indicators missing target	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI 154 - net additional homes* - no previous data NI 159 - supply of ready to develop housing sites* - no previous data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI 155 - number of affordable homes*
Indicators without targets and/or data	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of the Borough - no target

*All 3 of these indicators have been significantly affected by the recession. We indicated to GOWN during the last refresh of the LAA that we would be looking to renegotiate these targets at the next 'refresh' in Autumn. GOWM acknowledged that these targets would not be 'locked down' and open for discussion in the light of the evidence we can produce about the impact of the recession

A Sustainable Green Community

	Number of indicators	No data	No target	With data/target	On target
LAA	3	0	0	3	2 (67%)
Vision 2026	9	0	0	9	6 (67%)
Total	12	0	0	12	8 (67%)

LAA Targets	Vision 2026
Indicators on target	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI 5 - satisfaction with local area NI 191 - household waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal road network requiring maintenance Non-principal road requiring maintenance Household waster recycled, composted or reused Street cleanliness (litter) Street cleanliness (graffiti) Street cleanliness (fly posting)
Indicators missing target	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI 186 - CO2 Reductions – issue with 2 year data lag – no previous data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of footways – performance has improved Unclassified road network requiring maintenance – performance has improved. Street cleanliness (detritus) – performance has deteriorated
Indicators without targets and/or data	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a 	n/a

A Safe, Caring & Healthy Community

	Number of indicators	No data	No target	With data/target	On target
LAA	12	2	0	10	5 (50%)
Vision 2026	5	1	3	2	2 (100%)
Total	17	3	3	12	7 (58%)

LAA Targets	Vision 2026
Indicators on target	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI 17 - resident perception of anti-social behaviour NI 20 - assault with injury NI 111 - number of first time entry to Youth Justice System – ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement in sport in school Number of people supported to maintain independent living

<p>concerns with methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI 130 - social Care Clients receiving self directed support • NI 135 - carers receiving needs assessments 	
Indicators missing target	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI 8 - Adult participation in sport/physical activity – performance deteriorating but concerns with survey data collection methodology • NI 30 - PPO re-offending rate – small improvement in performance • NI 56 – Obesity in year 6 primary school children – small improvement in performance • NI 112 – under 18 conception rate significant improvement in performance (top 10 national performer) • NI142 Vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living – no previous data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a
Indicators without targets and/or data	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI 39 - alcohol related hospital admissions – no data/target • NI 121 - circulatory disease mortality – no data/target 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI 15 - violent crime rate – no target • NI 120 - mortality rate – no data/target • NI 139 - older people receiving support to live independently – no target

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 21st JULY, 2009

REVISION OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

REPORT OF HEAD OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider a revised Local Development Scheme (the published programme for preparation of the Local Development Framework) in order to allow formal submission of the document to Government Office West Midlands.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Cabinet approve the Local Development Scheme 2009/2012 as summarised in Table 2 and attached in full as Appendix 1 to this report, in order that the document can be submitted to the Secretary of State.**
- 2.2 **That authority is delegated to the Head of Planning & Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, to agree any minor changes to the document prior to submission to the Secretary of State.**

3. SUMMARY

- 3.1 The Council's current Local Development Scheme (LDS) was approved in August 2007. However the programme it sets out is now not deliverable within the timescales set out and no longer reflects Council priorities. It is therefore proposed that it be revised. This report seeks approval of the revised LDS attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 A revision at this time will permit some streamlining of documents and to prepare for an early review of the Core Strategy following the outcome of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) review Phase II. It is proposed to accelerate work on a planning framework for South Telford and to commence an early Core Strategy review during next year.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 Cabinet 16 April 2007, Item 5, Local Development Framework, Local Development Scheme, 2007

5. INFORMATION

- 5.1 The Council is required by Planning Legislation to publish a Local Development Scheme (LDS) providing a 3 year programme for Local Development Framework (LDF) preparation. It:
- provides a starting point for the public to find out what the planning policies are for an area; and
 - sets out a three year programme for the preparation of LDF documents, including timetables for the various stages in their preparation.
- 5.2 There is no requirement for consultation or independent examination of the LDS, but the key milestones set out in the LDS are used by Government to assess a Planning Authority's performance and contribute to calculating the level of Housing & Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) awarded to the Council.
- 5.3 The current LDS was approved in 2007. Guidance received from Government Office for the West Midlands has stressed that the LDS should be a definitive programme management document and that the timescales should only be departed from in exceptional circumstances or as agreed in response to annual monitoring. The guidance goes on to state that Local Planning Authorities should ensure that LDSs are realistic both in terms of the nature and number of DPDs proposed and the timescales proposed to prepare and submit them.
- 5.4 The current LDS sets out preparation of a range of Development Plan Documents (DPDs). DPDs are part of the statutory development plan and require numerous stages of consultation, with preparation culminating in an independent Examination in Public. The 2007 LDS timetable for DPDs and their current status is shown in the table 1 below:

Table 1 – Current position

Development Plan Document	2007 LDS timetable	Current status
Core Strategy	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Sept Oct 2005 Submission: Nov 2006 Adoption: Dec 2007	Adopted Dec 2007
Central Telford Area Action Plan	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Oct-Nov 2007 Submission: July 2008 Adoption July 2009	Consultation June – July 2009, prior to anticipated submission for examination in August 2009. Potential adoption April 2010.
Land Allocations DPD	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Sept-Oct 2005	Preparation subsequent to Preferred Option Report of November 2005 ongoing, but affected by focus of resources on

	Submission April 2008 Adoption: May 2009	Core Strategy and CTAAP.
Development Control Policies DPD	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Sept-Oct 2005 Submission April 08 Adoption: May 2009	On hold. Preparation affected by changes to national guidance on LDF preparation and focus of resources on Core Strategy and then Central Telford AAP. Informal consultation undertaken on renamed issues and options of General Policies DPD April 08
South Telford Area Action Plan	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Sept-Oct 2005 Submission April 08 Adoption:	Timetable affected by focus of resources on Core Strategy and then Central Telford AAP.
Waste DPD	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Sept – Oct 2005 Submission Nov 2006 Adoption Dec 2007	Document submitted for examination 2007 but withdrawn after discussions with Planning Inspectorate prior to examination. Timetable now required to follow Core Strategy review
Minerals DPD	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Sept – Oct 2005 Submission Nov 2006 Adoption Dec 2007	Timetable now required to follow Core Strategy review.
Proposals Map	Prepared in parallel with all site specific DPDs	Partial revision undertaken to accord with Central Telford AAP to be put in place on Central Telford AAP adoption, further work ongoing in respect of Land Allocations DPD.

5.5 There were also 12 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and a Statement of Community Involvement proposed in the 2007 LDS. SPDs are supporting planning guidance documents that do not require an independent Examination and cover a wide range of planning considerations in more detail. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out the Council's approach to community involvement in the plan-making process and development control. The Council's current SCI was adopted in May 2006.

5.6 The 2007 LDS represented an ambitious programme which hinged on a funding package incorporating contributions from BSF and other projects. Whilst the table above shows there has been slippage against the programme set out, this reflects the national picture. Within the timetable set out the Council has achieved an adopted Core Strategy (still the only one in the West Midlands Region) and has made considerable progress with Central Telford Area Action

Plan and Land Allocations Documents. The Central Telford Area Action Plan is expected to be submitted for Examination in August with adoption expected in early 2010. In addition two of the SPD (Design for Community Safety and Telecommunications Development) have been completed and adopted, plus the preparation of 3 others is under way.

- 5.7 Whilst the current LDS did reflect the government advice and best practice available on preparing LDFs when it was drafted, it has become increasingly clear that the scale and number of documents involved in the Council's programme, the significant resource implications posed by each and the Council's updated priorities require a revision to be made, with a greater focussing of resources.
- 5.8 The current programme does not fully reflect the Council's priorities, particularly with regard to development and regeneration in South Telford. In addition, the early Core Strategy Review that is now expected to be required in response to housing delivery and the Phase II Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) is not programmed.
- 5.9 There is also an expectation on the part of government that the Council address accommodation for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople through allocation of sites in Development Plan Documents and so seek to reduce the number of unauthorised encampments. It is noted that West Midlands RSS Phase III Revision is due to specify additional pitch number requirements for each local planning authority.
- 5.10 As indicated in the Council's 2008 LDF Annual Monitoring Report a review of document preparation programmes has been undertaken. Whilst Government policy is to seek to discourage changes to an LDS, it is considered that significant drivers that are outside of the Council's control that can be put forward as justification. These would include revision of both the relevant regulations and of national planning policy on LDF preparation in 2008, alongside the need to prepare to respond to revision of the W. Midlands RSS and to support housing delivery.
- 5.11 This report seeks agreement to a revised LDS that sets out a more pragmatic development plan programme to respond to priorities in a more streamlined and resource-efficient way. The key proposals are:
- Commence preparation of a revised Core Strategy in order to provide a strategic planning framework for the Borough to 2026 and respond to phase 2 the West Midlands Regional Spatial strategy review;
 - The revised Core Strategy to provide a strategic framework to 2026 and incorporate a broader range of topics removing necessity for a separate Development Control Policies DPD;
 - Accelerate work on South Telford by the incorporation of the relevant material in the Land Allocations DPD preparation and therefore provide a development plan framework for South Telford without need for the lengthy and resource-intensive separate South Telford Area Action Plan (AAP). South Telford work

to be accelerated and combined with existing Land Allocations DPD around the end of 2009;

- Priority to be given to the preparation of the Land Allocations Development Plan Document in order to ensure that the current Core Strategy can be delivered through the identification and allocation of land and that a supply of housing land is maintained in advance of a Core Strategy Review following the revision of RSS Phase II.
- Review of Statement of Community Involvement – this document requires alteration due to the recent changes to the regulations and requirements for the preparation of LDFs.
- Review of timescales and resources for SPD preparation.

5.12 Proposed Development Plan Document timetables are set out below in order of preparation:

Table 2 – Proposed DPD programme

Document	Purpose	Timetable milestones
Central Telford Area Action Plan (CTAAP)	To provide policies and proposals with regard to Telford Town Centre, Old Park, Central Park, Hollinswood and Malinslee.	Consultation on Proposed Submission Documents: June – July 2009 Submission for examination: Aug 2009 Hearing Sessions: Nov/Dec 2009 Adoption: April 2010
Land Allocations DPD	To provide allocations of land for housing, employment and other uses throughout the Borough (excluding Central Telford), including the accommodation of local gypsy and traveller communities.	Consultation on Proposed Submission Documents: June – July 2010 Submission for examination: Aug 2010 Hearing Sessions: Nov/Dec 2010 Adoption: April 2011
Core Strategy Review	Revised Spatial Development Strategy and general policies to apply to development Borough-wide to 2026.	Consultation of statutory bodies on scope of sustainability appraisal Aug – Sept 2010 Pre-submission informal public engagement: Sept – Dec 2010 Pre-submission formal engagement: Jan- Feb 2011 Consultation on Proposed Submission Documents: August – Sept 2011 Submission for examination: November 2011 Hearing Sessions: March 2012 Adoption - July 2012
Waste and Minerals DPD	Sets out: i) waste-related policies and proposals and ii) supply requirements and policies and proposals for minerals- related development.	Consultation of statutory bodies on scope of sustainability appraisal Aug - Sept 2011 Pre-submission informal public engagement: Sept - Dec 2011 Pre-submission formal engagement: Jan- Feb 2012 Consultation on Proposed Submission Documents: August – Sept 2012

		Submission for examination: November 2012 Hearing Sessions: March 2013 Adoption - July 2013
Proposals map	Illustrates policies and proposals of Development Plan Documents. Updated alongside the other DPDs.	Timetable as Central Telford AAP, Land Allocation DPD, Core Strategy Review, Waste and Minerals DPD.

5.13 The revised programme is shown in full in the LDS (Appendix 1) where a detailed Risk Assessment is also included.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 The process of consultation would be as follows:

- With the Cabinet Member for Environment;
- With members of the Development Plans Steering Group (an advisory non-decision-making all party Council Member group);
- With the LDF Project Board (this comprises senior officers across the Council);
- Officers from GOWM are also being informally consulted on the draft LDS to seek their support and agreement to the changes proposed. If there are views obtained from GOWM prior to the meeting they will be reported orally.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

7.1 No equality and diversity considerations have been identified. An aim of the new planning legislation is to ensure that all sections of the community have the opportunity to engage in the development of planning policies. The Council has produced a Statement of Community Involvement which sets out the standard for consultation for all planning issues and a LD Scheme that lists all the documents that will make up the LDF and the timetable for their production.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 A detailed Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of all DPDs and SPDs must be undertaken as an integrated part of their preparation. This uses a SA Framework in order to consider the environmental, social, economic and natural resource implications of the draft policies and proposals. It results recommendations that can be addressed through changes to the documents being prepared.

9. LEGAL COMMENT

9.1 The powers and processes enabling the Council to revise a Local Development Scheme are contained in the relevant planning legislation. As with the original Scheme, any suggested revisions must be submitted to the Secretary of State before they can be brought into effect. The Secretary of State has power to direct the Council to make such amendments to the revisions as he/she thinks appropriate.

10. LINKS WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 10.1 The LDF is the spatial delivery plan for the Community Strategy. It seeks to put in place planning policies to deliver Vision 2021 and in particular will contribute to the Priority Plan for Maintaining a High Quality and Sustainable Environment (Sustainable Housing Development and Sustainable Development / Enhancing the Natural Environment Sub priorities). The changed approach to Land Allocations DPD will more effectively contribute to the Economy Priority Plan Sub Priority 6 Physical Regeneration in the New Town Estates.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The revision of the Local Development Scheme is planned to take place over the three year period, ending 2011/12. The projected cost of the work is approximately £1,500,000.
- 11.2 The proposed funding is made up of a number of components, including a contribution of £300,000 from the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) fund and a contribution of £375,000, already received from the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG).
- 11.3 The LDS identifies the need for one Examination in Public (EIP) in the current financial year, which is already covered by existing funding, and one in each of the following two years. The projected cost of each of these is in the region of £200,000.
- 11.4 The projected budget requirements based on all three examinations within the three year period, is in the region of £300,000. This is not currently included in the Budget Strategy and therefore approval for this expenditure in 2010/11 and 2011/12 would be needed when the timing and cost can be confirmed.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In providing the programme for preparing a planning framework for development across the borough the Local Development Scheme will have implications for all residents.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Telford and Wrekin Local Development Scheme August 2007

Report prepared by M. Wedderburn, Development Plans Team Leader, Tel: 01952 384246

Appendix 1



Local Development Scheme 2009 – 2012

If you would like free help to understand this document in your own language, please phone us on 01952 382121. You can also get this information in large print, Braille and on audio tape.

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phone the Development Plans Team on 01952 384241.

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Planning in Telford and Wrekin
3. LDF progress to date
4. Minerals and Waste policies
5. LDF Programme 2009 - 2012
6. LDF Preparation Requirements
7. Risk Assessment

Appendix 1 Profiles of LDF Documents

Appendix 2 Supplementary Planning Documents

Appendix 3 Saved Policies

Appendix 4 Glossary of Terms

1. Introduction

The Local Development Framework is a folder of planning documents covering a range of topics and prepared at different times. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) contains the programme for this. It sets out a three year plus programme for the preparation of LDF documents, including timetables that will tell people when the various stages in preparation of a particular document will be carried out. It also provides a starting point for the public to find out what the planning policies are for an area. The Council is required by Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 to publish the LDS.

This LDS supersedes the previous document of August 2007 and covers the period June 2009. – June 2012. It reflects the adoption of the Core Strategy and progress made on other documents since; the revisions to the work programme required as a result of the changing regulations relating to the preparation of DPDs introduced in 2008; and the priorities of the Council. It sets out a revised programme that responds to local priorities in a more streamlined and resource efficient way. In particular, it is proposed to accelerate work on a planning framework for South Telford (incorporated with site allocations work elsewhere) and to commence an early Core Strategy review during 2010.

This LDS was approved by The Council's Cabinet [insert date] and took effect from [insert date] following Government Office approval on date y. It is also published on the Council's website: www.telford.gov.uk

The remainder of this document comprises a number of sections. These include: an overview of the structure of national, regional and local planning policy; LDF preparation in Telford and Wrekin including performance against the timetables set out in 2007 LDS and most critically the proposed programme for 2009 – 2012. A risk assessment is provided and appendices include the Council approach to Supplementary Planning Documents and to "saved" policies.

While there is no formal public consultation process, views on the LDS are welcome and should be directed to the Development Plans Team at the address on the inside front cover.

2. Planning in Telford and Wrekin

Regional Planning Policies

The strategic guidance for TWC is provided by the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the West Midlands. Part of the statutory development plan for Telford and Wrekin, it contains policies to apply to development and to be taken into account in preparing the Council's LDF. LDF documents are required to be in general conformity with RSS.

The responsibility for the production of the RSS presently lies with the West Midlands Regional Assembly, but is intended it move to the Regional Development Agency in April 2010. RSS review is being undertaken in 3 parts:

- Phase 1 relating to the Black Country has been completed;
- Phase 2 includes housing, employment, waste, retail and centres and is currently at examination in public (spring / summer 2009);
- Phase 3 is at an early stage of preparation and will deal with rural development; gypsies and travellers; culture, sport and tourism; environment and minerals.

Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Joint Structure Plan 1996-2011

Policies within the Joint Structure Plan have formed part of the local Development Plan since November 2002. By Direction of the Secretary of State in September 2007, a number of Structure Plan policies ceased to form part of the Plan, whilst others were 'saved', until expressly replaced by new Local Development Framework policies. The list of 'saved' Structure Plan policies that form part of the Development Plan is contained in Appendix 3.

Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Minerals Local Plan 1996-2006

Adopted in April 2000, a number of policies within the Minerals Local Plan remain part of the local Development Plan following Secretary of State Direction in September 2007. The list of 'saved' Minerals Local Plan policies that form part of the Development Plan is contained within Appendix 3.

Telford and Wrekin Council planning policies

The Council's planning policies are contained in the following documents:

- **Core Strategy** -The Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) was adopted in December 2007 and is part of current statutory development plan for Telford and Wrekin. This is the key strategic LDF document that sets out the vision and spatial development strategy for the area and for subsequent DPDs to follow. Further DPDs are under preparation including a Land Allocations DPD.

- **Saved policies** - The Wrekin Local Plan was prepared in the mid / late 1990s, adopted in February 2000, and had an end date of 2006. In September 2007 certain policies were formally "saved", recognising that they were consistent with national policy and up-to-date. Whilst not part of the LDF these policies remain in force and form part of the development plan (all other Local Plan policies were discontinued at this date). A list of current saved policies is provided in Appendix 3.

- **Central Telford Area Action Plan (Central Telford AAP)** - This is at an advanced stage of preparation. At successful adoption this document would also form part of the development plan. Please note it is expected that further Wrekin Local Plan policies will be superseded on adoption of the Central Telford AAP.

- **Supplementary Planning documents (SPD)** - These are supporting guidance documents that cover a wide range of planning considerations in more detail. They are not part of the statutory development plan, although they are part of the LDF. Two completed SPD are in place as part of the Telford and Wrekin LDF:
 - Design for Community Safety (July 2008)
 - Telecommunications Development (May 2009)
 See Appendix 2 for further details in respect of SPD.

- **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** This sets out the Council's approach to community involvement in the plan-making process and development control. The Council's current SCI was adopted in May 2006. Whilst it is not a planning policy document it is part of the LDF and designed to be read alongside DPDs and SPDs.

3. LDF Progress to date

Early development of the LDF was prompted by the need to provide an updated planning policy framework to supersede the WLP. This was delayed to allow for progress to be made under the new development plans system that came into force in September 2004.

In its LDS the Council sought to make up time and thus set out an ambitious programme. The Council's LDS, as first put in place in 2005 and as subsequently amended in 2006 and 2007, proposed preparation of the following DPDs: Core Strategy, Development Control Policies, Land Allocations, Waste Policies and Proposals, Mineral policies and proposals Central Telford AAP and South Telford AAP. The timetables set out in the LDS envisaged simultaneous DPD progress on many of these documents.

Seeking to minimise delays, the Council continued to make progress on early community engagement in 2003 (visioning events) and 2004 (Issues & Options). Under the transitional arrangements this consultation was relevant to the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

Preferred Options consultation was carried out on the following DPDs in 2005: Core Strategy, Development Control Policies, Land Allocations, Waste Policies and Proposals and Central Telford AAP (the exercise was subsequently repeated on this latter document in late 2007).

In 2006 the Council submitted the Core Strategy DPD and Waste Policies and Proposals DPD to the Secretary of State and the examination of these documents was held in 2007. The Core Strategy was found sound and adopted by the Council in December 2007. The Waste DPD was however withdrawn (see Minerals and Waste policies section below for further details).

Whilst the Council is aiming for a strongly driven LDF programme, the Council has experienced slippage in progressing the remaining DPDs, as is common up and down the country. Whilst the Telford and Wrekin Core Strategy is now in place, many other local planning authorities have been found to have 'unsound' DPDs following independent examination. This has also led other authorities to seek to withdraw documents submitted for examination or to review their programme for LDF preparation. In addition, with Telford and Wrekin being one of the front-running authorities, good practice in plan preparation is only now beginning to emerge.

Furthermore revisions to the development plan system in 2008 and ongoing significant modifications to national planning policy have necessitated a review of programmes and processes. This has required the Council to allow further time for the collation of credible and robust evidence. As a result the timetable and

key milestones for the preparation of Development Plan Documents set out in the 2007 LDS have generally not been met.

An update against 2007 LDS is provided in the Table 1 below:

Table 1 – Progress against 2007 LDS

Development Plan Document	2007 LDS timetable	Current status
Core Strategy	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Sept Oct 2005 Submission: Nov 2006 Adoption: Dec 2007	Adopted Dec 2007
Central Telford Area Action Plan (CTAAP)	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Oct-Nov 2007 Submission: July 2008 Adoption July 2009	Consultation June – July 2009, prior to proposed submission for examination in August 2009. Possible adoption April 2010
Land Allocations DPD	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Sept-Oct 2005 Submission April 2008 Adoption: May 2009	Preparation subsequent to Preferred Option Report of September 2005 ongoing, but affected by focus of resources on Core Strategy DPD, CTAAP, and LDF evidence base material.
Development Control Policies / General Policies DPD	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Sept-Oct 2005 Submission April 08 Adoption: May 2009	On hold. Preparation subsequent to Preferred Option Report of Sept 05 affected by changes to national guidance on LDF preparation and focus of resources on Core Strategy and then Central Telford AAP. Informal consultation undertaken on renamed issues and options of General Policies DPD April 08
South Telford Area Action Plan	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Sept-Oct 2008 May 2009 Adoption May 2010	Preparation not formally underway, affected by focus of resources on Core Strategy and then Central Telford AAP.
Waste DPD	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Sept – Oct 2005 Submission Nov 2006	Document submitted for examination 2007 but terminated after discussions with Planning Inspectorate prior to examination. Timetable now required to follow

	Adoption Dec 2007	Core Strategy review
Minerals DPD	Early Community involvement Spring 2003/Summer 2004 Preferred Options Consultation Sept – Oct 2005 Submission Nov 2006 Adoption Dec 2007	Timetable now required to follow Core Strategy review.
Proposals Map	Prepared in parallel with all site specific DPDs	Partial revision undertaken to accord with Central Telford AAP to be out in place on Central Telford AAP adoption, further work ongoing in respect of Land Allocations DPD.

There were also 12 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) proposed in the 2007 LDS with preparation work undertaken on many of these. As noted in Section 2 above, two of these documents are now in place. See Appendix y for further details of the Council's SPD programme.

Preparing a whole suite of documents to supersede the Wrekin Local Plan has proved a challenging process. As signalled in the Council's 2008 Annual Monitoring Report, a review of document preparation programmes has been undertaken and revised programme is now set out in detail in section 6 of this document.

4. Minerals and Waste policies

The Council's 2007 LDS sought to bring forward Minerals and Waste DPDs by the end of 2008 and 2007 respectively. This course of action was however prevented by the outcome of the 2007 examination of the Council's LDF Core Strategy. Here the inspector deleted the minerals and waste policies from the Core Strategy. The Waste DPD that had also been submitted to be examined alongside the Core Strategy had to be withdrawn. This also required work to be discontinued on the proposed Minerals DPD Preferred Option Report.

The Council has had to reconsider how to proceed on minerals and waste policy development. In the meantime, planning applications for minerals and related development will be determined based on the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Joint Minerals Local Plan, alongside relevant national and regional planning guidance, saved policies of the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Joint Structure Plan, the LDF Core Strategy, Wrekin Local Plan and supplementary planning documents.

Similarly, in the absence of Waste Core Strategy Policies and a Waste Policies and Proposals DPD, planning applications for waste and related development will be determined based on the relevant national and regional planning guidance, the LDF Core Strategy, Wrekin Local Plan and relevant supplementary planning guidance.

The Council has subsequently reviewed its position on how to proceed with minerals and waste policy as part of the LDF and as set out in the LDF Programme section immediately below, this LDS now proposes a future Minerals DPD and Waste DPD, prepared subsequent to a revised Core Strategy.

5. LDF Programme 2009 - 2012

The Council has a programme for preparation of a range of Development Plan Documents (DPDs). Each requires numerous stages of consultation, with preparation culminating in an independent examination.

Table 2 below sets out the schedule of Local Development Documents the Council proposes to prepare over the next 3 years, in order of preparation. The timetable for each document is set out, including the pre-submission and post-submission timelines. As a unitary Local Planning Authority, this schedule includes the preparation of Minerals and Waste policies.

Table 2 - Schedule of Proposed Local Development Documents

Document	Details	Timetable milestones
Central Telford Area Action Plan	To provide policies and proposals with regard to Telford Town Centre, Old Park, Central Park, Hollinswood and Malinslee.	Consultation on Proposed Submission Documents: June – July 2009 Submission for examination: Aug 2009 Hearing Sessions: Nov/Dec 2009 Adoption: April 2010
Land Allocations DPD	To provide allocations of land for housing, employment and other uses throughout the Borough (excluding Central Telford), including the accommodation of gypsy and traveller communities.	Consultation on Proposed Submission Documents: June – July 2010 Submission for examination: Aug 2010 Hearing Sessions: Nov/Dec 2010 Adoption: April 2011
Core Strategy DPD Review	Revised Spatial Development Strategy and general policies to apply to development Borough-wide to 2026.	Consultation of statutory bodies on scope of sustainability appraisal Aug – Sept 2010 Pre-submission informal public engagement: Sept – Dec 2010 Pre-submission formal engagement: Jan- Feb 2011 Consultation on Proposed Submission Documents: August – Sept 2011 Submission for examination: November 2011 Hearing Sessions: March 2012 Adoption - July 2012
Waste and Minerals DPD	Sets out: i) waste-related policies and proposals and ii) supply requirements and policies and proposals for minerals- related development.	Consultation of statutory bodies on scope of sustainability appraisal Aug - Sept 2011 Pre-submission informal public engagement: Sept - Dec 2011 Pre-submission formal engagement: Jan- Feb 2012 Consultation on Proposed Submission Documents: August – Sept 2012

		Submission for examination: November 2012 Hearing Sessions: March 2013 Adoption - July 2013
Proposals map	Illustrates policies and proposals of Development Plan Documents. Updated alongside the other DPDs.	Timetable as Central Telford AAP, Land Allocation DPD, Core Strategy Review, Waste and Minerals DPD.

This schedule shows a reduction of 3 DPDs relative to the previous LDS:

- **General Policies DPD** – An early review of the Core Strategy in order to respond to RSS revision and provide a strategic framework to 2026 is proposed and will incorporate a broader range of topics, removing necessity for a separate Development Control Policies DPD;
- **South Telford Area Action Plan** – This work is now being incorporated in Land Allocations DPD preparation. A framework for housing delivery and regeneration priorities for South Telford is urgently needed. Rather than a separate Area Action Plan for South Telford to follow Land Allocations DPD work, recent changes to the development plans system allow for more flexibility with regard to early engagement in development plan document preparation and South Telford work is to be combined with existing Land Allocations DPD around the end of 2009;
- **Waste and Minerals Policies and Proposals DPDs** – Neither DPD can be progressed in advance of a Core Strategy. Waste and Minerals priorities will be kept under review but where possible these two documents are to be merged. Waste and Minerals work is timetabled to follow on from the review of the Core Strategy.

The need for future DPDs and proposed timetables will be kept under review and reported through the Annual Monitoring Report. Further details will be provided on the Council's website: telford.gov.uk

Subsequent to embarking on Core Strategy Review, a need for further Land Allocations (particularly with regard to housing) is anticipated in advance of 2016. Such work would however fall outside of the current 3 year period and is therefore not indicated in this 2009 – 2012 Local Development Scheme.

Detailed summary profiles for each DPD are set out in Appendix 1.

6. LDF Preparation Requirements

Resources

In general, the principal resources for LDF preparation and the monitoring of progress on the LDF will come from the Development Plans Team in the Environment and Regeneration Directorate.

Other officers and resources from within the Directorate, other Directorates of the Council, the Local Strategic Partnership, other agencies and organisations will also be involved in the preparation process to a significant extent in all documents (supplementary planning documents in particular will generally require extensive collaborative work in order to progress.

The Council also has an LDF Board comprising key officers (including at Head of Service level) from across the Council. LDF Board receives all reports on LDF preparation for advice and comment, before they are submitted to Members.

Consultants will also be used to assist with specific aspects of preparation.

Political Management

DPDs will be approved by full Council and their preparation will be overseen by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Environment and by Development Plan Steering Group (DPSG) at each stage. DPSG is a politically balanced Members Group advising Cabinet on LDF preparation and involving a number of senior Members. The Statement of Community Involvement and Supplementary Planning Documents can be approved by the Cabinet. Again preparation of these documents would be overseen by DPSG at each stage.

Evidence Base

Development plans need to be underpinned by sound evidence to support planning policies. The evidence base studies the Council has prepared for the LDF are listed in Appendix 4 and are made publicly available on the Council's website.

Other significant sources of information that may underpin planning policies planning policies are work done to support other major strategic plans such as the Local Transport Plan. The Council's Annual Monitoring Report (published December each year) monitoring planning applications and results of consultations (available from the Council's LDF consultation portal <http://consult.telford.gov.uk/portal> all provide additional evidence base material

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The SA/SEA of LDF documents is a legislative requirement required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, and an SEA, under the EU Directive 2001/42/EC (July 2004). To meet these requirements the Council has prepared a Scoping Report (Feb 2008) to establish a methodology, process and the baseline information required to undertake an appraisal of each LDF document.

Monitoring

An Annual Monitoring Report is required to be made publicly available and submitted to the Secretary of State by the end of December every year . The Council regards monitoring as an integral part of the planning process and sees an objectives-led monitoring system as essential so that policy and implementation measures can be evaluated and reviewed as an ongoing process. This is a requirement to assess the effectiveness of the policies within the LDF. The findings of the AMR have informed and will continue to inform the need to review the LDS and consider the need for further DPDs.

The Annual Monitoring Report will:

- assess progress against targets and milestones within LDDs;
- provide information in relation to national, regional or local targets;
- assess the need for review in circumstances where policies are not working effectively or objectives are not being met.

7. Risk Assessment

A risk management exercise has been carried out with regard to the LDF programme and has been taken into account in preparing this LDS. The following table provides a summary a key risks and proposed mitigation with those that are considered more likely listed first.

Risk	Likelihood / Impact	Details	Mitigation
Greater than anticipated time taken to secure necessary political approvals	High likelihood / high impact	LDF reports require Cabinet and in some cases Council approval and many of the issues being dealt with through the LDF have significant implications for the Borough. Change in the political balance of the Council could also impact on the LDF programme.	Progress with Lead Member engagement and jointly with other services A politically balanced Members Steering Group (DPSG) involving a number of senior Members has been established and risks posed can be reduced by early engagement with DPSG. Inclusion of reports in Forward Plan at early stage helps identify key concerns, as does taking all documents to members at key stages prior to adoption. This and the politically balanced nature of DPSG should minimise the effect of a change in political approach.
Greater than anticipated resources required to complete CTAAP	High likelihood / medium impact	Delays to LA DPD preparation and possible Core Strategy review start date	Careful project planning to avoid unplanned work. Consider how additional resources can be accessed where necessary. Procure temporary agency admin support where required and/or make internal arrangements to provide temporary support.
Further changes to LDF system and regulations	Medium likelihood / high impact	Required to repeat / restart work	Avoid abortive work by progressing as quickly as reasonably possible. Regular discussions with GOWM Seek staff training opportunities
Insufficient budgetary resources available beyond 09/10	Medium likelihood / high impact	LA DPD preparation largely in 09/10 so should not be greatly affected but where budgets (including staffing) were reduced thereafter, delays to possible CSR start date would result	Seek to maintain required level of funding to deliver LDS
Significant	Medium	Absence of key staff could	Seek to manage work place stress

Risk	Likelihood / Impact	Details	Mitigation
absence of staff (eg maternity leave or long term sick)	likelihood /high impact	significantly delay to LA DPD preparation and possible CSR start date	and to fill any maternity cover with temporary appointments
Significant staff turnover	Medium likelihood /high impact	Loss of key staff / large nos. of staff could significantly delay LA DPD preparation and possible CSR start date	Progress recruitment in order- vacant posts be filled To assist in reducing the risk, team work is a significant part of day to day working so all staff have some level of knowledge about all projects currently being undertaken.
Higher than expected number of representations	Medium likelihood /medium impact	Uses more staff time than anticipated, possible slippage to programme.	Make best use of the internet and on line system for representation receipt and reporting Procure temporary agency admin support where required and/or make internal arrangements to provide temporary support.
Constrained capacity of other agencies	Medium likelihood /medium impact	LDF work also puts strain on finite resources at a number of government agencies: in particular Planning Inspectorate (resources for examinations) Environment Agency & Natural England (comment on policies and proposals and input into the sustainability appraisal process.	Careful project planning to keep progress to timetable in this LDS. Early dialogue with key agencies. Discuss progress with GOWM. Consider how additional resources can be accessed where necessary.
Policy team staff diverted onto other tasks	Medium likelihood /medium impact	Slower progress on LDF and planning applications being determined without a sound policy base.	Through LDS build corporate recognition of the priority of LDF work. Minimise other work
Delays for elections, Christmas and summer break.	Medium likelihood /medium impact	Work paused or less effective consultation	Programme document preparation to avoid consultation during elections, Christmas and the summer break.
CTAAP found unsound at examination.	Unlikely / high impact	Delays to LA DPD preparation and possible CSR start date	Complete preparation for CTAAP examination with full regard to Regulations and national planning policy on DPD preparation and seek Legal advice where required
Adoption of	Unlikely /	Delays to LA DPD	Follow all due processes as set out in

Risk	Likelihood / Impact	Details	Mitigation
CTAAP subject to a legal challenge	high impact	preparation and possible CSR start date	the regulations and national planning policy and LDF guidance and ensure supported by robust and credible evidence. Seek legal advice where required.
Proposed revision of LDS not accepted by GOWM	Unlikely / medium impact	Delays future consultations. Possible impact on HPDG	Regular discussions with GOWM. A case will be put based on advice in revised PPS12, amended Regulations, and lessons learned from focussing resources on CTAAP.

APPENDIX 1 – Document Profiles

Core Strategy	Details
Role & Subject	The key strategic Development Plan Document that sets out the vision, the objectives, and the spatial development strategy for the Borough and for subsequent DPDs to follow.
Coverage	Borough-wide
Conformity	To national planning policies, the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands and have regard to the Telford & Wrekin Community Strategy.
Current status	<u>Adopted</u> December 2007
Review timetable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation of statutory bodies on scope of sustainability appraisal Aug – Sept 2010 • Pre-submission informal public engagement: Sept – Dec 2010 • Pre-submission formal engagement: Jan- Feb 2011 • Consultation on Proposed Submission Documents: August – Sept 2011 • Submission for examination: November 2011 • Hearing Sessions: March 2012 • Adoption - July 2012

Central Telford Area Action Plan	Details
Role & Subject	To provide detailed policies and proposals for the town centre and surrounding areas Policies areas include retail provision, offices, residential, open space and transport
Coverage	Telford Town Centre, Central Park, Old Park, Hollinswood, Mallinslee
Conformity	Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the West Midlands and Core Strategy DPD.
Current status	Publication of proposed submission document June 2009.
Timetable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission for examination: Aug 2009 • Adoption: April 2010.

Land Allocations	Details
Role & Subject	To provide allocations of land for housing, employment and other uses throughout the Borough (excluding Central Telford) including the accommodation of gypsy and traveller communities.
Coverage	Borough-wide (excluding Central Telford)
Conformity	Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the West Midlands and Core Strategy DPD.
Current status	Preferred Options September 2005
Timetable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on Proposed Submission Documents: June – July 2010 • Submission for examination: Aug 2010 • Hearing Sessions: Nov/Dec 2010 • Adoption: April 2011

Waste and Minerals	Details
Role & Subject	Development Plan documents providing detailed policies and proposals for minerals and waste and supply requirements for minerals- related development in accordance with the Core Strategy spatial development strategy
Coverage	Borough wide
Conformity	Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the West Midlands and Core Strategy DPD.
Current status	Preferred options September 2005
Timetable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation of statutory bodies on scope of sustainability appraisal Aug -Sept 2011 • Pre-submission informal public engagement: Sept - Dec 2011 • Pre-submission formal engagement: Jan- Feb 2012 • Consultation on Proposed Submission Documents: August – Sept 2012 • Submission for examination: November 2012 • Hearing Sessions: March 2013 • Adoption - July 2013

Proposals Map	Details
Role & Subject	Illustrates policies and proposals of Development Plan Documents. It is updated alongside the other DPDs.
Coverage	Borough-wide
Conformity	Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the West Midlands and Core Strategy DPD.

Current status	Adopted February 2000.
Timetable	Preparation in conjunction with timetables of Central Telford AAP, Land Allocation DPD, Core Strategy Review, Waste and Minerals DPD.

Statement of Community Involvement	Details
Role & Subject	Sets out the Council's proposals for consultation and community engagement with regard to LDF preparation and development control decisions on Planning applications.
Coverage	Borough-wide
Conformity	As a minimum it will meet the requirements for community involvement in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations and will have regard to the Council's Communications strategy
Current status	<u>Adopted</u> May 2006
Review timetable	Informal engagement Spring 2010 Formal engagement Sept - Oct 2010 Adoption Dec 2010

APPENDIX 2 - Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

SPD are guidance documents that support and elaborate upon development plan policies and cover a wide range of planning considerations in more detail. They are part of the LDF and are a material planning consideration, but do not have development plan status. No independent examination is required although SA/SEA and community involvement in line with the SCI or as a minimum the Regulations is required.

The Council has in place 2 SPD:

- Design and Community Safety SPD (July 2008)
- Telecommunications Development SPD (May 2009)

These SPD supplement policies CS15 “Urban Design” in the Core Strategy and saved Policy T21 “Telecommunications” respectively.

The following SPD are also under preparation as at June 2009:

- Managing Surface Water Drainage SPD (preliminary scoping consultation, summer 2009)
- Shopfront and Signage Design in Conservation Areas SPD (consultation on full draft document, summer 2009)

Further SPD are also proposed to cover such key matters as Developer Contributions, Affordable Housing and Design and in some cases preparation has already begun as a result of significant evidence gathering having taken place.

A review is ongoing to prioritise and programme the Council’s proposed SPDs against the resources available. Further details of the Council’s SPD programme will be provided on the Council’s website: telford.gov.uk

APPENDIX 3 - Saved policies

The Council's schedule of saved policies subsequent to paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 follows. The Wrekin Local Plan was adopted February 2000 and the following policies were agreed by GOWM on behalf of the Secretary of State September 2007 as remaining in force until subsequently superseded by DPDs.

Policy Number	Policy Name
NR1	Location of Renewable Energy Development
NR2	Proposals for Wind Turbines
NR3	Energy Use
NR6	Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities
EH7	Contaminated Land
EH8	Remedial Action on Contaminated Land
EH14	Land Stability
UD2	Design Criteria
UD3	Urban Design Assessments
UD4	Landscape Design
UD5	Public Art
UD6	Major Transport Corridors and Gateways into Telford
E2	Employment Land Allocations
E4	Development on Unallocated Employment Sites in the Urban Area
E6	Rural Employment General
E9	Non Employment Uses Within Employment Areas
H6	Windfall Sites in Telford and Newport
H7	Large Scale Regeneration Exceptions in Telford & Wrekin
H9	Location of New Housing
H10	Scale of Development
H18	Conversion of Non-residential Buildings to Residential Use in the Rural Areas
H22	Community Facilities
H23	Affordable Housing
H24	Affordable Housing Rural Exceptions Policy
S1	Service Centre Hierarchy

Policy Number	Policy Name
S5	Garden Centres in the Rural Area
S8	Car and Caravan Sales
S9	Retailing from Employment Areas
S10	Wellington Primary Retail Zone
S11	Wellington Secondary Zone
S12	Newport Retail Frontages
S13	Newport Secondary Zone
S14	Madeley Primary Retail Zone
S15	Madeley Secondary Zone
S16	Oakengates Primary Retail Zone
S17	Oakengates Secondary Zone
S18	Dawley Primary Retail Zone
S19	Dawley Secondary Zone
S20	Hadley Primary Retail Zone
S21	Hadley Secondary Zone
S22	Donnington Change of Use
S24	Changes Within Local Centres and Local Shops
S25	New Local Centres and Local Shops
S31	Shop Fronts, Advertisements and Hoardings
TC1	Town Centre
TC2	New Shopping Development in Telford Town Centre
TC3	Leisure Uses and A3 Uses
TC4	Mixed Use Development
TC6	Office Development
TC14	Town Centre Design
T4	Development Principles
T8	Rail Corridors
T21	Telecommunications
T22	Planning Obligations
OL2	Designated Areas
OL3	Green Network
OL4	Development in the Green Network
OL5	Extensions and Redevelopment in the Green Network

Policy Number Policy Name

Policy Number	Policy Name
OL6	Open Land
OL11	Woodland and Trees
OL12	Open Land and Landscape - Contributions From New Development
OL13	Maintenance of Open Space
LR1	Provision of Community Facilities
LR4	Outdoor Recreational Open Space
LR5	Golf Courses
LR6	Developers Contributions to Outdoor Recreational Open Space Within New Residential Developments
LR7	Recreational Open Space on Employment Developments
HE2	Demolition in Conservation Area
HE3	New Development in Conservation Areas
HE4	Detailed Applications
HE7	Facadism and Amalgamation of Plots
HE8	Change of Use and Upper Floor Conversions
HE10	Advertisements
HE11	Shop Fronts
HE15	Demolition of Listed Buildings
HE16	Alterations and Additions to Listed Buildings
HE24	Historic Parks and Gardens
HE25	Buildings of Local Interest
HE26	Duke of Sutherland Cottages
SG1	World Heritage Site
SG2	Area of Special Archaeological Interest
SG4	Landscape and Nature Conservation
SG5	Riverside Development and Works
SG7	Tourism
SG8	Museum Sites
SG12	Retailing and the Role of Ironbridge Centre
SG13	Environmental Improvements

Please note it is expected that of the policies listed above, the following policies will be superseded on adoption of the Central Telford Area Action Plan:

Saved policy to be replaced	Proposed replacement LDF Policies
S1	CS4, CS5, CS6 (Core Strategy Policies), TC1a, TC1b, TC1c, TC2, TC3, TC4, TC5, TC6, TC7, OP5, CT2, CT3 and CT6 (Central Telford AAP Policies)
TC1	TC1, TC1a, TC1b, TC1c, TC2, TC3, TC4, TC5, TC6, TC7
TC2	TC1, TC1a, TC1b, TC1c, CT2
TC3	CT6
TC4	CT1
TC6	CT3
TC14	CT12, CT13, CT14, CT15.

Appendix 4 - Glossary of Terms

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) - assesses the implementation of the LDS and the extent to which the policies are being achieved.

Area Action Plans – Development Plan Documents that focus on areas which are subject to significant change or conservation pressures and will benefit from having development plan status.

Core Strategy – Development Plan Document that sets out the vision for the Local Planning Authority area and the strategic policies and proposals to deliver that vision together with housing and employment provisions in accordance with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

Development Plan - The Development Plan sets out land use planning policies and development proposals against which planning applications will be considered. The Telford and Wrekin Development Plan as of June 2009 comprises the Core Strategy adopted Dec 2007 plus the saved policies of the Wrekin Local Plan date. It is noted that the Cernt4al Telford Area Action Plan is at an advance stage of preparation at successful adoption this would also form part of the development plan

Local Development Framework - (LDF) - This is a portfolio of Documents which will provide the Council's policies for meeting the community's economic, environmental and social aims for the future of the area, where this effects the development and use of land. This will replace the current Wrekin Local Plan.

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

The LDS will sets out the Council's programme for LDF It will provide details on what DPDs and SPDs the Council propose to prepare over the three year period and the timetable for their production. It will also set out the policies that the Council wish to save from the current development Plan and the timetable for the preparation of the Statement of Community Involvement.

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) - an overarching partnership of key stakeholders, responsible for producing the Sustainable Community Strategy

Material Consideration Any consideration relevant to the use and development of land and which is taken into account in determining a planning application is capable of being a material consideration

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) – a series of statements that set out national planning policy.

Proposals Map The Proposals Map will illustrate on an Ordnance Survey map policy designations, allocations and Area Action Plans in the Development Plan Documents.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) - a spatial framework to inform the preparation of local development documents, local transport plans and regional and sub-regional strategies and programmes that have a bearing on land-use activities.

Site Allocations - Site allocations are the sites which are proposed for development to meet the Council's Core Strategy. Policies in the site allocations DPDs will identify any specific requirements for individual proposals.

Spatial planning – a system that brings together and integrates policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function. This will include policies that impact on the use of land but which are not capable of being delivered solely or mainly through the granting of planning permission and may be delivered through other means.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how stakeholders and communities will be involved in the process of producing the LDF and in development control decisions.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – These documents provide policy guidance to supplement policies and proposals contained within DPDs. SPDs are not subject to independent examination as they do not form part of the development plan but the matters covered must be directly related to policy in the DPDs.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – a requirement of European legislation this is an assessment of the effects of the policies and proposals within the LDF on the environment.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – an appraisal of the potential impact of policies and proposals from an environmental, economic, social and natural perspective. This will inform the Council of the potential implications of different alternatives. SEA and SA will be undertaken together.

Sustainable Development - environmentally responsible development, commonly defined as "development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

Stakeholders - People who have an interest in the activities and achievements of the Council, including residents, local communities of interest, partners, employees, customers, shareholders, suppliers, opinion leaders, regulators and "hard to reach" groups.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 21/7/09

HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE – WINTER SERVICE REVIEW

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MOBILITY & DEVELOPMENT

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Review the operation of the Winter Service with regard to the difficulties encountered during the 2008/9 winter season due to the national shortage of road salt.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the recommended changes to the Winter Service outlined in Section 7 of the report be adopted and that the amended policy be adopted

3.0 SUMMARY

- 3.1 This report provides an update on the effectiveness of the Winter Service policy that was approved and adopted in September 2006 and looks at improvements required as a result of the problems encountered during the 2008/9 season.

4.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 Cabinet – 18th September 2006

5.0 BACKGROUND

- 5.1 In October 2003 the Government introduced an amendment to the Highway Act 1980 which placed a duty on Local Authorities to ensure, so as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice.
- 5.2 In light of this legislation change the Council acknowledged that the existing policy fell short of the new Code of Practice and in September 2006 approved a new Policy for the forthcoming winter maintenance season. This policy extended precautionary salting routes to include schools, transport interchanges, industrial estates and strategic footways/cycleways.

5.3 **Policy for 2006/7 and subsequent years**

5.3.1 The main activities of the Winter Maintenance Service are treating the highway to:

1. Try to prevent ice forming known as “pre-salting”
2. Melt ice and snow already formed, “post-salting”
3. Remove snow

5.3.2 **Roads:**

The service aims to prevent ice forming (precautionary treatment) on the “defined network” which consists of main through roads and those serving centres of activity such as commercial, retail, employment, administrative and leisure. These are known as the “frost routes”.

Defined network:

- All “A” and “B” roads
- Regular bus routes (The regular bus routes are defined as Monday to Friday routes with a minimum of one bus per hour during the main part of the day).
- Feeder roads to schools (roads linking main salting routes to main school entrances)
- Access roads to transport interchanges
- Main access roads on industrial estates (Halesfield, Stafford Park, Hortonwood)
- One access route to main villages/hamlets and minor sections of road for continuity

5.3.3 **Footpaths:**

Footpaths/cycletracks and district centres that will be treated when frost is forecast are:

- 1) Adopted footpaths in Telford Town centre.
- 2) Footpaths serving the main shopping areas of:
 - a) Wellington
 - b) Dawley
 - c) Madeley
 - d) Newport
 - e) Ironbridge
 - f) Oakengates

6.0 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURRENT POLICY

6.1.1 Roads

Feeder roads to schools:

Despite the prolonged period of cold weather conditions earlier this year, the salting of feeder roads to schools has been successful in ensuring that for the vast majority of schools have remained open.

Following officer discussion feedback from the Children & Young people portfolio concluded:

Despite the harsh weather conditions earlier this year, the salting of feeder roads to schools was successful in ensuring that for the vast majority of the winter, all the schools remained open.

Access roads to transport interchanges e.g. bus stations & railway stations.

Discussion with the Transport Service provider concluded that in previous years: *"Arriva did not encounter any problems during the winter season"*.

However for the 2008/9 season Arriva stated:

"During the cold snap earlier this year, the council did not seem to prioritise the Quality partnership routes, and the 33 and 55 both routes had large parts of the routes missed out. This may have been due to the fact there was a shortage of grit, so only main roads were prioritised, also we had a problem in getting bus stations gritted."

The reduction in service during 2008/9 due to the national shortage of salt clearly had an affect on public transport.

Main access roads on industrial estates (i.e. Halesfield, Stafford Park, Hortonwood) – all routes were kept open during the frost and snow events.

6.1.2 Footpaths

Salting and snow clearance of the adopted footways at the Town centre and the six main district shopping centres has resulted in a reduction in the number of complaints over the period of the current policy. We have been able to keep footways safe to use for the majority of winter conditions encountered during this period.

6.1.3 **Problems as a result of the National salt shortage**

Salt stock:

The salt barn at the Granville House depot has the facility to accommodate some 1400 tonnes of salt which is equivalent to approx 30 turnouts for frost (approx 15 days) and 15 for snow (approx 5 days). The Winter Service operates a salt management system that maintains stock levels between min of 1000 tonnes and max 1400 tonnes. Prior to the 2008/9 season this system had been effective with our salt supplier, Salt Union, organising regular deliveries on demand. The difficulties experienced during the 2008/9 season were as a result of a national shortage of salt which was compounded by the only two UK suppliers being unable to meet demand. As a result Government departments & Civil Resilience stepped in and dictated to each highway authority how much salt they would receive.

Gritting routes:

Deliveries were considerably reduced during January & February with the effect that the extent of our gritting operations had to be scaled back in order to conserve salt stock. For the period between 7th February 2009 and the end of the season gritting operations were reduced to only:

- A & B roads
- Roads serving fire, ambulance, police establishments
- Main bus routes in the following centres: Telford Town Centre, Dawley, Madeley, Newport, Oakengates & Wellington.

All salting of footways and refilling of grit bins was also suspended.

6.1.4 **Key points from the 2008/9 winter season**

Last winter saw much colder temperatures than past winters with a significant amount of snowfall. Salt usage was almost double the average of the last 5 years with almost 60% more turnouts for frost than previous years. The number of turnouts for snow was almost twice the average.

Key points with regard to salt stocks were:

- A colder December meant an early demand on salt stock
- In January Salt Union were already having difficulties with demand and had to acquire additional salt from Ireland
- The barn was at full capacity at the end of January but there was significant usage due to a snow event
- During February salt deliveries were suspended and deliveries were determined by the GOWM co-ordination unit.
- In early February roads to be gritted were reduced to Primary routes only and this level of service was maintained until the end of the season

Whilst the road network that received treatment during the salt shortage was reduced from 40% down to 20% there was no increase in the number of reported accidents.

6.1.5 **Main findings**

Whilst the delays and withdrawal of salt deliveries was outside the control of the Council the issue has highlighted the need to have a reserve stock of salt. The following options have been considered:

- Mutual aid with neighbouring authorities such as Shropshire Council
- Mutual aid – Highway Agency
- Extend salt stock provision at Granville House

Whilst it is considered that the first two options are appropriate for emergency situations it has been concluded that there is a need for this Council to increase its own salt stock.

The current policy has proven to be appropriate in meeting the duty placed on the Council and there is no evidence to suggest the need for fundamental change.

7.0 **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CURRENT POLICY**

7.1 In conclusion there should be no significant changes to the policy. However there is a need for the policy to be amended to reflect the difficulties encountered in 2008/9 and these are outlined below:

7.1.2 **Recommendation: Extended salt stock**

Additional salt storage of approximately 300 tonnes should be provided at the existing Granville House depot at a cost of £15,000. This would extend gritting operations for a further 7 turnouts for frost (approx 3.5 days) and 4 for snow (approx 1.5 days).

Initial permissions are in place with the Environment Agency and other permissions are being sought from Building Control.

7.1.3 **Recommendation: Gritting routes**

The problems with salt stock have highlighted that this Council's policy needs to be amended so that it has some flexibility to react when faced with this type of problem.

Most highway authorities operated a two stage process for implementing their gritting operations with a defined set of Primary routes and a set of Secondary Routes.

It is recommended that this Council adopts a similar approach with the Primary routes being those set out in 7.1.4 below and secondary routes being those set out in 7.1.5.

In normal operating conditions the full gritting routes set out in 7.1.4 & 7.1.5 would operate.

Cabinet have already authorised the appropriate officer to implement reduced gritting operations (i.e. Primary routes only) should a scenario similar to that encountered in the 2008/9 season arise.

7.1.4 Primary Routes:

- A & B roads
- Roads serving fire, ambulance, police establishments
- Main bus routes in the following centres: Telford Town Centre, Dawley, Madeley, Newport, Oakengates & Wellington.
- Access roads to transport interchanges

7.1.5 Secondary Routes:

- Other regular bus routes (The regular bus routes are defined as Monday to Friday routes with a minimum of one bus per hour during the main part of the day).
- Feeder roads to schools (roads linking main salting routes to main school entrances)
- Main access roads on industrial estates (Halesfield, Stafford Park, Hortonwood)
- One access route to main villages/hamlets and minor sections of road for continuity.

8.0 **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

8.1 The salting operations on the road and footway network facilitate greater access for all to key services (e.g. shops, jobs, health care, leisure and education)

9.0 **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

9.1 The risk of plant loss immediately adjacent to footpaths/cycleways is minimised by restricting the spread width of the salt. There is a slight risk of pollution from surface water runoff immediately after salting operations. These risks are more than offset by improved safety of our infrastructure.

10.0 **OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS**

10.1 In proposing this action/decision, the Corporate Risk Management Methodology has been complied with. This approach is not intended to eliminate risks but to identify the risks and manage them. However not all risks can be managed all of the time and some risks may not have been identified.

The following key risks and opportunities have been identified and assessed and arrangements will be put in place to manage them

10.2 *Risks*

The Winter Service Policy aims to reduce the likelihood of accidents and injury for users of the Borough' highway network during wintry conditions. For practical/cost reasons not all of the Borough's road, cycleway and footway network will receive treatment during these conditions. In developing the policy the extent of the operation has been determined by the recommendations of the Code of Practice for Highways Maintenance – "Well Maintained Highways" dated July 2005.

10.3 *Opportunities*

The Policy seeks to ensure that access to key facilities that are essential to the livelihood of residents of the Borough are maintained during wintry conditions. These include schools, public transport, town and district centres and main employment centres.

11.0 LEGAL COMMENT

The Council has a duty of care for Highway Maintenance. Much of highway maintenance activity is based upon statutory powers and duties contained in legislation. The statutory basis for Winter Service in England & Wales has been addressed through a modification to the Highways Act 1980 with effect from 31st October 2003. The relevant law now provides that:

- a) The authority who are for the time being the highway authority for a highway maintainable at public expense are under a duty, to maintain any highway which is maintainable at the public expense and,
- b) In particular, a highway authority is under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice.

In any action against the Council in respect of damage resulting from its failure to maintain a publicly maintainable highway, it is a defence to prove that the Council took such care as in all the circumstances was reasonably required to secure that the part of the highway to which the action relates was not dangerous for traffic. Similarly, in respect of the new duty under b) above, it is a defence to prove that the Council acted within the bounds of reasonable practicality i.e. it needs to devise a plan, in accordance with best practice to address the foreseeable risks.

12.0 LINK WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 12.1 Improved Highway Maintenance has a positive impact upon all of the Council key priorities.

13.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The £15,000 cost of this proposal will be met from existing capital budgets.

- 13.2 The 2008/9 budget for Winter Maintenance was £539,040, with a gross outturn position of £706,930. The budget for 2009/10 is £476,060, following a savings target of £50,000.

Any overspend in revenue costs in 2009/10, which would be influenced by weather conditions rather than this change of policy would have to be flagged as a corporate pressure and a bid made against the corporate contingency fund.

14.0 WARD & PARISH IMPLICATIONS

14.1 Borough wide implications.

14.2 Parish Charter: Parishes will be informed of any changes to treatment routes and other changes that affect their areas. During the winter season contact will be via the nominated Parish Council snow liaison representatives.

14.3 The Grit Bins procedure has been reviewed and concluded that requests for new grit bin locations will in future only be considered from Ward members, Parish & Town Councils or community organisations.

Report prepared by:-

Alan Reynolds, Highways Team Leader, Tel: 84805

WINTER SERVICE POLICY STATEMENT

2009/10

INTRODUCTION

The Borough of Telford and Wrekin is the Highways Authority for all the adopted roads in the Borough except for the M54 Motorway and A5 Trunk road from the end of the M54 at Cluddley to Preston Roundabout.

The Highways Authority is responsible for work relating to snow, frost or ice on these roads. The aim of the Winter Service is to provide so far as is reasonably practicable for the safe movement of road users along the highway network during wintry conditions. The Service operates between the 1st October and the 30th April i.e. the Winter Season.

A review of Winter Service Operations is undertaken each year before the start of the next Winter Season.

FORECASTING & TREATMENT OF ROADS

Two weather monitoring stations operate in the Borough, which with information from surrounding areas' stations and forecasting from the Met Office are used to determine the most appropriate action delivered at the best possible time.

We employ the Vaisala weather monitoring and bureau service who advise our experienced staff on optimising the salting of the roads at the most effective and economic times. However with the variable conditions we experience in this maritime climate it is not always possible to complete salting before freezing starts but we endeavour to complete salting as soon as is practicable within the constraints of our resources.

ROADS TO BE TREATED

The main activities of the Winter Service are treating the highway to:

- 1 Try to prevent ice forming known as "precautionary salting"
- 2 Melt ice and snow already formed, "post-salting"
- 3 Remove snow

All the roads are divided into the "defined network" and the "non defined" roads dependent on their priority. The service aims to prevent ice forming (precautionary treatment) on the "defined network" which consists of main through roads and those serving centres of activity such as commercial, retail, employment, administrative and leisure. These are known as the "frost routes".

Frost Routes

The "frost routes" should be salted prior to the formation of frost by the fleet of gritters provided by Telford & Wrekin Services.

Primary Routes:

- A & B roads

- Roads serving fire, ambulance, police establishments
- Main bus routes in the following centres: Telford Town Centre, Dawley, Madeley, Newport, Oakengates & Wellington.
- Access roads to transport interchanges

Secondary Routes:

- Other regular bus routes (The regular bus routes are defined as Monday to Friday routes with a minimum of one bus per hour during the main part of the day).
- Feeder roads to schools (roads linking main salting routes to main school entrances)
- Main access roads on industrial estates (Halesfield, Stafford Park, Hortonwood)
- One access route to main villages/hamlets and minor sections of road for continuity.

Priority will always be given to ensuring that the Primary routes are treated before the Secondary routes.

The remainder of the roads are “non defined” and are not treated for a forecast of frost. However grit bins are provided at high risk sites such as steep hills, severe bends, etc.

Snow and ice routes

Roads to be treated at times of snowfall or prolonged icy periods following snow (post-treatment) are known as the “snow and ice routes”. The “snow and ice routes” consist of the “frost routes, the remaining main and secondary distributor roads and high risk sections of the local network.

In times of snow and prolonged icy conditions the “snow and ice routes” are ploughed, cleared or salted with the frost routes being treated as priority. This work is undertaken under our instruction by Telford & Wrekin Services, farmer operated snowploughs and if necessary local contractors. These activities are aimed at providing safe movement around the Borough between major centres and at least one access route to each hamlet.

When resources allow they will then be deployed onto the “non defined” routes dealing with problems in priority order.

TREATMENT OF FOOTWAYS AND CYCLETRACKS & DISTRICT CENTRES

Frost Routes

Footpaths/cycletracks and district centres that will be treated when frost is forecast are the “defined footway routes” at the following locations:

- 1) Adopted footpaths in Telford Town centre.
- 2) Footpaths serving the main shopping areas of:
 - a) Wellington
 - b) Dawley
 - c) Madeley

- d) Newport
- e) Ironbridge
- f) Oakengates

Snow & ice

In the event of prolonged snow or ice strategic footway/cycletracks will be treated in a priority order. The order starts with town centres, local district centres etc. It is not possible to clear all the footpaths within the Borough during these wintry conditions.

Grit Bins

Grit bins in general are only provided on “non-defined” roads at high risk sites such as steep hills, severe bends, etc. Their provision is determined by on-site risk assessments using a standardised set of criteria and then prioritised based on available resources. Grit bins are provided on the basis of self-help by the public and the service is limited to refilling the bins with salt and replacing damaged bins.

A limited number of grit bins are provided at key locations on the footway/cycleway network defined as routes promoted as Safe Routes to Schools.

Requests for new grit bin locations are considered only from Ward members, Parish & Town Councils or community organisations.

Grit bins are only provided on the adopted highway

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 21st JULY 2009

PLANNING OF SCHOOL PLACES: STIRCHLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THREE OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL TRUST STATUS

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Cabinet for further formal consultation to take place in relation to proposals to redesignate the proposed new primary school (following the merger of Stirchley Primary and Three Oaks Primary schools), to become a shared part of the Lord Silkin School Trust.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 **Authorise the Corporate Director: Children and Young People, to engage in formal consultation with key partners and stakeholders in respect of a proposal to merge and co-locate Stirchley Primary and Three Oaks Primary maintained schools into a new Trust primary school as part of the Lord Silkin Learning Community to open in January 2014.**
- 2.2 **Request that a further report on the outcomes of formal consultation to establish the new primary school as a Trust school be brought to a Cabinet meeting in the autumn 2009.**
- 2.3 **That the Cabinet authorises the Head of Asset & Property Management in consultation with the Head of BSF Resources and Social Regeneration to negotiate the terms of the transfer of Land and Buildings in the new Trust School proposal and the Head of Legal Services to execute all necessary agreements and documentation relating thereto.**

3 SUMMARY

- 3.1 Formal consultation has recently taken place regarding the proposal to merge the existing Stirchley Primary and Three Oaks Primary Schools. This process has now been completed. Recent guidance from the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) requires that Local Authorities (LA's) increase where possible the diversity of school provision within their area. The DCSF has advised that since the Lord Silkin School will become a Trust from September 2009, that the expectation would be that the new primary school

would form part of the Trust. Since the two existing schools have already indicated that they are willing to be partners of the Trust, and the new school will form an integral part of the new Learning Community, it is felt to be the preferred available option

4 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 Cabinet 12th January 2009 Planning of Places – Stirchley Primary and Three Oaks Primary Schools.

5 INFORMATION

Background

- 5.1 Under the provisions of the Education & Inspections Act 2006, a Trust school is defined as a Foundation school with a foundation body. The school remains a Local Authority (LA) maintained school, which is supported by a charitable Trust which appoints some of the governors. It operates within the same framework as other maintained schools, teaching the National Curriculum, follows the School Admissions Code of Practice and is subject to inspection by Ofsted. Teaching staff will be employed under the terms of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document. The LA will continue to fund the school on the same basis as all other LA schools and will retain its intervention powers if there are problems at the school. Trust schools differ because their charitable Trust establishes a long-term relationship with external partners and involves them in the school's governance and leadership.
- 5.2 The Trust partners of the new primary school are as follows: Lord Silkin School, TCAT, University of Wolverhampton, Fabweld and the Local Authority.
- 5.3 Initial consultation has taken place with both existing schools Governing Bodies, and both sets of Governors unanimously voted to proceed with the Expression of Interest to form part of the Supported Schools Programme of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT).

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

- 6.1 The proposals detailed in the recommendations to this report would help to promote the Council's equality commitment in terms of:
- Reducing disparities in the current quality of both schools accommodation.
 - Provide better, up to date facilities which meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and opportunities for social inclusion through extended learning, lifelong learning and early years & childcare provision.
 - Ensuring sufficient quality places are available locally to the community within the Stirchley area.

The proposed transition to Trust school status will not affect the schools approach to ensuring equality and diversity. The school will remain committed to providing quality teaching and learning to all diverse groups within its community.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.1 All new buildings provided by funding from the Primary Capital Programme would be designed to the latest environmentally friendly and energy efficient standards and replace old outdated buildings which are energy inefficient.

8 LEGAL COMMENT

- 8.1 Changes to school organisation are governed by the requirements of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 and guidance from DCSF.
- 8.2 Any decision, following consultation, to merge schools and to establish a new school requires the publication of a statutory notice which must stand for a 6 week period. If any objections are received within the notice period ultimate decision making passes to the independent Schools Adjudicator who may accept, reject or seek to amend the Council's proposal.
- 8.3 The public consultation has been conducted in accordance with the guidance issued by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) relating to the closure of existing schools and the establishment of a new school.
- 8.4 The Local Authority can apply to the Secretary of State for consent to publish proposals for a new school without running a competition. This process is generally referred to as an "exemption", pursuant to section 10 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

9 LINKS WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 9.1 The specific proposals will all significantly contribute to the realisation of the Council's Community Priorities with particular emphasis in respect of:
- Transforming Telford & Wrekin;
 - Giving Children & Young People the Best Possible Start in their lives;
 - Maintaining a High Quality, Attractive and Sustainable Environment;
 - Strengthening the Local Economy & the Skills of Local People.

10. OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

The opportunities and risks associated with this proposal have been identified and assessed. Arrangements will be put in place to manage the risks and maximise the opportunities that have been identified.

11 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The funding for the new school will be met from the Primary Capital Programme recently confirmed by DCSF following evaluation of the Authorities Primary Capital Strategy. The interim accommodation requirements e.g. temporary classbases will be met from capital receipts from the overall Campus Telford & Wrekin project.

11.2 Ongoing revenue savings will be realised through the merger of two primary schools into one single school due to the associated reduction in headteacher post, administration costs, repairs and maintenance on old buildings, utility services etc. These savings will be reinvested into all schools.

11.3 Trust School Status

There are no significant financial implications as the schools will remain LA maintained schools funded by the LA. An 80% mandatory charity National Non – Domestic rate relief is applicable to the Trust schools which when reflected in the schools' funding formula will release an amount of funding to be reinvested in all schools. Trust Partners' contributions to the schools will not be financial but in the form of skills, knowledge and expertise. The ownership of the land will transfer to the individual Trust school once the application process has been completed. In this case the school is due to relocate as part of plans for Campus Telford & Wrekin. The current site will then revert back to Council ownership, and the new site will transfer to the respective Trust body.

12 WARD IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The site is located within the Nedge Ward.

Ward Members **Councillor Yvonne Hicks**
 Councillor Ute Sambrook
 Councillor Richard Tyler

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Building Schools for the Future – Strategy for Change Part 1 and 2
- Building Schools for the Future – Outline Business Case
- Children & Young People Asset Management Plan
- Every Child Matters: Primary Capital Programme Prospectus (March 2006)
- Telford & Wrekin Primary Strategy for Change (Resubmission March 2009)

Report prepared by:
Clive Jones, Head of BSF, Resources and Social Regeneration
Tel: (01952) 380900

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET: 21ST JULY 2009

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

REPORT OF HEAD OF POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to implement a time limited programme of support for a small number of voluntary / community groups or organisations during the credit crunch. This is meant to enable these groups to continue to inform and support vulnerable community members affected by the economic downturn.

2. RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is requested to agree to the outline proposal set out in Section 5.2 below

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At Connecting Communities Group on 25th March 2009 issues were raised by Group members about how community based BME organisations are witnessing the effects of the credit crunch on local communities, in particular, job losses in the lower paid manufacturing sector and reduced small business revenue.
- 3.2 It was acknowledged that the Telford Town Centre based resource is useful, but that it was less likely to be accessed by some communities, because of the location, transport issues and residents with language difficulty.
- 3.3. It was stated that BME led community based organisations are struggling to survive themselves, and that the vital link with communities that they have established could be lost if they are allowed to "go under".
- 3.4 Examination of the "Economic Inclusion Baseline Report for the West Midlands March 2009" reinforces that some social groups within communities are more likely to be affected by unemployment and other effects of the downturn than other groups, as quoted below below.

"Worklessness is higher among residents of some localities in the region, and among some social groups, and the scale of the challenge to get these areas and groups up to the national rate of employment presents an even greater challenge.

While the worklessness rate for the general population of working age is 28%:

Among those with a limiting illness or disability it is 52%

For people from the Black / Black British ethnic group it is 44%

For those with no qualifications it is 53% and

For those from the Pakistani/Bangladeshi group it is 57%

There are some key factors which contribute to the region's workless total: Living in an urban area; holding no qualifications; being from a minority ethnic group; having a long-term health problem or disability; and being young all increase an individual's chances of being workless.

One third of the region's workless population live in urban areas;

30% have no qualifications;
More than one third have a limiting illness or disability;
and 24% are from a minority ethnic group"

Source: Economic Inclusion Baseline Report for the West Midlands March 2009

3.5 This indicates that some groups are more likely to suffer detrimental effects during an economic downturn, namely people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, people with disabilities and people from all backgrounds who have low levels of qualifications.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 Connecting Communities Group minutes 25th March 2009

5.1 PROPOSAL

5.1.1 The proposal is to provide some limited financial support for a number of community groups/organisations, in return for improving access to information and / or services for vulnerable groups via outreach activity. This will assist some of our most vulnerable community members during the economic downturn

5.1.2 Any proposal for assistance in the short term should be:

- In line with the Council's priorities in terms of safer and stronger communities
- Seen to be fair and equitable for all organisations and communities
- Cost effective and value for money
- Able to be implemented quickly
- Able to be easily managed
- If short term, should contribute to longer term goals

5.1.3 A number of small community organisations are likely to be in a position to facilitate some level of community support activity, even if this is just displaying or distributing information. It is proposed that different levels of financial support be offered to groups, in varying amounts, in return for the delivery of information or services to their target communities. The amount of financial support offered would depend on what each group or organisation feel able to deliver.

5.1.4 It is possible that this could be delivered as a form of "outreach activity" which mirrors the range of information /provision at First Point. Information available from the contributors to First Point, could be packaged for each organisation, along with guidance on how to contact service providers and signpost services.

5.1.5 It is proposed that a range community led organisations could be invited to sign up to provide some or all Level 1 actions / or some or all Level 2 actions, depending on their capacity and access to premises, meeting rooms, display areas etc. A draft menu of options has been devised to enable different organisations to sign up for what they can deliver, see Appendix A "menu".

5.1.6. The proposal would be for this to be "contract managed" via a simple Service Level Agreement between the Council and Telford Race Equality and Diversity Partnership who have contact with a range of groups and organisations within the Borough that support vulnerable groups such as bme led groups and disability organisations.

5.2 Equality & Diversity

5.2.1 An equality impact assessment of this proposal has been undertaken. The main issue arising is how do we identify which voluntary sector groups should be offered

this opportunity when there are other groups or communities who may feel equally disadvantaged by the credit crunch.

5.2.2 It is proposed that this is addressed by taking into account the following:

- It is recognised that unemployment and low paid employment within some BME communities within the Borough are already areas for concern. It is also recognised that people with disabilities and / or low skills levels are also more likely to be affected by the credit crunch.
- It is a reasonable to assume that people suffering greater levels deprivation at the start of the economic downturn are likely to be amongst those worst affected over time.
- Telford Race Equality and Diversity Partnership would be asked to target a range of groups, from bme and white communities, where deprivation is already an issue, and where some of the more vulnerable members of our communities are being supported. Within this principle each application to take part in the scheme would be assessed on its own merit.
- In community settings information can be provided in a way that is more accessible for some groups who have specific communication needs.

5.3 Environmental Impact

5.3.1 The provision of information within community settings may reduce the need for people travel to the town centre. Printed information can be directed to where it is needed to avoid waste. Web based information can be used within those organisations that have access to the Internet / IT.

5.4 Legal Comment

5.4.1 The provision of a grant in these circumstances would be within the Council's powers under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (well-being powers).

5.4.2 However, whenever a Council benefit is to be conferred upon particular sections of the community, care has to be taken to avoid unlawful discrimination against other sections of the community.

5.4.3. It is important that the policy about these grants is reasonable and rational (general public law duty to act rationally and fairly) and the application procedure for the grants is developed in partnership with Legal Services.

5.5 Links with Corporate Priorities

5.5.1 This proposal supports:

- Priority 4. Creating a Safe, Strong and Cohesive Community,
- Priority 6. Strengthening the Local Economy and the Skills of Local People.
- Priority 7. An Efficient, Effective and Customer-Focused Council that delivers value for money for the community.

5.6 Opportunities and Risks

5.6.1 The opportunities are:

- The Council can help sustain a number of small community groups that play a valuable role in community life and community cohesion
- The Council can take practical steps towards helping to build greater capacity within local small voluntary sector organisations as a possible stepping stone towards greater involvement in service delivery.

- The Council and partners can get their messages about support that is available to a wider audience who may not access services by the mainstream provision.
- There is also an opportunity to link with the work of the recently formed inter-agency Financial Inclusion Group and work planned by Revenues and Benefits for targeted take up.
- The Council can demonstrate how it is meeting its public duties under various equality legislation.

5.6.2 The risks are:

- That the assumption about the need for this support is incorrect (see 5.2.2)
- That the initiative may have limited success in terms of the capacity of some organisations to deliver
- That whilst this is stated to be a "one-off" it may be seen as setting a precedent for providing financial support to the sector in the future

5.7 Financial Implications

5.7.1 It is understood that money originally allocated for additional funding for Fairshare Credit Union in our 'Credit Crunch package' has not been required/utilised due to the location of First Point in the Town Centre Library. It is proposed that this funding be switched for use on this community outreach initiative, as outlined in this report. This funding, like other 'credit crunch' initiatives, is a 'one off' and amounts to a maximum of £25,000.

5.7.2 If 10 organisations signed up to all level 1 actions this would cost £600 per organisation (£6000)

5.7.3 If 5 organisations signed up to all level 2 actions this would cost £2,000 per organisation (£10,000). Only a few of the organisations that operate within the Borough are likely to have the capacity to sign up to all or some level 2 activity

5.7.4 It is likely that for £16,000 (plus printing costs) we would have helped to maintain 15 community organisations over the coming year and would have reached numerous community members that would otherwise have not accessed information or services. This would be a "stop gap" measure, with a view to engaging in the wider debate on capacity building within voluntary sector.

5.7.5. TREDP have agreed to assist with the implementation and monitoring of this short programme. An administrative charge will be incurred but this will be no greater than 20% of the overall budget.

5.7.6. There may be secondary financial implications, for example, if better sign-posting of some communities to the First Point leads to an increase in visits from people with language needs or sign language needs, there will be an increase in costs for interpretation or translation. This will be managed within the one off funding of £25k that is available.

6. WARD IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This applies to all Wards

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Report prepared by Linda Gunn, Equality and Diversity Officer (01952 382125) and Hilda Bertie, Equality and Diversity Manager (01952 382124)

Appendix A

Menu of support that can be offered / supported

This menu is based on the range of activities supported at the Town Centre First Point and could form the basis of Vulnerable Groups Outreach activity.
The proposed payments are based on a one year SLA agreement

Activity	Level 1	Level 2	Monitoring Data
Display of and distribution of information from First Point Credit Crunch	<u>1A</u> Putting up posters and displaying leaflets £50	<u>2A</u> Putting up posters displaying leaflets and distributing information to members and local homes £150	1. Posters on display 2. No. of leaflets distributed
Interpretation and assistance with understanding First Point related information	<u>1B</u> Assist people with understanding information in English only £100	<u>2B</u> Capacity to assist people with understanding information in English and community languages / or sign language / easy read £500	1. Approx number of people assisted in English 2. Approx number of people assisted in community languages
Directing or facilitating access to advice and guidance services	<u>1C</u> Holding and sharing information on CAB services and helping arrange appointments £100	<u>2C</u> As level 1 plus facilitating access to CAB services via local on-site surgeries £200	1. Information available 2. Any surgeries held
Facilitating access to Nextstep / Community Learning	<u>1D</u> Providing information on learning opportunities £50	<u>2D</u> As level 1 plus providing on site access to learning opportunities £200	1. Information available 2. Any learning sessions held
Facilitating access to Family Information Services	<u>1E</u> Providing information on Family information Service	<u>2E</u> As level 1 plus providing on site access to one or more of a range of services for children, young people and families	1. Information available 2. Any activities for children and young people held

	£50	£200	
Facilitaing access to Housing Advice	<u>1F</u> Providing information on Housing Services and assisting with appointments £100	<u>2F</u> Facilitating access to housing services via on site surgeries or on-site appointments £250	1. Information available / appointments arranged 2. Any surgeries held or on site appointments held
Facilitating access to revenues and benefits advice	<u>1G</u> Providing information on benefits and revenues services and assisting with appointments / arranging home visits £100	<u>2G</u> As level 1 plus facilitating access to revenues and benefits services via on site surgeries or on-site appointments £250	1. Information available / appointments made 2. On site surgeries or appointments held
Facilitating access to training and re-training	<u>1H</u> Providing information about training opportunities £50	<u>2H</u> As level 1 plus facilitating on site access to training organisations via on-site surgeries or training sessions £250	1. Information available 2. On site training surgeries or training sessions held
Total costs	£600 if all menu items selected	£2000 if all menu items selected	

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 21 JULY 2009

ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH AND SAFETY 2008-9

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This is an information report that outlines the overall health and safety performance of the Council between April 2008 and March 2009.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the contents of the report are noted and the proposed key actions for 2009-10 be endorsed ie

- **Further promotion of employee health and wellbeing.**
- **Embedding the health and safety strategy across the Council particularly closer monitoring of health and safety audits.**

3.0 SUMMARY

3.1 The key findings of the report are:

- There has been a slight reduction in the number of accidents reported to employees and a reduction in the number of days lost due to accidents.
- The Occupational Health Service is increasingly well used as is the employee counselling service.
- The uptake of health and safety training by managers remains encouragingly high.

3.2 Proposed key actions for 2009/2010

The key actions proposed by the Chief Executive's health and safety group are as follows:

- Further promotion of employee health and wellbeing.

- Embedding the health and safety strategy across the Council particularly closer monitoring of health and safety audits.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 The previous annual report on health and safety performance was considered by Cabinet at the meeting on 14th July 2008 minute number CB-31.

5. INFORMATION

- 5.1 The health and safety performance information is given both in terms of reactive monitoring where incidents have occurred and proactive monitoring to show what is being done to ensure that we have robust systems in place to prevent injury and ill health. The detail of this information is set out in the three appendices attached:

- **Appendix 1 Reactive safety performance** This covers accidents, violent incidents and enforcement.
- **Appendix 2 Health performance** Covering occupational health, counselling services and stress related sickness absence.
- **Appendix 3 Proactive health and safety performance** Includes detail on training, reviews, consultation, awards, safety of buildings and progress on the corporate plan for health and safety.

6.0 Background

The Health and Safety Commission encourage employers to include reporting on health and safety performance in their annual reports as part of the drive to achieve the targets set in strategy statement "Revitalising Health and Safety".

6.1 Equal opportunities

Some health and safety issues are gender specific, for example the safety and health of new and expectant mothers.

6.2 Environmental impact

None.

6.3 Legal comment

The key actions discussed in this report are needed to continue to comply with current health and safety law.

6.4 Link with corporate priorities

- 6.4.1 Promoting employee health and wellbeing links to the priority of promoting healthier communities and also to the priority of providing and efficient, effective and customer focussed Council that delivers value for money to the community

6.4.2 Embedding our health and safety strategy links to the priority of being an efficient, effective and customer focussed Council that delivers value for money to the community.

6.5 Financial implications

The Health & Safety and Occupational Health service are both support services funded from within existing resources. The cost of counselling services are borne by service budgets according to usage.

6.6 Opportunities and Risks

The opportunities and risks associated with these actions have been identified and assessed. Arrangements will be put in place to manage the risks and maximise the opportunities that have been identified.

7. Ward Implications

District wide implications.

8. Background papers

Annual reports of health and safety performance for 2006-2007 and 2007-8

Any queries regarding this report please contact: Jo Revell Health and Safety Manager 383625

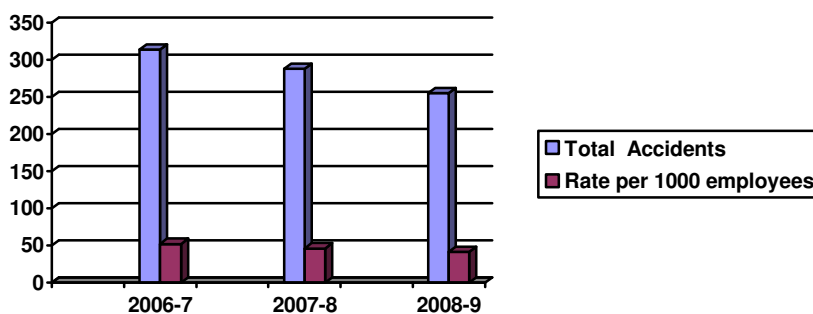
APPENDIX 1

REACTIVE SAFETY PERFORMANCE –Accidents, Violent Incidents and Enforcement

1.1 ACCIDENTS TO EMPLOYEES: April 2008 –March 2009

2008-9 is the first year that reports on accidents and incidents are being drawn off PSE. This has created some difficulties with inexperienced system users; improved explanatory guidance has been produced to help minimise this in future.

Chart 1 Total employee accidents and accident rate

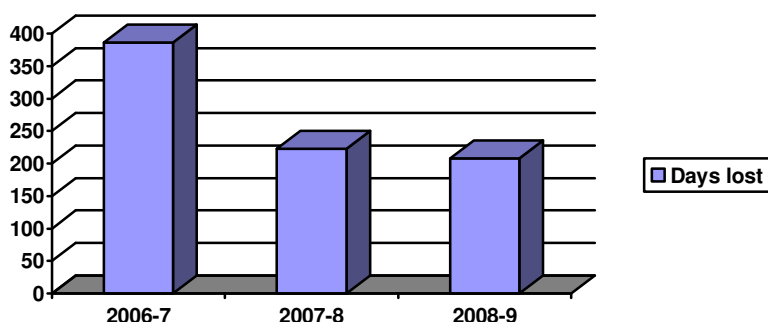


1.1.2 Our notifiable accident rate (ie serious accidents reportable under the Reporting of Incidents, Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)) to employees is 2.2 per 1000 (2.1 last year) whilst our overall accident rate is 41 per 1000 which is a decrease from 46 last year.

1.1.3 The causes of accidents resulting in any time lost were as follows: Eight were due to slips trips and falls including two on ice, three off kerbs or steps, one over a drain cover and two whilst manoeuvring trolleys. Two involved falls from height including downstairs and off a quad bike. Three were caused by manual handling, one was a road traffic collision and one involved a chemical splash to the eye. One resulted from a trapping incident and one when an employee was running to answer the phone. One was as a result of being bitten by a dog.

1.1.4 All four most serious (major injuries) happened as a result of slips, one on at wet floor in a school, one on ice at a primary school, one in a car park and one off a step. All these accidents resulted in fractures to parts of the lower limbs.

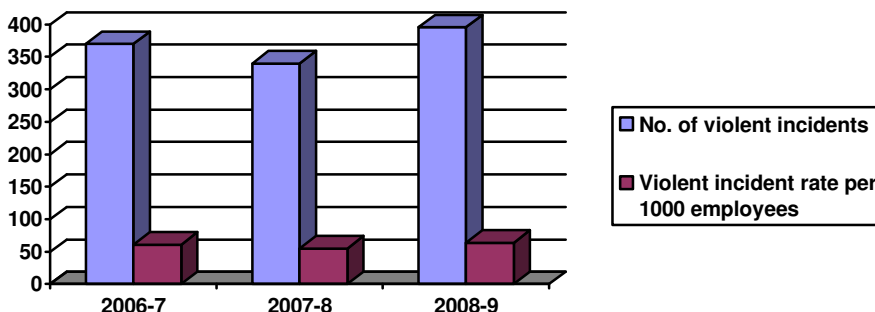
Chart 2 Employee days lost due to accidents



1.1.5 The target of reducing accidents causing more than three days to be lost from work (12) to below the average of the preceding three years (14) was achieved in 2008-9.

1.2 VIOLENT INCIDENTS towards employees:

Chart 3 Violent incidents to employees



1.2.1 A violent incident is any incident in which an employee is verbally or physically abused, threatened or assaulted in circumstances arising out of the course of his/her employment.

1.2.2 There were 396 violent incidents reported 2008-9 a slight increase over the previous year. Around 38% of these incidents are perpetrated by the same nine clients. These people are closely monitored and care plans amended where possible to minimise the chance of these incidents arising. 67% of the reported incidents involved physical assault although the injuries inflicted were very minor in the majority of these cases.

1.3 ENFORCEMENT ACTION AND HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE INVOLVEMENT (HSE)

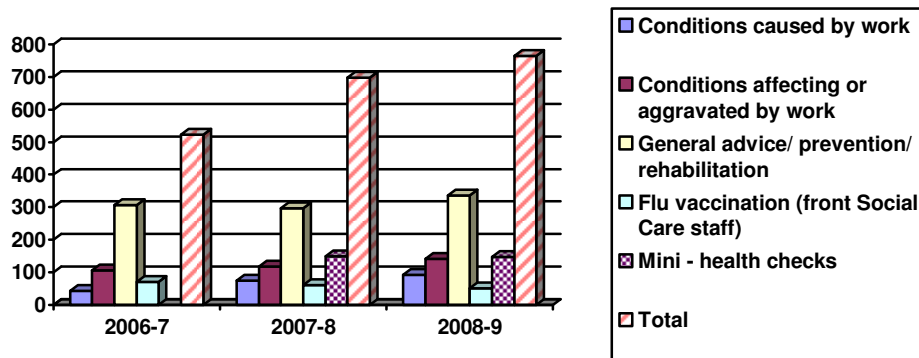
The only HSE involvement this year was a fact finding visit to the Bridge School at the Hadley Learning Community and the investigation of serious, but unforeseeable, accident to a customer at the ice rink. No enforcement action was taken.

APPENDIX 2

HEALTH PERFORMANCE - Occupational Health, Counselling Services and stress related sickness absence

2.1 CONSULTATIONS WITH OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH:

Chart 4: Reasons for consultations with occupational health

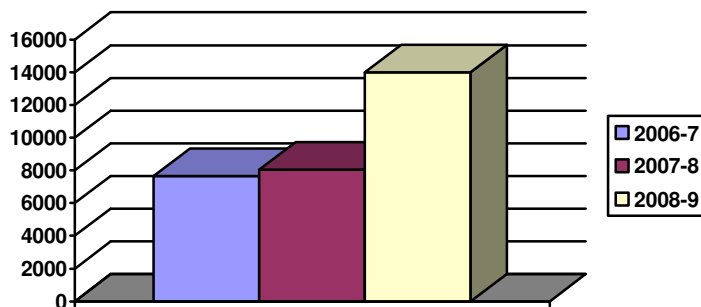


2.1.1 The Occupational Health Service continues to be increasingly well used.

2.2 CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE

2.2.1 Non physical causes of sickness absence (which include stress and anxiety) are one of the major and increasing causes of sickness absence across the Council (see chart 5). This is a common experience in public sector organisations.

Chart 5 Days absent due to non physical illness



2.2.2 Confidential counselling sessions are available for employees who need some support to resolve difficulties at home or at work that may be causing stress.

2.2.3 In 2008-9 236 employees used the service on average using 2.6 sessions. 83% of those using the service kept working.

2.2.4 The reasons for seeking counselling were given as work 24%, home 53% and both 24%. This is a continuing shift away from work issues towards personal issues as reason for seeking counselling.

2.2.5 The counselling service is valued by employees and some typical comments from evaluation of the service include:

“The counsellor immediately made me feel relaxed and able to talk freely. I feel now that without the thoughtful counselling I received I may still be off work. I will use the service again. Many thanks for this much under estimated service.”

“As a line manager myself I knew about the Counselling Service. It was my own line manager who was aware of my personal problems who suggested I use the service. It has been very useful if only to help me recognise the way forward.”

“At the time I felt overwhelmed and couldn’t cope. If it hadn’t have been for this service I am sure I would have ended up off work sick with stress.”

APPENDIX 3

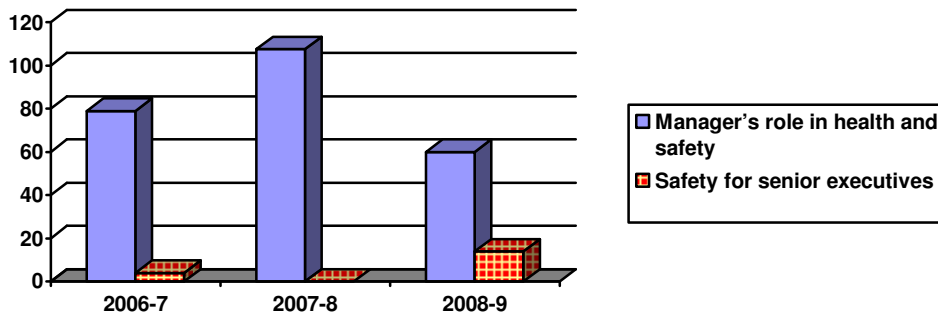
PROACTIVE HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE

3.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING

3.1.1 Health and safety training is itself a legal requirement and the key to achieving health and safety compliance in other areas as well. It can empower employees to take action to make their work places safer for themselves, their colleagues and anyone else affected by their work.

3.1.2 Due to their roles and responsibilities some employees will require formal training in some aspects of health and safety. Managers' competence in managing health safety is key to maintaining and improving health and safety standards throughout the Telford & Wrekin Council. It was encouraging that the level of up take on this training has remained at a high level. One course had to be rescheduled from February to April due to snow which has affected the statistics shown in the chart below.

Chart 6 Attendance by managers on corporate health and safety training



3.2 REVIEWING HEALTH AND SAFETY

3.2.1 A corporate programme of reviews of health and safety management has focussed part Resources portfolio in the last year. Managers are asked to carry out a detailed health and safety audit to inform this process. Action plans for improvements have been drawn up and agreed with managers where necessary.

3.2.2 Schools also carry out a detailed safety audit at least once a year, which is used to target help and advice to enable them to comply with health and safety regulations.

3.3 EMPLOYEE CONSULTATION

3.3.1 During the year the Corporate Health and Safety Committee met four times to consider health and safety issues of Council wide significance.

3.4 MAINTAINING SAFE PREMISES/STRUCTURES

3.4.1 The Council is continually active in trying to ensure the safety of the buildings and structures it is responsible for. The work is prioritised by means of risk assessment and includes a wide range of activities. A few examples are given below:

- Managing asbestos – a report highlighting the increasing risks posed by the current condition of asbestos in the Council's ageing buildings was considered by the Chief Executive's Health and Safety Group. It demonstrated the limits of control that can be achieved within existing budgets and identifies how the risks can best be managed.
- Maintaining water systems to ensure they pose no risk from Legionella.
- Improvements to fire detection, warning and evacuation systems.
- Road safety improvements.
- Land stability works.

3.5 PROGRESS ON THE TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL PLAN FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

3.5.1 The key actions selected for 2008/2009 are shown below with a comment on the progress made in italics.

3.5.1.1. Promotion of employee health and wellbeing.

i. Employee health checks continue to be offered whenever the Occupational Health team have the capacity to provide these. These have proved popular with schools to offer to employees as part of Professional Development days.

ii. A survey was carried out seeking employee opinions on the perceived benefits of a number of health promotion initiatives. The feasibility of providing the top twelve options is being investigated further. Employees are now able to benefit from corporate membership of the Council's gyms which was the number one choice.

iii. Work has started to review the sickness absence management policy.

3.5.1.2 Embedding the health and safety strategy across the Council.

i. All portfolios now report on health and safety performance to the Chief Executive's Health and Safety group on an annual basis.

ii. The attendance of managers at all levels on health and safety training is regularly monitored.

3.5.2 Proposed key actions for 2009/2010 are as follows:

Further work is needed on these key actions-

1. Promotion of employee health and wellbeing.

i Work is needed to try to reduce the increase in stress related sickness absence, this needs to include:

- *promoting the use of stress audits and other measures identify work related stressors,*
- *increasing awareness of mental health issues and how to manage these including promotion of the employee counselling service*
- *investigating the options to provide a wider employee assistance programme*
- *Embedding the health and safety strategy across the Council.*

ii. Reviewing the sickness absence management policy:

- *Update the current policy and framework in line with current best practice.*
- *Create a more holistic approach to the management of health and wellbeing.*
- *Produce a concise core policy that has union agreement supported by guidance for managers on how to achieve a consistent approach to dealing with every case on an individual basis.*
- *Shift the perception of the policy away from being seen as punitive towards being supportive, not only of the individual but also of the Council's legitimate aims.*

iii. Further development of feasible, cost effective options that employees feel would benefit their health and wellbeing.

2. Embedding the health and safety strategy across the Council.

i. Embed the use of health and safety audits across the Council and ensure that progress with these is regularly reported on to the Chief Executive's health and safety group.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 21st July 2009

CREATION OF A ONE STOP SHOP

REPORT OF HEAD OF CUSTOMER SERVICES & BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To request the Cabinet to endorse the creation of a One Stop Shop at Civic Offices.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To endorse the creation of a One Stop Shop facility at Civic Offices.
- 2.2 To migrate the basic 'one stop shop' service currently provided at First Point at Telford (our temporary credit crunch advice centre at Telford library) into the permanent one stop shop at Civic Offices before the go live date, anticipated to be before the end of January 2010.
- 2.3 The affordability of continuing to fund a CAB presence within the First Point facility beyond March 2010 should be considered as part of the budget strategy for 2010/11 and as part of a wider review of the services we currently commission from CAB.
- 2.4 The additional costs of continuing to fund the Housing Advice Team post March 2010 should again be considered as part of the budget strategy for 2010/11 to ascertain whether this service is affordable on a continuing basis in the new one stop shop.

3. Summary

- 3.1 The report details the benefits of a One Stop Shop, the services that would be provided from the One Stop Shop in the first instance and the associated costs. The development of a one stop shop is in line with the customer services strategy approved by Cabinet in 2007
- 3.2 A One Stop Shop located on the ground floor of Civic Offices will enable the Council, in conjunction with our partners, to build on the success of First Point at Telford (our Credit Crunch Advice Centre based in the Telford Library) and provide enhanced access to a much wider number of council and partner services on a permanent basis.
- 3.3 The services that will be provided on the day of opening are detailed in **Appendix A**. Additional council and partner services can be added over an agreed period of time, subject to funding being available where required.
- 3.4 The ability to create a One Stop Shop on the ground floor east of civic offices has been made possible by the recent accommodation moves agreed by the Corporate Management Team at their meeting on 23rd June.

- 3.5 First Point at Telford is time limited and has been created to address the current economic downturn, by supporting residents and businesses to gain assistance. However, it is also time limited in terms of the constraint on the space available with Telford Library and the inability to develop the service further into a potential one stop shop for a wider number of services.
- 3.6 The Scrutiny Leadership Board have recently recommended a permanent One Stop Shop facility in the vicinity of the town centre. The cost of setting up First Point within the shopping centre was explored at the time however the high cost of rental for a relatively small area and additional staffing requirements resulted in the development not able to demonstrate value for money. Therefore the option to develop a one stop shop at Civic Offices offers the best value for money and a much larger space from which to develop the service.
- 3.7 The objective is also to set up a one stop service in advance of new civic offices allowing new ways of working to be fully developed and tested and then migrated into a new civic office development.

4. Background

- 4.1 The cabinet approved the Customer Services Strategy in 2007. The main objective of this strategy is to deal with as many customers at the first port of call, at a time and place convenient to them. One of the actions within the customer services strategy was to introduce a One Stop Shop within the area of Telford Town Centre.
- 4.2 Due to the onset of the economic recession the council re-acted quickly to offer assistance to residents and businesses by setting up a temporary credit crunch advice centre branded as First Point at Telford within the central library. Since it's opening, approximately 140 customers per week are using First Point Telford. One of the most significant benefits has been having a number of complimentary services co-located ensuring a joined up service solution for customers, with a number of services working together to help customers deal with a number of related issues in one visit.
- 4.3 Customer numbers clearly show that the presence of CAB has been critical to the success of First Point Telford but the additional one off funding of £70K they were granted to be able to participate at First Point Telford would need to be considered as part of the 2010/11 budget strategy alongside a review of services currently commissioned from CAB which may help to reduce the level of additional funding required to continue this service from the one stop shop.

5. BENEFITS OF A ONE STOP SHOP

- 5.1 The aim of the One Stop Shop is to provide residents and businesses with a single point of contact for multiple Council and partner organisation services, building on the success and delivery model of First Point Telford.
- 5.2 The creation of the One Stop Shop, with more accommodation than First Point Telford, will allow additional services to be delivered through this single point of contact.
- 5.3 A number of customers currently find themselves being passed from Darby House to Civic Offices to access services. The creation of a one stop shop will offer the opportunity to explore the possible closure of Darby House as a customer access point and to provide access to those services from the one stop shop as long as key

front line service staff can be accessed within Civic Offices. This would deliver savings to cover the additional ongoing costs of the basic facility at Civic by 2011/12.

- 5.4 A number of partner organisations have already expressed a strong interest in joining the one stop shop including the Primary Care Trust, the Princes Trust and A4U, which is an organisation that helps customers with a disability.
- 5.5 Not all council services will be accessible from the one stop shop on the first day of opening. However by having some other popular front line services located above the one stop on other floors will allow for appointments to be made and a service provided without having to ask customers to visit another building. This approach will apply to those services already accommodated within Civic Offices. Longer term the development of a new civic office will allow for this approach to be applied to all front line services.
- 5.6 An additional benefit of a One Stop Shop is that it provides partner organisations with accommodation, in a central location, improving access for their customers without increasing their financial burden.
- 5.7 By bringing services and organisations together, it encourages customers to access services that they may not have been aware of previously.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION

6.1 Equality & Diversity

- 6.1.1 Every effort is made to assist customers when accessing services to ensure that wherever possible we are able to provide them with the services/information that they require in a manner that is beneficial to them. This is the cornerstone of the Customer Services Strategy.
- 6.1.2 An equality impact assessment will be undertaken on the One Stop Shop prior to the service opening to ensure we are addressing all equality and diversity needs.

6.2 Environmental Impact

- 6.2.1 The creation of a One Stop Shop that brings services together, including partner organisations, will lead to an overall reduction in customer contacts, which in turn will lead to a reduction in the carbon footprint of the Council and the customers using the facility.
- 6.2.2 By implementing a One Stop Shop in an existing Council building, it will only lead to a marginal increase in the Council's energy consumption, which will be significantly lower than opening a new facility, thus reducing the Council's carbon footprint.

6.3 Legal Comment

- 6.3.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6.4 Links with Corporate Priorities

- 6.4.1 The development of a One Stop Shop, to improve access to council and partner organisation services addresses many of the Council's Corporate Priorities,

particularly the priority for a Modern, Effective Council.

6.5 Opportunities & Risks

- 6.5.1 The opportunities and risks associated with the creation of a One Stop Shop will be identified and actions put in place to mitigate any perceived risks during its development.

6.6 Financial Implications

- 6.6.1 The capital programme for 2009/10 includes an allocation of £160k for the creation of a One Stop Shop. This should be sufficient to cover any conversion costs within Civic Offices.
- 6.6.2 The total additional ongoing revenue cost of the basic One Stop Shop facility is £42k. Within the current budget strategy for 2009/10 provision of £20k has been made for ongoing revenue costs of the One Stop Shop, this does not meet the all of the ongoing revenue costs leaving £22k unfunded for the basic provision. It will be possible to find this from savings in closing the customer access at Darby from 2011/12 onwards and in the interim from savings identified from within the customer services budgets linked to the cash handling process.
- 6.6.4 For 2009/10 there would be a part year impact of the revenue costs above and these are likely to be covered by one off money set aside for the Advice Centre.
- 6.6.5 In addition to the costs of the basic provision outlined above, one off funding of £67k was identified for Housing Needs Staff and £70k for the CAB to provide a service through the Advice Centre established within the Library, for a 12 month period, in response to the Credit Crunch. If these services were to continue through the One Stop Shop additional ongoing funding of up to £137k would also need to be identified for either or both. The affordability of this would need to be considered as part of the 2010/11 budget strategy and a review of services currently commissioned from CAB which may help to reduce the level of investment required.

6.7 Ward Implications

- 6.7.4 Borough wide implications.

6.8 Background Papers.

- 6.8.4 Customer Services Strategy.
- 6.8.5 Cabinet Report – ‘Credit Crunch’ Advice Centre, Telford Town Centre
- 6.8.6 Response To Scrutiny Report – Review Of First Point Telford

Initial Services To Be Provided At The One Stop Shop on the day of opening

Service Provider	Services on offer
CAB (subject to £70K ongoing funding post March 2010 to be considered as part of a review of services commissioned from CAB and the budget strategy 2010/11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare benefits • Specialist Debt management • Employment issues • Housing • Relationship issues • Consumer advice • Immigration and nationality issues. • Dealing with redundancy and reduced working hours
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council tax benefit • Housing benefit • Local Housing allowance • Free school meals • Blue Badge Parking Permits • Carers Allowance
Council Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Tax Arrears
Housing Advice & Affordable Warmth (subject to £67K ongoing funding post March 2010 as part of the budget strategy 2010/11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Efficiency Advice • Cavity wall and loft insulation • Boiler repairs and replacement (if broken) • Heating systems • Access to grants and other funds • Free, independent housing advice on tenants issues • Prevention of homelessness • Housing options, including access to bond and rent deposit schemes.
Next Steps Community Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers advice and information • Completing job applications forms and CV writing • Local courses • Interview skills • English, maths and computing skills • Career change/ voluntary work
Shropshire County Training	Through close links Learning Skills Councils, Jobcentre Plus, Business Link and Connexions, providing funding and placements for training and development.
Family Information Service	Is a free and confidential service providing impartial information advice and guidance on services for families in Telford and Wrekin, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare • Education • Youth services • Children's services • Parenting support • Tax credits • Holiday play scheme • Family learning opportunities • Recreation facilities • Free early years provision • Support for children with special needs and / or disabilities
Customer Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints • Compliments • Comments/Suggestions
Anti Social Behaviour Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accumulation Of Refuse • Noise Pollution • Pollution • Abandoned Vehicles • Nuisance Dogs • Fly Tipping • Graffiti

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism • Nuisance Neighbours • Nuisance – Rowdy Behaviour/Street Drinking • Nuisance – Drugs Misuse • Needles Collection
Environmental Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refuse Collection • Bulk Refuse Collection • Pest Control • Recycling Collection • Road Sweeping • Litter • Grounds Maintenance – Grass/Hedges/Shrubs • Street Furniture/Fencing • Waste Management Permits
Street Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potholes • Drainage • Street Lighting • Gritting • Road/Footpath Maintenance • Highway Signage
Legal Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Charge Searches
Leisure Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure & theatre bookings

Other potential services to be included over time might include:-

- Planning
- Environmental Health
- Registration of births, deaths and marriages
- Adult & Child Care assessment of needs
- Concessionary pass travel/Timetable information etc...

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 21st July 2009

NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESPONSE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MOBILITY & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report outlines the Council's response to the Government consultation on 'A Safer Way' the next national road safety strategy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Cabinet approve the consultation response contained in Appendix 1.**

3.0 SUMMARY

- 3.1 The Department of Transport is seeking views on the proposed vision, targets and measures for improving road safety in Great Britain for the period beyond 2010.
- 3.2 This report will consider the response of the Council to the consultation

4.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 none

5.0 INFORMATION

5.1 Background

- 5.1.1 The current national road safety strategy runs from 2000 to the end of 2010. Nationally and locally we have made good progress in reducing road casualties over the last decade. Locally we are on course to exceed 40 per cent target reduction in people killed and seriously injured and the 50 per cent reduction in children killed and seriously injured by 2010.
- 5.1.2 The proposed new national road safety strategy includes the first national vision for road safety. The consultation seeks views on this vision as well as proposals linking to driver behaviour, vehicle safety, roads and local authorities, a new performance framework and proposed new targets.

The Department of Transport has identified the following as the key elements of the new national road safety strategy proposals:

Headlines

- Our current (2000) strategy has improved road safety significantly, reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries by 37% over the last decade.
- But 8 deaths a day is still intolerable and we want to make our roads safer still. Our vision is to have the safest roads in the world.
- Our targets are to reduce both deaths and serious injuries by 33% by 2020.

Overall approach

- Human beings make mistakes, on the roads as elsewhere. We need to make sure that those mistakes don't lead to death or serious injury, by improving our roads, our vehicles and our behaviour on the roads.
- We propose do this through smarter working with local partners to improve delivery, not through creating large numbers of new offences & regulation.
- We need to target those roads, people and behaviours most associated with death and serious injury on our roads.

Roads

- To improve safety on rural roads, where 60% of all British road deaths happen, we propose:
 - to publish maps annually highlighting the main roads with the poorest safety records, encouraging local agencies to rapidly improve safety standards.
 - to encourage local authorities to reduce speed limits on the more dangerous rural roads from the current 60 mph. The 90% chance of a driver dying in a 60 mph head-on collision is reduced to 65% at 50 mph.
- To improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, we propose that local highway authorities, over time, introduce 20 mph limits into all streets which are primarily residential.

Vehicles

- Improved vehicle safety will continue to be crucial in reducing road casualties. We will support these improvements through regulation, where appropriate, but also through consumer information and raising awareness.
- We expect further improvements in vehicles' crash protection to be targeted around particular problems or accident types. We believe that advanced vehicle safety systems, helping drivers and riders to avoid accidents, have the potential to deliver increasing improvements in safety.

Behaviours

- We will support responsible road use by improving driver training and testing, the highly successful *THINK!* campaign and developing a seamless suite of educational materials from pre-school to pre-driver, launched later this week.
- To crack down on irresponsible behaviour, we are analysing the responses to our recent consultation on road safety compliance, and we will set out our conclusions in the final version of the new road safety strategy. Our proposals in that consultation included higher penalty points for gross speeding, and tackling drug- and drink-driving.

5.2 Proposed Consultation Response

5.2.1 This is contained in Appendix 1

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 Age, ethnicity and deprivation can have an impact on an individual's potential involvement in a road collision. This is not referred to within the strategy proposals.
- 6.2 The Department for Transport has not carried out an Equalities Impact Assessment on the proposals. The Council's response includes a request for this to be included in the final strategy document when it is produced.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.1 Specific proposals such as reducing rural speed limits and introducing more 20mph zones in residential areas and outside schools would have a positive environmental impact by reducing vehicle noise
- 7.2 There are specific proposals to increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists and to measure road casualties in these groups based on distance travelled. This is an incentive for promoting sustainable modes of travel.

8.0 LEGAL COMMENT

- 8.2 Specific elements within the strategy will require changes to national regulations and guidance but there are no legal implications within the consultation proposals.

9.0 LINKS WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 9.1 This report supports the Council's corporate priorities of:
- Transforming Telford & Wrekin
 - Improving the accessibility of the Borough by road
 - Giving children & young people the best possible start in their lives
 - Ensuring children and young people grow up in safety and security;
 - Maintaining a high quality, attractive and sustainable environment
 - Improving access, mobility and public transport within the Borough;
 - Creating a safe, strong and cohesive community
 - Promoting healthy communities and improving the quality of life of vulnerable and older people

10.0 OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

- 10.1 The proposed strategy is not linked to the provision of any financial resources. This has been highlighted in the Council's response

11.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Road Safety is currently delivered locally through a combination of the Road Safety Grant and the Local Transport Plan Capital Allocation. Both of which are funded through the Department for Transport. The consultation document does not make a direct link between funding and delivering the proposals.

11.2 There are no financial implications in the consultation response. However the final national strategy may have implications for the future Local Transport Plan capital programme and activity that is currently funded through the road safety grant.

12.0 WARD IMPLICATIONS

12.1 This report has Borough-wide implications.

13.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World (DfT).

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/roadsafetyconsultation/roadsafetyconsultation.pdf>

Report prepared by Michael Barker, Head of Planning & Environment
Telephone: 01952 384100 Email: Michael.barker@telford.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World.

Response on behalf of Telford & Wrekin Council.

The response is limited to those questions where we have an area of expertise and can make a useful contribution.

Vision and targets (Chapters 3 and 8)

Do you agree that our vision for road safety should be to have the safest roads in the world? (Chapter 3)

Yes. However, we would expect the final version of this vision to refer to safe road users rather than simply concentrating on the roads themselves.

Do you agree that we should define a strategy running over twenty years to 2030, but with review points after five and ten years? (Chapter 3)

Yes.

3. Do you agree that our targets should be to reduce:

- ***road deaths by at least 33 per cent by 2020 compared to the baseline of the 2004–08 average number of road deaths;***
- ***the annual total of serious injuries on our roads by 2020 by at least 33 per cent;***
- ***the annual total of road deaths and serious injuries to children and young people (aged 0–17) by at least 50 per cent against a baseline of the 2004–08 average by 2020;***
- ***by at least 50 per cent by 2020 the rate¹ of KSI per km travelled by pedestrians and cyclists, compared with the 2004–08 average? (Chapter 8)***

We agree that there should be a national target for a 33% reduction in road deaths, but think that the target for serious injuries (which is disappointingly low) should be replaced with a combined national target to reduce deaths and serious injuries by 40%. This target could then be replicated at a local level.

We do not support the extended age group from 'children' to 'children and young people'. It would be preferable to retain the current 'children' category and introduce a new 'young people' target. Young drivers are a target group for most local authorities because they are over represented in road collisions. A national target for this group would focus resources and measures.

We support the proposed target of the rate of KSI per distance travelled by pedestrians and cyclists. This is better than just counting casualties which gives a perverse incentive to discourage cycling and walking. This target could not be applied locally unless and until reliable data is available on distances travelled in each local area.

¹ Expressed as a three-year rolling average

We are proposing a set of indicators in order to help us to monitor performance (Appendix A). Do you believe these cover the right areas? (Chapter 8)

We would like some clarification of the role of these indicators. If they are intended for national level only this should be clearly stated in the final strategy document and any guidance to local authorities and the safer roads partnerships to which they belong.

Context (Chapters 2, 3 and 4)

We have identified a number of factors that may affect our ability to deliver road safety improvements in the future world we are planning for. Do you think we have taken account of the key risks and opportunities? (Chapter 3)

Yes

We think that the key challenge for road safety from 2010 is better and more systematic delivery, rather than major policy changes. Do you agree?

Yes.

This consultation document sets out the current evidence on the key road safety challenges. Do you agree with our analysis?

Yes

Would you highlight any others? (Chapter 2)

The holistic approach to road safety (which we support) is not matched by a holistic approach to road safety funding. This must be addressed to enable long term planning if the twenty-year strategy is to be fully embraced at a local level.

New performance framework (Chapters 4 and 8)

We are proposing a number of measures to support the effectiveness of the road safety profession. Do you think they will be effective?

Yes

What else might need to be done? (Chapter 4)

We welcome this aspect of the strategy and would urge DfT to give road safety officers engaged in school-based education a very clear framework regarding what should be delivered and how. Currently there is a huge disparity between the ETP work of individual authorities depending on how high road safety appears on the list of priorities for revenue funding

As well as championing the profession, DfT would perform a great service to the profession if it championed a specific range of recognised qualifications for road safety professionals. The consultation document states an intention to 'support the work of local authorities by helping them to develop the local road safety expertise they require to deliver the best results'. We fully support this aim for all fields of the road safety profession, not just for those engaging in ETP activity

We would encourage DfT to consult more closely with local authorities (through Road Safety GB and other channels) on the details of road safety educational and publicity initiatives which it hopes will be implemented at local level.

Do you agree that an independent annual report on road safety performance, created on an annual basis, would be a worthwhile innovation? (Chapter 4)

Yes. An annual report would be a worthwhile innovation, but if it makes comparisons between local highway authority areas, it must compare like with like, possibly showing casualties per 100k population

Do you agree that the Road Safety Delivery Board should be tasked with holding Government and other stakeholders to account on the implementation of a new national road safety plan? (Chapter 8)

Yes

Roads and local authorities (Chapter 5)

Do you agree that highway authorities reviewing and, where appropriate, reducing speed limits on single carriageway roads will be an effective way of addressing the casualty problem on rural roads?

Yes. We strongly support this approach.

There is a general confusion around the term 'rural roads' with local politicians, lay people and many RSOs using the term for roads in the rural area. The technical definition is any road with a speed limit in excess of 40mph. When published, the final strategy document would do well to clarify exactly what the DfT mean by rural roads.

Reviewing and reducing speed limits is one way of reducing casualties on rural roads. However many rural roads already limit speeds by their layout and width. It should not be seen as necessary to spend a huge amount of resources on addressing these particular rural roads. Where speed limits are reduced RSOs should be provided with a DfT toolkit to assist with promotion in the local community.

Are there other ways in which the safety of rural roads can be improved?

Any policy on speed limits must be integrated with a policy on enforcement. As we approach 2011 we are concerned that the Government has given no indication on the future of Specific Road Safety Grant (now part of Area Based Grant).

How can we most effectively promote the implementation of 20 mph zone schemes in residential areas? What other measures should we be encouraging to reduce pedestrian and cyclist casualties in towns? (Chapter 5).

We support 20mph zones in principle. Many residents want 20mph limits but do not want traffic calming measures because of the visual and physical intrusion on their streets.. Not all residential streets can or should be retro-fitted with traffic calming, yet all should be given the opportunity to have a 20mph limit where there is no through traffic. Local authorities need guidance from the DfT regarding how to specifically address this issue and therefore we support the proposal (para 5.22) to reexamine the issue of un-engineered zones

We would like to see the role of road safety in regeneration projects included in the strategy, not simply in the context of retro-fitted 20mph zones, but as a holistic approach.

To reduce cycling casualties, drivers need to be aware that through bikeability cyclists are now taught to cycle assertively. Their road position is different and drivers may not understand this. National publicity is required through the THINK! Campaign. This should also be taught through driving instructors and the theory test.

Safer Routes to School schemes should continue to be supported as they contribute towards providing infrastructure to make cycling and walking safer

Funding should continue to be provided to enable local authorities to provide all year 6 pupils with free cycle training. This should be extended to include free Bikeability training at level 3. In addition funding should be made available for free child pedestrian training to be delivered to younger pupils.

How can we provide better support to highway authorities in progressing economically worthwhile road safety engineering schemes? (Chapter 5)

Para 5.2 expresses concern that road safety schemes are rarely appraised on the same basis as other transport schemes. It would be useful for DfT to establish a standard national method for carrying out such appraisals.

Behaviours (Chapter 7)

We have highlighted what we believe to be the most dangerous driving behaviours. Do you agree with our assessment?

Yes

What more can be done to persuade the motoring public that illegal and inappropriate speeds are not acceptable behaviours?

Community involvement in setting local speed limits and requesting camera or other enforcement will assist to persuade the public that inappropriate speed is not acceptable. This is another area in which the DfT could provide a Tool Kit to enable RSOs to support the work of other professionals

Safe and responsible driving requires an attitude that needs to be developed long before it is actually required. A structured national programme of road safety education would go some way to meeting this need.

Additional Comments

Equalities

There ought to be an Equalities Impact Assessment in the consultation document. We would expect to see this in the final strategy document.

Enforcement

The consultation document states that there are no plans for new road safety legislation. However, the new strategy should take into account the need for better enforcement of existing road traffic laws, including speed limits. There should be a clear indication of how enforcement will work alongside education and engineering to tackle poor driving behaviour.

Action Plan

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
1	<p>The Home Secretary and the Secretaries of State for Children, Schools and Families, Health and Justice must collaborate in the setting of explicit strategic priorities for the protection of children and young people and reflect these in the priorities of frontline services.</p>	<p>These four Departments are committed to working together on strategic priorities for the front line and will ensure effective co-ordination through a new Ministerial sub-group and the new cross-Government National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (see Rec 2).</p>	<p>Cabinet Sub-Committee subgroup established from May 2009 to meet quarterly with the Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children.</p>
2	<p>A National Safeguarding Delivery Unit be established to report directly to the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Families, Children and Young People. It should have a remit that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● working with the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Families, Children and Young People to set and publish challenging timescales for the recommendations in this report; ● challenging and supporting every Children's Trust in the country to implement recommendations within the agreed timescales, ensuring improvements are made in leadership, staffing, training, supervision and practice across all services; ● raising the profile of safeguarding and child protection across children's services, health and police; ● supporting the development of effective national priorities on safeguarding for all frontline services, and the development of local performance management to drive these priorities; ● leading a change in culture across frontline services that enables them to work more effectively to protect children; ● having regional representation with expertise on safeguarding and child protection that builds supportive advisory relationships with Children's Trusts to drive improved outcomes for children and young people; 	<p>We announced on 12 March the appointment of Sir Roger Singleton to the new role of Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children. Sir Roger will advise the Government on the effective implementation of policy and report annually to Parliament on safeguarding progress, including the delivery of the recommendations from Lord Laming's report as set out in this action plan.</p> <p>Sir Roger took up this new role, which is a three year appointment, on 1 April 2009. He will submit his first report to Parliament in April 2010.</p> <p>To assist him in his new role, Sir Roger is establishing a new Chief Adviser's Expert Group.</p> <p>The Chief Adviser will work with Government to establish a cross-Government National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU) to give strong, co-ordinated national leadership across the system.</p>	<p>First Chief Adviser report to Parliament by April 2010.</p> <p>Expert Group established from May 2009.</p> <p>NSDU operational by July 2009.</p>

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● working with existing organisations to create a shared evidence base about effective practice including evidence-based programmes, early intervention and preventative services; ● supporting the implementation of the recommendations of Serious Case Reviews in partnership with Government Offices and Ofsted, and put in place systems to learn the lessons at local, regional and national level; ● gathering best practice on referral and assessment systems for children affected by domestic violence, adult mental health problems, and drugs and alcohol misuse, and provide advice to local authorities, health and police on implementing robust arrangements nationally; and ● commissioning training on child protection and safeguarding and on leading these services effectively for all senior political leaders and service managers across those frontline services responsible for safeguarding and child protection. 	<p>With expert staff from DCSF, Home Office, the Department of Health, the Ministry of Justice, local agencies and the voluntary sector, the Unit will provide support and challenge to local authorities, promote dynamic learning and good practice development, including through sector-led approaches, and act as a bridge between national policy development and local implementation. The Unit will also support the development of explicit strategic priorities, and related national targets, where appropriate, for the protection of children and young people for frontline services. Regional Government Office staff will work as part of the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit and will link as appropriate with Strategic Health Authorities and their networks of professionals.</p> <p>A 'Partnership Network' will be established to work with the Unit and the Chief Adviser to pursue specific issues impacting on effective frontline safeguarding practice.</p> <p>The Unit will publish a detailed work programme by September 2009 and will support the Chief Adviser in preparing his annual progress report to Parliament on safeguarding progress and on the implementation of this action plan.</p> <p>The Unit will be operational by 1 July 2009.</p> <p>It will be hosted within the DCSF and will report to the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Families, Children and Young People through a new Ministerial sub-group comprising Secretaries of State from DCSF, Home Office, Department of Health and the Ministry of Justice which will meet quarterly, together with the Chief Adviser.</p>	<p>Partnership Network established from May 2009 onwards.</p> <p>NSDU work programme published by September 2009.</p> <p>Cabinet Sub-Committee subgroup established from May 2009 to meet quarterly.</p>

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
3	The Cabinet Sub-Committee on Families, Children and Young People should ensure that all government departments that impact on the safety of children take action to create a comprehensive approach to children through national strategies, the organisation of their central services, and the models they promote for the delivery of local services. This work should focus initially on changes to improve the child-focus of services delivered by the Department of Health, Ministry of Justice and Home Office.	The Cabinet Sub-Committee will take regular reports on safeguarding and the new Ministerial sub-group (see Recommendation 2) will meet quarterly, with the Chief Adviser, to provide an even stronger focus.	Cabinet Sub-Committee subgroup established from May 2009 to meet quarterly with the Chief Adviser.
4	The Government should introduce new statutory targets for safeguarding and child protection alongside the existing statutory attainment and early years targets as quickly as possible. The National Indicator Set should be revised with new national indicators for safeguarding and child protection developed for inclusion in Local Area Agreements for the next Comprehensive Spending Review.	The Government has brought forward amendments to the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill to allow for the Secretary of State to amend the set of statutory targets which apply to all areas. The current set of statutory targets covers early years and school attainment targets and the proposed amendment to the Bill will extend this to a number of safeguarding targets within the revised list of indicators. The precise number of statutory targets will be decided in the light of further discussion with partners.	Subject to the passage of legislation, new statutory targets will be developed with stakeholders by autumn 2009 and implemented as soon as possible thereafter, in consultation with local partners.
5	The Department of Health must clarify and strengthen the responsibilities of Strategic Health Authorities for the performance management of Primary Care Trusts on safeguarding and child protection. Formalised and explicit performance indicators should be introduced for Primary Care Trusts.	Work with NHS Chief Executives to clarify accountabilities and management arrangements has already begun, following David Nicholson's 1 December 2008 letter to the NHS. We shall build on this in alignment as far as possible with work in response to Recommendation 4, to develop new statutory targets and their indicators.	To be aligned as far as possible with work on Recommendation 4.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
6	Directors of Children's Services, Chief Executives of Primary Care Trusts, Police Area Commanders and other senior service managers must regularly review all points of referral where concerns about a child's safety are received to ensure they are sound in terms of the quality of risk assessments, decision making, onward referrals and multi-agency working	To be developed as part of revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance.	Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.
7	All Directors of Children's Services who do not have direct experience or background in safeguarding and child protection must appoint a senior manager within their team with the necessary skills and experience.	This will be included in revised statutory guidance on Lead Members and DCSs and reflected in revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance.	Revised DCS/LM guidance published June 2009. Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.
8	The Department for Children, Schools and Families should organise regular training on safeguarding and child protection and on effective leadership for all senior political leaders and managers across frontline services.	<p>C4EO extended programme to include an additional strand on <i>Protecting children living in families where they are at high risk of abuse, harm or neglect for delivery</i>.</p> <p>Research briefings will be published in early June 2009 on C4EO's website and findings will be disseminated through four national workshops, to take place in June with 600 places available to: Chief Executives, DCSs, Lead Members, Chairs of Local Safeguarding Children Boards, Assistant Directors (Safeguarding); and senior leaders from the Children's Trust partners, such as health and the police.</p> <p>C4EO will also extend the scope of regional workshops planned for November 2009.</p> <p>Following C4EO's programme detailed here, DCSF and the NSDU will discuss with the Improvement and Development Agency and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives the extent to which this meets the needs of their members and will develop further training as appropriate.</p>	<p>Research briefings and national workshops by June 2009.</p> <p>Regional workshops November 2009.</p>

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
9	Every Children's Trust should ensure that the needs assessment that informs their Children and Young People's Plan regularly reviews the needs of all children and young people in their area, paying particular attention to the general need of children and those in need of protection. The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit should support Children's Trusts with this work. Government Offices should specifically monitor and challenge Children's Trusts on the quality of this analysis.	To be developed in revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance and reflected in NSDU work programme in which an early priority is expected to be the development of exemplars of needs analyses which draw out clearly the implications for safeguarding children and the impact on services that need to be provided.	NSDU work programme to be published September 2009. Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.
10	Ofsted should revise the inspection and improvement regime for schools giving greater prominence to how well schools are fulfilling their responsibilities for child protection.	Ofsted have designed the new school inspection framework which will apply from September 2009 so that it will have a stronger focus on safeguarding. The current inspection framework already includes a judgement about whether safeguarding arrangements are satisfactory but this will be strengthened in the new framework with a grading on a scale from 1(outstanding) to 4(inadequate) for a school's safeguarding arrangements. Any school which receives a grade of 4 will also be likely to be awarded an inadequate grade for its overall performance and will need therefore to make urgent improvements. These arrangements will 'raise the bar' about the importance of safeguarding for schools and will also facilitate the identification and dissemination of best practice.	The new school inspection framework will apply from September 2009.
11	The Department for Children, Schools and Families should revise <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> to set out clear expectations for all points where concerns about a child's safety are received, ensuring intake/duty teams have sufficient training and expertise to take referrals and that staff have immediate, on-site support available from an experienced social worker. Local authorities should take appropriate action to implement these changes.	To be reflected in revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance.	Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
12	The Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families must strengthen current guidance and put in place the systems and training so that staff in Accident and Emergency departments are able to tell if a child has recently presented at any Accident and Emergency department and if a child is the subject of a Child Protection Plan. If there is any cause for concern, staff must act accordingly, contacting other professionals, conducting further medical examinations of the child as appropriate and necessary, and ensuring no child is discharged whilst concerns for their safety or well-being remain.	We shall work with the College of Emergency Medicine, representatives of other A&E staff and other key stakeholders to take forward work to ensure systems, guidance and training arrangements are in place so that all A&E departments are playing their full part in identifying and dealing appropriately with children at risk. In doing so, we shall consider the information technology options within the Department of Health Informatics Directorate and co-ordinate this work with our broader look at safeguarding training of health professionals and with the Government's revision of <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> .	We shall produce a set of recommendations by December 2009 that take account of the costs and affordability of implementation.
13	Children's Trusts must ensure that all assessments of need for children and their families include evidence from all the professionals involved in their lives, take account of case histories and significant events (including previous assessments) and above all must include direct contact with the child.	To be reflected in revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance.	Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.
14	Local authorities must ensure that 'Children in Need', as defined by Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, have early access to effective specialist services and support to meet their needs.	To be developed further and feed into the revision of <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance.	Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
15	The Social Work Task Force should establish guidelines on guaranteed supervision time for social workers that may vary depending on experience.	<p>We have already introduced guaranteed supervision for participants in the Newly Qualified Social Worker pilot, which will be extended to all entering the profession in statutory and third sector roles from September this year.</p> <p>We welcome the Social Work Task Force's commitment to taking forward this recommendation as part of their work to ensure that high quality and effective supervision is embedded throughout the social work workforce.</p> <p>The Secretaries of State for Health and Children, Schools and Families would like the Task Force particularly to advise about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● how much supervision time social workers need, and; ● how Government, employers and social workers can ensure that guidance in relation to supervision time is fulfilled in practice. 	Social Work Reform programme to be set out autumn 2009.
16	The Department for Children, Schools and Families should revise <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> to set out the elements of high quality supervision focused on case planning, constructive challenge and professional development.	<p>Guidance on high quality supervision for children and families' social workers is critical. Building on work underway by CWDC on training on effective supervision, as part of the revision of <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i>, and on the advice of the Task Force, the Government will consider the best place for that guidance.</p> <p>In addition, through the comprehensive reform programme for social work the Government wants to ensure that high quality supervision is supported by training and development, standards and the structure and the capacity of the workforce. It will set out how it will do this in the light of the Task Force's further advice.</p>	Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
17	The Department for Children, Schools and Families should undertake a feasibility study with a view to rolling out a single national Integrated Children's System better able to address the concerns identified in this report, or find alternative ways to assert stronger leadership over the local systems and their providers. This study should be completed within six months of this report.	We will work with local authorities to reform the ICS and to reflect the Social Work Task Force's advice that there should be locally-owned, locally-led systems on the basis of a greatly simplified set of national requirements. The Government's approach will be to remove unnecessary and prescriptive national requirements from the ICS, while providing more effective support to local authorities and professionals in commissioning and developing high quality local systems.	Detail of immediate changes to be confirmed May 2009. Other reforms to be set out in response to the Social Work Task Force's report October 2009.
18	Whether or not a national system is introduced, the Department for Children, Schools and Families should take steps to improve the utility of the Integrated Children's System, in consultation with social workers and their managers, to be effective in supporting them in their role and their contact with children and families, partners, services and courts, and to ensure appropriate transfer of essential information across organisational boundaries.	<p>We will take immediate action to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● free up national requirements in relation to the ICS. We will authorise local authorities and suppliers, in discussion with professionals, to remove or revise forms and exemplars in local ICS systems, giving them more flexibility to use their professional judgement in deciding how they will comply with statutory requirements; ● support local authorities in implementing Phase 1C of the ICS, while relaxing the deadline to allow them to focus on fixing problems with local systems that they regard as a priority; and ● improve support to local authorities through carrying out a usability review of each ICS product, providing procurement support and issuing guidance on how the ICS can be used to support practice. <p>We agree with the Social Work Task Force that, over time, the ICS should be reformed to reflect the Task Force's forthcoming advice on professional roles, practice and support in social work. We will therefore work closely with the Task Force to ensure that happens.</p>	Detail of immediate changes to be confirmed May 2009. Other reforms to be set out in response to the Social Work Task Force's report October 2009.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
19	<p>The Department for Children, Schools and Families must strengthen <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i>, and Children's Trusts must take appropriate action to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● all referrals to children's services from other professionals lead to an initial assessment, including direct involvement with the child or young person and their family, and the direct engagement with, and feedback to, the referring professional; ● core group meetings, reviews and casework decisions include all the professionals involved with the child, particularly police, health, youth services and education colleagues. Records must be kept which must include the written views of those who cannot make such meetings; and ● formal procedures are in place for managing a conflict of opinion between professionals from different services over the safety of a child. 	To be reflected in revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance.	Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.
20	All police, probation, adult mental health and adult drugs and alcohol services should have well understood referral processes which prioritise the protection and well-being of children. These should include automatic referral where domestic violence or drug or alcohol abuse may put a child at risk of abuse or neglect.	To be reflected in revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance.	Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.
21	The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit should urgently develop guidance on referral and assessment systems for children affected by domestic violence, adult mental health problems, and drugs and alcohol misuse using current best practice. This should be shared with local authorities, health and police with an expectation that the assessment of risk and level of support given to such children will improve quickly and significantly in every Children's Trust.	The NSDU will publish its work programme by September 2009 and we expect this guidance to be identified as an early priority.	NSDU will publish its work programme by September 2009.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
22	The Department for Children, Schools and Families should establish statutory representation on Local Safeguarding Children Boards from schools, adult mental health and adult drug and alcohol services.	To be reflected in revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance. Mental Health Trusts are already statutory members of LSCBs.	Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.
23	Every Children's Trust should assure themselves that partners consistently apply the Information Sharing Guidance published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department for Communities and Local Government to protect children.	To be reflected in revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance.	Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.
24	<p>The Social Work Task Force should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● develop the basis for a national children's social worker supply strategy that will address recruitment and retention difficulties, to be implemented by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. This should have a particular emphasis on child protection social workers; 	<p>The Government is committed to developing a supply strategy for social workers in both children and families social work, and this will form a critical part of the comprehensive reform programme to be set out in the autumn.</p> <p>In the immediate term, the Government is already taking a number of actions to address recruitment and supply challenges in the workforce, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a national marketing and recruitment campaign to launch later this year; ● a Return to Social Work Scheme to support former social workers back into the profession; ● a Graduate Recruitment Scheme to sponsor high quality graduates to undertake social worker training; ● recruitment and retention pilots in two regions with high vacancy and turnover rates. 	Social Work Reform programme to be set out autumn 2009.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● work with the Children's Workforce Development Council and other partners to implement on a national basis, clear progression routes for children's social workers; ● develop national guidelines setting out maximum case-loads of children in need and child protection cases, supported by a weighting mechanism to reflect the complexity of cases, that will help plan the workloads of children's social workers; and 	<p>We have already committed to creation of a new role of Advanced Social Work Professional in children and families' social work which will be implemented as part of a full career framework for children and families' social workers. This will be in place in the autumn to enable experienced social workers to stay in frontline practice. We expect that this role should form part of a full career structure for social workers, which includes practice-focused as well as managerial progression routes.</p> <p>The Government will work with employers to implement clear progression routes for social workers in both adult and children's services as part of its comprehensive reform programme for social work. This will be based on the advice of the Task Force about how clearer progression routes can best support social workers in developing their careers and improving the service they provide.</p> <p>The Government is committing to take steps, based on the advice of the Social Work Task Force, to ensure that social workers have manageable case loads which enable them to work effectively and efficiently to secure the best possible outcomes for service users.</p> <p>It looks to Social Work Task Force to ensure, through its recommendations, that the steps take to do this – including guidelines on appropriate caseloads – can be implemented effectively in ways that will improve practice and not lead to unnecessary bureaucracy.</p>	<p>Social Work Reform programme to be set out autumn 2009.</p> <p>Social Work Reform programme to be set out autumn 2009.</p>

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● develop a strategy for remodelling children's social work which delivers shared ownership of cases, administrative support and multi-disciplinary support to be delivered nationally. 	<p>We are already exploring a number of different approaches to remodelling in social work, including through CWDC's current Remodelling the Delivery of Social Work pilots and the Social Work Practices pilots.</p> <p>We will set out our plans in relation to remodelling as part of the comprehensive reform programme we will bring forward in the autumn, based on the advice of the Social Work Task Force.</p>	Social Work Reform programme to be set out autumn 2009.
25	Children's Trusts should ensure a named, and preferably co-located, representative from the police service, community paediatric specialist and health visitor are active partners within each children's social work department.	To be reflected in the revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance.	Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.
26	<p>The General Social Care Council together relevant government departments should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● work with higher education institutions and employers to raise the quality and consistency of social work degrees and strengthen their curriculums to provide high quality practical skills in children's social work; 	<p>The Government will consider radical reforms of the social work education system if this is what the Task Force recommend.</p> <p>The Secretaries of State for Health and Children, Schools and Families look to the Social Work Task Force, with the support of GSCC and working closely with employers and HEIs, to advise on the improvements necessary to social work degrees and post graduate training, and the system which provides them.</p> <p>The Government currently spends approximately £160 million each year on funding and bursaries for initial social work training. It is critical that this resource supports high quality university education which effectively prepares student social workers for their future roles. Universities, employers and the General Social Care Council must be able to work together to secure this.</p>	Social Work Reform programme to be set out autumn 2009.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● work with higher education institutions to reform the current degree programme towards a system which allows for specialism in children's social work, including statutory children's social work placements, after the first year; and ● put in place a comprehensive inspection regime to raise the quality and consistency of social work degrees across higher education institutions. 	<p>The Government will implement Lord Laming's recommendation in the light of the Task Force's recommendations about how and when social workers should be able to specialise in their training in order to ensure that they are fully effective in practice.</p> <p>The Government will implement Lord Laming's recommendations about inspection of higher education in the light of the Task Force's recommendations.</p>	<p>Social Work Reform programme to be set out autumn 2009.</p> <p>Social Work Reform programme to be set out autumn 2009.</p>
27	<p>The Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills should introduce a fully-funded, practice-focused children's social work postgraduate qualification for experienced children's social workers, with an expectation they will complete the programme as soon as is practicable.</p>	<p>We have committed to development of a practice-based Masters programme for social workers, which will be implemented as part of the comprehensive reform programme.</p> <p>To support the professional development of all social care staff, including social workers, Government already allocates £18 million a year through the area-based grant.</p> <p>This recommendation further cements Government's commitment to the professional development of social workers and the new practice-based Masters in social work will be implemented in the light of the Task Force's recommendations.</p>	<p>Social Work Reform programme to be set out autumn 2009.</p>
28	<p>The Department for Children, Schools and Families, working with the Children's Workforce Development Council, General Social Care Council and partners should introduce a conversion qualification and English language test for internationally qualified children's social workers that ensures understanding of legislation, guidance and practice in England. Consideration should be given to the appropriate length of a compulsory induction period in a practice setting prior to formal registration as a social worker in England.</p>	<p>Social workers coming into this country need to meet the highest standards, and also to be well supported. From September, all those joining statutory and third sector children's services will be able to access the "newly qualified social worker" support package which includes induction and protected time for training and supervision.</p> <p>We will take forward Lord Laming's recommendations about conversion qualifications and language tests in the light of the advice of the Social Work Task Force about the qualifications and basic skills requirements which should be in place for English as well as overseas trained social workers.</p>	<p>Social Work Reform programme to be set out autumn 2009.</p>

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
29	Children's Trusts should ensure that all staff who work with children receive initial training and continuing professional development which enables them to understand normal child development and recognise potential signs of abuse or neglect.	To be reflected in revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance and in the NSDU's work programme.	NSDU work programme to be published September 2009. Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance December 2009.
30	All Children's Trusts should have sufficient multiagency training in place to create a shared language and understanding of local referral procedures, assessment, information sharing and decision making across early years, schools, youth services, health, police and other services who work to protect children. A named child protection lead in each setting should receive this training.	To be reflected in revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance and in the NSDU's work programme.	NSDU work programme to be published September 2009. Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance December 2009.
31	The General Social Care Council should review the Code of Practice for Social Workers and the employers' code ensuring the needs of children are paramount in both and that the employers' code provides for clear lines of accountability, quality supervision and support, and time for reflective practice. The employers' code should then be made statutory for all employers of social workers.	We agree with the Social Work Task Force that there should be a Code of Practice for Social Work which is distinct from wider social care. We will work with GSCC to develop in this in the light of the Task Force's work on describing social work roles and purpose. The DCSF and DH will support GSCC in reviewing the Code of Practice for Employers and will seek to legislate appropriately at the earliest opportunity.	The revised Code of Practice will be in place by October 2009.
32	The Department of Health should prioritise its commitment to promote the recruitment and professional development of health visitors (made in <i>Healthy lives, brighter futures</i>) by publishing a national strategy to support and challenge Strategic Health Authorities to have a sufficient capacity of well trained health visitors in each area with a clear understanding of their role.	The Action on Health Visiting programme was agreed at a joint Department of Health/Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association (CPHVA) summit on 5 May. It will be taken forward in partnership with the CPHVA and other stakeholders. Action will be prioritised to increase workforce capacity and capability and to clarify the contribution of health visitors to the Healthy Child Programme, to working with vulnerable children and families and to safeguarding.	A programme report will be produced by October 2009.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
33	<p>The Department of Health should review the Healthy Child Programme for 0-5 year olds to ensure that the role of health visitors in safeguarding and child protection is prioritised and has sufficient clarity, and ensure that similar clarity is provided in the Healthy Child Programme for 5 – 19 year olds.</p>	<p>The universal Healthy Child Programme (HCP) is key to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and the early identification of safeguarding concerns. This is reflected in the updated programme published by the Department of Health in March 2008. To strengthen the contribution of the HCP to safeguarding, we shall clarify the role and responsibility of the health visitor in the HCP through the Action on Health Visiting Programme, and work with the service to promote the commissioning and implementation of the HCP across England.</p> <p>The HCP is now being extended to cover 5-19 year olds. It will be an early intervention and public health programme setting out the good practice framework for the delivery of services for 5-19 year olds and their families to promote optimal health and well-being. It will include a universal service that is offered to all families with additional services for those with specific needs and risks. The safeguarding needs of children and young people will be fully embedded within this extended HCP.</p> <p>At the same time, we shall expand the Family Nurse Partnership programme in England to 70 test sites by 2011. Evidence suggests that this intensive preventive programme from early pregnancy to 2 years has the potential to prevent child maltreatment and improve the outcomes of vulnerable, first time young parents and their children.</p>	<p>Work to promote the commissioning and implementation of the HCP for 0-5 year olds will be completed by March 2010.</p> <p>The HCP for 5-19 year olds will be available by December 2009.</p> <p>The Family Nurse Partnership programme will be expanded to 70 test sites by 2011.</p>

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
34	<p>The Department of Health should promote the statutory duty of all GP providers to comply with child protection legislation and to ensure that all individual GPs have the necessary skills and training to carry out their duties. They should also take further steps to raise the profile and level of expertise for child protection within GP practices, for example by working with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to support joint training opportunities for GPs and children's social workers and through the new practice accreditation scheme being developed by the Royal College of General Practitioners.</p>	<p>Sheila Shribman (National Clinical Director for Children, Young People and Maternity Services) and David Colin-Thome (National Director for Primary Care) will consider, with the Royal College of General Practitioners and other key primary care stakeholders, joint work on effective ways to enhance GP training and development. We shall co-ordinate this work with our broader look at safeguarding training of health professionals. The Department of Health is already supporting the College in developing the practice accreditation scheme, which will include standards for safeguarding. We shall also build on other initiatives in <i>Healthy lives, brighter futures</i> to support greater involvement of GPs in children's health, including engagement on Children's Trust Boards.</p> <p>We are going beyond promoting "the statutory duty of all GP providers to comply with child protection legislation" by proposing to amend the Performers List Regulations to ensure that primary care contractors cannot be included in a performers list (and therefore perform primary medical, dental, or optical services) unless they have had a Vetting and Barring Scheme check.</p> <p>By the terms of their contract, GPs will need to ensure that any staff they engage to carry out regulated activity have had similar checks.</p>	<p>A programme of action, taking account of the costs and affordability of implementation, will be agreed by December 2009.</p> <p>Proposals for amending the Regulations and updating the guidance on operation of the performers list will be produced by December 2009.</p>

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
35	<p>The Department of Health should work with partners to develop a national training programme to improve the understanding and skills of the children's health workforce (including paediatricians, midwives, health visitors, GPs and school nurses) to further support them in dealing with safeguarding and child protection issues.</p>	<p>Sheila Shribman (National Clinical Director for Children, Young People and Maternity Services) will work closely with NHS and professional leaders to ensure the children's health workforce benefits from high quality training and support. As a first step, this will involve a stocktake of current training programmes to get a clear picture of what is currently being delivered and where the gaps are.</p> <p>The Department of Health is sponsoring the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to develop further components of its child protection training, and is also working with the College to scope work to develop clinical networks for child protection within the NHS.</p>	<p>Action will be agreed by December 2009.</p>
36	<p>The Home Office should take national action to ensure that police child protection teams are well resourced and have specialist training to support them in their important responsibilities.</p>	<p>Working with the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of Police Authorities, and the National Police Improvement Agency the Home Office will be developing a new Strategic Framework for delivering Protective Services that will, for the first time, provide a clear structure for driving the delivery of all protective services – those services which are not so visible to the public but are crucial to ensuring that local communities are protected from a wide range of potential threats such as organised crime or major crime. Child Protection will be one of the first priorities for implementation of the new Framework, making clear that nationally the Police Service, including every Police Force, must ensure that they have the right arrangements and the right levels of resource in place locally to protect children and young people from abuse.</p>	<p>Updated Specialist Training to be available to police forces by December 2009.</p>

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
		<p>Lord Laming also recommended that the Home Office must ensure that child protection teams have specialist training to support them in their work. The National Police Improvement Agency will continue their development of the Specialist Child Abuse Investigators' Development Programme. The Programme is being updated to take account of the new ACPO Guidance on Investigating Child Abuse and <i>Working Together</i> Guidance. The updated Programme will be available to Police Forces by December 2009. This training programme ensures that those police officers working in child protection have access to detailed, accredited training that prepares them for this difficult and complex area of policing. In addition to the specialist training for those in child protection teams, NPIA will also develop new training modules for child protection supervisors and Senior Investigating Officers dealing with child homicides to ensure that Police Forces have access to training for officers at all levels.</p>	
37	<p>The Care Quality Commission, HMI Constabulary and HMI Probation should review the inspection frameworks of their frontline services to drive improvements in safeguarding and child protection in a similar way to the new Ofsted framework.</p>	<p>The Care Quality Commission's Annual Health Check of all NHS trusts in England includes assessing the quality of safeguarding arrangements against core standards criteria. By 1 May, all NHS bodies had declared compliance or otherwise with a set of Standards including C2, specifically relating to child protection arrangements. These declarations include where possible a commentary for the LSCB for each trust providing support or further information relating to the organisation's performance in this area. CQC will be rigorous in its assessments of services and will take follow-up action taken against non-compliance where necessary.</p>	

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
		<p>From 2010, the new regulatory framework established by the Health and Social Care Act 2008 takes effect, which includes all of the independent healthcare sector, adult social care and the NHS, and covers children, young people and adults. The secondary legislation setting out the arrangements that a registerable service must have in place to become registered is supported by compliance guidance being produced by CQC, which explains what this means in practice for specific services. There is a major section on safety and safeguarding, which will be refined to accommodate the recommendations of the Laming review and form the basis of a robust CQC assessment and enforcement model.</p> <p>A 3-year Ofsted-led rolling programme of safeguarding inspections commences in June 2009, under the Comprehensive Area Assessment arrangements. These inspections also include assessment of the arrangements for care of looked after children – a particularly vulnerable group often linked to safeguarding concerns. The CQC is committed to working in partnership with Ofsted to inspect and assess the health-related elements of this programme and thus provide leverage alongside SHAs to improvement of practice and outcomes.</p> <p>HMIC is currently reviewing its inspection methodology and is moving to Rounded Assessment. A Rounded Assessment of every force will be conducted throughout the year on a regular basis to provide for judgements and narratives across five domains. Child abuse investigations and safeguarding children will fall under one of these domains – Protection from Serious Harm.</p>	<p>New regulatory framework established by the Health and Social Care Act 2008 from 2010.</p> <p>Ofsted-led 3-year rolling programme from June 2009.</p> <p>HMIC fieldwork to commence July/ August 2009; first graded judgements by end November 2009.</p>

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
		Rounded Assessment will identify key areas of vulnerability which may, in turn, trigger separate, dedicated inspections – for example, on either a force or 'thematic' basis. Fieldwork for Rounded Assessment is due to commence July/August this year with graded judgements produced by 30 November 2009.	
38	Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HMI Constabulary and HMI Probation should take immediate action to ensure their staff have the appropriate skills, expertise and capacity to inspect the safeguarding and child protection elements of frontline services. Those Ofsted Inspectors responsible for inspecting child protection should have direct experience of child protection work.	<p>Ofsted will ensure that inspectors have appropriate skills and expertise to inspect the safeguarding and child protection elements of frontline services.</p> <p>CQC is working to ensure that all staff inspecting children's services are suitably experienced and qualified by setting clear criteria for their involvement.</p> <p>HMIC currently has a small number of specialist staff across a range of specialist areas (including safeguarding and child protection). When inspections require particular skills and expertise, HMIC secures this from external sources, including police forces. For example, a dedicated specialist team was put together to conduct the inspections of counter terrorism. As part of its response to the recent Police Green Paper, HMIC is seeking to build its capacity in this area through the development of more flexible staffing models.</p> <p>Historically, HMIP has used inspectors on secondment from Ofsted and there is an existing agreement in principle for Ofsted to assist with safeguarding for newly appointed HMIP staff.</p>	Ongoing.
39	The Department for Children, Schools and Families should revise <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> so that it is explicit that the formal purpose of Serious Case Reviews is to learn lessons for improving individual agencies, as well as for improving multi-agency working.	The Government will publish a revised Chapter 8 of <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> for consultation by July 2009 so that these important improvements can be put in place as quickly as possible.	Revised Chapter 8 of <i>Working Together</i> guidance issued for consultation by July 2009.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
40	The Department for Children, Schools and Families should revise the framework for Serious Case Reviews to ensure that the Serious Case Review panel chair has access to all of the relevant documents and staff they need to conduct a thorough and effective learning exercise.	The Government will publish a revised Chapter 8 of <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> for consultation by July 2009 so that these important improvements can be put in place as quickly as possible.	Revised Chapter 8 of <i>Working Together</i> guidance issued for consultation by July 2009.
41	The Department for Children, Schools and Families should revise <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> to ensure Serious Case Reviews focus on the effective learning of lessons and implementation of recommendations and the timely introduction of changes to protect children.	The Government will publish a revised Chapter 8 of <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> for consultation by July 2009 so that these important improvements can be put in place as quickly as possible.	Revised Chapter 8 of <i>Working Together</i> guidance issued for consultation by July 2009.
42	Ofsted should focus their evaluation of Serious Case Reviews on the depth of the learning a review has provided and the quality of recommendations it has made to protect children	Ofsted are convening a partners' discussion in May about revising the Serious Case Review Evaluation framework. This will be developed and consulted alongside the review of Chapter 8 of <i>Working Together</i> so that there is a consistent end to end set of arrangements with clear roles and responsibilities for all partners published by the end of July 2009.	SCR evaluation framework consultation July 2009.
43	The Department for Children, Schools and Families should revise <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> to underline the importance of a high quality, publicly available executive summary which accurately represents the full report, contains the action plan in full, and includes the names of the Serious Case Review panel members.	The Government will publish a revised Chapter 8 of <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> for consultation by July 2009 so that these important improvements can be put in place as quickly as possible.	Revised Chapter 8 of <i>Working Together</i> guidance issued for consultation by July 2009.
44	Local Safeguarding Children Boards should ensure all Serious Case Review panel chairs and Serious Case Review overview authors are independent of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and all services involved in the case and that arrangements for the Serious Case Review offer sufficient scrutiny and challenge.	To be reflected in revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance.	Revised Chapter 8 of <i>Working Together</i> guidance issued for consultation by July 2009.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
45	All Serious Case Review panel chairs and authors must complete a training programme provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families that supports them in their role in undertaking Serious Case Reviews that have a real impact on learning and improvement.	This will be an early priority for the new NSDU.	NSDU work programme to be published by end September 2009.
46	Government Offices must ensure that there are enough trained Serious Case Review panel chairs and authors available within their region.	This will be an early priority for the new NSDU.	NSDU work programme to be published by end September 2009.
47	Ofsted should share full Serious Case Review reports with HMI Constabulary, the Care Quality Commission, and HMI Probation (as appropriate) to enable all four inspectorates to assess the implementation of action plans when conducting frontline inspections.	Ofsted will share copies of Serious Case Reviews in confidence with partner inspectorates so that the implications for frontline inspections and for joint safeguarding inspections can be fully assessed and learned.	Ongoing.
48	Ofsted should share Serious Case Review executive summaries with the Association of Chief Police Officers, Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities to promote learning.	Ofsted will include a website link so that all interested organisations can easily access the published executive summaries of Serious Case Reviews. The revised version of Chapter 8 of <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> will reinforce the importance of all relevant organisations making arrangements to draw to the attention of relevant staff the importance and availability of executive summaries as learning tools, together with Ofsted's regular summary and thematic reports.	Revised Chapter 8 of <i>Working Together</i> guidance issued for consultation by July 2009.
49	Ofsted should produce more regular reports, at six monthly intervals, which summarise the lessons from Serious Case Reviews.	Ofsted have confirmed that they will produce regular six monthly reports covering the lessons of Serious Case Reviews. One of these each year will be a summary report covering all SCRs in the year and will consider the format of the second interim report to enable more in-depth analysis where this would be beneficial.	From 2009 onwards.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
50	The Department for Children, Schools and Families must provide further guidance to Local Safeguarding Children Boards on how to operate as effectively as possible following the publication of the Loughborough University research on Local Safeguarding Children Boards later this year.	An interim report on the Loughborough University research will be published in June 2009. Practice guidance will be developed in light of its findings.	Interim report by June and LSCB practice guidance October 2009.
51	The Children's Trust and the Local Safeguarding Children Board should not be chaired by the same person. The Local Safeguarding Children Board chair should be selected with the agreement of a group of multi-agency partners and should have access to training to support them in their role.	To be reflected in revised regulations and revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance.	Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.
52	Local Safeguarding Children Boards should include membership from the senior decision makers from all safeguarding partners, who should attend regularly and be fully involved as equal partners in Local Safeguarding Children Board decision making.	To be reflected in revised regulations and revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance.	Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.
53	Local Safeguarding Children Boards should report to the Children's Trust Board and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. Local Safeguarding Children Boards should provide robust challenge to the work of the Children's Trust and its partners in order to ensure that the right systems and quality of services and practice are in place so that children are properly safeguarded.	The Government has brought forward amendments to the ASCL Bill to require LSCBs to produce annual reports. Subject to Parliamentary approval, this will be reflected in revised <i>Working Together to Safeguard Children</i> guidance.	Revised <i>Working Together</i> guidance by December 2009.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
54	The Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Department of Health and the Home Office, together with HM Treasury, must ensure children's services, police and health services have protected budgets for the staffing and training for child protection services.	Children's Trusts will prepare their annual assessments of need on which the financial contributions made by local partners to jointly-funded safeguarding initiatives will be based, taking account of other local priorities. These will be set out each year in the Children and Young People's Plan. Government Offices will challenge the quality of local needs analysis, the alignment of that analysis with local children and young people plan priorities and the adequacy of what is then commissioned in respect of support for all children, children 'in need' and those in need of protection. The NSDU, as one of its early priorities will explore the scope for disseminating comparative information on the pattern of local spend on children's services.	Ongoing.
55	The Department for Children, Schools and Families must sufficiently resource children's services to ensure that early intervention and preventative services have capacity to respond to all children and families identified as vulnerable or 'in need'.	It is the responsibility of all partners on Children's Trusts to assess the adequacy of their funding on children's services (see response to rec 54). Under the new arrangements for statutory targets on safeguarding, the Government will closely monitor the trend in outcomes through indicators and targets and the quality of services through Ofsted's new inspection arrangements. The NSDU will also explore the scope for benchmarking and disseminating comparative information on the pattern of local spend in children's services (see rec 54).	Ongoing.
56	A national annual report should be published reviewing safeguarding and child protection spend against assessed needs of children across the partners in each Children's Trust.	The Chief Adviser will present his first annual report in April 2010.	From April 2010.

Ref no	Lord Laming's recommendation	Response	By when
57	<p>The Ministry of Justice should lead on the establishment of a system-wide target that lays responsibility on all participants in the care proceedings system to reduce damaging delays in the time it takes to progress care cases where these delays are not in the interests of the child.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Justice is working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to establish a system-wide target for reducing delays that draws in all participants within the care proceedings system. Whilst the detail is yet to be finalised with the relevant key partners, the intention is to have an overarching objective, related to the timetable for the completion of proceedings for an individual child, supported by a suite of Key Performance Indicators owned by individual participants in the system. This will include commitments to continuous performance improvement in order to avoid unnecessary delay by Her Majesty's Courts Service, the Legal Services Commission, and the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service. Improvement and success will be measured in a Balanced Scorecard.</p>	<p>A detailed announcement will be made later this year.</p>
58	<p>The Ministry of Justice should appoint an independent person to undertake a review of the impact of court fees in the coming months. In the absence of incontrovertible evidence that the fees had not acted as a deterrent, they should then be abolished from 2010/11 onwards.</p>	<p>In response to Lord Laming's recommendation, the Ministry of Justice has appointed Francis Plowden to conduct a review of court fees, and to establish whether or not court fees act as a deterrent when local authorities decide whether or not to commence care proceedings.</p> <p>Francis Plowden has already commenced work and is expected to present his findings to the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice by mid September 2009. Appropriate steps would then be taken to implement changes which Mr Plowden might recommend.</p>	<p>Review report by September 2009.</p>

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET 21 JULY 2009

**THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN ENGLAND: THE LAMING REPORT
AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR: CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE**

1. **PURPOSE**

To brief Members on the content of the Laming report which was commissioned following the death of 'Baby P' in Haringey; the Government's response to Lord Laming's recommendations; and the implications for service delivery in Telford and Wrekin.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 **That members note the contents of the report for information**

2.2 **That a further report is presented once the revised guidance is published to appraise Members of any further local implications**

3. **SUMMARY**

Lord Laming's report indicates that the national direction of travel in terms of legislation, guidance and practice for safeguarding children and protecting their welfare is sound but more needs to be done to make sure services are provided consistently and effectively for all children in need of help and protection. This is a view which is endorsed by the whole sector. The Government's response recognises this and has accepted all of his 58 recommendations. It has undertaken to ensure that 'best practice is universally applied in every area of the country'. Agencies in Telford & Wrekin are already engaged in further development of services.

4. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Not applicable

5. **INFORMATION**

5.1 **Background**

In November 2008, following the legal verdict on the death of Baby P, Lord Laming was asked by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and

Families to report on "the progress being made across the country to implement effective arrangements for safeguarding children". His report was published on March 12th 2009.

Lord Laming was chosen to produce this report following his role in 2003 leading the national enquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié. Recommendations from that enquiry were instrumental in shaping the Every Child Matters programme and the subsequent Children Act 2004.

The Secretary of State for children published an initial response to Lord Laming's report which accepted all the recommendations and promised a detailed action plan to deliver them. This was published on 6 May 2009

5.2 Content of the Laming report

Lord Laming makes it clear that nationally there continues to be widespread support from children's professionals for the Every Child Matters reforms as a whole and although he expresses general approval of the current legal framework and guidance for protecting children and promoting their welfare he makes it clear there that; "the need to protect children from significant harm and neglect is ever more challenging. There now needs to be a step change in the arrangements to protect children from harm - one of the main challenges is to ensure leaders of local services effectively translate policy, legislation and guidance into day-to-day practice on the frontline of every service". This is an imperative for all services working with children.

Although the majority of the recommendations are for central government to implement, a number are directed at Children's Trusts or Local Safeguarding Children Boards and many of the national recommendations have implications for local practice.

The main chapter headings and their coverage are:

- **Leadership and accountability** - from ministerial responsibility and central government departments through to local leadership and management across services, supported by effective performance management systems.
- **Support for children** - covering frontline practice, including early intervention, referral systems, and "thresholds" for support which can act as restrictive and inconsistent gateways to services. Also included are recommendations to improve the Integrated Children's System of electronic case management and supervision for social workers
- **Inter-agency working** - effective co-ordination between adult and child services, good practice in information sharing, and use of the Common Assessment Framework
- **Children's workforce** - the need for extensive remodelling of the children's social care workforce in particular, to address training, recruitment, retention and morale issues. Also concerns about the number and role of health visitors, the training of the children's health workforce including GPs and the resourcing and training of police child protection teams.

- **Improvement and challenge** - new arrangements for inspection of local safeguarding, and better use of serious case reviews to promote learning and service improvement
- **Organisation and finance** - this discusses improvements to the working of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) and their relationship with the Children's Trust Partnership Board including that the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member should be members of both partnerships. In addition there is an expectation that 2 lay members from the local community will be appointed to LSCBs). The Laming report also recommends that the Department of Children Schools and families should ensure Children's services have sufficient resources for early intervention and prevention services can respond to all children identified as vulnerable or "in need"
- **Legal considerations** - the need for good understanding within the children's workforce of current legislation regarding safeguarding and promoting children's welfare, and action to reduce delays in court proceedings.

The report also recommends the establishment (for an initial period of 3 years), of a national Safeguarding Delivery Unit, reporting directly to the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Families, Children and Young People. The recommended role of the unit would include;

- setting timescales for the delivery of the recommendations and challenging and supporting children's trusts to deliver those that relate to them
- supporting the development of national priorities and KPIs on safeguarding for all frontline services
- supporting the implementation of the recommendations of serious case reviews; more effective learning of lessons.
- gathering information on best practice and "what works" in particular to provide advice to local authorities, health and police on referral and assessment systems
- commissioning training on child protection and safeguarding for senior political leaders and service managers.

5.3 The local situation

Unlike some other authorities Telford & Wrekin has continued to audit services against the original Laming report. As a result of this, together with the strength of local safeguarding partnership arrangements; the preparing for, undergoing and responding to the Joint Area Review (JAR) inspection in 2008; and an internal review following the Haringey JAR report, we had anticipated many of the likely elements of the report. Some work has already been completed, and more is planned to address those recommendations for local action.

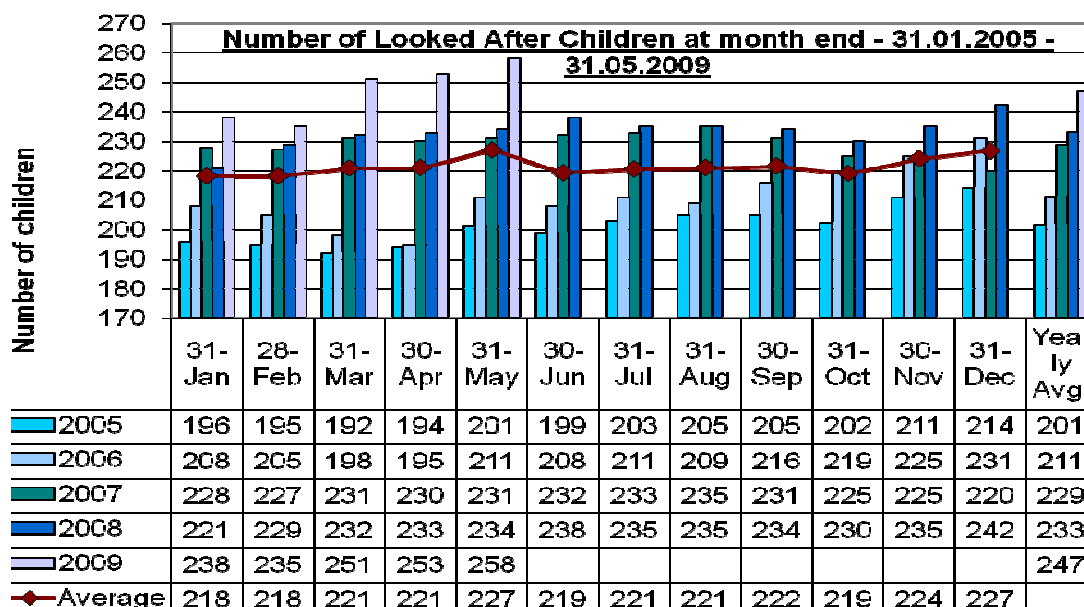
For example;

- We have begun to increase social work capacity and discussions as to how to strengthen links between social care and the Cluster multi-

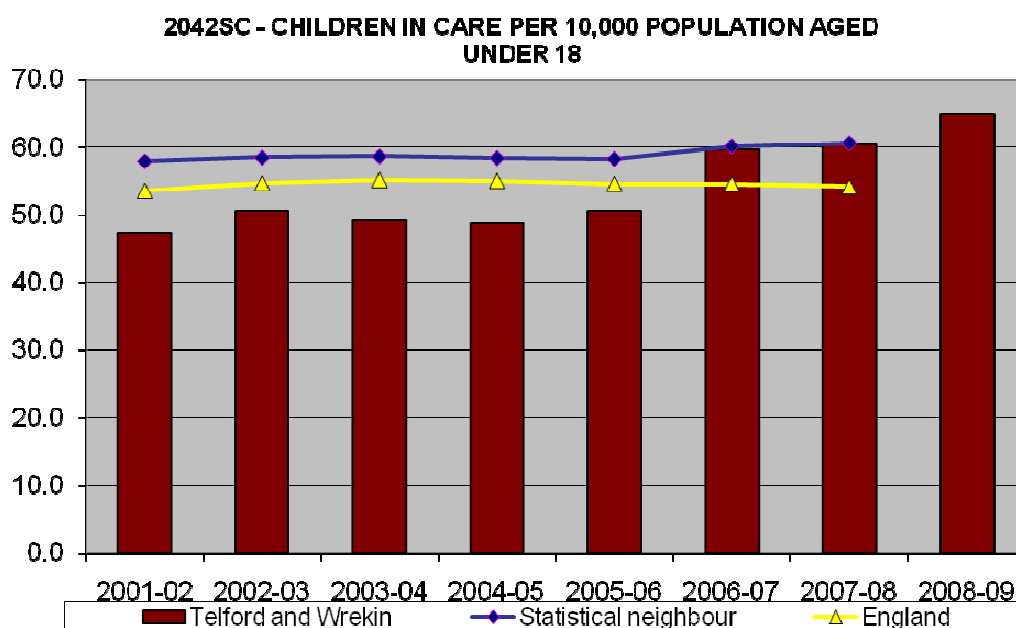
agency assessment and support arrangements and to ensure that these add maximum value are progressing well.

- Safeguarding arrangements at the Princess Royal Hospital have recently been reviewed and strengthened
- Safeguarding is an integral part of our current Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), however we have strengthened this further by making protecting children from abuse an explicit Children's Trust Board outcome priorities.
- A Performance Framework for the Safeguarding Children Board has been developed which includes indicators relating to staff (supervision, training, safe recruitment, turnover and sickness, decision-making and managerial oversight), agency accountability, meeting objectives, customers views, quality of practice and effectiveness of meetings as well as national KPIs. The JAR inspection was complimentary about partners' engagement in our Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB), which already has a different (independent) chair to the chair of the Children's Trust Board. A review of membership and terms of reference of the LSCB is currently being undertaken.

As is the case nationally, the number of children being identified as needing protection and of those coming into care as a result of this has increased significantly since the media interest in Haringey. In mid-November, there were 232 children in the care of Telford & Wrekin. At the end of May this had risen to 257. Although this is a particularly sharp increase, it reflects a longer term trend, whereby the number of children in care in Telford & Wrekin has increased by an average of 30.7% since 2005.



The table below illustrates the increase both locally and nationally, expressed as the number of children in care per 10,000 population.



To respond to this level of demand and to ensure the best possible practice locally, there is a need to:

- Further increase capacity within the children's social care frontline workforce to reduce over large caseloads and, thereby, allow for more in depth work with children and their families.
- Continue to improve recruitment and retention of social workers.
- Increase capacity in other services which are required to support care proceedings and children in care such as the council's legal services and the number of foster carers available
- Strengthen the support from social workers to the team around the child arrangements to further encourage inter agency support to families
- evaluate the extent to which current supervision arrangements challenge practice and meet the support needs of staff, and ensure arrangements are tailored appropriately whatever their level of skill and experience.
- provide more post qualification training for SWs and inter-agency training.
- Improve the Integrated Children's System (ICS) (electronic case management). (NB this is a national issue resulting from strict constraints on any local interpretations of the system)
- Build on existing referral and assessment arrangements for adult service users who are also parents, in particular via the Think Family pathfinder.

Some of these measures will be addressed by the implementation of the Government's action plan as outlined below but in addition we have commissioned an external programme of practice research and organisational analysis to ensure the effectiveness of referral and assessment arrangements. The outcome of this will inform our response to

a number of the Laming recommendations such as 'ensuring that intake/duty teams have sufficient training and expertise' and 'ensuring that early intervention and preventative services have the capacity to respond to all children and families identified and vulnerable or in need'.

5.4 Government's response and action plan

As noted above the Government have accepted all Lord Laming's recommendations and provided a response and action plan in respect of each. The recommendations and this response are attached as Appendix 1.

Key aspects of this response include:

- The establishment of the recommended delivery unit on a cross-Government basis, working alongside the newly created Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children.
- The establishment of new statutory targets
- A commitment to revise the current statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' by the end of the year
- Revised guidance on Lead Members and Directors of Children's Services
- A new school inspection framework from September 2009 which has a stronger focus on safeguarding
- A request for the Social Work Task Force to advise on matters such as supervision requirements; appropriate caseloads; and the reform of the Integrated Children's System
- The development of guidance on referral and assessment systems for children affected by parental difficulties such as domestic violence
- The development of a Social Work reform programme covering training, recruitment and retention, supported by an investment of £58 million nationally
- The development of a programme of action by the Department of Health relating to healthcare professionals including GPs
- The development of a new Strategic Framework by the Home Office in relation to 'protective services' including child protection
- A review of court fees incurred in the undertaking of care proceedings

5.2 Equality and Diversity

To be protected from abuse or neglect is a fundamental and equal right of all children.

In his report Lord Laming states 'It would be unreasonable to expect that the sudden and unpredictable outburst by an adult towards a child can be prevented. But that is entirely different from the failure to protect a child or young person already identified and being in danger of deliberate harm. The death of a child in these circumstances is a reproach to us all'

5.3 Environmental Impact

None

5.4 Legal Comment

“The May 2009 “The protection of children in England: action plan – The Government’s response to Lord Laming” published by the DCSF makes it clear that revised and further statutory guidance / work programmes and reports will be issued during the course of 2009 and beyond. Statutory guidance is published under Section 7 Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, which requires local authorities in their social services functions to act under the general guidance of the Secretary of State. Such guidance should be complied with, unless local circumstances indicate exceptional reasons that justify a variation”

5.5 Links with Corporate Priorities

The protection of children is essential if the council is to meet its Community Priority to ‘give children and young people the best possible start in their lives’

5.7 Financial Implications

The Government have committed to investing £58 million in national initiatives to support the recruitment, retention and training of Social Workers.

The implementation of the recommendations of the Laming report will have financial implications for the council. The extent of these will need to be assessed as further guidance becomes available and local plans are developed. These implications will be included as part of the overall consideration of all pressures within this area of work as part of the Service and Financial Planning process

6. WARD IMPLICATIONS

These are borough wide issues

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Protection of Children in England; a progress report
March 2009 The Stationery Office

The Protection of Children in England: action plan
The government’s response to Lord Laming
May 2009 The Stationary Office

Both documents can be found on the DCSF website www.dcsf.gov.uk

Report prepared by

Anne Cole

Safeguarding Advisory Service Manager

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TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 21 JULY, 2009

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES SEVERN-TRENT REGIONAL FLOOD DEFENCE COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES

1.0 PURPOSE

To inform Cabinet of the proposed arrangements for shared representation on the Severn-Trent Regional Flood Defence Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the joint arrangements for representation on the Regional Flood Defence Committee, as outlined at paragraph 3.3, be endorsed;**
- 2.2 That the appointment of the Cabinet Member: Environment as Deputy Member to the Regional Flood Defence Committee until May 2011 be approved.**

3.0 INFORMATION

- 3.1** The Severn Trent Regional Flood Defence Committee (STRFDC) is a statutory executive Committee of the Environment Agency. Its main role is to support the Agency's Flood Risk Management programme in the Midlands Region. The Committee includes 11 local authority appointees from across the region.
- 3.2** Telford & Wrekin Council shares a seat on the STRFDC with Shropshire Council and Worcestershire Council. Provision is also made for a Deputy member to be appointed. Over the last three years, the seat has been taken by a Worcestershire Member, with the Deputy being from Shropshire County Council. A new four year term of office started on 1 June 2009, and the Environment Agency has requested the appointment of a Member for the shared seat.
- 3.3** The appointment process has been delayed because of recent elections to new Councils in both Shropshire and Worcestershire. However, discussions have taken place with officers at these authorities, and it has been suggested that the four year term of office be split into two 2 year terms. This would allow more frequent rotation of the seat on the STRFDC between the three Authorities. The Environment Agency has no objection to such an arrangement. Using

the principle that the Authority with the Deputy Member should subsequently have the full representation, the following arrangement is proposed for the next 4 years:

	<u>Lead Member</u>	<u>Deputy Member</u>
2009 to 2011	Shropshire	Telford & Wrekin
2011 to 2013	Telford & Wrekin	Worcestershire

Shropshire and Worcestershire Councils have both signified their agreement to this arrangement.

- 3.4 It therefore falls for the Council to appoint a Deputy Member to the STRFDC for the period up to May 2011. The Deputy Member is expected to substitute at meetings of the Committee if the lead Member is unable to attend, and to attend workshops/training events.

4.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

5.0 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

<u>AREA</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
Equality & Diversity	Not applicable
Environmental Impact	Not applicable
Legal Implications	Not applicable
Opportunities & Risks	Not applicable
Financial Implications	Not applicable
Links with Corporate Priorities	Not applicable
Ward Implications	Not applicable

Report prepared by Phil Smith, Senior Democratic Services Officer
(01952-383211)

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 21ST JULY 2009

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE & AUDIT

1.0 PURPOSE

To provide Members with

- (i) an update on progress in achieving and reporting value for money (VFM) efficiency gains for 2008/09.
- (ii) the latest financial monitoring for 2009/10

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Value for Money Efficiencies - Members are asked:

2.1 To note that the Council has achieved its 3% efficiency target for 2008/09 which will be reported to CLG on the 24th July and that work will now commence on the 2009/10 target

2.2 To approve the information in Appendix IV which will form the basis of the submission to CLG. Work will continue to refine the detail to ensure that the performance measures are complete and the Council reports all of the efficiencies achieved.

2009/10 Financial Monitoring – Members are asked:

2.3 To note the overall financial position which is currently projected to be within budget by year end but also the significant budget pressures already being experienced in 2009/10 which require management action to ensure Portfolios spend within the cash limits set.

2.4 To note the declining performance against income targets

2.5 To note the slight underperformance against the target for paying supplier invoices and the action being taken to address this.

2.6 To approve the revenue virements detailed in para. 6.4 and the new capital allocations, capital virements, and re-phasing detailed in Appendix III, which will go forward to Full Council for formal approval.

VALUE FOR MONEY EFFICIENCIES (NI 179)

- The Council has achieved the 3% efficiency target for 2008/09:

	Target	Actual
2008/09 Efficiencies	£4.582m	£4.661m
Percentage Efficiency Level	3.00%	3.05%

Note: the Government sets specific criteria for efficiencies to be eligible for inclusion in NI 179 and the efficiencies identified do not align to budget savings.

REVENUE

- **Overall spend is projected to be within budget;** after taking the £1.596m uncommitted contingency and service action plans into account – the key pressure area continues to be Looked After Children together with the impacts of the recession on income targets.

The main pressures highlighted are:	£m	
Looked After Children	1.000	Overspend
Specialist Education	0.286	Overspend
Public Inquiry Costs	0.325	Overspend
Income Shortfalls:		
PIP rentals	0.401	
Section 106	0.050	
Leisure Sites	0.130	Income
Land Charges	0.032	Shortfalls
Purchasing Care Budgets Adult with Learning Disability clients	0.613	Overspend
	0.182	

The main benefits highlighted are:	£m
Uncommitted element of the budgeted contingency	-1.596
Service Action Plans	-0.400
Purchasing Care Budgets – Older People and Physical & Sensory Disability clients	-0.311
Treasury Management	-0.300
Assessment & Care Management	-0.164

- **Action Plans** – given the current pressures, Services are now reviewing options to mitigate the overspend. These include identifying potential underspends across other services; considering any 2010/11 savings proposals which could be implemented during 2009/10; reviewing the potential for flexible use of grant funding allocations; and refining treasury projections, following closedown.
- **Inflation** – as inflation continues to fall, a review of the assumptions built into the base budget will take place, which could result in a saving.

- **The revenue position is summarised below** with further detail available in the overall report and appendices.

Portfolio	Service Pressures	Council Wide Pressures	Total Variations	Cumulative Bwfd Service Balances
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Children & Young People	1.226	0.000	1.226	0.136
Environment & Regeneration	0.679	0.182	0.861	-0.268
Adult & Consumer Care	-0.053	0.000	-0.053	-0.285
Resources	-0.178	0.169	-0.009	-0.667
Chief Executive/Policy	0.037	0.000	0.037	-0.068
Corporate	-0.400	-1.836	-2.236	-0.148
Total	1.311	-1.485	-0.174	-1.300

CAPITAL

- **Spend is currently £2.3m** against a total capital programme of £61.5m i.e. 3.8%, which is usual for this point in the year. However, service areas must ensure that capital projects are effectively managed during the year so that they are delivered on time and within budget.
- A key area to monitor is the delivery of the capital receipts

INCOME COLLECTION – May 2009

	Actual	Target	Performance
Council Tax Collection	19.99%	19.55%	+0.44% ahead of target
NNDR Collection	22.43%	24.33%	-1.9% behind target
Sales Ledger – General Income	4.56%	4.9%	0.34% ahead of target
Sales Ledger ACC Income	1.4%	2.6%	1.2% ahead of target

NB targets have already been reduced compared to previous years to allow for the impact of the “credit crunch”

PAYMENT OF INVOICES

2009/10 Target	Performance	
	End of May	Year to Date
To pay 95% of invoices within 20 days	92%	93%

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 21ST JULY 2009

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE & AUDIT

1.0 PURPOSE

To provide Members with

- (i) an update on progress in achieving and reporting value for money (VFM) efficiency gains for 2008/09.
- (ii) the latest financial monitoring for 2009/10

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Value for Money Efficiencies – Members are asked:

- 2.1** To note that the Council has achieved its 3% efficiency target for 2008/09 which will be reported to CLG on the 24th July and that work will now commence on the 2009/10 target
- 2.2** To approve the information in Appendix IV which will form the basis of the submission to CLG. Work will continue to refine the detail to ensure that the performance measures are complete and the Council reports all of the efficiencies achieved.

2009/10 Financial Monitoring – Members are asked:

- 2.3** To note the overall financial position which is currently projected to be within budget by year end but also the significant budget pressures already being experienced in 2009/10 which require management action to ensure Portfolios spend within the cash limits set.
- 2.4** To note the declining performance against income targets.
- 2.5** To note the slight underperformance against the target for paying supplier invoices and the action being taken to address this.
- 2.6** To approve the revenue virements detailed in para. 6.4 and the new capital allocations, capital virements, and re-phasing detailed in Appendix III, which will go forward to Full Council for formal approval.

3.0 SUMMARY

3.1 Value for Money Efficiencies (NI 179)

The Government has placed a target on all public services to achieve at least 3% net cash-releasing VFM gains in 2008/09 and 2009/10, rising to 4% in 2010/11. The Council has identified a total of £4.661m

(3.05%) efficiencies for 2008/09 which will be reported to CLG on the 24th July. Work will now begin on collecting information for the 2009/10 estimate, which must be submitted in October 2009 and will appear on 2010/11 Council Tax bills.

3.2 Revenue

Overall revenue spend is currently projecting to be £0.174m within budget, after taking into account the £1.596m uncommitted budget contingency and service action plans. Key pressures are Looked After Children and Specialist Education, together with the impact of the recession on income targets.

As inflation continues to fall, a review of the assumptions built into the base budget will take place, which could result in a saving.

Services are now reviewing options to deal with the overspends. These include identifying potential underspends across other services; considering any 2010/11 savings proposals which could be implemented during 2009/10; reviewing the potential for flexible use of grant funding allocations; and refining treasury projections, following closedown.

3.3 Capital

The 2009/10 approved capital programme is £61.5m; to date 3.8% spend has taken place, which is normal at this early stage in the year.

3.4 Income Monitoring

Income collection is suffering from the impacts of the recession. Despite targets being adjusted to take into account the economic conditions NNDR figures are behind target, while Council tax collection and sales ledger are within target.

3.5 Invoice Payment Performance

The target for 2009/10 is to pay 95% of invoices within 20 days; performance is currently below this at 93% for the year to date. Portfolios are reviewing processes to ensure prompt payment is achieved.

4.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 05/03/09 – Full Council, Service & Financial Planning Strategy

5.0 VALUE FOR MONEY EFFICIENCIES (NI 179)

5.1 Background

- 5.1.1 The 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review placed a target on all public services to achieve at least 3% net cash-releasing value for money (VFM) gains per annum over the period 2008/09 to 2010/11. The target for 2010/11 was increased to 4% in the Governments Budget announced in April 2009.
- 5.1.2 Councils have to report the total net value of ongoing efficiencies as part of the National Indicator Set, NI 179, and are required to submit figures twice a year: a **projected forecast** for the year in October and **actual efficiencies** achieved in July.
- 5.1.3 The National Indicator only includes those efficiencies which meet specific criteria set by Government and do not directly align with budget savings. Some budget savings, for example Treasury Management savings or savings which involve a service cut cannot be included under NI 179; conversely, other efficiencies can be included which are not budget savings, for example cash-releasing reductions to unit costs.

5.2 Efficiencies Achieved

- 5.2.1 Using the national methodology, targets for Telford & Wrekin Council are:

T&W 2007/08 Baseline	£152.7m
2008/09 Target Efficiencies	£4.5m
2009/10 Target Efficiencies	£4.7m
2010/11 Target Efficiencies	£6.7m
Total 2008/09 to 2010/11	£15.9m

- 5.2.2 Efficiencies identified by Portfolios are summarised below (with detail provided in Appendix IV) and currently total £4.661m, which is 3.05% of the baseline, assuming all performance measures are met.

Service	2008/09 Target £'000	2008/09 VFM Efficiencies £'000	Variance (shortfall) £'000	Percentage Efficiency Level Achieved %
Adult & Consumer Care	1,800.00	599.96	(1,200.04)	1.00%
Environment & Regeneration	1,080.00	560.56	(519.44)	1.56%
Community Services	400.00	441.57	41.57	3.31%
Children & Young People	450.00	1,147.00	697.00	7.65%
Resources /CEX	852.00	1,486.78	634.78	5.24%
Corporate Initiatives		425.00	425.00	
Total	4,582.00	4,660.87	78.87	3.05%

5.2.3 We must also be able to show that the VFM gains achieved have not led to a decline in service quality. Portfolios were asked to identify performance measures to evidence this and these are also shown in Appendix IV. There are a few performance measures where information is still being gathered. If information is not provided, these efficiencies will have to be deleted and the overall total will reduce accordingly.

5.3 Challenge & Scrutiny

5.3.1 It is important that the process for collecting and reporting NI 179 efficiency information includes sufficient challenge and scrutiny. To achieve this both Internal Audit and the Value for Money Scrutiny Group have had a role to play in validating the data and processes.

5.3.2 The Value for Money (VFM) Scrutiny Group has reviewed the efficiencies in two stages: the complete schedule was reviewed in May from which 19 efficiencies were selected for more detailed challenge at their meeting in June. In summary, the conclusions reached by VFM Scrutiny were:

- 17 efficiencies were validated and met all the criteria
- Further information was requested in relation to the Agency Saving to provide assurance that the quality of service has not fallen during the period of the Reed Contract – this will be reviewed by Corporate Finance/Policy to validate the efficiency prior to inclusion in the final submission.
- Close monitoring was requested in relation to the ACC establishment savings (including vacant social worker posts) – the group were satisfied that the number of assessments has increased but were concerned about any future impact on the timeliness of assessments and whether the level of vacancies would lead to any increase in risk exposure for the Council.
- A number of positive actions were identified which will feed into the 2009/10 efficiencies:
 - ICT – a review of the level of specification of PCs provided is being undertaken in conjunction with a full OJEU tendering process for PC procurement. The group were also pleased to note that the use of ICT pooled vehicles had led to a substantial saving when compared to paying mileage to employees.
 - Recycling – potentially more savings in 2009/10 as recycling rates increase; there will also be a review of the numbers of replacement boxes being issued; VFM also suggested further auditing of normal waste could take place to check that people are recycling where possible.
 - CYP – work is continuing to increase the use of Foster Care and reduce the use of more expensive placements; related to this, CYP are working with Job Centre Plus to raise awareness of Foster Care as an employment opportunity.

5.3.3 Internal audit has also reviewed the process in Portfolios, together with a small sample of the efficiencies as part of their work programme and their recommendations will feed into the final submission and forthcoming work in relation to 2009/10 efficiencies.

5.4 Next Steps

5.4.1 In accordance with the guidelines, the final value of efficiencies achieved for 2008/09 will be signed off by the Leader, Chief Executive and Corporate Director:Resources and then submitted to CLG by the 24th July deadline.

5.4.2 The Value for Money agenda is an ongoing part of our core Service and Financial Planning processes. Work will begin over the next few months to start collating the 2009/10 information as the deadline for submission of our initial projection for 2009/10 is 23rd October 2009. Like the 2008/09 figures, this is published on Council Tax bills. Our future approach to measuring and reporting VFM gains will form part of our wider Value for Money Strategy.



6.0 2009/10 REVENUE BUDGET

6.1 Detailed variations are listed in Appendices I and II and are summarised in the table below. This currently shows spend within budget for the Council as a whole.


Portfolio	Service Pressures £m	Council Wide Pressures £m	Total Variations £m	Cumulative Bwfd Service Balances £m
Children & Young People	1.226	0.000	1.226	0.136
Environment & Regeneration	0.679	0.182	0.861	-0.268
Adult & Consumer Care	-0.053	0.000	-0.053	-0.285
Resources	-0.178	0.169	-0.009	-0.667
Chief Executive/Policy	0.037	0.000	0.037	-0.068
Corporate	-0.400	-1.836	-2.236	-0.148
Total	1.311	-1.485	-0.174	-1.300




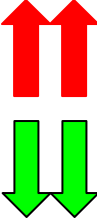
6.2 The projected service variations fall to portfolios to cover from their balances or offsetting areas of underspend under their control.





6.3 The larger projected variances (those over £100k) are highlighted separately below, while full detail on all variances over £50k is shown in Appendices I and II.

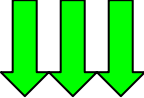
Key		
£0 to £100k	↑	 Underspend
£100+to £250k	↑↑	 Overspend
£250+to £500k	↑↑↑	
over £500k	↑↑↑↑	

Service Variances

Portfolio	Projected Variation £m	
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE		
<p>The Portfolio is currently projecting an overspend of £1.226m for the year which relates to the continuing costs of Looked After Children and the provision of Specialist Education.</p> <p>Children & Families – Looked After Children £0.750m relates to Specialist Placements, Leaving Care and Foster Care – these costs are likely to rise.</p> <p>£0.250m relates to Social Workers and the additional cost of agency staff, due to ongoing vacancies. A review of the Safeguarding 'front door' has been commissioned, to identify areas of best practice and organisational development and improvement.</p> <p>The current number of Children in Care has jumped to 258. Projections for the full year have been based on the current numbers in care, type and length of placements. The numbers reflect an additional 20 to 25 placements above the average throughout the last financial year. A significant increase has been experienced in the External Foster care placements with an additional 20 placements being made since January 2009 - the average cost of an annual placement of this type is approximately £45k.</p> <p>This position may change dependent on future movement in placements and placement types, and with the impact of the placements</p>	+1.000	

<p>strategy; this is in the final phase of development, focusing on improved outcomes and efficient use of resources. Monitoring of external and leaving care placements and costs are subject to a robust monitoring system.</p>		
<p>Specialist Education – the overspend relates to the placement of 2 children – work is underway to identify how this additional cost can be accommodated within the portfolio’s budget. A new case, relating to a child who has recently moved in to the area with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, may increase costs by a further £0.070m. There is concern that this pressure could increase.</p>	<p>+0.286</p>	
<p>ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION</p>		
<p>The Portfolio is currently projecting an overspend of £0.679m for the year.</p> <p>Pressures highlighted include footpath works at Wellington Cemetery; a reduction in Section 106 interest monies; and increased pension costs relating to former T&W staff previously transferred to TWS.</p>		
<p>Planning & Environment – 2009/10 costs associated with the public inquiry into the planning application for opencast mining in Lawley</p>	<p>+0.325</p>	
<p>Asset & Property Management – projected shortfall in PIP rental income due to a high level of void properties; an impact of the recession. The service is actively trying to increase occupancy levels</p>	<p>+0.300</p>	
<p>ADULT & CONSUMER CARE</p>		
<p>The Portfolio is currently projecting an underspend of £0.053m for the year.</p>		
<p>Adults with Learning Difficulties – increased cost of care packages due to an increase in demand as clients move from Children’s to Adult Services. This is partly offset from Asset & Care Management underspends, due to vacant posts.</p>	<p>+0.182</p> <p>-0.164</p>	

Older People Services – a benefit of £0.247m is currently projected which is due to the additional funds allocated as part of the budget strategy.	-0.247	
Leisure Services Income – shortfall against income targets at the Ice Rink and Horsehay Golf Complex due to the impacts of the recession.	+0.130	
RESOURCES		
The Portfolio is currently projecting an underspend of £0.178m.		
CEX/POLICY		
CEX and Policy are currently showing an overspend of £0.037m which is a number of minor variances under £50,000.		
Service Action Plans		
Other measures are being reviewed by services to mitigate overspends. These include identifying potential underspends across other services; considering any 2010/11 savings proposals which could be implemented during 2009/10; reviewing the potential for flexible use of grant funding allocations; and refining treasury projections, following closedown.	-0.400	
Council Wide and Other Non-Controllable Budgets		
A number of corporate pressures are highlighted including the costs of managing Stoneyhill closed landfill site; funding for the Business Efficiency Team; external audit fees; a shortfall in land charges income; and costs associated with the Coroner.		
Asset & Property Management – loss of PIP rental income due to voids at Euston House	+0.101	
Housing & Council Tax Benefit Subsidy – the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation for homelessness cases cost the Council £0.477m in lost subsidy in 2008/09, part of which was budgeted. The final overspend on the subsidy as a whole, including the B&B cases, was £0.291m. £0.200m additional funds were included in the 2009/10 budget and ACC are implementing an action plan to reduce the use of B&B. Initial trends show a decrease in this		

early part of the year, however given the economic climate, this is an area which will be closely monitored.		
Treasury – as anticipated continual low interest rates are affecting investment income in 2009/10, although some benefit from debt restructuring has been achieved – an element of any savings achieved will be required to fund the additional £6m BTI/Roads investment programme. Following closedown, further work is now being undertaken to refine projections which will be reflected in future reports.	-0.300	
Princess Royal Hospital Campaign – costs to support the provision of health care for the borough are likely to be around £0.040m.		

6.4 A number of virements are put forward for approval, mainly relating to the final Dedicated Schools Grant settlement being received :

	Original 2009/10 Net Expenditure £	Virements £	Adjusted 2009/10 Net Expenditure £
Children & Young People			
Pre-primary education	3,678,118	(188,146)	3,489,972
Primary education	51,591,638	446,335	52,037,973
Secondary education	42,338,127	(683,836)	41,654,291
Special education	9,552,622	791,330	10,343,952
Prim / Sec School - Other Special Education Expenditure	(350,791)	106,018	(244,773)
Tuition, Medical & Behavioural Service	1,964,794	(85,771)	1,879,023
Lifelong Learning	253,489	(33,888)	219,601
Youth/Connexions Service	1,367,940	(28,995)	1,338,945
Childrens Fund	33,123	(7,980)	25,143
Schools Other	397,112	43,924	441,036
Community	193,674	(6,852)	186,822
Dedicated Schools Grant	(95,817,490)	(349,255)	(96,166,745)
Education Management & support Services	2,884	(2,884)	0
TOTAL	15,205,240	0	15,205,240

7.0 CONTINGENCIES

7.1 The 2009/10 budget includes combined contingencies of £1.596m which is set aside to meet any unforeseen expenditure:

	£m
General Revenue Contingency	0.596
Additional Contingency – one off only	1.000

There are currently no commitments against the contingencies.

8.0 2009/10 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The capital programme for 2009/10 totals £61.455m. Expenditure at the time of compiling this report was £2.344m.

	2009/10 Approved Budget £m	2009/10 Expenditure To Date £m	%	2009/10 Projected Expenditure £m
Adult & Consumer Care	10.661	0.358	3.36	10.661
Building Schools for the Future	0.767	0.058	7.59	0.767
Children & Young People	13.652	1.361	9.97	13.652
Environment & Regeneration	30.572	0.550	1.80	30.572
Resources/ Council Wide	5.803	0.017	0.29	5.803
Total	61.455	2.344	3.81	61.455

8.1 There are a number of new allocations, virements and slippage which are detailed in Appendix III for approval.

9.0 TREASURY

9.1 An update on the 2009/10 position was reported to Full Council on the 25th June. A review of investment arrangements is underway, with Sector, our external treasury advisors. Monitoring arrangements are also being reviewed in line with revised guidance recently issued by CIPFA. Regular updates will be provided in future financial monitoring reports.

10.0 CORPORATE INCOME MONITORING

10.1 The Council's budget includes significant income streams which are regularly monitored to ensure they are on track. The three main areas are Council Tax, NNDR (business rates) and Sales Ledger income. Current monitoring information on first year collection rates is provided below.

The Council continues to pursue outstanding debt beyond the first year vigorously, until all possible recovery avenues have been exhausted, but also prudently provides for bad debts in its accounts. The economic conditions have been considered when setting the targets for 2009/10.

Council Tax	2009/10 Target	97.2%
	2008/09 Outturn	97.7%

First Year performance to the end of May is:

	Month End Target	Month End Actual	Variance
The percentage of council tax collected	19.55%	19.99%	+0.44% ahead of target

NNDR	2009/10 Target	97.8%
	2008/09 Outturn	98.3%

First Year performance to the end of May is:

	Month End Target	Month End Actual	Variance
The percentage of NNDR collected	24.33%	22.43%	-1.9% behind target

NNDR collection is 1.9% behind the target for May 2009 and 1.47% behind the actual in May 2008

Sales Ledger Income

Adult & Consumer Care

Outstanding Debt	Target %	May		
		£'000	%	
2 – 6 months	0.9%	228	0.9%	On target
7 – 12 months	0.6%	76	0.3%	Inside target
> 12 months	1.2%	44	0.2%	Inside target
Total	2.6%	348	1.4%	Inside target

Other Council Services

Performance to the end of May is:

Percentage of Outstanding Sales Ledger Debt:	Month End Target	Month End Actual	Variance
2 – 6 months	2.5%	2.94%	0.44% outside target
6-12 months	1.1%	0.88%	0.22% inside target
Over 12 months	1.3%	0.74%	0.56% inside target
Total	4.9%	4.56%	0.34% inside target

11.0 PAYMENT OF INVOICES

11.1 In 2009/10 a target has been set to pay 95% of invoices within 20 days of receipt. Paying invoices promptly is one of the ways the Council can help suppliers as it benefits their cash flow. The payments system was

also changed in February 2009 so that all invoices input are paid immediately.

- 11.2 Performance to date shows that the Council is currently behind target at 93%; although the average time taken to pay invoices was only 10 days in May, so the majority of invoices were paid promptly. Portfolios are working to review processes and improve performance.

12.0 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Equality & Diversity

There are no implications directly arising from this report.

Environmental Impact

There are no implications directly arising from this report

Legal Comment

Regular financial monitoring forms part of the assurance for strong financial management. Section 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 makes it a statutory duty for Local Authorities to monitor their income and expenditure against budget, and to take action if overspends or shortfalls in income emerge.

Links with Corporate Priorities

Good financial monitoring and the efficiency agenda form part of building a Modern, Effective Council

Opportunities & Risks

The opportunities and risks associated with the report have been identified and assessed. Arrangements will be put in place to manage the risks and maximise the opportunities that have been identified.

Financial Implications

The financial implications are fully detailed within the report. The VFM efficiencies shown are cash-releasing to meet the criteria for NI 179. The Council's budget strategies include savings and identify the associated financial implications. Those which meet NI 179 criteria have been included in NI 179. Other cash-releasing benefits are recycled to further improve services and efficiency in line with the principles of the Governments efficiency agenda. Performance against efficiency targets is reviewed as part of the annual CAA, Use of Resources judgement and has an important part to play in demonstrating value for money.

Ward Implications

District Wide Implications

13.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

2009/10 Budget Strategy / Financial Ledger reports

CLG - Measuring and Reporting Value for Money Gains

Report Prepared by:

Ken Clarke, Head of Finance & Audit– 01952 383100;

Pauline Harris, Corporate Finance Manager - 01952 383701